

Oregon Wolf Program Update

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Reports of Wolf Activity: Nine wolf reports were received by ODFW during August. Two wolf reports were from the west wolf management zone (sighting reports), and seven from the east zone (2 track reports, 4 sighting reports, 1 howling report).

Field Investigations/Monitoring/Capture:

Imnaha Pack: The pack continues to use their normal summer range area, primarily on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Of the 478 location data points collected by the two GPS radio-collars during the month, 458 (96%) were on public land and 20 (4%) were on private lands. The pack is spending time in two counties; 378 locations (79%) were in Wallowa County and 100 (21%) were in Baker County. DNA results show that the two wolves lethally removed from the Imnaha pack in May were the offspring of OR-2 and OR-4, the alpha female and male of the Imnaha pack. Four days were spent in the Imnaha Unit surveying for wolves, fresh sign was found or howling was heard on three of those days.

Wenaha Pack: ODFW conducted wolf surveys in the Wenaha Unit on seven days during the month. Wolf tracks and scat were observed on five of those days. In addition, remote cameras captured photographs of three adult wolves on several days. One of the photographed wolves was a previously captured pup (10OR6155) of last year. People can view the photograph of the now adult wolf on the [ODFW wolf web page](#). Reproduction has not yet been confirmed in the Wenaha pack this year.

Walla Walla Unit: All or part of 22 personnel days were spent searching for wolf activity in the Walla Walla Unit. Tracks were observed and ODFW installed remote cameras to continuously monitor the area. Photographs of two different wolves were captured and these photos can be viewed on the [ODFW wolf web page](#). ODFW briefly attempted to trap and radio-collar a wolf in this area during August but was unsuccessful.

Mt Emily Unit: All or part of 24 personnel days were spent investigating new sign of wolves in the northern part of the Mt Emily Unit – north of the Umatilla River. Tracks of what appeared to be two wolves were found on several visits. ODFW installed remote cameras in the area which resulted in photographs of two different wolves. Though wolf activity has been suspected in this area for some time, this new information confirms resident wolf presence in this area. A photo of one of the wolves can be viewed on the [ODFW wolf web page](#). After initial contacts with area landowners, ODFW attempted to trap and radio-collar one of the wolves in August but was unsuccessful. Monitoring and trapping efforts will continue in September. ODFW collected a suspected wolf scat last May from this area and DNA analysis showed that it was a wolf scat. However, the sample did not match with any previously captured Oregon wolves.

Fossil Unit: Two days were spent attempting to locate the three-year-old radio-collared wolf OR-3, that dispersed from the Imnaha pack in May. He was located once in mid-August (by aircraft) approximately 10 miles east of Fossil on private forest land. There was no visual sighting so it is unknown if he is alone or has found other wolves.

Snake River Unit: ODFW did not conduct wolf surveys in this unit during August. However, a possible wolf scat was collected in the Snake River area during July and was sent off for laboratory analysis to determine if it was coyote or wolf. The results were inconclusive due to the age and dryness of the scat.

Ukiah Unit: Two days were spent in late August surveying for wolf sign in response to a public wolf sighting report. No wolf sign was found.

Aerial Monitoring: One aerial flight was conducted in August to monitor OR-3 (noted above).

ODFW Biologist Wolf Management Training: A two-day training session for ODFW wildlife district biologists was given in August by wolf program staff in La Grande. The purpose of the training was to equip eastern Oregon wildlife biologists with information and the procedures necessary to conduct local implementation of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. It is expected that ODFW wildlife district personnel will perform an increasing role in local monitoring of wolves and addressing wolf-livestock depredation issues. Wolf program personnel will continue to coordinate and support Oregon's wolf management efforts.

Review panel: On August 11, 2011 ODFW convened a panel to conduct a review of recent investigations of suspected wolf depredation in Oregon. The Oregon Wolf Management Plan and the Oregon Wolf Depredation Compensation Financial Assistance Grant Program require the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to investigate and make determinations whether incidents related to dead or injured domestic livestock were caused by wolves. Consequently, ODFW needs to have high confidence that the procedures used to investigate potential wolf depredations on livestock are based on factual information that produces accurate and objective conclusions. The seven-member review panel consisted of wildlife professionals from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington and the purpose of the meeting was for panel members to discuss and provide feedback regarding the ODFW wolf depredation investigation process. ODFW is currently preparing a report of the findings of the panel and expects to make the report available to the public (via ODFW wolf web page) in September.

Livestock Depredation, Investigations, and Livestock Producer Assistance:

No wolf depredation was confirmed during August. ODFW performed two wolf depredation investigations during the month in Wallowa County and one in Umatilla County. A summary of each investigation can be viewed at the following link http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/livestock_loss_investigations.asp.

Non lethal/preventative actions: The range rider program was continued in August through a direct agreement between an area livestock producer and Defenders of Wildlife. The range rider actively monitors wolves, patrols livestock and hazes wolves from livestock where necessary. ODFW continued to send text messages on 28 days in the month of August to Wallowa county livestock producers with livestock in the area of the Imnaha pack. During the month a total of 331 text messages were sent. In addition to text messaging, ODFW made eight personal contacts with area livestock producers regarding wolf management.