

# Oregon Wolf Program Update

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Russ Morgan, ODFW Wolf Coordinator  
Roblyn Brown, ODFW Assistant Wolf Coordinator  
107 20th Street, La Grande, OR 97850 (541) 963-2138

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**Reports of Wolf Activity:** ODFW received 65 wolf reports during November. Of those, 20 wolf reports were from the western wolf management zone (16 sighting reports, 3 track reports, 1 report of howling), and 45 from the east zone (27 sighting reports, 16 track and scat reports, 2 reports of wolf howls).

## **Field Investigations/Monitoring/Capture:**

**Imnaha Pack:** ODFW continues to intensely monitor the Imnaha pack with GPS radio-collar locations every 3 hours on OR4, the alpha male. The GPS radio-collar downloaded 235 GPS location data points in November. During the month of November the Imnaha pack shifted its main use north onto the private land of the Zumwalt prairie and forest of the northern Chesnimnus unit. In November, the pack was on private lands for 109 (46%) of the locations. The pack spent time in two counties, 199 (85%) of the locations were in Wallowa County and 36 (15%) were in Baker County. ODFW confirmed a minimum of 5 wolves in the pack when tracks of five wolves were documented on Nov.14 and a photo was taken by ODFW on Nov.16 which showed 5 wolves. Tracks were found in eastern Sled Springs Unit on Nov. 8 in an area near the Imnaha pack's known homerange. It is unknown if these tracks were from Imnaha pack wolves.

**OR7:** The dispersal movement of this wolf has slowed and OR7 appears to be showing signs of developing a homerange in Klamath County. Since Nov. 8, its radio locations show repeated use of an approximately 100 square mile area between Klamath and Crater Lakes. At this time it is unknown if the wolf will continue to stay in the area or if it will move again. This wolf is federally listed as endangered and ODFW will continue to assist the USFWS to determine the status of this wolf and if any other wolves are in the area.

**OR3:** No new information on OR3. Despite efforts to locate this wolf's signal from aircraft (in conjunction with other scheduled flights), it has not been located since Sept. 30.

**Wenaha Pack:** ODFW conducted wolf surveys in the Wenaha Unit on 1 day during the month. Reproduction has not yet been confirmed in the Wenaha pack this year, though fall/winters surveys have not been completed.

**Walla Walla Pack:** All or part of 4 personnel-days was spent in the Walla Walla Unit. A minimum of 6 wolves have been documented through tracks and remote photos captured, though it is possible there are more than 6 in the pack. The pups were collared in October and have been located several times and have been in the same general area where they were trapped.

**Mt Emily Unit:** All or part of 4 personnel days were spent in the northern part of the Mt Emily Unit – north of the Umatilla River. At this time, it is not known if the two wolves discovered earlier in the fall are part of a new pack, or if they are part of the Walla Walla pack.

**Snake River Pack:** ODFW spent part of one day in the Snake River unit monitoring the Snake River Pack confirmed in October. One photograph of a wolf from the Snake River pack was taken on a remote camera on two different days in November.

**Sumpter:** Part of one day was spent investigating a report from a citizen who reported observing possible wolf tracks in snow. The snow had disappeared and no tracks could be found by ODFW.

**Aerial Monitoring:** No flights to specifically locate wolves were conducted by ODFW in November. However, radio frequencies for OR3 and OR5 were monitored during several regularly scheduled flights for other species.

**Livestock Depredation, Investigations, and Livestock Producer Assistance:** ODFW performed two wolf depredation investigations during the month in Wallowa County and two in Umatilla County. Both Wallowa County investigations resulted in ODFW confirmation of wolf depredation by wolves of the Imnaha pack. Both depredations occurred on private lands of Zumwalt Prairie. A summary of each investigation can be viewed at the following link [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/livestock\\_loss\\_investigations.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/livestock_loss_investigations.asp).

**Non lethal/preventative actions:** ODFW continued to send text messages to Wallowa County livestock producers with livestock in the area of the Imnaha pack. During the month, a total of 1023 text messages were sent on 29 days of the month. Text messages were sent twice-daily on 20 days during November.

**Litigation:**

On Nov. 15, the Oregon Court of Appeals extended the stay prohibiting ODFW from killing two wolves from the Imnaha pack under the chronic depredation rule. ODFW's planned lethal removal of the alpha male and an uncollared wolf from the pack is on hold pending the Court of Appeal's decision on the case.