



Washington Wolves Killed for Livestock Predations 2012-2023

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for killing 44 endangered wolves since 2012*

*75% of the wolves killed were targeted due to predations in public forests.**
75% of the wolves killed were due to conflicts with cattle belonging to the family that operates Diamond M Ranch.****

2012: Wedge Wolf Pack. *Pack destroyed and 7 wolves killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 7 wolves on behalf of Diamond M Ranch due to predations on cattle left to graze on public land in the northeast section of the Colville National Forest (CNF).¹

2014: Huckleberry Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf for another livestock owner due to predations on both private and state-owned land.²

2016: Profanity Peak Wolf Pack. *Pack destroyed and 7 wolves killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 7 wolves on behalf of Diamond M due to predations on public land in the Kettle River Range within CNF (all predations except one were on Diamond M cattle).³

2017: Sherman Wolf Pack. *Pack destroyed and 1 wolf killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 1 wolf on behalf of Diamond M due to predations on public land in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁴

2017: Smackout Wolf Pack. *2 wolves killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 2 wolves on behalf of another livestock owner due to predations on private land near CNF and predations on public land in the eastern region of CNF.⁵

2018: Togo Wolf Pack. *1 wolf killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 1 wolf on behalf of another livestock owner due to predations on public land the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁶

* WDFW has directly killed 43 wolves, largely using sharpshooters in helicopters. In addition, WDFW issued a permit in 2021 that allowed a livestock owner to kill a wolf from the Columbia County pack.

** Many of these kill orders were issued after predators on both public and private property. We classified those that kill orders as resulting from predations on public land if the public-land predations were necessary to get to the minimum number of predations (2 in 30 days or 4 in 10 months) that the Department uses as a threshold for issuing a kill order.

*** Out of respect for WDFW's confidentiality policy, Washington Wildlife First does not name livestock owners, unless they identify themselves publicly, as Diamond M Ranch has repeatedly done in news articles.

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2018: OPT Wolf Pack. *2 wolves killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 2 wolves on behalf of Diamond M due to predations on public land in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁷

2018 Smackout Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf on behalf of Diamond M due to predations on private land near the eastern region of CNF.⁸

2019: OPT Wolf Pack. *Pack destroyed and 8 wolves killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 8 wolves on behalf of Diamond M due to predations on public land in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁹

2019: Grouse Flats Wolf Pack. *1 wolf killed due to conflicts on public land.* WDFW killed 1 wolf as a result of predations of cattle on private land and state land.¹⁰

2020: New Wedge Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 3 wolves due to predations on public and private land in and around the CNF. Vast majority of predations were on Diamond M cattle.¹¹

2021: Columbia County Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf due to predations on private land and issued a permit allowing a private landowner to shoot 1 wolf.¹²

2022: Togo Wolf Pack. *2 wolves killed due to predations on public land.* WDFW killed 2 wolves due to predations on cattle on public land in and around the Kettle River Range of CNF.¹³

2022: Dirty Shirt Pack. *1 wolf killed due to predations on public land.* WDFW accidentally killed 1 wolf pup from the wrong pack after it attributed predations on public and private land to the Smackout pack. Most of these predations were on cattle owned by the family that operates Diamond M Ranch.¹⁴

2022: Smackout Wolf Pack. *1 wolf killed due to predations on public land.* WDFW killed 1 wolf due to predations on public and private land. Most of these predations were on cattle owned by the family that operates Diamond M Ranch.¹⁵

2022: Leadpoint Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 2 wolves due to predations on private land. Most of these predations were on cattle owned by the family that operates Diamond M Ranch.¹⁶

2023: WA139 Wolf Group. *2 wolves killed due to predations on public land.* WDFW killed 2 wolves due to predations on public and private land in Asotin County.¹⁷

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Materials Referenced Available Upon Request

¹ See Matthew Weaver, Ranchers live in the shadow of the wolves, *Capital Press*, Sept. 22, 2019; Deposition of Donald Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead (Mar. 27, 2018), *Ctr. for Biological Diversity and Cascadia Wildlands v. Wash. Dep't of Fish and Wildlife* (Wash. Super. Ct.), at page 153-54, 156; and Wedge, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/packs/wedge> (last viewed Jul. 13, 2023).

² See Craig Welch, As wolves return so do tensions with ranchers, *The Seattle Times*, Oct. 4, 2014.

³ See Lynda V. Mapes, A War Over Wolves, *The Seattle Times*, 2017.

⁴ See Sherman Wolf Pack: 2017 Lethal removal action, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, (Dec. 15, 2017); Deposition of Donald Martorello, Wolf Policy Lead (Mar. 27, 2018), *Ctr. for Biological Diversity and Cascadia Wildlands v. Wash. Dep't of Fish and Wildlife* (Wash. Super. Ct.); and Lynda V. Mapes, State's wolf kill turns up the heat in Washington cattle country, *The Seattle Times*, 2017.

⁵ See Smackout wolf pack: 2017 lethal removal action report, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sept. 21, 2017, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01929> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023); Smackout, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/packs/smackout> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023).

⁶ See Adult male wolf from Togo pack killed in lethal removal action, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sept. 2, 2018, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/adult-male-wolf-togo-pack-killed-lethal> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023); Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2018 Annual Report, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2019), Ellensburg, WA, at Appendix A, pages 28-30, available at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02062/FINAL_2018%20WDFW_WOLF_REPORT_11April2019.pdf (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023).

⁷ See WDFW removes second wolf from OPT pack, initiates evaluation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sept. 18, 2018, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wdfw-removes-second-wolf-opt-pack> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023); and Wolf war howls between Eastern and Western Washington, MyNorthwest, Nov 12, 2018, available at: <https://mynorthwest.com/1179155/washington-wolf-war-wolves/> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023).

⁸ See WDFW removes wolf from Smackout pack, initiates evaluation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Nov. 15, 2018, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wdfw-removes-wolf-smackout-pack> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023).

⁹ See WDFW removes depredating OPT wolf pack, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Aug. 17, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/news/wdfw-removes-depredating-opt-wolf-pack> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023); Don Jenkins, Rancher: Non-lethal methods not working against wolves, *Capital Press*, Jul. 23, 2019.

¹⁰ See Confirmed wolf depredation on the 4-O Ranch Wildlife Area in Asotin County, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jul. 25, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/confirmed-wolf-depredation-4-o-ranch> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); Grouse Flats pack update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jul. 25, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/confirmed-wolf-depredation-private-0> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); Grouse Flats pack update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sep. 9, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/grouse-flats-depredation> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); Grouse Flats pack update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sep. 20, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/confirmed-wolf-depredation-grouse-flats> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); and Grouse Flats pack

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¹¹ See Several confirmed wolf depredations in Wedge pack territory, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jul. 20, 2020, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/togo-pack-update-10> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); WDFW Director authorizes lethal action in Wedge wolf pack territory, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jul. 23, 2020, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wdfw-director-authorizes-lethal-2> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); Laurel Demkovich, WDFW kills last two wolves in Wedge pack territory, *The Spokesman Review*, Aug. 17, 2020; and Letter from Joey J. McCanna, Wildlife Conflict Supervisor and the District One Team, to Stephen Pozzanghera, Regional Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Aug. 20, 2020).

¹² See Email from Stephen Pozzanghera, Regional Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, to Kelly Susewind, Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (Nov. 8, 2021); and Monthly Wolf Report - December 2021, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jan. 10, 2022, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/monthly-wolf-report-december-2021> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023).

¹³ See District 1 Team meeting minutes: Togo Pack Recommendation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington (May 17, 2022); and Togo pack update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oct. 18, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/togo-pack-update-10> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023).

¹⁴ See Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2022 Annual Report, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Yakama Nation, Swinomish Tribe, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Apr. 7, 2023), Ellensburg, WA, at Appendix A, pages 6-9, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02419/wdfw02419.pdf> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); RaeLynn Ricarte, WDFW Authorizes Second Hunt for Smackout Wolves After Continued Cattle Killings, *Capital Press*, Oct. 9, 2022; and Smackout pack report Oct. 13, 2022, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/smackout-pack-update-4> (last viewed Jul. 11, 2023).

¹⁵ See Washington Gray Wolf Conservation and Management 2022 Annual Report, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Yakama Nation, Swinomish Tribe, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Apr. 7, 2023), Ellensburg, WA, at Appendix A, pages 6-11, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/02419/wdfw02419.pdf> (last viewed Sep. 15, 2023); and Smackout pack update Oct. 13, 2022, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/smackout-pack-update-4> (last viewed Jul. 11, 2023); and RaeLynn Ricarte, WDFW Authorizes Second Hunt for Smackout Wolves After Continued Cattle Killings, *Capital Press*, Oct. 9, 2022.

¹⁶ See Leadpoint pack update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oct. 13, 2022, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/leadpoint-pack-update-6> (last viewed Jul. 11, 2023); and RaeLynn Ricarte, WDFW Authorizes Second Hunt for Smackout Wolves After Continued Cattle Killings, *Capital Press*, Oct. 9, 2022.

¹⁷ See WA139 group update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Aug. 28, 2023, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wa139-group-update> (last viewed Aug. 30, 2023); and Livestock depredations in Asotin County attributed to WA139 wolf group, Aug. 18, 2023, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/livestock-depredations-asotin-county-attributed-wa139-wolf-group> (last viewed Aug. 30, 2023).