



Wolves Killed by WA Dep't of Fish & Wildlife

2012-August 27, 2025

Washington taxpayers have paid to kill 51 endangered wolves over 13 yearsⁱ

More than 70% of the wolves WDFW has killed were on behalf of one beef producing family;ⁱⁱ over 80% were due to predations on public lands.ⁱⁱⁱ

2012: Wedge Wolf Pack. Pack destroyed. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) killed 7 wolves on behalf of Diamond M Ranch^{iv} following predations on cattle left to graze in the northeast section of the Colville National Forest (CNF).¹

2014: Huckleberry Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf for another livestock owner as a result of predations on private and state-owned lands.²

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

2017: Sherman Wolf Pack. Pack destroyed. WDFW killed 1 wolf on behalf of Diamond M as a result of predations in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁴

2017: Smackout Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 2 wolves on behalf of another livestock owner as a result of predations on private land near CNF and predations in the eastern region of CNF.⁵

2018: Togo Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf on behalf of another livestock owner as a result of predations in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁶

2018: OPT Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 2 wolves on behalf of Diamond M as a result of predations in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁷

ⁱ In 2021, the Department issued a permit for a livestock owner to kill an additional wolf from the Columbia County pack.

ⁱⁱ Attribution to Diamond M of the wolves killed from the Dominion Pack in 2024 and the Togo Pack in 2025 (one wolf from each pack) is based on confirmation from multiple inside sources, though publicly available records do not directly tie these incidents to Diamond M. If counting only wolves explicitly linked to Diamond M in public records, 34 of 51 wolves (67%) killed by WDFW have been at the behest of Diamond M.

ⁱⁱⁱ If the Columbia County wolf killed by a livestock owner is counted for a total of 42 wolves, these percentages are 79% and 88%, respectively.

^{iv} 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.

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

2019: OPT Wolf Pack. *Pack destroyed.* WDFW killed 8 wolves on behalf of Diamond M for predations in the Kettle River Range within CNF.⁹

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

2020: New Wedge Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 3 wolves as a result of 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 lands and issued a permit allowing a private landowner to shoot 1 wolf.¹²

2022: Togo Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 2 wolves as a result of predations on cattle in and around the Kettle River Range of CNF.¹³

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

2022: Smackout Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf as a result of predations on public and private lands. Most were on cattle owned by the family that operates Diamond M.¹⁵

2022: Leadpoint Wolf Pack. WDFW killed 2 wolves as a result of predations on private lands. Most were on cattle owned by the family that operates Diamond M.¹⁶

2023: Couse Wolf Pack (AKA “WA139 Wolf Group”). WDFW killed 2 wolves as a result of predations on public and private lands in Asotin County.¹⁷

2024: 4 wolves (3 public; 1 Diamond M); In the Eastern Washington recovery region only, WDFW used incremental lethal removal of wolves in an attempt to change pack behavior after repeated depredations. 17 cattle and 1 dog mortality; 26 cattle injuries

2024: Dominion Pack. WDFW killed 1 wolf due to predations on cattle on private land, most of which were owned by the family that operates Diamond M.¹⁸

2024: Onion Creek: WDFW killed 3 wolves due to predations on cattle belonging to other producers with allotments in CNF.¹⁹

2025: Columbia Pack: WDFW killed 2 wolves due to predations on cattle belonging to other producers. Unknown if it was public or private land.²⁰

2025: Togo Pack: WDFW killed 1 wolf due to predations on cattle in CNF; at least one related to Diamond M.

2025: Sherman Pack: Through August 27, WDFW has killed 1 wolf due to predations on cattle belonging to Diamond M in the CNF.²¹

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; 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.).

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).

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).

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); and Don Jenkins, Rancher: Non-lethal methods not working against wolves, *Capital Press*, Jul. 23, 2019.

¹⁰ See Grouse Flats pack update, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oct. 4, 2019, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/grouse-flats-pack-update-1> (last viewed Jul. 12, 2023).

¹¹ See 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 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 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).

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); 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).

¹⁸ See <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/dominion-wolf-pack-update-0>

¹⁹ See Wolf lethally removed from Onion Creek pack following lethal removal reauthorization by WDFW Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oct. 2, 2024, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wolf-lethally-removed-onion-creek-pack-following-lethal-removal-reauthorization-wdfw> (last viewed Aug. 27, 2025).

²⁰ See WDFW Director approves lethal removal of wolves from Columbia pack, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Jan. 6, 2025, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wdfw-director-approves-lethal-removal-wolves-columbia-pack> (last viewed Aug. 27, 2025).

²¹ See Washington ranchers: Nothing scares wolves anymore, *Capital Press*, Aug. 25, 2025, available at: <https://capitalpress.com/2025/08/25/washington-ranchers-nothing-scared-wolves-anymore/>; Sherman Pack update, <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/sherman-wolf-pack-update>, Aug. 27, 2025, available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/updates/wdfw-director-approves-lethal-removal-wolves-sherman-pack> (last visited Aug. 27, 2025).