

Summary of Significant Changes Made to the Wolf Plan Resulting from Peer Review

The entire document was strengthened and improved by the edits, addition of new references, and added information resulting from the peer review comments.

Chapter 3

- A fourth recovery region (Pacific Coast) was added by separating it from the Southern Cascades region.
- Recovery objectives were changed to reflect the inclusion of a fourth recovery region, as follows:
 - to achieve downlisting to threatened status, at least 2 successful breeding pairs distributed in the Southern Cascades Region or Pacific Coast Region, or in a combination of these two regions
 - to achieve downlisting to sensitive status, at least 5 successful breeding pairs distributed in the Southern Cascades Region or Pacific Coast Region, or in a combination of these two regions
 - to achieve delisting, at least 5 successful breeding pairs distributed in the Southern Cascades Region or Pacific Coast Region, or in a combination of these two regions
- Considerably broader discussion was added to the introductory section on:
 - population viability
 - genetic diversity
 - distribution and potential suitable habitat
 - landscape connectivity and dispersal
 - similarities between the northern Rocky Mountain states and Washington for wolves
- The translocation section was expanded to include:
 - more information on objectives and planning that would be done for translocation
 - added that translocation can be used to increase genetic diversity of isolated wolf populations
 - added that translocation out of a recovery region would be conducted only after the region had exceeded the target population objectives for delisting and removal of wolves would not cause the region's population to fall below those objectives
 - the Olympic Peninsula and Willapa Hills were added to the Southern Cascades as potential areas for translocation
- The section on management after delisting now states that following delisting, wolves could be reclassified to either game animal or protected status, depending on the public process of Commission action.

Chapter 4

- Improvements were made throughout the chapter in organization, etc. The following changes were made to the section on management of wolf-livestock conflicts:
 - Under wolf location information to livestock producers, WDFW will now notify livestock producers if wolves are living near their operations and will update them, as needed
 - Under non-lethal injurious harassment, this tool will now be allowed only by state or federal agents during the endangered phase
 - Relocation of wolves was added as a tool for managing wolf depredation of livestock
 - Under use of lethal take of wolves involved in repeated depredation,
 - this activity is no longer allowed by livestock owners with a permit during threatened status; it would be done by agency staff
 - clarification is added that only livestock owners with a permit (including family members and authorized employees) can perform this activity on land they own or lease during the sensitive and delisted phases
 - Under use of lethal take of wolves in the act of attacking (biting, wounding, or killing; not just chasing or pursuing),
 - this provision is now allowed at all distances, not just within 150 yards of a residence
 - clarification is added that only livestock owners (including family members and authorized employees) can use this activity with their livestock on private land they own or lease during endangered, threatened, and sensitive phases, and on private and public land they own or lease during the delisted phase
 - this tool would be rescinded, if needed, during the endangered and threatened phases rather than in all phases
 - Compensation for confirmed and probable livestock losses on land parcels of 100 or more acres was changed as follows:
 - payment of higher compensation rates for confirmed (full market value for two animals for each confirmed kill) and probable losses of livestock was changed to cover cattle only because sheep tend to herd up and dead animals are likely to be found
 - payment of 1.5 times the current market value for probable losses of livestock was changed to say that owners will receive payment for “two animals at half the current market value” for each loss and for cattle only
 - The section on compensation for unknown losses was changed to say that development of such a program is recommended and that WDFW work with a multi-interest stakeholder group to establish the program
 - The proposal to establish a Washington Compensation Review Board was deleted. Possible formation of a “multi-interest review board” is now mentioned in Chapter 12, Task 4.4.5.

Chapter 7

- A new Section D was added regarding the management of wolf-domestic dog conflicts. Private citizens will be allowed to kill a wolf that is “in the act” of attacking (defined as biting, wounding, or killing; not just chasing or pursuing) domestic dogs on private and public land when wolves are sensitive and delisted.

Chapter 12

- Substantial rearrangement and reworking of tasks has occurred. New tasks were added regarding:
 - allowing occasional translocations of individual wolves to enhance the genetic diversity of isolated populations confirmed to have low diversity
 - working with land management agencies administering grazing permits to provide permittees with information on resolving wolf-livestock conflicts
 - purchasing the grazing rights and permanently retiring public grazing allotments experiencing chronic wolf-livestock conflicts and lethal wolf control
 - exploring opportunities to develop new approaches for reducing wolf-livestock conflicts (e.g., predator-friendly marketing of livestock products)
 - managing wolf-ungulate conflicts at winterfeeding stations and sites with game fencing
 - working with land management agencies on actions to reduce the chances of wolves becoming habituated to humans
 - preserving and enhancing habitat connectivity for wolves
 - providing livestock producers with information on actions that they may take to protect their livestock from wolves

Chapter 13

- An implementation schedule was added. It lists conservation and management tasks with task priorities, responsible parties, and estimates of annual expenditures for fiscal years 2010-2015.

Literature Cited

- Fifty-seven new references were added to the plan. Five older references were removed.