

APPENDIX M

Wolf-Livestock Conflict Management Recommendations

The following ideas are drawn from a brochure developed by Defenders of Wildlife entitled "Livestock and Wolves, A Guide to Nonlethal Tools and Methods to Reduce Conflicts". These brochures have been provided to all range specialists on the Umatilla National Forest, who have been encouraged to present these ideas to all Forest permittees for their consideration through informal routine conversations. These recommendations are not specific to management of the Brock allotment and are NOT requirements for any allotment as the state is responsible for wolf management in Oregon east of U.S. Highway 395 in the event that livestock conflicts arise, not the Forest Service. The Brock allotment is in the part of Oregon east of Highway 395 and the state is responsible for any wolf management decisions when assistance is requested by a livestock owner or other individual. Any adoption by permittees of the suggestions below is entirely voluntary.

Program Strategic Theme: This is a "gentle reminder" approach to help our ranchers better understand how they can reduce the chance of undesirable interactions between livestock and large predators. These suggestions apply to all large predators including cats and bears, not just wolves.

1. All large predator animals are scavengers. Dead livestock and the smell of a rotting carcass will attract predator animals. It is not that a large predator will "learn the taste of beef" by eating cattle carrion but they will hang out in the area thus increase the chance of livestock interaction. If livestock are in the area, there is a higher chance the other livestock are at risk of predation. It is best if we find deceased cattle on the allotment they be removed and disposed of properly. ODA can help with suggestions on proper disposal.
2. Wolves are smart they need to survive and an injury may mean they do not survive. Therefore they prey on the weakest or most vulnerable. Sick or injured animals could be removed from the allotment to avoid predation.
3. Livestock losses from wolves often occur when the rancher is unaware of wolf activity in the area. By increasing human activity the rancher can often detect and prevent wolf activity. Visiting the allotment early in the morning or late at night may alert the rancher to agitation in cattle or even hear howling. Look for tracks, scat and hair snagged on fences. Wolves tend to stay away from those areas where humans have recently been.
4. Calve at home. Most ranchers do this anyway so they can care for the new-born calves. If we have a rancher that is still calving during the grazing season suggest a change in their herd management.

Finally if you hear of wolves in the area of livestock send Russ Morgan a note at Russ.L.Morgan@state.or.us, he may be able to help you out with management suggestions.