



File Code: 2670

Date: June 2, 2009

Ken Berg  
Field Supervisor  
North Pacific Coast Ecoregion  
Western Washington Office  
510 Desmond Drive SE, Suite 102  
Lacey, WA 98503

Dear Ken,

We are reinitiating consultation on the Libby Grazing Allotment to address new information regarding the recent recolonization of gray wolves. The original biological assessment and letter of concurrence (SE/FS/1-3-96-I- 168/Okanogan) was completed in 1996. We are also addressing the effects to gray wolves and grizzly bears on the Newby and Poorman Grazing Allotments. Consultation on lynx, Columbia River bull trout and designated critical habitat for lynx was completed at the time of listing to address the affects of existing actions on each species and/or critical habitat (lynx 1-9-00-I-083, lynx critical habitat 13260-2009-I-0089, Columbia River bull trout 1-3-98-I-394 through 398).

We developed conservation measures that will be included in the 2009 Annual Operating Plan and Annual Operating Instructions to reduce the possibility of wolf depredation on cattle. These measures were developed during discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists in Wenatchee and Helena, MT. These conservation measures are:


1. Livestock carcasses on the allotments must be moved from the allotment, destroyed by blasting with explosives, or electric fenced if they would attract wolves to a potential conflict situation with other livestock, such as a salting ground, water source, or holding corral.
2. Sick or injured livestock must be moved from the allotments, so they are not targeted by wolves.
3. If an active wolf den site is within 1 mile of an allotment unit, livestock turn-out for that unit of the allotment will be delayed until June 1 at which time deer will be birthing fawns which provide an abundant and easy prey source for wolves.
4. If an active wolf den site is within or adjacent to an allotment, calves turned-out on that unit of the allotment must average 200 lbs in weight to minimize depredation potential.
5. Allotment management activities by humans will not be allowed near active wolf den sites during the denning period, to avoid human disturbance of the site.
6. Salt or other livestock attractants will not be placed near wolf dens or rendezvous sites, to minimize cattle use of these sites.
7. In the event of depredation, wolf control actions would be determined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and USDA Wildlife Services and would not result in an adverse effect to the wolves. Cattle may be moved to another unit or another allotment.
8. During times that cattle are in a unit with an active wolf den site or rendezvous site the permittee will be required to inspect that unit at least 2 days/week.



Level 1 consultation was completed with participation from Gregg Kurz, Bob Naney, Bill Gaines, and John Rohrer during the week of 25 May.

I request your concurrence with our determinations of "may effect, not likely to adversely affect" for gray wolf and grizzly bear. Please contact John Rohrer (509)996-4001) if you have any questions regarding information in the biological assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael C. Liu". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

MICHAEL C LIU  
Methow District Ranger