

**MEETING REPORT**  
**UTAH WOLF WORKING GROUP (WWG)**  
**Meeting #11**  
**26 October 2004**  
**DNR Room 1050; Salt Lake City, UT**

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Kirk Robinson (alternate), Trey Simmons, Robert Schmidt, Jim Bowns, Sterling Brown (alternate), Clark Willis, Ken Young (alternate), Don Peay, Bill Fenimore (alternate), Bill Burbridge, Lee Howard (alternate)

Missing: Mark Walsh, Karen Corts

Technical Advisors: Kevin Bunnell, Mike Bodenchuk

Alternates:

Others: Joan DiGiorgio, Cindee Jensen, Mike Medberry, Miles Moretti

Facilitator: Walt Gasson - Dynamic Solutions Group, LLC

Recorder: Kevin Bunnell, UDWR

**DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS**

**The draft September meeting record was discussed. Minor changes were made. It will be posted on the web site by October 29.**

**Walt will get the draft meeting record from today out for review by November 1. Comments on the draft are due to him by November 16.**

**The Purpose/Goal/Objectives section, approved by the WWG at the September meeting, was (after considerable discussion) re-opened, discussed and modified.**

**The Funding subgroup presented their remaining bullet points. They were discussed, modified, and approved.**

**The Livestock Depredation subgroup presented their draft bullet points. These were discussed and modified, but not approved. The subgroup will meet at least one more time before the next WWG meeting on November 30. These bullet points will be approved by the WWG at that meeting.**

**The following timetable was established for completion of the plan:**

<b>Nov. 30</b>	<b>WWG meeting to discuss and approve Livestock Depredation bullets, discuss wolf impacts on coyote control</b>
<b>Dec-Jan</b>	<b>No WWG meetings; Kevin and Walt write plan first draft</b>
<b>Feb. 1</b>	<b>Plan first draft to WWG</b>

<b>Mar. 1</b>	<b>Deadline for comments on first draft to Walt and Kevin</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Walt and Kevin incorporate comments on first draft, second draft to WWG ~Mar. 15</b>
<b>Mar. 29</b>	<b>WWG meets to discuss/approve draft plan</b>
<b>Early Apr.</b>	<b>WWG meeting (if needed) to complete above</b>
<b>Apr. 15</b>	<b>Draft plan to RACs</b>
<b>May 17-?</b>	<b>RAC meetings</b>
<b>Early June</b>	<b>Final WWG meeting</b>

### **REVIEW/APPROVAL OF 9/28 MEETING RECORD**

The group approved the September 28 meeting record, with minor changes. Walt will make the changes and e-mail to WWG members and UDWR for posting on the website.

### **OBJECTIVES SUBGROUP DRAFT BULLET POINTS**

Several group members indicated concern about the Purpose/Goal/Objectives section, approved by the WWG at the September 28 meeting. After considerable discussion, it was decided that the group that the points would be revisited today. The bullet points were discussed, modified slightly and approved. The approved bullet points are presented in Appendix I to this meeting record.

### **FUNDING SUBGROUP BULLET POINTS**

Kevin Bunnell presented the bullet points for the Funding Subgroup. These bullet points were discussed, modified slightly and approved by the WWG. The approved bullet points are presented in Appendix II to this meeting record.

### **LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION SUBGROUP BULLET POINTS**

Mike Bodenchuk presented the bullet points for the Livestock Depredation Subgroup. These bullet points were discussed, but were not agreed upon. The subgroup will meet at least one more time before the next WWG meeting on November 30. These bullet points will be approved by the WWG at that meeting. They are presented in Appendix III to the meeting record. Walt urged the subgroup to come to consensus on these points. Because of the inter-related nature of these points, some changes in previously approved points may be necessary.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on November 30, 2004 at the UDWR Office in SLC. It will begin at 9:00 AM.

## APPENDIX I

### Purpose/Goal/Objectives

Purpose (10/26/04):

- Within the authority of the State of Utah, the plan will guide management of wolves in Utah during an interim period until 2015, or we determine wolves have become established\* in Utah, or assumptions of the plan (political, social, biological, or legal) change. During this interim period, arriving wolves will be studied to determine where they are most likely to settle without conflict.

*\*Established is defined as “at least 2 breeding pairs of wild wolves successfully raising at least 2 young each (until December 31<sup>st</sup> of the year of their birth), for 2 consecutive years.” Cite: USFWS, Reintroduction of Grey Wolves into Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho, Final EIS, May 1994, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Helena, MT; Pages 6-66 and 6-67 in Appendix 8: Memorandum Regarding Definition of a Wolf Population. From EIS Team Wolf Scientist and Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Coordinator, March 11, 1994.]*

### Management Goal: (7/19/04)

- To manage, study, and conserve wolves moving into Utah while: avoiding conflicts with the wildlife management objectives of the Ute Indian Tribe; preventing livestock depredation; and protecting the investment made in wildlife in Utah.

### Management Objectives (10/26/04)

1. Allow wolves to disperse into Utah, and be conserved, except when or where:
  - a) wolves conflict with the wildlife management objectives of the Ute Indian Tribe;
  - b) wolves cause unacceptable livestock depredation; or
  - c) wolves contribute to wildlife populations not meeting management objectives as defined by the Utah Wildlife Board’s Predator Management Policy.
2. Fully compensate livestock owners for losses of livestock to wolves.

## Appendix III

### Livestock Depredation Sub-Group 10/20/04

#### Compensation Program

- Full compensation for confirmed livestock loss
  - Confirmed 100% Market Value
  - Probable 75% Market Value
  - Possible 50% Market Value
- Compensation should come first from State funds
- Sub-Group supports a mechanism to pay for missing livestock beyond those in the confirmed, probable and possible categories
- Investigations (whether confirmed, probable or possible depredation) will be conducted by WS and/or DWR
- Compensation rules should apply Statewide (both north and South of I-70)
- Compensation for confirmed loss to livestock categories other than cattle and sheep (horses, guard dogs, stock dogs, etc.) should have a cap (per animal)
- Compensation should be available for confirmed loss of any animal (other than companion animal/pet) that is killed

#### Depredation Actions

- Private Lands
  - Sighting**
    - Report to agency if concerned
    - Non-injurious harassment allowed
    - Injurious harassment (rubber bullets, etc.) with permit from DWR
    - Professional consultation with agency
    - Lethal control not an option
  - Harassment of Livestock** (Defined as any activity that elicits an observed “flight or fight” response)
    - Report to agency if concerned
    - Non-injurious harassment allowed
    - Injurious harassment (rubber bullets, etc.) with permit from DWR
    - Professional consultation with agency
    - Lethal control an option [with permit from DWR-option to obtain permit in advance through training]

**“In the Act of”** (biting or grasping)

- Report to agency if concerned
- Non-injurious harassment
- Injurious harassment (rubber bullets) without permit
- Professional consultation with agency
- Lethal control by Landowner

**Confirmed Loss**

- Report to Agency if concerned
- Non-injurious harassment
- Injurious harassment (rubber bullets) without permit
- Professional consultation with agency
- Landowners may get a permit to shoot a wolf on sight after [1 or 2] confirmed losses.

- Public Land

**Sighting**

- Report to Agency if concerned
- Non-injurious harassment allowed
- Injurious harassment (rubber bullets, etc.) with permit from DWR
- Professional consultation with agency
  - Lethal control not an option

**Harassment of Livestock** (Defined as any activity that elicits an observed “flight or fight” response)

- Report to agency if concerned
- Non-injurious harassment allowed
- Injurious harassment (rubber bullets, etc.) with permit from DWR
- Professional consultation with agency
- Lethal control (4 options to consider)
  - Not an option on public land
  - An option with permit from DWR after the fact
  - An option with permit obtained in advance through training
  - Lethal control allowed without permit

**“In the Act of”** (biting or grasping)

- Report to agency if concerned
- Non-injurious harassment
- Injurious harassment (rubber bullets) without permit
- Professional consultation with agency
- Lethal control by Livestock owner (2 options to consider)
  - Allowed by permit after confirmed loss
  - Allowed without permit

## **Confirmed Loss**

### **NOT DISCUSSED BY THE SUB GROUP**

**BODENCHUK ASSUMES THAT THE FOLLOWING POINTS WILL APPLY**

- Report to Agency if concerned
- Non-injurious harassment
- Injurious harassment (rubber bullets) without permit
- Professional consultation with agency

- Agency actions (still to be discussed by the sub-group)

NOTES: Items within brackets and **highlighted** have not been resolved by the subgroup, and are being forwarded to the entire WWG for discussion

There is an underlying assumption that general wildlife protection rules will apply to preclude (for example) harassment of wolves by non-livestock owning public.

There is also the assumption that actions taken by livestock owners or landowners (with or without permit) will contain the requirement for reporting within a certain timeframe and an investigation would be conducted to assure the action was appropriate.