

WOLVES

Continued from Page 1B

“158 known wolves in the state is a reason to celebrate, but we should always remember there is habitat to support more than 1,450 of these iconic animals, and our current count represents a tiny fraction of what once lived here,” said Steve Pedery, conservation director for Oregon Wild. “Oregon needs a cautious, science-based approach to these animals that minimizes killing, supports responsible livestock operations, and holds poachers accountable.”

Representatives from the state’s largest ranching group, the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, describe the wolf population growth as “alarming.”

“All in all, livestock producers are not celebrating the continued increase in population, nor embracing the notion that we can peacefully co-exist,” Rodger Huffman and Veril Nelson, co-chairs of the wolf committee for the



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife photo
A wolf and pup photographed in Wallowa County in 2013.

Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, wrote in response to the annual report.

They contend that the state report underestimates both the number of wolves and the number of livestock killed by wolves.

“We do not buy into the argument that more wolves equates to fewer livestock losses,” Huffman and Nelson wrote. “Time will show that increased numbers equates to increased losses, both confirmed and the much higher percent which are unconfirmed, and even unreported.”

Huffman and Nelson note that ranchers bear much of the cost for employing nonlethal methods, such as fencing and range riders, designed to protect their animals from wolves and other predators.

“We would suggest it’s more a matter of survival than attempts to co-exist as the report suggests,” they wrote.

Huffman and Nelson also believe that the state’s compensation fund for ranchers who lose livestock to wolves is “severely underfunded and again discourages producer participation due to its complexity and ultimate small percent paid to help producers stay in business in known wolf areas.”

The compensation program, overseen by the Oregon Department of Agriculture, paid \$178,319 to 11 counties in 2019, up from \$160,890 in 2018.

The largest recipients were:

- Wallowa County —

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— Rodger Huffman and Veril Nelson, wolf committee, Oregon Cattlemen’s Association

\$42,649 (\$30,000 for prevention, \$6,889 for missing livestock and \$5,760 for dead or injured livestock in wolf attacks confirmed by ODFW biologists)

- Umatilla County — \$36,907 (\$31,700 for prevention, \$4,107 for missing livestock, \$500 for dead or injured livestock, \$600 for administrative expenses)
- Baker County — \$36,020 (\$19,000 for prevention, \$10,634 for dead or injured livestock, \$5,891 for missing livestock, \$495 for administrative expenses)
- Jackson County — \$32,200 (\$26,000 for prevention, \$6,200 for dead or injured livestock)

Union County received \$6,303, of which \$5,000 was for prevention, and Grant County received \$4,850, including \$4,000 for prevention.

Northeast Oregon Wolf Packs

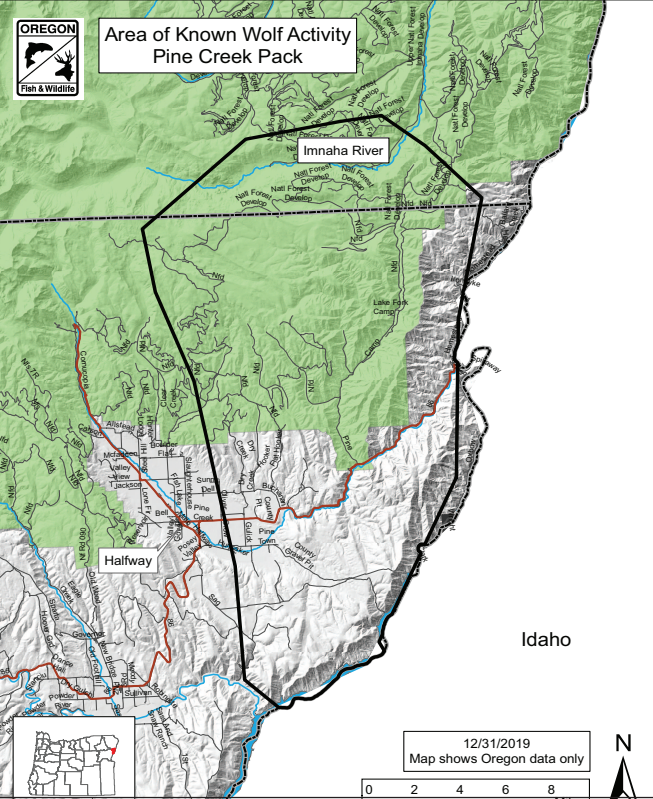
- Bear Creek Pack (Wallowa County) — 4 wolves
- Catherine Pack (Union, Baker counties) — 4 wolves
- Chesnimnus Pack (Wallowa) — 4 wolves
- Clark Creek Pack (Union/Wallowa) — 6 wolves
- Cornucopia Pack (Baker) — 5 wolves
- Desolation Pack (Grant, Umatilla counties) — 5 wolves
- Fivemile Pack (Morrow, Umatilla counties) — 5 wolves
- Five Points Pack (Union, Umatilla) — 7 wolves
- Heppner Pack (Grant, Morrow counties) — 5 wolves
- Keating Pack (Baker, Union, Wallowa) — 6 wolves
- Middle Fork Pack (Wallowa, Baker, Union) — 6 wolves
- Minam Pack (Wallowa, Union) — 8 wolves
- Mount Emily Pack (Umatilla) — 7 wolves
- Noregaard Pack (Wallowa, Union, Umatilla) — 11 wolves
- North Emily Pack (Umatilla, Union) — 7 wolves
- Pine Creek Pack (Baker, Wallowa) — 8 wolves
- Ruckel Ridge Pack (Umatilla, Union) — 7 wolves
- Walla Walla Pack (Umatilla, Union, Wallowa) — 7 wolves
- Wenaha Pack (Wallowa, Union) — 5 wolves

Other Wolves (2 to 3 wolves)

- Lookout Mountain (Baker) — 2 wolves
- Northside (Grant) — 2 wolves
- OR60 (Union, Umatilla) — 2 wolves
- OR63 (Union) — 2 wolves
- OR75 (Baker, Union, Wallowa) — 2 wolves
- Snake River (Wallowa) — 3 wolves
- South Snake (Wallowa, Baker) — 2 wolves
- Wildcat (Wallowa) — 3 wolves

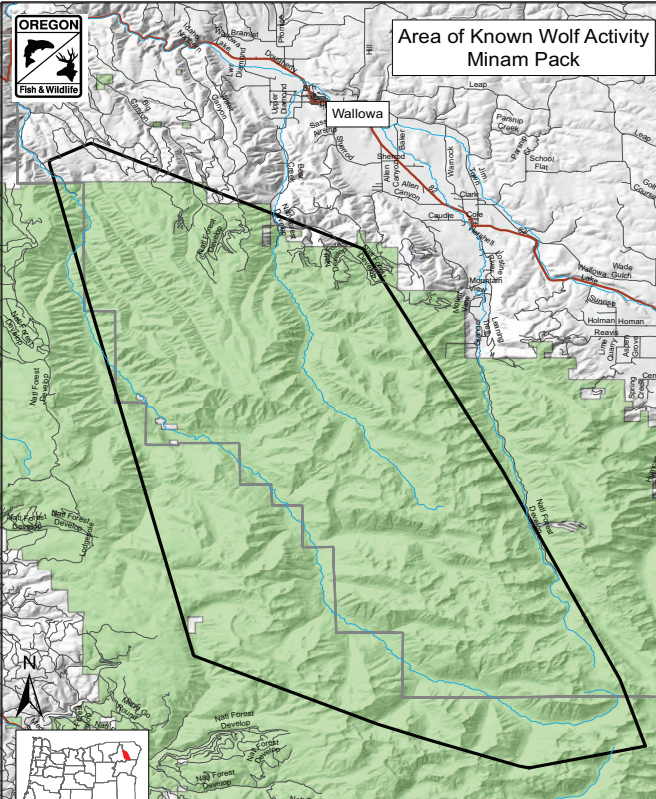
— More information at www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/

Pine Creek Pack: 8 wolves



In 2019, the Pine Creek Pack produced at least two pups that survived to the end of the year. Radio-collar data showed a 280-square-mile use area with 80% of location data points on public lands.

Minam Pack: 8 wolves



In 2019, the Minam Pack produced at least two pups that survived to the end of the year, and the pack was counted as a breeding pair.

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In the worst of times, newspapers rise to the occasion. While everyone struggles to understand “flattening the curve” and social distancing, who will provide you with the information about what is happening in your community?

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