

Two Packs of Wolves Confirmed in Oregon

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The 2009 Interagency Annual Northern Rockies Wolf Report was released March 11, 2010. For the first time, breeding pairs of wolves (defined as a pair of adult wolves that produced at least two surviving pups) were confirmed in both Oregon and Washington. At one time in 2009, Oregon was home to three packs of wolves (defined as two or more wolves traveling together), but one pack was killed by USDA-Wildlife Services in a control action.

The Eastern thirds of Oregon and Washington are part of the federal Northern Rockies “Distinct Population Segment” for purposes of wolf recovery in the Northern Rockies. Wolves in the DPS have been delisted, or removed from federal protection (except for Wyoming, where wolves remain listed as a protected species). But wolves in the Western two-thirds of Oregon and Washington are still federally listed and protected. Wolves in all of Oregon continue to be protected under state law.

The overall Northern Rockies wolf population consists of 1,706 wolves.

| | Wolves | Wolf Packs* | Breeding Pairs |
|---------------|--------|-------------|----------------|
| Montana | 524 | 111/101 | 37 |
| Idaho | 843 | 102/94 | 49 |
| Wyoming | 320 | 44/37 | 27 |
| E. Washington | 5 | 1/1 | 1 |
| E. Oregon | 14 | 3/2 | 1 |
| NR TOTAL | 1,706 | 235 | 115 |

* High of year / End of year.

Here is an excerpt from the federal report about Oregon wolves in 2009:

“OR confirmed its first breeding pair of wolves in 2009. The Imnaha pack [15 miles east of Joseph, OR] was also certainly a successful breeding pair in 2008 because it contained 5 adult-sized wolves in 2009. The breeding female of the pack is the radio-collared B300, originally collared in ID. In July 2009 she was recaptured by ODFW and fitted with a new radio collar. She had recently had pups. ODFW confirmed the Imnaha Pack has 10 members in Fall 2009, 5 of them pups. Wolves also continue to inhabit the Wenaha Unit of northeast OR (20 mi west of Troy, OR), though no pack members have been radio-collared yet. The minimum estimate for the Wenaha pack is four wolves; pups were not confirmed in 2009. ODFW will attempt to radio-collar members of this pack. In April 2009 a pair of wolves was confirmed to have depredated livestock in the Keating Valley of Baker County, OR. One was captured and radio-collared. After significant agency efforts to stop the ongoing depredations (eventually totaling 1 calf, 28 sheep, and a goat) through non-lethal means, ODOW authorized WS to lethally remove both wolves in September 2009. That incident marked the first confirmed wolf depredation of livestock in modern OR history. All Oregon packs were within the NRM DPS that was delisted from the ESA in 2009.”

View 2009 Interagency Annual Northern Rockies Wolf Report at

<http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/annualrpt09/index.html>

View Oregon DFW Wolf Management Information at

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/index.asp>