

United States Department of Agriculture  
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

# WS Directive

2.335 04/29/04

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WOLF DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE

To provide guidance for responding to requests for assistance with conflicts caused by wolves.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive revises WS Directive 2.335 dated 8/10/99.

3. POLICY

WS will provide technical assistance and/or direct control to cooperators and the public consistent with management objectives in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) wolf recovery program and at the direction of the FWS.

When capture of wolves is directed by FWS, it will be accomplished in a manner which minimizes the risk of injury to the wolf and maximizes the likelihood of successfully capturing the specific individual in an expeditious manner.

The use of all traps by WS employees will comply with applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations related to animal capture for managing wildlife damage. The use of foot-hold traps equivalent to Size No. 3 or larger, when used in restraining sets, are limited to types with smooth, rounded offset jaws that may or may not be laminated, or to padded-type jaws. Foot-hold traps with teeth or spiked jaws are prohibited, but the WS Regional Director may authorize use of modified jaw protrusions on traps for the purpose of reducing injuries to target animals. The use of foot-hold traps and spring activated leg snares must incorporate pan-tension devices as appropriate to prevent or reduce the capture of nontarget animals. Tranquilizer trap devices (TTD) will be used as appropriate.

When wolves are captured for translocation, suitable release sites will be identified by direction of the FWS and in cooperation with the National Park Service, Forest Service, Indian Tribe, State wildlife agency, or other entity as appropriate.

Wolves that kill livestock or pets in states where the gray wolf is listed as threatened or experimental may be controlled using methods approved by FWS regulation and appropriate state law.

WS will assist livestock producers and private individuals with the verification of wolf damage to domestic animals, when such action may serve as a basis for the payment of compensation by state or private organizations to affected individuals.

4. PERMITS

WS personnel will secure all required Federal and State permits prior to conducting direct control activities for wolves that involve take, capture or collection by any means or for harassing wolves to protect livestock or other resources.

5. REFERENCES

WS Directive 2.210, Compliance with Federal, State and Local Laws and Regulations (03/01/04).

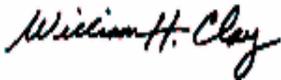
WS Directive 2.450, Traps and Trapping Devices (03/10/04).

WS Directive 2.501, Translocation of Wildlife (07/30/03).

50 CFR Part 17 - Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plant Subpart C - Endangered Wildlife.

Subpart D - Threatened Wildlife - Part 17.40(d), 17.40(n), 17.40(o).

Subpart H - Experimental Population - Part 17.84(i), 17.84(k).  
Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531-1543), as amended.



Deputy Administrator