

WOLVES: APEX PREDATOR

Revered and feared around the world

“Wolves are neither ecological villains nor superheroes. They are simply wild animals.”

-Dr. Dan MacNulty, Wolf Biologist

Why are they feared?



- Wrong stories about wolves hunting people (like the false story of the man-eating wolf)
- Wolves blamed for the predation actually caused by other animals (lions or wolf-dogs).

- Fairy tales and children stories reinforced the image of cunning and viciousness

How Ranchers can prevent predation

- Only healthy animals should be sent to pasture.
- Livestock should be removed from pasture as early as possible in the fall.
- Dead livestock should be buried as soon as possible.
- Pen livestock in corrals that can be watched.
- Use livestock guard dogs.

What can we do?



- Join the HOWL!
- Spread the message about how cool wolves are.
- Plan a play, write a letter, gather signatures.
- Advertise the penalties for killing a wolf (\$125,000 fine and up to 5 years in jail).
- Tell ranchers how to protect their livestock from predation.
- Support wolf sanctuaries (White Wolf Sanctuary).

Non-lethal Deterrents

- Flags draped over fences can scare wolves as they flap in the wind.
- Battery operated flashing highway lights
- Radio-activated alarms



	Oregon wolf counts	Population increase	Human-caused mortalities
2011	29	38%	0
2012	48	66%	0
2013	64	33%	0
2014	81	27%	0
2015	110	36%	5
2016	112	2%	0
2017	124	11%	12
2018	137	10%	6
2019	158	15%	6
2020	173	9%	7
2021	175	1%	21
2022	178	2%	17

Wolf counts represent the number of wolves that wildlife officials were able to count that year. Human-caused mortalities include confirmed wolf deaths caused by traffic collisions, illegal or unpermitted wolf kills, and permitted wolf hunts.
Source: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife annual wolf reports - Get the data