



# Conservation Update

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## Lookout Pack Making More Tracks - 2<sup>nd</sup> wolf pack confirmed in Washington State

Exciting news for Washington State, biologists have confirmed a second breeding wolf pack located in secluded Pend Oreille County, plus Washington's Lookout Pack in Okanogan County has produced pups this year!

The pack is the second documented in Washington State since the summer of 2008 when the Lookout Packs breeding pair was radio-collared in western Okanogan County.

In May of 2009 biologists lured wild wolves with wolf urine to a remote camera site where images of two adult animals were captured on a motion-sensor camera maintained by Department of Natural Resources biologists. One of the photographed wolves appeared to be a lactating female, indicating pups. Genetic tests on a hair collected from the camera site proved to be from a male gray wolf with ties to wolf packs in southern Alberta and northern Montana.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009 gray wolves were again removed from the Federal Endangered Species List in the eastern third of the state, including the Pend Oreille County area, but remain federally listed as endangered in the western two-thirds of Washington.

Then on July 10, 2009 in the spot where the wolves were caught on camera, biologists played a digital howling recording, an adult wolf and what sounded like three pups howled back.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is now attempting to place GPS tracking collars on the adults so their movements can be tracked.

In other Washington wolf news, federal officials continue to investigate the possible poaching of two gray wolves from the Lookout Pack where two residents of Twisp remain highly suspect of trapping and shooting a pair of wolves. To date no charges have been filed.

There was also a depredation on a cow carcass in Okanogan County near the home range of the Lookout Pack. The finger of blame was immediately pointed at the wolf. But a federal investigation concluded that the carcass was too old and scavenged to determine the cause of death. There were no puncture wounds, claw marks or signs of struggle that indicated a predator such as a cougar, bear, or wolf caused the death.

However the most exciting news for Washington State is a new pack and new pups!



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Cuddeback



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