



2014 Wood River Wolf Project Field Workshop

The Wood River Wolf Project is a partnership of local wildlife advocates, ranching operations, and county, state and federal agencies working together to use proactive, nonlethal deterrents to minimize livestock and wolf conflicts. Since 2008, the Wood River Wolf Project has been helping Blaine County ranchers implement nonlethal strategies to reduce livestock losses and protect native wildlife. Please join us for the Wood River Wolf Project Field Workshop to learn how many of these non-lethal tools and techniques have deterred wolves and other predators from killing livestock and the future of wildlife and agricultural friendly efforts in Blaine County.

When: 1 to 5 pm Monday, June 16 and 8 am to 4 pm Tuesday, June 17, 2014

Where: Community Campus, 1050 Fox Acres Road, Hailey, Idaho. Minnie Moore Room 200. See directions included below.

Who: Wood River Wolf Project field team members and project partners including regional biologists, livestock managers, state and federal representatives (Blaine County, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, USDA National Wildlife Research Center, US Forest Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service), invited guests and registered online participants (see below for instructions).

Monday June 16 Agenda:

- 1: 00 pm: Welcome and Introductions – Larry Schoen, Blaine County Commission Chair
- 1:15 pm: Why Nonlethal?
- 1:30 pm: Overview of Wood River Wolf Project
- 2:15 pm: Tools and Methods – Stewart Breck, National Wildlife Research Center; Patrick Graham, Wood River Wolf Project; Carter Niemeyer, US Fish and Wildlife Service (retired); Suzanne Stone, Defenders of Wildlife; Rick Williamson, USDA Wildlife Services (retired)
 - Livestock Husbandry: Carcass and Sick Livestock Removal
 - Human Presence
 - Livestock Guarding Dogs
 - Lighting and Sound Scare Devices

- Fladry and Other Fencing/Barriers
 - Seasonal and Habituation Considerations
 - Site Risk Assessments – Public and Private Land
- 3:30 pm: Living with Bears: Electric Fencing to Reduce Human-Wildlife Conflicts: Russ Talmo
 - 4 pm: The National Wildlife Research Center’s Relevant Studies and Assistance for Livestock Producers and Wildlife Managers – Stewart Breck

Tuesday, June 17 Workshop and Field Tour

8 am – 9 am: Meet with the project members: coffee and morning refreshments

- 9 am: Market Based Wildlife Friendly Agriculture – Brian Bean, Owner of Lava Lake Land and Livestock

Depart 10 am from the Community Center parking lot to tour Lava Lake grazing operations in the Wood River Valley. Meet with herders and wildlife and livestock managers. Participate in fladry demonstration and instruction. Lunch and transportation provided for Wood River Wolf Project participants. Note: There is a \$25 materials and refreshments fee on Monday and a \$35 fee for lunch and transportation on Tuesday (\$60 total for both days). Please bring check or money order made payable to Defenders of Wildlife.

Background:

In the Northern Rockies, more than [2,100 wolves have been killed in attempts to address losses of more than 4,000 sheep and 1,900 cattle over the last quarter century](#). While regional research indicates that lethal wolf control may serve to temporarily reduce losses, it fails to prevent future livestock losses, is expensive, and ultimately increases social conflicts concerning wolf losses.

In 2007, a newly-formed wolf pack began killing sheep in central Idaho’s “sheep superhighway” of the Sawtooth National Forest during the summer grazing season. Wolf advocates, ranchers, scientists and county officials collaborated over the following year to implement nonlethal deterrents to reduce losses in our project area which now contains more than 27,000 sheep and several resident wolf packs. Based on the new partnership called the Wood River Wolf Project, state and federal wolf managers granted the pack a second chance while these methods were tested. Six years later, documented sheep losses to wolves in the project area remain significantly lower than any other area of the state with similar sheep and wolf densities. Specifically, documented sheep losses to wolves in the project area have averaged 0.01% compared to 0.54% National Agriculture Statistics Service state-wide estimates during the same period. Additionally, no wolves within the project area have been killed because of depredation conflicts. Benefits of the project also include reduced social conflict and management costs, and increased wolf pack stability.

2014 marks the seventh year of the Wood River Wolf Project, which has evolved and expanded over the years from covering a few grazing allotments in the Big Wood River Valley to more

than 1000 square miles of Blaine County. The workshop is designed to help others learn from the tools and strategies that have emerged from this successful project. This year, we're testing new deterrents from wildlife coexistence operations in Australia and offering site risk assessments for local landowners to reduce wolf and other wildlife predation risks on domestic livestock. To watch a 7 minute video clip about the project from Lords of Nature by GreenFire Productions, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RsnjGLLujE>

What to bring for field tour:

Please bring good outdoor shoes, binoculars, sunscreen, hat and water. The weather in the Wood River Valley can range from 30°F at night to 85°F during the day in June with sudden snow and rain showers always possible.

What to expect:

The workshop is an overview of the various methods and information that help reduce livestock conflicts to wolves, bears and other native predations. Our goal is to raise awareness of these methods in the local community, begin training for our 2014 field crew, and share an on-going dialogue among practitioners as to best protocols for use of these methods. We respectfully request that all participants acknowledge the source(s) of origin of specialized information shared or gained through this workshop in related publications or reports.

Instructions for Teleconference Participants

If you would like to participate via the internet for the Monday afternoon workshop lectures, please contact Charlotte Conley at CConley@defenders.org Please include your name, full mailing address, name of agency or organization and your email address.

Directions from Sun Valley/Hailey Airport to Community Campus Workshop Meeting in Hailey <http://goo.gl/maps/IQ6pG>

1. Head **southeast** toward **Hawker Way** 0.1 mi
2. Take the 1st right onto **Hawker Way** 233 ft
3. Take the 2nd right onto **Aviation Dr** 0.5 mi
4. Slight right onto **Airport Way** 0.4 mi
5. Turn right onto **ID-75 S/S Main St**
Continue to follow ID-75 South 0.3 mi
6. Turn left onto **Fox Acres Rd**
Destination will be on the right – 463 Feet