



Types of Predator Deterrents

- Range Riders
- RAG boxes for collared wolves
- Fladry and/or electric fence
- Hazing and/or lethal removal of habituated predators as necessary



Riders' Range



Range Rider Program

Why Have a Range Rider?

Centennial Valley encompasses part of Beaverhead and Madison counties. Being located so close to the Park, depredations on livestock by wolves and bears in and around Centennial Valley remain some of the highest in the state year after year. In 2014, two cows were killed by grizzly bears in the Valley. We also had a number of livestock unaccounted for, one ranch being unable to account for almost 40 calves. In addition, Wildlife Services lethally removed all but two wolf pups in one of the area wolf pack due to depredations on livestock. Range riders help mitigate predator/livestock interactions by increasing human presence, which in turn minimizes cattle vulnerability by creating an association between people and cattle in predator minds.

What a Field Season is like for the Rider?

Two to three range riders are hired to monitor predators and wildlife, as well as remove carcasses from areas commonly or currently used by livestock. The riders' goals are to:

- Identify wildlife species present in the Valley and determine how those animals are moving through and utilizing the landscape through tracking, field cameras and visual observation.
- Monitor wildlife presence and activity in areas used by livestock and humans throughout the grazing season in order to reduce the risk of livestock stress and losses for Centennial area ranchers.
- Frequently communicate and share information on wildlife activity in the Valley between all landowners and state or federal agencies.
- Work with ranchers to implement proactive and preventative tools on the ranch to help deter wildlife from coming in contact with livestock and to help protect livestock when they are encountered by large predators.
 - Increase human presence around livestock.
 - Aid in caring for sick or injured livestock as it would pertain to minimizing conflicts with large predators.
 - Gather cattle to keep calves close to their mothers and reduce vulnerability to predation.
 - Haze wolves found near livestock.
 - Find carcasses of livestock quickly so the cause of death can be accurately determined and ranchers can be compensated given a depredation. The rider assists in removing the carcass to a designated carcass removal site.

