



# **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

## **MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT**

To: Interested Parties

From: MFWP Wolf Program Coordinator, Carolyn Sime

Subject: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information, June 13 – June 20, 2008

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf – livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available on each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2007 annual report) can be found at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf/default.html>.

Nathan Lance has joined the FWP wolf program and started this week. He fills a vacancy left when Jon Trapp retired. FWP moved the position west to the Butte area. Nathan is responsible for the area west of I-15 northerly up to the East Front and across northeast Montana to the North Dakota boundary. Val Asher and Mike Ross will cover east of I-15 and across southeast Montana to the North Dakota border. Kent Laudon covers FWP Region 1 in northwest Montana and Liz Bradley covers FWP Region 2 in western Montana. Updated contact information for all staff will be available on the FWP wolf page.

### **Wolf Monitoring Activities**

Smucker captured and collared a 2-year old female in the Trail Creek pack on the Lost Trail / Chief Joseph Pass area.

Bradley has been working in the areas of the E. Fork Bitterroot, Divide, and Sula packs at the south end of the Bitterroot Valley.

Laudon and Rich wrapped up trapping efforts in the Swan Valley for the Squeezer pack and an unknown pack adjacent to it. Pups and an unknown radio-collared wolf were confirmed in the unknown pack. They scanned the list of “missing” collar frequencies (collared wolves that are no longer in the packs in which they were originally captured) and did not hear any.

Boyd and Whitehead have been working in the Lazy Creek (either did not use last year's den or denned in a different place ) and Murphy Lake (denning and pups confirmed) pack territories

Asher has been working along the Absaroka – Beartooth face scouting and following up on wolf reports.

**Wolf - Livestock Activities**

Asher provided less-than-lethal munitions training (how to use cracker shells and rubber bullets to non-injuriouly haze/harass wolves) to a landowner in the Roscoe area (west of Red Lodge) on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The ranch has a range rider project going this summer sponsored by Defenders of Wildlife.

**Outreach and Education Activities**

Nothing to report.

**Research Activities**

Nothing to report.

**Law Enforcement and Related Activities**

Nothing to report.

**Other**

*Wolf Litigation:* On May 29<sup>th</sup>, Judge Malloy heard oral arguments in regards to a request for a preliminary injunction (would place the species back under federal regulations) while the main northern Rockies delisting litigation proceeds. As of Friday June 13, no ruling had been issued.

On June 12, the FWP Commission considered a proposal to establish a quota for a wolf season in the fall of 2008, pending a federal court ruling on a request for an preliminary injunction. The Commission approved a tentative wolf hunting quota of 75 wolves statewide and is requesting public comment. Last February, Commission had previously approved the structure of a wolf hunting season, including creation of three wolf management units. The proposed statewide quota would be as follows: 38 in Northern Montana's wolf management unit 1, with a subquota of two wolves in the North Fork Flathead Subunit; 22 wolves in Western Montana's wolf management unit 2; and 15 in Southwestern Montana's wolf management unit 3. . To comment, go to the FWP web site at [fwp.mt.gov](http://fwp.mt.gov) on the Hunting page and click on the red links. Comments may be mailed to: FWP-Wildlife Division, Attn: Public Comment, P.O. Box 200701, Helena, MT. 59620-0701. FWP is accepting public comment through July 18<sup>th</sup>.

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To learn more about Montana's recovered wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP at: [www.fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf](http://www.fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf).

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 458-0106 or in eastern Montana / Columbus area at: 322-4303. Or call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT.

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