



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT

To: Interested Parties
From: FWP Wolf Program Coordinator, Carolyn Sime (406-461-0587)
Subject: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information, November 7 - 13, 2009

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 Blackfoot 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 2008 annual report) can be found at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/wolf/default.html>.

Wolf Monitoring Activities

Nothing new to report.

Hunters, other recreationists, and landowners can help FWP monitor the population by reporting wolf observations, tracks, or sign through the FWP online reporting button [Contact Us - Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks](#), by contacting the closest wolf specialist or FWP office, or mailing a wolf observation card.

Flights: Asher flew in the Paradise Valley and south of Big Timber on 11-3-09.

Wolf - Livestock Activities

On 11/9, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on about 11/7 on private land in the Threemile area near Avon. WS was asked to try and place a collar and to remove one wolf. A kill permit was issued to the livestock owner. This is the same area where four calves were confirmed killed, 1 calf was probably killed by wolves. To help prevent further losses, lethal control had already been implemented in this area and 2 adults and 4 pups had already been removed as of 10/21 based on those losses.

Outreach and Education

Nothing to report at this time.

Research Activities

Nothing to report at this time.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

Nothing to report at this time.

Other Updates

Northern Rockies Delisting Litigation

On 6/2, a coalition of 13 groups challenged the USFWS delisting decision in Federal District Court in Missoula (9th Circuit). On 8/20, a preliminary injunction request was filed, requesting that wolves be placed back on the Endangered Species list while the court decides the main case within the next year – thus preventing a fall hunting season in Montana and Idaho. On 9/8, the injunction request was denied, but the main lawsuit is moving forward. Written briefings by all parties will be completed by late January 2010. A hearing date for oral arguments has not been set, but is expected to be not long after completion of written briefings.

Montana state laws, administrative rules, and the federally-approved management plan remain in effect and wolves are classified and protected under Montana law as a species in need of management. The FWP Commission has the authority to issue rules and regulations regarding the protection and periodic taking of the animal (as through hunting seasons for example). FWP is the lead agency for wolves, assisted by USDA Wildlife Services if wolves are confirmed to have injured or killed livestock.

Montana 2009 Wolf Hunting Season:

On 10/25, the opening day of the general fall season, a total of 10 wolves were harvested. Through 1:30pm on Friday 11/13, a total of 62 wolves had been harvested. The statewide total quota is 75. There are 13 wolves remaining in the statewide total, with more remaining in WMU 1 than WMU 2.

The second wolf in the N. Fork Flathead subunit has been harvested. FWP issued the Closure Notice on 11/9 at 2:45pm, stating that the subunit would close one half hour after sunset on 11/10. No additional wolves were harvested during the interim and the subunit is now CLOSED with a total of 2 wolves harvested. FWP very much appreciates the effort of the local rod and gun club (Flathead Wildlife Inc. an affiliate of the Montana Wildlife Federation) in distributing the closure information to its network of hunters shortly after FWP announced the Closure Notice.

Hunters are required to report their harvest within 12 hours and to personally present a skull / pelt or the whole carcass to an FWP representative within 10 days. Compliance with the hunting regulations has been good.

Hunters are also required to determine whether the season is still open in a particular WMU of interest prior to going hunting. For the most current harvest status information, call 1-800-385-7826, 7 days a week. The recording is updated by 1:30pm each day. The FWP website is updated Monday – Friday by 1:30pm, but not on the weekends, so call the phone hot line.

The following table summarizes the harvest information through 1:30 am on November 13. Harvest has been geographically distributed within each WMU. At a localized scale, more wolves have been harvested where packs have been larger and/or more packs exist.

As of 1:30pm 11-13-09	WMU 1 quota: 41 (subquota of 2, N. Fork Flathead)	WMU 2 quota: 22	WMU 3 quota: 12	STATEWIDE quota: 75
Early Backcountry Season (9-15 to 10-24)	3 wolves	CLOSED	9 wolves; permanently closed on October 9	12
General Fall Season (10-25 to 11-13, 1:30pm)	28 (2 in the N. Fork subunit, now CLOSED)	18	4	50
Total Season to Date (through 11-13-09)	31 (the quota is 75% filled)	18 (the quota is 82% filled)	13; CLOSED on 10-26-09	62 (the quota is 83% filled)

Montana Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board:

The Board met on October 23. The agenda and minutes from previous meetings are available at [Montana Department of Livestock](#). The program coordinator can be reached at 444-5609.

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

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

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 at the statewide office: 657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp>. Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 444-5609.