

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, May 29 – June 4, 2010

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 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

NOTE: FWP has recently redesigned and reorganized its Website. The Wolf Program Home Page can be found at <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>. If you get an error page, go to the FWP Home page and look for Montana Wolves under Fish & Wildlife.

Wolf Monitoring Activities

On 6/1, WS collared and release a wolf south of Butte. It is thought to be from the Table Mountain pack. FWP will continue to monitor this wolf and determine its status in relation to nearby wolves.

Flights: Laudon flew on 5/26 in northwest Montana.

Wolf - Livestock Activities

On 5/29, WS confirmed a calf as being killed by wolves on private land near Thompson Falls. FWP asked WS to remove 2 wolves and FWP issued a kill permit to producer.

On 5/31, WS confirmed 9 sheep as being killed by a single wolf near Jeffers, near Ennis. This is in the territory of the Cedar Creek pack. WS set traps near the carcasses to catch the animal most likely responsible for the damage and captured a radio collared gray male wolf on 6/1 of the Cedar Creek pack. The wolf was killed and the control action is over.

On 5/31, WS confirmed a calf as being killed by wolves on private land south of Wisdom. WS continues to work on removing the remaining wolves in the Miner Lakes pack.

On 6/2, a gray yearling female wolf from the Trapper Peak pack was trapped and killed by WS in the Bitterroot Valley south of Darby as part of ongoing control efforts to remove this pack.

Outreach and Education

On 6/1, Lance gave a presentation to US Forest Service employees in Wise River in southwest Montana about wolves, wolf management and the proposed 2010 hunting season. Approximately 50 people attended.

On 6/2, FWP hosted 7 different open house / informational sessions about the proposed 2010 wolf hunting season. Hundreds of people attended.

On 6/4, Sime and WS Glazier attended the Prevention Subcommittee of the Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board meeting.

Research Activities

Nothing to report.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

Nothing to report.

Other Updates

Northern Rockies Delisting Litigation in Missoula Federal Court

On 4/23, Judge Molloy announced a hearing date for oral arguments in the legal challenge of the USFWS decision to delist the wolf throughout the northern Rockies DPS except Wyoming. This hearing is on the merits of the main case. The hearing will be June 15 at 9:00am in the Russell Smith Courthouse in Missoula.

Background: Montana's interests in support of delisting have been represented and brought forward through efforts by FWP in consultation with the Montana Attorney General's Office. FWP filed its last written brief on 1/28. FWP argued that: 1. for a variety of reasons, it is lawful for USFWS to establish different levels of protection for a species, subspecies or Distinct Population Segment under the Endangered Species Act; 2. the facts show that Montana's existing regulatory mechanisms will keep wolf populations well above the federal recovery criteria and encourage connectivity; 3. sufficient genetic exchange has taken place and will continue; and 4. Montana's hunting season is not a basis for relisting the gray wolf.

FWP Proposes 2010 Wolf Hunting Season

FWP and the FWP Commission are taking public comment on the proposed 2010 hunting season through June 14, 5:00pm.

To comment: 1. Mail written comments to: FWP – Wildlife Bureau, Attn: Public Comment, POB 200701, Helena, MT 59620-0701. 2. Submit electronic comments through the FWP Hunting page by clicking on the link Comment on Proposed 2010 Wolf Hunting Seasons Quotas and Hunting District Boundaries (<http://fwp.mt.gov/Hunting>).

All background information and supporting documents and maps can also be found at the above link. For further clarification, you may also call the Wildlife Bureau office at 406-444-2612.

Montana Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board:

The Prevention Subcommittee of the Montana Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Board met on June 4 to begin crafting the Prevention side of the Board's Mission and overall program. Work is ongoing with this effort, a Funding Subcommittee, and a Rules Subcommittee.

The Board's website is www.llrmb.mt.gov. Look under Board and Meetings on the left navigation bar. Agendas 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 online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/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 death 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.

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