

## **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, June 12 – June 18, 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**

FWP welcomes back Ty Smucker who is working as a technician and volunteers Alan Whitehead and Aaron Snyder who will be working in Region 2 this summer. Ty started in mid April and will finish on July 1. Alan and Aaron started in mid May.

Bradley and Whitehead ran traps southeast of Seeley Lake from June 7th - 14th after finding some fresh wolf sign. There were 3 wolves using that area last winter and these were believed to possibly be the same wolves but there was no activity on the trapline during the week and very little other sign found in the vicinity so traps were pulled.

Laudon has been trapping in Glacier National Park.

On 6/15 Smucker, Whitehead, and Snyder trapped a 3-4 yr old adult male wolf from the Belmont pack in the Blackfoot Valley. The wolf had broken its left front leg (both the radius and ulna) in the trap and had to be euthanized.

Flights: Bradley flew on 6/14 and 6/15.

### **Wolf - Livestock Activities**

On 6/13, WS confirmed 5 ewes and 4 lambs as being killed by wolves in the Blacktail Creek area south of Dillon. An additional lamb that was injured has since died for a total of 5 ewes and 5 lambs confirmed killed. This is new pack activity so WS is conducting collar and release effort.

On 6/16, WS confirmed a calf as being killed by wolves in the Upper Ruby near Divide / Long Creek. This is probably new wolf activity as there are no known packs in this area as wolves were removed in 2009. No traps or calling attempts were made after the investigation due to rainy / windy weather. The three day initial protocol is in place where trapping and calling off of the carcass is the preferred option to remove offending animals after the initial three days it will turn into a collar and release action.

On 6/18, WS confirmed that wolves killed two buck sheep and injured one on private land south of Cascade. There are no known packs in the area, wolf activity is not uncommon in this area and FWP has tried to follow up on a suspected pack in the area. The three day initial protocol is in place where trapping and calling off of the carcass is the preferred option to remove offending animals. After the initial three days it will turn into a collar and release effort. Traps were placed in the ground.

### **Outreach and Education**

On 6/16, Sime gave a presentation at the summer meeting of the Montana Farm Bureau Federation. About 100 people attended.

### **Research Activities**

Nothing to report.

### **Law Enforcement and Related Activities**

Nothing to report.

### **Other Updates**

#### *Northern Rockies Delisting Litigation in Missoula Federal Court*

On 6/15, oral arguments were heard in Missoula Federal Court in the legal challenge of the USFWS decision to delist the wolf throughout the northern Rockies DPS except Wyoming. Oral arguments were presented by plaintiffs' attorneys, the Federal Department of Justice attorney representing USFWS, FWP Chief Counsel Lane, and ID Deputy Attorney General Strack. Judge Molloy said he would issue a decision as soon as possible.

#### *Proposed 2010 Wolf Hunting Season*

The public comment period closed June 14. FWP received a significant number of comments. As could be expected, comments were very diverse. FWP and the FWP Commission have been reviewing comments as they have been received. FWP will make recommendations for a final proposed 2010 hunting season (quotas and other regulatory aspects) to the FWP Commission at the July 8 meeting. The FWP Commission is expected to make final decisions that day.

FWP and the FWP Commission will continue the process to finalize parameters of a 2010 hunting season and quotas in individual wolf management units. FWP encourages the public to check the FWP website periodically for updates on the 2010 hunting season, pending a ruling from the Federal Court that could affect the 2010 season.

#### *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](http://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](http://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.