MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief

SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information

WEEK OF: January 8-14, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & 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 each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

Flights (flight details can be found on the FWP website):

1/9 and 10: Laudon conducted monitoring flights.

1/11: Bradley conducted a monitoring flight.

1/14: Lance reported that WS captured and collared a wolf north of Grant.

1/16: A trapper in the Shields Valley incidentally caught a wolf in a foot hold trap. The wolf got away before FWP arrived, but Nelson confirmed wolf tracks in the immediate vicinity.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

1/12: Bradley gave a talk to approximately 15 middle-school students at Potomac Elementary School.

1/13: Bradley gave a presentation to 50 members of Sentinel Kiwanis Club in Missoula.

1/15: Bradley participated on a panel to discuss wolf issues at the 39th Annual Livestock seminar of the Deer Lodge Valley and North Powell County conservation districts in Deer Lodge. Approximately 60 people attended the seminar.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES:

Abby Nelson, our newest wolf specialist, has begun monitoring and coordination work out of Livingston, MT. Abby comes to us with 6 years of wolf research and monitoring experience and is currently completing her master's thesis evaluating wolf habitat selection and livestock depredation patterns near Cody, WY based out of the University of Wyoming Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. Welcome Abby!

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 or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. 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 406-444-5609.