

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: April 9-15, 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:

4/12: Bradley flew a monitoring flight in Western MT.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

4/11: WS confirmed a calf as a probable wolf kill on private land. WS continues to work on the management action and the landowner has a SOS permit.

4/12: WS confirmed a calf was killed by a wolf on private land near Jackson. WS has been authorized again to lethally remove the Twin Lakes pack, thought to only be one wolf after the last management action. A SOS permit was authorized to the landowner.

4/13: WS looked at another calf south of Dillon found within 3 miles of the last confirmed wolf kill. This particular calf was heavily fed upon and scavenged by birds and coyotes. Not enough of the carcass remained to make a definite confirmation as to wolf predation. However due to the presence of wolf tracks & droppings and past recent history it was called a "probable" wolf kill. WS continues to work on the management action to remove 2 wolves. A SOS permit has also been issued.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES:

Quentin Kujala, Lauri Hanauska-Brown and Nathan Lance attended the Montana Livestock Loss, Reduction and Mitigation Board listening session (April 14) and Board meeting (April 15) in Dillon, MT. Seven local livestock producers attended the listening session.

4/15: Congressional action delivers state wolf management

Within 60 days of the enactment of a new federal law, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior will once again reissue the wolf delisting rule first published in April 2009. Unlike delisting rules issued in the past, this Congressional action also excludes the rule from judicial review.

The reissued rule:

- is effective upon publication in the Federal Register.
- delists all wolves in Montana, Idaho—and in portions of Washington, Oregon and Utah
- does not delist wolves in Wyoming.
- authorizes Montana to manage wolves under the state's federally approved Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

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.