

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: May 14 - 20, 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:

5/18: Alan Whitehead began work as a seasonal technician in the wolf program for Region One. Welcome aboard Alan!

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

5/14: WS confirmed a calf was killed by wolves on private land in the Blackfoot Valley near Helmville. Two wolves have been seen in the area and FWP authorized WS to remove 2 wolves. A shoot-on-site permit has been issued to the producer.

5/14: WS confirmed that a ewe was killed by a wolf or wolves on private land near Canyon Creek. This was the ewe that was previously injured on the May 2 attack. WS continues to work on the authorization to collar and release one wolf and kill one wolf.

5/17: WS completed the management authorization from 5/11 near Silver Star killing three wolves.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

5/12: A bear hunter shot at 2 wolves and killed 1 after the wolves got too close for the hunters comfort. It is not yet known, but believed the wolves were trying to haze the hunters from a nearby den. Wolves commonly bark and howl, and sometimes approach, to haze 'dangers' from pup rearing areas. Barks can be deep and loud and there can seem to be a lot of chaos as other wolves in the area respond vocally. The actual danger is extremely remote.

5/21: A landowner west of Hamilton in the Bitterroot Valley shot an adult male wolf that was attacking his dogs. One dog was injured and was taken to the vet but will likely be OK. The wolf is thought to be a disperser as there are no known packs in the immediate vicinity.

OTHER UPDATES:

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.