

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: July 16–22, 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: 7/16: Nelson flew Southwestern Montana.
7/17: Ross flew Western Montana.
7/21: Lance flew a Southwestern Montana.

Bradley is trapping in the Bitterroot for the Trapper Peak pack and will be expanding efforts over the next several weeks in conjunction with the Bitterroot Elk Project crew to try to put more collars in the west and east forks of the Bitterroot.

Thanks to Matt Gould who helped volunteer the week of the 18th.

7/22: FWP got a mortality signal on a collared wolf from the Welcome Creek pack in the Davis Creek area east of Lolo. The carcass was located on 7/24 but cause of death could not be determined due to heavy decomposition. The wolf was last located alive on 7/5.

Whitehead and Evans have been running a trap-line about 30 miles northwest of Whitefish to capture and collar. The pack identity is not yet known. They have also been conducting surveys in adjacent areas including the Thirsty, Lydia, and Ksanka pack areas.

Laudon, Panning and Werhahn have been running a trap-line on the Great Northern pack to capture and collar. Laudon, Panning, and Werhahn have also been conducting surveys in adjacent areas including the Marias and Firefighter pack areas and around the Coram, West Glacier, and Hungry Horse areas.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

7/17: WS got a call to look at an injured calf in the upper Ruby. On 7/18 it was investigated, the calf had died from injuries and was confirmed as a wolf kill. It is assumed this is the territory of the new Poison Pack. Pack size has not yet been determined but is at least a pair of collared wolves. Producer and hunter reports have indicated at least five wolves have been spotted in the area. WS has been authorized to remove up to half of the pack to be based upon their determination when they fly. 7/18: An adult female wolf was legally shot on private land in upper Mill Creek while feeding on a lamb. WS confirmed the kill.

7/21: WS confirmed a calf as being injured by wolves in the Cottonwood Creek area. WS heard the collared male from the Poison Pack in the area.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES: Nothing to report.

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.