MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief

SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information

WEEK OF: July 23–29, 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:

7/26: Nelson conducted a monitoring flight in SW Montana.

Laudon and Werhahn have been running trap lines for the Great Northern pack and wolves in the Coram/Hungry Horse/West Glacier area. Laudon, Werhahn and Panning surveyed the Marias, Firefighter, Spotted Bear pack areas. Whitehead and Evans closed trap line for an uncollared pack northwest of Kalispell.

7/25: FWP trapped and collared a yearling female wolf from the Trapper Peak pack southwest of Darby. A pup was also caught but was too small to collar. Traps were pulled.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

7/29: WS investigated a report of three dead sheep on private land west of Butte. It was determined the sheep were killed by a coyote.

7/29: WS confirmed 3 yearling heifers as wolf kills and an additional 2 heifers as injured by wolves in the Granite Creek area of the Tobacco Root Mtns. This is the territory of the Meadow creek pack assumed to be 6 adults. These losses have occurred since the cattle were moved into this pasture 16 days ago. A control action has been authorized for 3 wolves and a shoot on site permit has been issued to the landowner.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION: Nothing to report.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES: Nothing to report.

OTHER UPDATES:

7/26: Judge Molloy considered the issue of whether the gray wolf delisting rider is a valid act of Congress or whether it is unconstitutional because it violates the separation of powers between the legislative and judicial branches. Judge Molloy did not make a final decision but is expected to do so in the near future.

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.