

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: August 20-26, 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: 8/20- Bradley conducted a monitoring flight in Western Montana.
8/26 & 8/27- Laudon conducted monitoring flights in NW Montana.

8/24: FWP trapped and collared 2 wolves (a 2 yr old adult male and an adult breeding female) near Lookout Pass in the lower Clark Fork. The male, B465, was previously trapped and collared in Idaho in 2009 as a pup in the Avery pack which resides south and west of Wallace, Idaho. This appears to be a new pack which likely also spends time in Idaho. Traps were pulled in the Lookout area but trapping efforts continue near Haugan for the Silver Lake pack.

Panning has been surveying the Bearfite, Satire, and Cabinet pack areas. Laudon and Werhahn surveyed the Nyack pack area.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

8/20: WS confirmed that a wolf or wolves killed a buck sheep on private land in the Medicine Lodge area. WS has been authorized to collar and release a wolf to learn more on wolf activity in the area. No known packs occupy this area but wolf activity has been frequent in the past.

8/20: WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow on private land in the Canyon Creek area. WS killed two wolves and collared one. WS has been authorized to kill four more wolves. Additional monitoring will determine if this is new wolf activity or activity by uncollared wolves that have previously frequented the area.

8/22: FWP warden sergeant, Jaquith, investigated a shooting of 2 wolf pups that were harassing a group of sheep and goats on private land in the Mill Creek area northwest of Hamilton. This occurred on the same property where an adult female wolf was killed in mid-July after killing a lamb. The shootings were determined legal under state provisions.

8/24: WS confirmed a calf was killed by wolves on private land in the East Fork of Rock Creek, southwest of Philipsburg. The East Fork pack is suspected but is currently uncollared. WS is trying to remove the offending wolves near the kill site and will also try to collar a wolf.

8/24: WS confirmed a calf was killed by wolves in the Tamarack Creek area north of St Regis. It was unclear whether the calf was killed on private land or USFS leased land. The Mineral Mtn pack was found near the cattle. WS is currently trying to remove the offending wolves near the kill site.

8/25: WS removed 2 wolves in the Tamarack Creek area north of St. Regis. Control efforts are ongoing.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

OTHER UPDATES:

The motion for emergency injunction to halt the wolf hunt was denied. The case will proceed with a hearing in November.

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.