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Wyoming Gray Wolf Recovery Status Report

From: USFWS Wyoming Wolf Recovery Project Leader, Jackson, WY

Subject: Status of Gray Wolf Management in Wyoming and the NRM

WYOMING WOLF WEEKLY- June 14 through June 18, 2010

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2009 Annual Report

The 2009 Interagency Annual Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Report for the NRM DPS in 2009 can be viewed on-line at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov> . The Idaho and Montana state sections of the annual wolf report are also available on-line at the websites for Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks <http://fwp.mt.gov/wildthings/management/wolf/default.html> and Idaho Department of Fish and Game <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves> . The annual wolf report is composed of five Sections: 1) Montana; 2) Wyoming; 3) Idaho; 4) USFWS overview of dispersal, funding, litigation, and relevant publications; and 5) Tables and Figures of wolf population statistics and wolf depredations.

Litigation Status

Wyoming: Oral arguments were heard in federal court in Cheyenne, WY on January 29 to address the state of Wyoming’s request that the USFWS accept the Wyoming Wolf Management Plan. A decision from Judge Allen Johnson is pending.

Northern Rocky Mountains: Oral arguments were heard in federal court in Missoula, MT. on June 15. The court will address the Service’s approach of conferring ESA protections to a “significant portion of the range” of a species, as opposed to designating the entire species as a threatened or endangered species. Judge Malloy said he would issue a decision as soon as possible.

Monitoring

Wolf managers Lars Furuholm and Urban Mossberg from the County Administrative Board of Varmland, Sweden spent a week with Jimenez (USFWS) in Wyoming to learn capture techniques. They captured, handled, and replaced radio collars on an adult female wolf on 6/19/10 and an adult male wolf on 6/20/10 from the Pinnacle Peak Pack.

Control

Wyoming:

On 6/19/10, WY Wildlife Services confirmed a lamb killed by wolves near Dempsey Creek, northwest of Kemmerer, WY. Remains of two additional dead sheep were found, but the cause of death could not be confirmed. At the request of the USFWS, Wildlife Services removed an old adult male wolf.

On 6/9/10 and 6/13/10, WY Wildlife Services confirmed 2 calves killed by wolves west of Cody, WY. At the request of the USFWS, Wildlife Services removed two adult wolves at the depredation sites on 6/10/10 and 6/14/10.

Table 1. Confirmed livestock depredations and control actions in WY from 2002 - 2010.

Depredations	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cattle	23	34	75	54	123	55	41	20	3
Sheep	0	7	18	27	38	16	26	195	1
Dogs	0	0	2	1	1	2	0	7	0
Goats	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1*
Wolves Controlled	4	6	18	29	41	44	63	31	6

*One foal was killed by wolves, 2 horses were chased by wolves and injured when they were run through a fence, and 1 horse was chased by wolves and broke its leg when it was run over a cattle guard. All 3 injured horses had to be euthanized.

Oregon: Oregon: No livestock depredations by the Imnaha Pack were documented during the week (the last depredation occurred on May 29th) and as of June 17th, there have been six confirmed livestock depredations - all on private land - attributed to the Imnaha Pack in Wallowa County east of Enterprise, Oregon. On May 31st, ODFW authorized Wildlife Services to kill two uncollared wolves implicated in the livestock losses and to date, no wolves have been killed. On June 9th, ODFW extended the WS authorization to June 18th and expanded the area where WS may conduct control activities to 15 square miles. This is an attempt by ODFW to target wolves in the area where depredations had previously occurred while protecting the breeding pair.

ODFW continues to monitor the Imnaha Pack’s radio collars and it is notable that the GPS collar of the alpha male of the pack has not been detected since May 31st. At this time the fate of the animal or the collar is unknown and ODFW and OSP will continue to investigate the whereabouts of this wolf.

Research

Nothing to report at this time.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

Nothing to report at this time.

Outreach and Education

Rick Williamson, WS Wolf Specialist from Idaho conducted two wolf depredation training sessions in NE Oregon. One session was at the request of the Oregon Cattlemen Association and was held in Enterprise on June 15th. The presentation was well attended, mostly by area ranchers. The other session was specifically geared to agency professionals and was held on June 16th in La Grande. 56 employees from five state and federal agencies attended and the focus was on identification of wolf-killed livestock. Both sessions were well received and Rick delivered excellent presentations which were based on years of experience with wolf depredation.

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program: Please pass this job announcement on to anyone you feel is qualified to be successful as field coordinator in the Mexican wolf recovery program.

Anyone can find the two announcements (one public DEU; the other for govt employees) via the search engine at USA jobs during June.

They can also try the following link:

http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov/Search.aspx?lid=336&sort=rv%2c-dtex&cn=&rad_units=miles&brd=3876&pp=50&fn=4326&fn=4355&jbf574=IN15&vw=b&re=134&FedEmp=N&FedPub=Y&caller=advanced.aspx

[View the position advertisement](#) summarizing additional information.

Further Information

To request an investigation of livestock injured or killed by wolves, please contact the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Wildlife Services at (307)261-5336.

For additional information, please contact:

Ed Bangs (406)449-5225 x204 or Ed_Bangs@FWS.GOV

Mike Jimenez (307)733-7096 or (307)330-5631 or Mike_Jimenez@FWS.GOV

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