

IDAHO WOLF MANAGEMENT UPDATE November 2011

Harvest Seasons

Wolf hunting seasons opened on August 30 throughout the state. Seasons are scheduled to close on December 31 in the Island Park and Beaverhead wolf management zones (unless harvest limits are met first), and on June 30, 2012, in the Lolo and Selway zones. Seasons in the other nine zones close on March 31, 2012 (unless harvest limits are met first). Harvest limits have been established for five of the 13 wolf management zones (Salmon, Sawtooth, Southern Mountains, Beaverhead and Island Park). In these zones, the season will close when either the harvest limit has been met, or the season closing date is reached, whichever comes first. Hunters may purchase two wolf tags per calendar year. See the wolf seasons brochure for more information. <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/rules/wolfRules.pdf>

Wolf trapping seasons were set for November 15 – March 31 in the Lolo, Selway and Middle Fork wolf management zones and portions of the Panhandle and Dworshak-Elk City wolf management zones. Individuals interested in trapping wolves must first attend a wolf trapper education class before buying wolf trapping tags. Certified trappers may purchase up to three wolf trapping tags per trapping season. See details on our website: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/hunt/?getPage=266>

Through November 30, Fish and Game staff members had conducted 17 wolf trapper education classes, and 390 individuals have been certified to trap wolves. Additional classes are scheduled through December and 600 trappers are expected to be certified to trap wolves by the end of the month. More will be scheduled as needed.

One hundred forty-five (145) wolves were harvested through the end of November. Hunters have taken 144 wolves, including three during the first two days of the season in August, 30 wolves during September, 68 in October, and 43 in November. In comparison, hunters had killed 113 wolves by November 30 during our first season in 2009. Nine hunters have filled two wolf tags.

Through November 30, Fish and Game had sold 31,645 wolf hunting tags for the 2011 seasons (valid through December 31). In comparison, hunters purchased 26,428 wolf tags valid for our first wolf season in 2009.

In addition to wolf hunting tags, Fish and Game has sold 186 wolf trapping tags for the season that opened November 15. One wolf was harvested by a licensed wolf trapper during November.

Monitoring

The 2010 annual report on Wolf Conservation and Management in Idaho was prepared by the Nez Perce Tribe wolf program staff and is available through our website at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/wolves/reportAnnual10.pdf>

As of November 30, Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Fish and Game staff members recognize 100 verified wolf packs in the state and have documented successful reproduction of minimum of 163 pups in 57 packs, including 38 packs that tentatively will qualify for “breeding pair” status (at least two pups produced and surviving through December 31). No new wolves were captured in November.

Management and Control Actions

During November, USDA Wildlife Services personnel confirmed wolves killed 1 calf, 1 cow, 8 sheep, and 2 domestic bison. In response to these, and previous depredations, Wildlife Services killed 1 wolf. Wildlife Services did not confirm any depredations during November 2010.

From January 1 – November 30, USDA Wildlife Services personnel confirmed wolves killed or injured 70 cattle, 93 sheep, and 6 dogs. Confirmed wolf depredations and mortalities from 2003–2011 are reported in Table 2.

Information and Education

Additional information and updates can be viewed at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Table 1. Total known wolf mortality by cause, Jan. 1, 2011 – Nov. 30, 2011.

Wolf Mgt Zone	WS Control	IDFG Control Action	Harvest Hunting/(Trapping)	Illegal	Legal (protection of livestock or pets)	Other	Unk	Total
Dworshak-Elk City	1	7	25/(1)				2	36
Lolo		6	5	1		1		13
McCall-Weiser	6		13	3	5	2	1	30
Middle Fork			21				1	22
Palouse-Hells Canyon			2				1	3
Panhandle			25			1		26
Salmon	3		10	1	2		5	21
Sawtooth	14		12	3	3	3	2	37
Selway			4					4
Southern Idaho					1			1
Southern Mountains	9		17		2			28
Beaverhead	2		1			1		4
Island Park	2		9					11
Unknown				1			1	2
Total	37	13	145	9	13	8	13	238

Table 2. Confirmed wolf depredations and mortalities in Idaho, 2003 to Nov. 30, 2011.

YEAR	Depredations ¹				Wolf Mortality					
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS ²	IDFG Control Action ³	10j / 36-1107 ⁴	Other ⁵	Harvest	Total
2003	7	130	3	140	7		0	8		15
2004	19	176	4	199	17		0	21		38
2005	29	166	12	207	24		3	16		43
2006	41	237	4	282	35		7	19		61
2007	57	211	10	278	43		7	27		77
2008	104	215	14	333	94		14	45		153
2009	76	295	14	385	87		6	45	135	273
2010	75	148	0	223	67		13	18	46	144
2011 (1/1 – 11/30)	70	93	6	169	37	13	13	30	145	238

¹ Includes only confirmed wolf depredations of cattle, sheep, and dogs that resulted in death or injury. Confirmed depredations on goats, horses, bison, and other domestic animals are not reported here but are listed in the annual reports.

² Wolves taken by USDA Wildlife Services in response to depredation on livestock.

³ Wolves taken as authorized by IDFG to address unacceptable predation on ungulates and public safety.

⁴ Authorized take under ESA Sec. 10j, or legal take under state law for protection of stock and dogs (Idaho Code 36-1107) while wolves were delisted, or authorized by kill permit while wolves were delisted..

⁵ Other includes of mortalities of unknown cause, documented natural mortality, collisions with automobiles, and illegal take.