

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report December 5 - December 31, 2008

Monitoring

Aerial telemetry flights and end of year counts are ongoing. Snow conditions and time of year when pack members tend to congregate on winter range allow us to get quality pack sizes from the air. Due to typically poor weather conditions, however, flying this time of year can be iffy. Final 2008 counts will be made by mid January and end-of-year population estimates will be completed by the end of the month and published by end of February.

Management

From January 1 – December 31, agencies have documented 151 dead wolves in Idaho. These data are not complete and still need to be corrected and cross referenced. Of those, 94 were depredation control actions by USDA Wildlife Services, 13 legal kills, nine illegal kills, four natural kills, and 31 other/unknown.

From January 1 – December 31, Wildlife Services (tentatively) confirmed that wolves have killed 16 cows, 1 steer, 87 calves, 215 sheep, 14 dogs, 1 foal; injured 1 cow, 7 calves, 6 sheep, 7 dogs; probably killed 6 cows, 22 calves, 57 sheep; and probably injured 1 cow, 3 calves, 1 sheep, 2 dogs.

Table 1. Confirmed wolf depredations and wolf mortality in Idaho from 2003 to Dec 31, 2008 (tentative).

YEAR	Depredations ¹				Wolf Mortality			
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS ²	10j ³	Other	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	13	44	151
Total	247	1133	47	1427	220	30	135	385

¹ Includes confirmed depredations resulting in death or injury

² Authorized take by Wildlife Services

³ Authorized take under 10j or while delisted for protection of stock and dogs

Control

During the reporting period of December 4 – December 31, Wildlife Services documented two confirmed depredations on livestock – wolves killed one steer and one calf, both on private land. In response to those and previous depredations, Wildlife Services killed seven wolves. During the same period in 2007, WS also documented two confirmed wolf depredations on livestock and killed two wolves.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

Nothing new to report.

The Fish and Game Commission met on November 6 and discussed timelines and management direction for the Idaho Fish and Game wolf program now and following the proposed delisting in mid January. A short video on these discussions can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv24KW6mu7k>

Further information and updates, including the directives provided by the commission can be viewed at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

A reminder: Wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

Delisting: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID):

For the time being, all wolves to the north of Interstate-90 in Idaho remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is acting as the designated agent for the USFWS in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Department of Interior and Idaho, signed in January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the State Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan.

New on delisting - The USFWS is rewriting the rule based on comments and will resubmit a final delisting rule supposedly in early 2009. You may read the State of Idaho's comments to the USFWS on the delisting rule at:

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

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at:

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

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report November 21 - December 4, 2008

Delisting: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID):

For the time being, all wolves to the north of Interstate- 90 in Idaho remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all of Idaho south of Interstate- 90, and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is acting as the designated agent for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under an MOU between the Department of Interior and Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work along with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the state Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan.

New on delisting - The Fish and Wildlife Service is reviewing comments provided on the delisting rule received prior to the November 28 deadline. They will rewrite the rule based on comments and will resubmit a final delisting rule. The Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to prepare the rule before to the end of 2008. Idaho's comments to Fish and Wildlife on the delisting rule are at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

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

Monitoring

Aerial telemetry flights are ongoing. November and December are the primary months Idaho Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe attempt to count wolf pack members from the air. Snow conditions and time of year when pack members tend to congregate allow us to get quality pack sizes from the air.

Additionally, Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe are conducting high elevation flights to attempt to locate "missing" wolves, wolves with radio collars that may have dispersed from known territories or between states. At any one time, 10 percent to 20 percent of a wolf population may be dispersing, accounting for many of the lone or paired wolf reports. These dispersals may be either temporary or permanent. Wolves may be conducting short forays looking for a potential mate or exploring outside the boundaries of their natal territory, or may be establishing a permanent territory away from their natal pack. Usually when wolves reach breeding age at about 2-3 years, many become restless and begin dispersal. Dispersal movements tend to peak during breeding season (late January to late February) but may occur at any time of year. Dispersing wolves tend to have higher mortality than resident pack members.

Management

From January 1 – December 4 agencies have documented 144 dead wolves in Idaho. Of those, 87 were depredation control actions by USDA Wildlife Services, 14 legal kills, nine illegal kills, four natural kills, and 30 other or unknown.

Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed 16 cows, 86 calves, 215 sheep, 14 dogs, one foal; injured one cow, seven calves, six sheep, seven dogs; probably killed six cows, 22 calves, 57 sheep; and probable injured one cow, three calves, one sheep, two dogs.

Table 1. Confirmed wolf depredations and wolf mortality in Idaho from 2003 to Dec 4, 2008.

YEAR	Depredations ¹				Wolf Mortality			
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS ²	10j ³	Other	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	102	215	14	331	87	14	43	144
Total	245	1133	47	1425	213	31	134	378

¹ Includes confirmed depredations resulting in death or injury

² Authorized take by Wildlife Services

³ Authorized take under 10j or while delisted for protection of stock and dogs

Control

From November 25 – December 4, Wildlife Services documented three confirmed depredations on livestock, one on a pet dog and another probable wolf depredation on guard dogs. WS confirmed that wolves killed one pregnant cow, one calf, three sheep and one dog and probably injured two guard dogs. All but one of the depredations occurred on private land. In response to those and previous depredations, WS shot and killed two wolves. During the same date range in 2007, WS had one confirmed depredation and it involved wolves vs. hounds.

Note: updates in table above included corrections since last report, however, some errors may still exist. Numbers will be updated in the end of year report.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

Fish and Game and Wildlife Services met with biologists and “range cons” representing the Boise and Sawtooth national forests to update U.S. Forest Service on status of wolves on national forests and troubleshoot depredation issues on Forest Service grazing allotments. About 30 people attended (Fish and Game seven, Wildlife Services three and Forest Service 20).

The Fish and Game Commission met on November 6 and discussed timelines and management direction for the Idaho Fish and Game wolf program now and following the proposed delisting in mid January. A short video on these discussions can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv24KW6mu7k>

Further information and updates, including the directives provided by the commission can be viewed at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

A reminder: wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

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Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report November 4 – November 21, 2008

NEW - Delisting Update:

On October 24, 2008 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it is reopening the public comment period on its proposal to delist the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains. Through a notice in the Federal Register published on October 28, 2008, USFWS asked the public to provide comments and any additional information on the February 2007 proposal to delist wolves. The Service is seeking additional information on a variety of topics related to the delisting. More details are available in the Federal Register notice which will be posted along with associated materials at the Service's northern Rocky Mountains wolf website: <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov>.

The public will have until November 28, 2008, to submit their comments to the Federal Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or via U.S. mail or hand delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: RIN 1018-Au53; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203.

For the time being, all wolves to the north of Interstate- 90 in Idaho remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game is acting as the designated agent for the USFWS in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Secretary of Interior and Governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work along with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the State Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan.

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at:
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Monitoring

Aerial telemetry flights are ongoing. November and December are the primary months Idaho Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe attempt to count wolf pack members from the air. Snow conditions and time of year when pack members tend to congregate allow us to get quality pack sizes from the air.

Management

From January 1 – November 21 agencies have documented 136 dead wolves in Idaho.

Of those, 86 were depredation control actions by USDA Wildlife Services, nine illegal kills, 13 legal kills, four natural kills, and 24 other or unknown.

From January 1 – November 24, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves: killed 15 cows, 85 calves, 212 sheep, 13 dogs, 1 foal; injured 1 cow, 7 calves, 6 sheep, 7 dogs; probably killed: 6 cows, 22 calves, 57 sheep; and probably injured 1 cow, 3 calves, 1 sheep.

Table 1. Confirmed wolf depredations and wolf mortality in Idaho from 2003 to Nov 24, 2008.

YEAR	Depredations ¹				Wolf Mortality			
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS ²	10j ³	Other	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	100	212	13	325	86	13	37	136
Total	243	1130	46	1419	212	30	128	370

¹ Includes confirmed depredations resulting in death or injury

² Authorized take by Wildlife Services

³ Authorized take under 10j or while delisted for protection of stock and dogs

Control

From November 4 to 24, WS confirmed 10 wolf depredations on livestock and another two probable wolf depredations. WS also confirmed that wolves killed four cows, five calves, a ewe and a foal, and probably killed a cow and a calf, all on private land. In response to those depredations, WS shot and killed four wolves. During the same time in 2007, WS verified two confirmed wolf depredations.

Research

University of Montana researchers Dave Ausband and Barbara Fannin recently finished deploying wolf hair snaring devices in western Montana and Idaho. Current efforts are focused solely on developing a technique to non-invasively collect hair samples from wolves and are not designed to provide any genetic insight about the population of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains.

From September through November they deployed rub pads baited with lure(s) in three wolf pack territories to induce rolling behavior from wolves and to obtain hair samples for DNA analyses. They collected 191 hair samples (sample=10 hairs) from 39 roll events. In November-December, Fannin will analyze the hair samples at Dr. Lisette Wait's lab in Moscow to determine whether they contain wolf DNA.

Information and Education

The Fish and Game Commission met November 6 and discussed timelines and management direction for the Idaho Fish and Game wolf program now and following the proposed delisting in mid January. A short video on these discussions can be viewed at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv24KW6mu7k>

Information and updates, including the directives provided by the commission can be viewed at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

A reminder: wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at:

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

Delisting: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID): The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. On September 22, the United States filed its motion to vacate the delisting rule, return the gray wolf to the list of endangered and threatened species, and remand the matter to the Fish and Wildlife Service. On October 14, Judge Molloy filed an order granting the United States' motion to remand the delisting rule back to the Fish and Wildlife Service. He also dismissed the lawsuit challenging the delisting rule.

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report October 18 - Nov 3, 2008

Delisting Update

On October 24, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it is reopening the public comment period on its proposal to delist the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains. In a notice published in the Federal Register October 28, Fish and Wildlife asked the public to comment and provide any additional information on the February 2007 proposal to delist wolves. Fish and Wildlife is seeking additional information on a variety of topics related to the delisting. More details are available in the Federal Register notice which will be posted along with associated materials at the Fish and Wildlife Service's northern Rocky Mountains wolf website: <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov>.

The public will have until November 28, 2008, to submit their comments to the Federal Rulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>, via U.S. mail or by hand delivery to: Public Comments Processing, Attn: RIN 1018-Au53; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 222; Arlington, VA 22203.

In Idaho, all wolves north of Interstate-90 remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is acting as the designated agent for the USFWS in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Secretary of Interior and Governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the State Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan.

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Monitoring

Aerial telemetry flights are ongoing. November and December are the primary months Idaho Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe attempt to count wolf pack members from the air. Snow conditions and time of year when pack members tend to congregate allow us to get pack sizes from the air.

Management

From January 1 – November 3, agencies have documented 131 dead wolves in Idaho. Of those, 82 were depredation control actions by USDA Wildlife Services, nine illegal kills, 13 legal kills, four natural kills, and 23 other or unknown. Wildlife Services also confirmed that wolves: killed 11 cows, 80 calves, 211 sheep and 13 dogs; injured one cow, seven calves, six sheep and seven dogs; probably killed five cows, 21 calves and 57 sheep; injured one cow, three calves and one sheep.

Table 1. Confirmed wolf depredations and wolf mortality in Idaho from 2003 to October 15, 2008.

YEAR	Depredations ¹				Wolf Mortality			
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS ²	10j ³	Other	Total
2003	7	130	3	140	7	0	8	15
2004	19	176	4	199	17	0	21	39
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	91	211	13	315	82	13	36	131
Total	243	1130	46	1419	208	30	126	364

¹ Includes depredations resulting in death or injury

² Authorized take by Wildlife Services

³ Authorized take under 10j for protection of stock and dogs

Control

From October 16 – November 3, WS confirmed two wolf depredations on livestock. WS confirmed that wolves killed one calf and one ram, both on private land. In response to those depredations, WS shot and killed two wolves. During the same time in 2007, WS verified two probable wolf depredations.

Non-lethal efforts wrapped up last week with a meeting among cooperators near Ketchum who worked together to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts. Four producers, USFS, USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission, and Defenders of Wildlife experimented with the use of paid non-lethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who used fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempted to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves were around the sheep on a regular basis but only one sheep was confirmed killed by wolves all summer. The effort was considered a success by producers and cooperators and may be implemented again in the future should funding and qualified personnel be available.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

On October 25 Jim Holyan of the Nez Perce Tribe gave a presentation on wolf biology and ecology to about 25 third-grade students at Barbara Morgan Elementary School in McCall.

On November 1, Steve Nadeau gave a presentation to 15 members of the Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council in Boise and teleconferenced to Idaho Falls and Jerome, where six sportsmen group leaders and two legislators were connected.

A reminder: Wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

Please help manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on the Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/.

Delisting: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID)

The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountain DPS pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. On September 22, the United States filed its motion to vacate the delisting rule, return the gray wolf to the list of endangered and threatened species, and remand the matter to the Fish and Wildlife Service. On October 14, Judge Molloy filed an order granting the United States' motion to remand the delisting rule back to the Fish and Wildlife Service. He also dismissed the case.

**IDAHO WOLF MANAGEMENT
PROGRESS REPORT
September 26 – October 17, 2008**

Monitoring

Over the past two weeks, Idaho Fish and Game biologists have placed collars on two wolves incidentally caught and held in fox traps by private individuals north of Fairfield. Biologist also collared two wolves in a pack north of Idaho City that was involved in a depredation. Wolves were harassed out of the area where the depredation occurred.

Seasonal Nez Perce Tribal biologists Isaac Babcock and Kari Holder have completed their field efforts for the year.

Management

Idaho Fish and Game investigated cause of death of two wolf carcasses, one in Unit 28 and one in Unit 27. The Nez Perce Tribe investigated one.

From January 1 – October 15, agencies have documented 124 dead wolves in Idaho. Of those, 80 were depredation control actions by U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Wildlife Services, five were illegal kills, 13 were legal kills, three were natural deaths, and 23 were other or unknown. An additional nine wolves were suspected dead (reported road kills not verified, collars on mortality not picked up, etc.).

From January 1 – October 15, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed 11 cows, 79 calves, 210 sheep, 13 dogs; injured one cow, seven calves, six sheep, seven dogs; probably killed five cows, 21 calves, 57 sheep; and injured one cow, three calves and one sheep.

Table 1. Confirmed wolf depredations and wolf mortality in Idaho from 2003 to October 15, 2008.

YEAR	Depredations ¹				Wolf Mortality			
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS ²	10j ³	Other	Total
2003	7	130	3	140	7	0	8	15
2004	19	176	4	199	17	0	21	39
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	90	210	13	313	80	13	31	124
Total	243	1130	46	1419	206	30	122	359

¹ Includes depredations resulting in death or injury

² Authorized take by Wildlife Services

³ Authorized take under 10j for protection of stock and dogs

Control

From September 26 – October 15, WS confirmed eight wolf depredations and determined that another depredation was probable. WS confirmed that wolves killed 17 sheep, two cows and four calves and probably killed another two calves. During the

reporting period, WS killed two wolves in response to these and earlier depredations. During the same time period last year, WS confirmed five wolf depredations and had another six that were determined to be “probables”.

Non-lethal efforts are wrapping up this week for a cooperative effort near Ketchum to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts. Sheep are being gathered up for the year. Four producers, USFS, USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission, and Defenders of Wildlife experimented with the use of paid non-lethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who used fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempted to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves were around the sheep on a regular basis but only one sheep was confirmed killed by wolves all summer.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

Hunting season is upon us. We have received several reports of wolves being attracted to hunters calling elk, and wolves visiting hunter camps or eating poorly hung carcasses. Fish and Game recommends that hunters be aware that the sport of hunting increases chances of running into or attracting wolves and other carnivores.

Carcasses and gut piles attract bears, lions, and wolves and should be treated carefully to avoid problems such as having your meat fed upon. The rule of thumb is to try to get the carcass out of the woods the same day it is killed. It helps to place the gut pile on a tarp and drag it away from the carcass. If that is not possible, hang meat 10 feet off the ground. You should leave clothes, human scent, tarps, etc. to deter carnivores from scavenging your meat.

When returning to your kill, approach the carcass carefully and view it safely from a distance. Carnivores especially bears may be close by and might attempt to defend the carcass. Some bears, wolves, coyotes and other scavengers may venture into campsites if they smell meat or other foods. Place your game pole down wind of your camp and make sure the meat is secured 10 feet off the ground and 3 feet from a tree. Bears and wolves may eat carcasses hung within reach.

Also, wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

The wolf webpage includes information on the lawsuit and injunction that caused wolves to be temporarily relisted under the Endangered Species Act. It also has updated information on the new 10j rule under which Fish and Game is acting as the “designated agent” for the USFWS, and conducting day to day wolf management. What the public can and can't do under the new rules is discussed. You can find the new webpage at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The 10j rule

allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock and stock animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

New: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID): The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, on October 14, filed an order granting the United States' motion to remand the delisting rule to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

U. S. District Judge Donald W. Molloy also dismissed the case, filed by 12 conservation and animal rights groups, challenging the delisting rule.

The U.S. Department of Interior and Department of Justice are reviewing options and say the remand was the most expedient way to address the courts concerns and to delist wolves. For the time being, all wolves to the north of Interstate-90 in Idaho remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game is acting as the designated agent for the USFWS in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Secretary of Interior and Governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

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IDAHO WOLF MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT September 13 – September 26, 2008

Monitoring

Idaho Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services verified more than seven wolves, including several pups, in a new pack near the Canadian border. The wolves were localized near cattle on public land. There are no apparent depredations, and cattle are scheduled to be removed from public land in a few days. Producers were contacted and contact was made with the local U.S. Forest Service district biologist and ranger. A capture effort was unsuccessful.

The Nez Perce Tribe captured and radio-collared two wolves in Unit 20A in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. The tribe obtained pack/pup count on a pack in Unit 10, with a minimum of six gray adults and four gray pups present.

Idaho provided the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with preliminary population estimates that will likely change by the end of the year. As of mid September, Fish and Game and the Nez Perce estimated 771 wolves and 89 packs, and biologists verified at least 155 pups. Counting wolves is best done from November through mid- January prior to peak dispersal and breeding times, and when snow covered ground provides better observations conditions from the air. End of year counts are completed and published in the annual reports in March. In 2007, the end of year estimate was 732 wolves in 83 packs. Previous years' progress reports at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/manage/>

Management

From January 1 – September 26, agencies have documented 118 dead wolves in Idaho. Of those, 78 were depredation control actions by Wildlife Services, five were illegal kills, 13 legal kills, three natural deaths and 17 others. An additional nine wolves were suspected dead (reported road kills not verified, collars on mortality not picked up, etc.).

From January 1 through September 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed nine cows, 75 calves, 193 sheep and 13 dogs; injured one cow, seven calves, six sheep and seven dogs; probably killed five cows, 19 calves and 57 sheep; and probably injured one cow, three calves and one sheep.

Control

From September 13 through 26, WS confirmed five wolf depredations and determined that another one was a probable wolf depredation. WS confirmed

that wolves killed a cow, two calves, four sheep and a guard dog. WS also confirmed that wolves attacked and injured three guard dogs, and determined that another five sheep were probable wolf kills. During the reporting period, WS killed six wolves and trapped and released three wolves (two with collars) in response to these and previously confirmed depredations. During the same time frame last year, WS investigated six confirmed and one probable wolf depredation

Non-lethal control efforts are ongoing as per the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan in the area between Leodore and Yellowstone along the boundary with Montana. Radio collars have been placed on wolves in the area that have been implicated in depredations to further knowledge of wolf movement in the area and pursue non-lethal options prior to lethal control. Discussions of and use of non-lethal tools are ongoing with livestock producers to assist them in reducing livestock/wolf problems along this potential corridor.

Additionally, non-lethal efforts continue in a cooperative effort near Ketchum to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts. Four producers, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission, and Defenders of Wildlife are experimenting with the use of paid non-lethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who use fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempt to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves have been around the sheep on a regular basis but to date only one sheep has been confirmed killed by wolves.

Research

The University of Montana research crews wrapped up their summer efforts last week. The goal of this project is to find reliable, alternative population monitoring tools that are cheaper to implement than traditional radio-collaring methods. University crews had a successful summer, testing "howl boxes" near multiple wolf rendezvous sites and collecting nearly 2,000 genetic samples from scats and day beds while surveying more than 500 predicted rendezvous sites in central Idaho. Data analysis is under way.

Thanks to Dave Ausband the research leader, and Morgan Anderson, Barbara Fannin, Sean Howard, Ryan Kalinowski, Teresa Loya, Doug Miles, Adrian Roadman, Lacy Robinson, Adia Sovie, Jennifer Stenglein, and Ryan Wilbur for another great, productive summer.

Information and Education

Hunting season is upon us. We have received several reports of wolves being attracted to hunters calling elk, and wolves visiting hunter camps or eating poorly hung carcasses. Idaho Fish and Game recommends that hunters be aware that hunting increases chances of running into or attracting wolves and other

carnivores. Carcasses and gut piles attract bears, lions and wolves and should be treated carefully to avoid problems, such as having your meat fed upon. The rule of thumb is to try to get the carcass out of the woods the same day it is killed. It helps to place the gut pile on a tarp and drag it away from the carcass. If that is not possible, hang meat 10 feet off the ground. You should leave clothes, human scent, tarps, etc. to deter carnivores from scavenging your meat. When returning to your kill, approach the carcass carefully and view it safely from a distance.

Carnivores, especially bears, may be close by and might attempt to defend the carcass. Some bears, wolves, coyotes and other scavengers may venture into campsites if they smell meat or other foods. Place your game pole down wind of your camp and make sure the meat is secured 10 feet off the ground and three feet from a tree. Bears and wolves may eat carcasses hung within reach.

Also, wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

The new Fish and Game Wolf Webpage is online. The new webpage includes information on the lawsuit and injunction that caused wolves to be temporarily relisted under the Endangered Species Act. It also has updated information on the new 10j rule under which Fish and Game is acting as the “designated agent” for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and conducting day to day wolf management. What the public can and can’t do under the new rules is discussed. The new webpage is at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The 10j rule allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock and stock animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the nearest Fish and Game office.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

New: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID): The U.S. District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction July 18, 2008, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. On September 22, the United States filed its motion to vacate the delisting rule, return the gray wolf to the list of endangered and threatened species, and remand the matter to the Fish

and Wildlife Service. Fish and Wildlife, the states, and Department of Justice await the court's decision. All wolves to the north of Interstate- 90 in Idaho remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90 and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. Idaho Fish and Game is the designated agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service in day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the secretary of interior and governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work with the departments of interior and justice, other states and interveners toward the delisting wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and toward state management under the state Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan.

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at:

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

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report August 29 – September 12, 2008

Monitoring

Fish and Game efforts to collar wolves continued in the Bear Valley area, Panhandle and Salmon. Two wolves were collared by Idaho Fish and Game north of Lowman on a new pack and another wolf was collared in Unit 35. Pups were verified in a pack in Unit 6.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has asked the states to provide mid-summer population estimates. Idaho provided the Service with preliminary estimates that will likely be very different at the end of the year. So far in Idaho this year, Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe estimate there are 771 adult wolves and 89 packs, and biologists verified at least 155 pups so far. Counting wolves is best done from November through mid- January before to peak dispersal and breeding times, and when snow covered ground provides better observations conditions from the air. Our end of year counts are finalized and published in the annual reports in March. You can see previous year's progress reports at:

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

Management

From January 1 – September 12, agencies have documented 112 dead wolves in Idaho. Of those, 73 were depredation control actions by USDA Wildlife Services, five illegal kills, 13 legal kills, three natural kills, and 17 other. An additional nine wolves were suspected dead – reported road kills not verified, collars on mortality not picked up, etc. Depredation events are at record levels this year nearly doubling levels incurred last year at this time.

From January 1 – September 10, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed eight cows, 73 calves, 189 sheep and 10 dogs; injured one cow, seven calves, six sheep and four dogs; probably killed five cows, 19 calves and 52 sheep; and injured one cow, three calves and one sheep.

Control

From August 30 – September 11, Wildlife Services confirmed eight wolf depredations and determined that another one was a probable wolf depredation. WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow, five calves, two sheep and a guard dog. WS also confirmed that wolves attacked and injured a hound being used to trail bears, and determined that another calf was a probable wolf kill. During the reporting period, WS killed 10 wolves in response to these and previously confirmed depredations. During the same time last year, WS investigated seven confirmed and one probable wolf depredation.

Non-lethal control efforts are ongoing as per the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan in the area between Leodore and Yellowstone along the boundary with Montana. Radio collars have been placed on wolves in the area that have been implicated in depredations to further knowledge of wolf movement in the area and pursue non-lethal options prior to lethal control. Discussions of and use of non-lethal tools are ongoing with livestock producers to assist them in reducing livestock/wolf problems along this potential corridor.

Additionally, non-lethal efforts continue in a cooperative effort near Ketchum to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts. Four producers, U.S. Forest Service, Wildlife Services, Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission, and Defenders of Wildlife are experimenting with the use of paid non-lethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who use fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempt to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves have been around the sheep on a regular basis but to date only one sheep has been confirmed killed by wolves.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

The new Idaho Fish and Game Wolf web page is up and running. The new page includes information on the lawsuit and injunction that caused wolves to be temporarily relisted under the Endangered Species Act. It also has updated information on the new 10(j) rule under which Fish and Game is currently acting as the “designated agent” for the Fish and Wildlife Service, and conducting day-to-day wolf management. What the public can and can’t do under the new rules is discussed. The new web page is at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Fish and Game also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The 10(j) rule allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock and stock animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the nearest Fish and Game office.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at:

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID): The U.S. District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves

in the northern Rocky Mountain, pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the states, and Department of Justice are evaluating legal options regarding the court's order and the ongoing litigation over the agency's delisting of the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. All wolves to the north of Interstate- 90 in Idaho are once again listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming will be managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10(j) regulations. Idaho Fish and Game will once again act as the designated agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Secretary of Interior and Governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work along with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan. You may hear deputy attorney general Clive Strong discuss the legal situation and what the state is doing at the following link: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/court/>

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

**Idaho Wolf Management
Progress Report
Weeks of August 16 – August 29, 2008**

Monitoring

Idaho Fish and Game efforts to collar wolves continue in the Bear Valley area, Panhandle, and Salmon. Radio telemetry flights are showing pups beginning to travel with adults and making it harder to catch up to packs for collaring efforts.

The Nez Perce Tribe biologists collared one wolf in a pack east of Bovil and conducted telemetry flights and pup counts in the Lochsa area verifying reproduction in two packs.

Management

From January 1 – August 29, Idaho Fish and Game and the Nez Perce Tribe have documented 102 dead wolves. Of those, 63 were depredation control actions, five illegal kills, 13 legal kills, three natural kills and 17 other. An additional nine wolves were suspected dead – reported road kills not verified, collars on mortality not picked up, etc. Depredations are at record levels this year nearly doubling levels incurred last year at this time.

Control

From August 16 to August 29, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services documented 17 confirmed wolf depredations and four probable wolf depredations on livestock. The federal agents confirmed that wolves killed 18 sheep, one adult cow, six calves and a guard dog and injured another cow, three calves and a guard dog and determined that another seven sheep and one calf were probable wolf depredations. During the reporting period, Wildlife Services killed 10 wolves and captured and released six wolves, one of which was radiocollared. During the same period in 2007, Wildlife Services documented eight confirmed wolf depredations and two probable wolf depredations.

Non-lethal control efforts are ongoing as per the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan in the area between Leodore and Yellowstone along the boundary with Montana. Radio collars have been placed on wolves in the area that have been implicated in depredations to further knowledge of wolf movement in the area and pursue non-lethal options prior to lethal control. Discussions of and use of non-lethal tools are ongoing with livestock producers to assist them in reducing livestock/wolf problems along this potential corridor.

Additionally, non-lethal efforts continue in a cooperative effort near Ketchum to reduce livestock/wolf conflicts. Four producers, U.S. Forest Service, Wildlife Services, Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission, and Defenders of Wildlife

are experimenting with the use of paid non-lethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who use fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempt to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves have been around the sheep on a regular basis but to date only one sheep has been confirmed killed by wolves.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

The new Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Web page is up and running. The new Web page includes information on the lawsuit and injunction that caused wolves to be temporarily relisted under the Endangered Species Act. It also has updated information on the new 10j rule under which Fish and Game is acting as the “designated agent” for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and conducting day-to-day wolf management. What the public can and can’t do under the new rules is discussed. You can find the new webpage at:

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

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The 10j rule allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock and stock animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at:

http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

New: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (Wyoming, Montana, Idaho): The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming, the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. The Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating legal options regarding the court’s order and the ongoing litigation over the agency’s delisting of the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate 90, and all of Wyoming will be managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. Idaho Fish and Game will

once again act as the designated agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Secretary of Interior and Governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work along with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the state Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan. You may hear deputy attorney general Clive Strong discuss the legal situation and what the state is doing at the following link: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/court/>

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report July 28 - August 15, 2008

Monitoring

Michael Lucid and Jim Hayden collared a wolf in a new pack in the Panhandle in Game Management Unit 1 to help locate other pack members. Lucid is attempting to locate and capture other wolves in Units 6 and 7 before returning to Unit 1.

Jason Husseman collared a wolf and verified reproduction in the same pack in a remote area of Unit 36. Carter Niemeyer has been working Units 33 and 34 attempting to collar a wolf in a new pack.

Kari Holder of the Nez Perce Tribe conducted a partial monitoring flight to assist field crews' ground efforts. Based on results of that flight, she attempted reproductive surveys for two packs in Units 10 and 12 along the border with Montana. Reproduction was confirmed in one of the packs.

Isaac Babcock of the Nez Perce Tribe also conducted a partial monitoring flight to aid his field investigations. He verified reproduction in a pack in Unit 19A. He attempted to determine the pack/reproductive status of a radio collared disperser from near Fairfield that is now residing near McCall. The wolf was still by itself. Babcock conducted a monitoring flight on August 12.

Jim Holyan of the Nez Perce Tribe attempted to locate the uncollared pack in Unit 15 for reproductive status and potential trapping, but found little wolf sign worth setting up a trap line; he did hear two or three adults howl. He then investigated another pack's traditional home sites in Unit 17, but they are not in use to date. Next Holyan briefly searched another pack's home range in Unit 17; he heard three or four adults howling on two separate occasions, but no pups were located and trapping opportunities were unavailable. He also followed up on a sighting report west of Crooked River (Elk City area), but observed no wolf sign. Holyan conducted monitoring flights on August 6 and 7.

Control

From July 28 to August 15, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services documented 24 confirmed wolf depredations and five probable wolf depredations on livestock. The federal agents confirmed that wolves killed 77 sheep, four adult cows and seven calves and injured another six sheep and determined that another 11 sheep, seven calves and a guard dog were probable wolf depredations. During the reporting period, WS killed 11 wolves and captured and released six wolves, five of which were radio-collared. During the same time frame in 2007, WS documented eight confirmed wolf depredations and one probable wolf depredation.

Nonlethal control efforts are ongoing as per the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan in the area between Leadore and Yellowstone National Park along the Montana border. Radio collars have been placed on wolves in the area that have been implicated in depredations to further knowledge of wolf movement in the area and pursue nonlethal options prior to lethal control. Discussions of and use of nonlethal tools are ongoing with livestock producers to assist them in reducing livestock-wolf problems along this potential corridor.

Additionally, nonlethal efforts continue in a cooperative effort near Ketchum to reduce livestock-wolf conflicts. Four producers, U.S. Forest Service, U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services, Idaho Fish and Game, Blaine County Commission and Defenders of Wildlife are experimenting with the use of paid nonlethal personnel (funded by Defenders) who use fladry and penning for sheep at night, and attempt to scare wolves away from sheep during the night. Wolves have been around the sheep on a regular basis but to date only one sheep has been confirmed killed by wolves.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

The new Idaho Fish and Game wolf Webpage now includes information on the lawsuit and injunction that caused wolves to be temporarily relisted under the Endangered Species Act. It also has updated information on the new 10(j) rule under which Idaho Fish and Game is acting as the “designated agent” for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and conducting day-to-day wolf management. What the public can and can’t do under the new rules is discussed. The page is at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The 10(j) rule allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock and stock animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

New: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT and ID): The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that immediately reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming,

the eastern third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. The USFWS is evaluating legal options regarding the court's order and the ongoing litigation over the agency's delisting of the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming will be managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10(j) regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will once again act as the designated agent for the USFWS in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the secretary of interior and governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work along with the departments of Interior and Justice, states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan. You may hear deputy attorney general Clive Strong discuss the legal situation and what the state is doing at the following link:

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Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report, July 12-July 27, 2008

News

Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status: The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued a preliminary injunction on Friday, July 18, 2008, that reinstated temporary Endangered Species Act protections for gray wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains pending final resolution of the case. This includes all of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, the eastern one-third of Washington and Oregon, and parts of north-central Utah. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is evaluating legal options regarding the court's order and the ongoing litigation over the agency's delisting of the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, south of Interstate-90 in Idaho, and all of Wyoming will be managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game will once again act as the designated agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service in day-to-day management of wolves under a memorandum of understanding between the secretary of interior and governor of Idaho signed January 2006.

Monitoring

Kari Holder of the Nez Perce Tribe verified reproduction for a pack in the northern part of the McCall zone, but was unable to see/hear pups. She then teamed up with David Ausband of the University of Montana to conduct a capture operation on the southern part of the same zone; a subadult female wolf was caught and radiocollared.

Isaac Babcock of the Nez Perce Tribe obtained a count of five gray pups on a pack on the Lochsa; he ran a trapline for several days but did not capture any wolves. He also walked in to the last Kelly Creek pack radio-collared wolf's aerial location, but there was no evidence that this was where the pups are located. He also attempted to investigate the Fish Creek suspected rendezvous site, but could not due to snow blocking access roads.

Carter Niemeyer of Idaho Fish and Game and Jim Holyan of the Nez Perce Tribe, upon request from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, captured and radio-collared the breeding female and probable alpha male in the first documented reproductive pack in Washington in many years. This pack is located east of the North Cascades near the Canadian border and has been DNA typed as coming from Canada.

Holyan ran a trap line on near Dworshak Reservoir where he was able to catch only a pup too small to radio-collar; he did observe two gray pups.

Michael Lucid of Idaho Fish and Game worked with several volunteers from the Selway Lodge using stock and volunteer help to trap the Selway Wilderness country.

July 13-19: Jason Husseman of Idaho Fish and Game and Dave Ausband free-range darted B350 to retrieve a failing GPS collar. This was the first wolf Fish and Game has darted from the ground – it is a very difficult feat to sneak up to within 20 yards of a wolf unnoticed and accurately shoot a dart.

July 20-26: Confirmed reproduction and breeding pair status (multiple pups heard howling) of a Sawtooth Zone wolf pack (Yankee Fork). Further attempts will be made to place a collar in this currently uncollared pack.

July 28: UofM research crew heard two adults and counted six black pups along the South Fork of the Payette to verify reproduction in a pack there.

Control

Friday, July 11, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land near Bear.

July 16, a WS fixed-wing aircrew shot and killed a gray male wolf about a mile from the depredation site near Bear. Traps are being pulled and control efforts are concluded unless there is another depredation.

July 14, WS confirmed that wolf killed a lamb in Rainbow Creek in the Boise National Forest.

July 23, WS shot and killed an adult, black female wolf near the rainbow creek depredation site.

July 14, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a lamb on the Boise National Forest, east of Smith's Ferry. This is the same area where WS confirmed a depredation on July 2.

July 15, WS confirmed that wolves attacked a cow on private land on Smiley Creek near Stanley.

July 15, WS confirmed that wolves killed one calf and probably killed another on a Targhee National Forest grazing allotment on the west side of Bishop Mountain between Ashton and Kilgore.

July 16, WS caught and killed an adult, gray female wolf.

July 18, WS confirmed that at least two wolves killed three rams on private land near Leadore.

July 18, a Fish and Game employee found a ram carcass on private land NE of Idaho City while he was looking for wolf-killed deer and elk. After consulting with WS, the depredation is being considered a probable wolf kill.

July 20, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf and probably killed another calf on private land near Stanley.

July 22, WS examined three calves that had bite wounds to their flanks and hind quarters. WS confirmed that injuries were caused by wolves. All three calves are expected to survive. The depredation took place on the same private ranch where WS confirmed another depredation on a calf last week and subsequently removed one male wolf. There are still three pairs of cows/calves missing on this ranch.

July 22, WS confirmed that wolves killed five Walker hounds and one blue tick hound near Bridge Creek in Unit 12 in the Clearwater National Forest. The dogs were owned by three brothers, and the wolves killed every dog in the chase.

July 24, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on a Salmon-Challis National Forest grazing allotment near Twin Bridges Creek.

July 24, WS confirmed that wolves killed two lambs on a Boise National Forest grazing allotment in Rainbow Creek. WS has confirmed two other depredations at this site in the past several weeks.

July 25, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a cow on private land near Stanley. The WS investigator saw two wolves chasing cattle. The carcass was consumed to the point where only a determination of "probable" wolf depredation could be made.

July 25, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 400-pound calf on private land just south of the Pine turn-off from Highway 20.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed two calves and probably another on private land near Mullen Basin by Carey. Six calves are missing at this site.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed three yearling ewes on a Boise National Forest grazing allotment west of Pioneerville.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Cottonwood Creek, southeast of Horseshoe Bend. WS noted "probable" wolf depredations on this same property – a calf injured on July 18 and a cow killed on July 23.

July 26, WS confirmed two calves killed near Carlson Lake on a Salmon-Challis National Forest grazing allotment.

July 26, WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow and a calf on private land near Salmon.

Management

The collaborative effort among several producers, Idaho Fish and Game, Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service, Blaine County Commissioners, and Defenders of Wildlife is ongoing in the Ketchum area. Nonlethal efforts involving use of fladry, penning at night, hazing with hired trained technicians are ongoing to reduce conflicts between wolves and sheep in the area.

Research

Nothing new to report.

Information and Education

July 18, Jason Husseman gave a presentation to about 30 folks at the Idaho Bowhunters gathering near Stanley.

Idaho Fish and Game reminds people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. Federal law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their livestock, domestic stock and dogs. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Past wolf update publications are available for review on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/.

IDAHO WOLF MANAGEMENT PROGRESS REPORT, JUNE 28 – JULY 11, 2008

Monitoring

On July 2, Kari Holder of the Nez Perce Tribe verified reproduction and found a rendezvous site of an additional pack in the Dworshak wolf zone. Holder then conducted outreach with a rancher near Dworshak reservoir where the sole radiocollared wolf died recently.

Isaac Babcock of the Nez Perce Tribe briefly investigated the area near Kamiah where a wolf killed a hound dog; he located some wolf sign, but he did not hear radio-collared wolves so did not make further effort to locate pups at that time. He also surveyed Lolo zone rendezvous sites, only to find that they aren't in use this year, though scattered wolf sign was located. More time will be spent on determining specific pack reproductive status later on. Babcock then trapped and radiocollared an adult male (suspected alpha) and subadult female wolf of a pack in the Lolo zone on July 6. He subsequently located their rendezvous site where he observed eight gray pups.

Jim Holyan of the Nez Perce Tribe surveyed in the Hells Canyon wolf zone following up on a reported pup sighting there; he found no wolf sign. He then obtained a pup count of a pack in unit 14, and also could account for several other wolves. Holyan also searched in the south fork of the Clearwater packs and found evidence that they denned or had early rendezvous site in same area as 2007, but had moved on.

From June 30 through July 3, Jason Husseman verified reproduction in two packs in the Stanley area qualifying both packs as breeding pairs.

July 9 – 11, Husseman hiked in to a historic den/rendezvous site used by a pack in the Sawtooth zone and found evidence that the site was again used this year. However, there was little in the way of fresh sign, and no response to howling, so it's likely the pack had moved to another rendezvous site. Husseman also followed up on a report of wolf activity from the public observation report form in the Yankee Fork of the Salmon River, and confirmed wolf sign (tracks and howling), but could not locate evidence of reproduction. This is probably the uncollared Yankee Fork pack, and further attempts will be made to place a radio collar in this pack.

Carter Niemeyer has been helping researchers collar wolves in the Sawtooth zone. On July 2 they collared a subadult female in the Edna ck country.

On July 4 a University of Montana research crew verified reproduction in a pack in the McCall zone.

On July 5, the UofM research crew verified two den sites that appeared to be used within a single wolf pack territory in the Sawtooth zone. They collected scats to check DNA to determine whether they are the same or different wolves.

On July 6, a Uof M research crew verified reproduction of two more packs in the Sawtooth zone.

Control

On June 28, officials from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed a calf on BLM land in the Pahsimeroi. This is the third confirmed depredation by this pack in the past two months. Wildlife Services removed two wolves in this depredation on July 2 and 3.

On June 28, Wildlife Services confirmed that a wolf killed a buck sheep on private land near Thorn Butte on Edna Creek, northwest of Idaho City.

On July 2, Wildlife Services confirmed that a wolf killed a lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment east of Smith's Ferry.

On July 8, Wildlife Services investigated a report that wolves had killed several sheep on a Boise National Forest grazing allotment in Lester Creek, just west of Anderson Ranch Reservoir. The carcasses had deteriorated to the point where WS could only come to a conclusion of "probable" wolf depredation on two sheep.

On July 9, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves from the Galena pack killed a calf on private property near Obsidian.

On July 9, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed a ewe and six lambs and injured another lamb that will probably succumb to its wounds. No signals from any radio collared wolves could be detected. The depredation occurred between Burgdorf and the Salmon River on the Payette National Forest. On July 11, Wildlife Services trapped and killed an adult, gray male and shot and killed another adult, gray male wolf that was seen chasing a guard dog. Control efforts have concluded unless there is another depredation.

On July 10, Wildlife Services confirmed that a pair of wolves killed a calf on private land on Smith's Prairie near Anderson Ranch Reservoir.

Management

On June 27th, district conservation officer Bill London investigated the killing of a wolf by a sheepherder on June 21 on Thorne Butte in Boise County. The killing was found to be legal under IC 36-1107 as the wolf was attacking the sheep herder's two border collies.

On June 12, Ben Cadwallader investigated a wolf collar on mortality signal near the Lowman transfer station. Closeness to roads and humans made it a possibly illegal kill. Ben found the collar, but could not determine the cause of the drop off except possible technology malfunction. No sign of a wolf was found in the area.

On May 15, Ben Cadwallader investigated an illegally taken wolf in Casner Creek, Lowman. Wolf was shot with a small caliber rifle, either .22-250 or .223). The investigation is ongoing.

On June 20, Fish and Game officer Mark Carson investigated a call along with Rick Williamson of Wildlife Services that a landowner and rancher from Arco had killed a wolf that was in with his cattle on the south side of Timbered Dome. The investigation concluded that the take was legal under 36-1107.

No word as of yet regarding the injunction court hearing on wolf delisting held May 29 in Missoula.

The collaborative effort among several producers, Idaho Fish and Game, Wildlife Services, USFS, Blaine County Commissioners, and Defenders of Wildlife is ongoing in the Ketchum area. Nonlethal efforts involving use of fladry, penning at night, hazing with hired trained technicians are ongoing to reduce conflicts between wolves and sheep in the area. Carter Niemeyer worked with Defender's technicians on July 7 inspecting sheep bands and nonlethal techniques being employed. They found a dead sheep that was being fed on by the sheep dog, but had died from illness.

Research

The University of Montana-Nez Perce Tribe-Idaho Fish and Game wolf monitoring research project (in its second year) is off to a good start again this year. The field season is 40 percent complete and the scat survey crew has already collected three times the numbers (to date, more than 600 samples) of genetic samples as they did all of last summer in the same areas. This represents not a change in population per se, but a change/refinement of the sampling protocol after learning from last year's first field season. The telemetry/howlbox crew continues to obtain data and pup counts (66 percent of study packs have pup counts/breeding pair determination) on packs in the four study areas and also continues to test and refine the howlboxes. Field work will continue through August.

Information and Education

Idaho Fish and Game also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, they should be aware that wolves may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. State law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. Anyone having concerns or problems with wolves close to their residence should inform the nearest Fish and Game office.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non-government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March

2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the state of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific updates. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Wyoming was reported on by the USFWS. You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at:

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

Idaho Wolf Update

June 15 - 27, 2008

Monitoring

Jason Husseman, Idaho Fish and Game wolf biologist, attempted to trap and collar a wolf in the Jureano Mountain pack in the vicinity of where a field crew from the University of Montana observed six pups. After six nights, he caught and recollared the Jureano Mountain wolf wearing a GPS collar that went belly up last October. He caught him in the exact same spot where he was caught about one year ago. This collar is a store on board collar that will hopefully provide daily locations of the animal for the three to four months it was working. The GPS collar was replaced with a VHF collar.

On June 16, University of Montana research project crewmembers walked in on B385 in Wapiti in the Grandjean area. They stumbled into a set of holes under a fallen tree and were growled at by an adult down in the hole. They were barked at and eventually left the area. Dave Ausband walked in on June 18 and no adults were present. He observed one pup at the den site and after it dove into the hole he gave a little whimper and it came back out and howled for three to five minutes, but no other pups emerged and no adults responded. He then sat on a nearby ridge for three hours, but no other wolves ever showed up.

On June 17, UM researcher Dave Ausband checked out suspected den location for Archie Mt.. The den was under a pile of yarded logs. One to two pups is suspected based on evidence at the site.

On week of June 23, Michael Lucid and Dave Ausband attempted to locate Bear Valley pack unsuccessfully. Michael also attempted to catch a wolf in the Thorn Creek pack.

Carter Niemeyer worked the Timberline pack with Nate Borg and found the wolves near a flock of sheep. They spoke with the herder as best they could and communicated about the wolves. The herder was aware of them, but for the time being these wolves had not depredated. They decided not to trap in the area due to the presence of horses, dogs, sheep and people.

On June 9, Jim Holyan of the Nez Perce Tribe obtained a pup count on the Eldorado Creek pack; he saw four gray pups.

On June 19 Holyan and Kari Holder of the Tribe, observed a minimum four pups (three gray and one black) with the Earthquake Basin pack.

On June 23 Holyan and Holder observed four to five gray pups of the Lick Creek pack.

Efforts to document the pack/reproductive status of the White Bird Creek and Florence packs were unsuccessful.

Control

On June 16, the USDA Wildlife Services (WS) was able to examine one ewe and one lamb that were reported being attacked by wolves. All of the wounds were consistent with wolf bites. The ewe is not expected to survive, the lamb might. This was not a new depredation, but the same depredation where WS confirmed one ewe as a wolf kill a week earlier and attributed to the

Double Springs pack. The producer is also missing another 23 sheep that he believes were victims of wolf depredation.

On June 16, a WS fixed-wing aircrew shot and killed one black wolf from the Double Springs pack on BLM land in the Pahsimeroi.

On June 17, a WS fixed-wing aircrew found two black wolves running with B-379, the only collared animal in the Double Springs pack on BLM land in the Pahsimeroi. The aircrew shot and killed one of the black wolves. Unless there is another depredation, control efforts on the Double Springs wolves are done.

On June 17, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on private land near Salmon. While there was not enough evidence to confirm the depredation, WS did find enough to call it "probable."

On June 18, WS investigated a report that wolves killed a calf on private land near Grangeville. While there was not enough evidence to confirm the depredation, WS did find enough to call it "probable."

WS also captured and killed a sub-adult, black male wolf from that may have joined the High Prairie pack east of Anderson Ranch Reservoir. Unless there is another depredation, control efforts at this site have concluded.

WS shot and killed one gray wolf that was running with B-378, the only radio collared animal from the Pass Creek pack from a helicopter.

On June 22, WS confirmed that wolves from the Pilot Rock pack killed a Walker hound that was being used to run bears. The depredation occurred on Nez Perce Forest land near Clearwater.

On June 24, WS investigated a report that wolves attacked and injured some sheep on private land west of McCall. WS was able to examine one lamb and was able to determine that it was probably attacked by a wolf. A more thorough examination would be required to confirm a depredation which would involve killing the lamb. Since the lamb appears like it should survive, the examination was not more invasive. This particular band of sheep has seven guard dogs which may explain the minimal injuries.

On June 26, WS confirmed that a wolf had attacked and injured a calf on private land in Bighorse Canyon near Kooskia. The calf is expected to survive.

On June 26, WS investigated a report that wolves had attacked and injured a calf on private land west of Donnelly. No evidence of wolf involvement could be found.

On June 26, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on a Sawtooth National Forest grazing allotment north of Stanley. WS could not determine a cause of death.

On June 26, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a calf on a private ranch near Stanley. The wolf responsible may be a member of, or disperser from, either the Basin Butte pack or the Galena pack. Signals from radio collared animals from both packs were picked up quite a distance from the kill site.

Management

No word as of yet regarding the injunction court hearing on wolf delisting held May 28 in Missoula.

On June 16 Jason Husseman retrieved the carcass of a wolf shot under the 36-1107 provision Northeast of Stanley; as in all wolf shootings, this incident is being investigated.

On June 24, a 25 pound male and 23 pound female wolf pup were found dead along Highway 21 near Lowman, apparently hit by a vehicle. These pups are believed to be from the Archie Mountain pack.

The collaborative among several producers, Idaho Fish and Game, Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service, Blaine County Commissioners, and Defenders of Wildlife is ongoing in the Ketchum area. Nonlethal efforts involving use of fladry, penning at night, hazing with hired trained technicians are ongoing to reduce conflicts between wolves and sheep in the area.

Research

University of Montana research telemetry crew got started on June 2 and began work in the Salmon and Lowman study areas. Their job is to get pack counts, locate uncollared packs and test the howlboxes. To date they have obtained pup counts in Jureano, Hoodoo, Wapiti, and have documented reproduction in Archie as well. They placed howlboxes at three pack homesites in Salmon and the howlboxes only worked properly and ran their entire schedule at 1 site. The howlbox recorded responses at that site.

The scat survey crew began on June 11 and is currently in the McCall area conducting rendezvous site surveys. Some survey work has been hampered by snow at higher elevations. They made some subtle changes to protocol from last year and the results are promising because they collected more samples in the first two days than they did the entire first field stint (nine days) last year.

Information and Education

On June 17, Steve Nadeau gave a wolf management presentation to about 150 members of the Idaho Cattlemen's Association at their annual meeting in Jackpot, Nev.

On June 20, a story on Idaho wolf management was aired on national television on ABC Nightline.

On June 25, Steve Nadeau was interviewed about wolf management by Boise State President Bob Kustra for his radio show.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains were removed from the endangered species list on March 28. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and nongovernment partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific updates. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Wyoming was reported on by the USFWS. You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links to wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Idaho Wolf Update

May 31 – June 14, 2008

Monitoring

Isaac Babcock (Nez Perce Tribe) verified a minimum of six gray pups with the B315 group, making them a newly documented pack (Snake River pack). He also has recorded three pups (two black, one gray) with the B290 group (newly documented Hornet Creek pack). Finally, Blue Bunch pack has a minimum of four gray pups.

Jim Holyan (Nez Perce Tribe) observed B327 (GPS radiocollared wolf occupying the “former” Orphan pack home range) alone on June 5; every sighting of this individual he has been alone, despite one aerial this past winter. Holyan also saw female B249 (Stolle Meadows pack) and was barked/howled at for about 10 minutes, but no evidence of other wolves was detected in the area.

Jason Husseman was able to get two new collars in the Hoodoo pack this week, a yearling black male and an adult (2 to 3?) black male. He also confirmed reproduction based on howling (two-plus) and observation of a lactating female.

Carter Niemeyer caught a subadult male, gray wolf along the Grandjean road yesterday. It was traveling with at least two other wolves and, from looking at Argos data from the area, appears it's a different pack than Warm Springs. Niemeyer named it Wapiti.

On June 8, Michael Lucid verified multiple pups in the Steel Mountain pack. On June 9, Lucid attempted to verify reproduction in the Thorn Creek pack. On June 12, Lucid verified two gray pups in the Applejack pack.

Idaho Fish and Game elk researchers trapped a 2-year-old female wolf May 31 and fitted her with a vhf radio collar. She was captured near Fourth of July Creek on the North Fork of the Clearwater. They are not sure which pack she belongs to but will determine such based on future locations.

An employee of the U.S. Forest Service photographed and verified six pups in the Kilgore area of eastern Idaho. These are likely members of the Bishop Mountain pack but further work will be needed to verify their affiliation.

Also, one quick amusing story from Husseman: “I was woken up Tuesday about midnight to a noise right outside my tent, which I immediately dismissed as a rodent, and tried to go back to sleep. However, about a minute later I heard the sound of plastic crunching as something was picking up one of the 2.5 gallon water jugs just outside my tent door. I immediately thought “bear,” and clapped my hands and yelled to run it off. I waited a bit to see what would happen, and shortly after I heard the plastic jug crunching about 20 yards above my tent. I reluctantly decided to brave the cold rain coming down and run this critter off, so I

put my headlamp on and got out to go to my truck for a bigger flashlight. One quick glance up hill in my headlamp on the way to the truck revealed two green-yellow glowing eyes attached to a prone black form. I got the flashlight and walked towards the glowing eyes, and as I got to 20 yards or so could make out the shape of a youngish looking black wolf. He laid there until I started yelling, then finally got up and walked slowly up the hill. I eventually got him chased off, and then went to retrieve my water jug, which turns out was the nearly full one. Also, in addition to taking my water, I found my catch pole laying there, which apparently was the source of the first noise that initially woke me up and another item this wolf apparently was interested in. The jug was pretty well chewed up in the short time my visitor was there, and I now have a nice memento with perfect canine bite impressions to remember him by.”

Editor’s Note: *Wolves can usually be easily scared away from camps day or night by yelling, banging pots, using noise makers, pepper spray etc., but similar to all carnivores they may be attracted to camps by the smell of foods, meat hanging, scents around camp, dogs, etc. They may also be using the area you are visiting as a rendezvous site. To avoid conflicts with wolves, bears, and other wildlife, please keep a clean camp and store food in a hard sided vehicle or hang between two trees 10 feet off the ground, or use bear resistant containers. Please report any incident to the nearest Fish and Game office or online at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/*

Control

On June 2, U.S.D.A. APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) confirmed that wolves killed 18 sheep, all lambs, and injured a number of others, on private land north of Carey. This property neighbors the ranch where WS confirmed two buck sheep and counted 13 more “probable” depredations the week before.

On June 3, WS confirmed that wolves from the Pass Creek pack killed a calf on Salmon-Challis National Forest land along the East Fork of the Salmon River. WS found another carcass that was consumed to the point where only a “probable” wolf depredation could be determined. The producer is missing eight more calves. To date, WS has confirmed that the Pass Creek wolves have killed five calves and probably killed one calf this spring.

On June 3, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on private land near Howe. WS determined that the calf died of causes other than predation.

On June 3, WS investigated a report that wolves had injured a calf on private land near Orifino. WS determined that the calf had probably been attacked by coyotes.

On June 4, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a sheep on private land on Hunter Creek. WS captured and killed a sub-adult, gray, female wolf about a half mile from the depredation site.

On June 5, a WS fixed-wing aircrew was able to shoot and kill two wolves (one sub-adult gray female and one adult gray male) on the same private ranch where we confirmed two bucks and had 13 more that were probable wolf kills a week earlier.

On June 6, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 700 pound calf on the same private ranch where we had multiple confirmed wolf depredations last year. On June 11, WS confirmed that a wolf killed another calf on the same ranch. The only wolf in the area appears to be B-327.

On June 6, WS captured and killed an adult, gray male wolf near the depredation site where WS confirmed 33 sheep killed a week earlier near Alexander Flats in the Boise National Forest.

On June 7, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on private land along the Weiser River near Midvale. WS could not determine a cause of death.

On June 8, WS investigated a report that wolves killed several sheep on private land near Carey. WS determined that a bear was responsible for the depredation.

On June 10, WS confirmed that wolves killed two calves on private land north of Carey. While it is not the same property, it is the same general area where WS has confirmed two different depredations on sheep and has removed two wolves earlier this spring.

On June 12, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a ewe on state land in Fourth of July Creek just north of Obsidian. This is in the Galena Pack's territory. Traps are being set today.

On June 13, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a lamb on BLM land at the upper end of the Pahsimeroi River. A WS aircrew found five animals from the Double Springs pack approximately two miles from the depredation site that morning.

Management

No word yet about the injunction hearing on wolf delisting May 28 in federal court in Missoula.

Information and Education

June 6, Michael Lucid gave a presentation on wolf ecology and local packs to 50 people at a Community Update meeting sponsored by the USFS Lowman Ranger District in Lowman.

June 10, Lucid gave a presentation on wolf ecology to 20 members of a Current Issues in Agriculture class at the Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at:

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Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific wolf weekly. It is not possible to publish a weekly every Friday, therefore at times we will be publishing a biweekly that will be posted on the website. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Idaho Wolf Update
May 17 – May 30, 2008

To: Idaho Fish and Game Staff and Cooperators

From: Fish and Game Wolf Program Coordinator, Steve Nadeau

Subject: Status of Gray Wolf Management

When wolves were delisted at the end of March, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decided to discontinue the publication of the Northern Rocky Mountain wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will publish an Idaho specific wolf biweekly, which will be posted on the Website. Along with the USFWS, contributors to these reports have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Past wolf weekly publications are available for review on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Monitoring

5/27: Jason Husseman got a pup count of five pups in the Hughes Creek pack.

Nez Perce Tribe crews have traps out in the Scott Valley area, where the Orphan pack was last known to reside, based on sign located there this week.

Isaac Babcock obtained a partial pup count on the Stolle Meadows pack; while tracking the radio-collared alpha female, B249, he happened across a secondary den. Inside he observed two black pups, but there are likely at least another one or two.

Isaac and Bjornen Babcock obtained a visual on GPS radio-collared male B327 in the Scott Valley area; he appeared to be alone (as he was during an aerial observation 5/25/08). This crew investigated the past two aerial locations of female wolf B290 (originally a member of the Morgan Creek pack); a den is highly suspected due to the site fidelity being exhibited by this wolf, but no direct evidence of reproduction has been obtained thus far. They also documented a new pack, containing radio-collared female B315, on the breaks of the Snake River; B315 and an uncollared wolf were observed away from the den/rendezvous site and one adult and multiple pups were heard howling. This pack will be named soon.

Holyan conducted additional scouting in the Boulder Creek drainage southeast of McCall following up on reports from Idaho Department of Lands personnel that made a sighting in the area. Holyan had verified wolf sign here in February/March. Flights were conducted on 5/25 and 5/26. Female B192, originally captured as a pup in the Soldier Mountain pack (born in 2003), was aerielly observed north of McCall with another wolf. B192 had been missing from her natal territory since June 2007, although she was identified via DNA from a scat collected in the Bear Valley pack's territory during July 2007.

Control

Wildlife Services (WS) has investigated 57 reported wolf depredations so far in 2008 (they conducted 36 investigations by this date in 2007). WS confirmed 35 depredations compared to 22 during the same time frame in 2007. Therefore investigations have increased 58 percent this year over last, and confirmed livestock kills have increased 59 percent as well.

From January 1 to May 25, Idaho Fish and Game has recorded 45 dead wolves. Twenty-two were control actions due to livestock depredations, five were killed by producers under state law 36-1107, one was killed by a producer under the federal 10j rule, two died of natural causes, three from vehicle collisions, seven unknowns, and five illegal kills. Wolves continue to remain in lower elevations and on private lands due to late spring conditions during denning season thus making them more vulnerable to livestock depredations and other forms of mortality. Also, because of increased wolf populations expanding into suboptimal habitat and high conflict areas higher levels of mortality can be expected.

On 5/19, WS captured and radio collared a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the depredation site near Hill City where unknown wolves killed 18 sheep the weekend before.

On 5/20, WS confirmed another calf killed by the Pass Creek pack on private land along the East Fork of the Salmon River. So far, this pack has killed four calves in the past three weeks; all on private land.

On 5/23, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a calf on private land southeast of Grangeville. This property neighbors the property where WS confirmed another wolf depredation earlier this spring. Control efforts are ongoing.

On 5/25, WS confirmed that wolves killed two buck sheep and probably killed 13 more on private land about 10 miles north of Carey, east of the Little Wood Reservoir. Several more sheep are missing. A neighbor saw three wolves running from the property. Control efforts are underway.

On 5/27, WS confirmed that wolves killed another six sheep on the Boise National Forest adjacent to this property. Control efforts are ongoing.

On 5/29 WS looked at a calf on private land near Leadore that was reported as a wolf depredation. There was no evidence that wolves were involved at all.

On 5/29, WS confirmed that wolves killed 33 sheep (nine ewes, 24 lambs) near Alexander Flat on the Boise National Forest. Control efforts are underway.

On 5/29 Husseman and WS visited the Pass Creek suspected den area in a control effort that involves attempting to bump wolves from their den site that will soon have

cattle on it, but backed off when the conditions were not right; further attempts will be made to try to move the wolves before the cattle gets put on the range.

On 5/29 the suspected breeding female of the Pass Creek pack was trapped at the depredation site on the East Fork Salmon River and euthanized. Though WS attempted to avoid lethal removal of the female, her leg opposite the trap was broken and she could not have been released and expected to survive. The pups appear to be weaned so proactive efforts to have the remaining wolves move the pups away from the private land cattle operation are ongoing.

Management

A wolf radio collar was found on mortality in the Selway wilderness (Selway pack) during a routine Nez Perce Tribe telemetry flight. Michael Lucid (Idaho Fish and Game) found the wolf carcass and it appeared to be a natural death.

On May 22, the Fish and Game Commission voted to approve recommendations for rules for the first wolf hunting season. Additionally, they approved a total mortality limit that would approach the goal of achieving the estimated population level of approximately 518 wolves, or the lower end of the range approved in the March 2008 Wolf Population Management Plan (518-732). This population level assures viable and healthy wolf populations across Idaho, reduced populations in areas where there is high conflict with livestock and ungulates, assure connectivity with Montana, Yellowstone National Park and Wyoming, and establishes the first big game hunting season for wolves in Idaho. Total mortality limits include all forms of reported or verified mortality including road kills, control actions, natural mortality, illegal kills, as well as regulated harvest. At current population levels, more than 200 wolves would be expected to die from all forms of mortality except legal harvest. Once the limit is reached in each wolf zone the hunting season for that zone will be closed. Once the statewide limit is reached, hunting will close across the state. All mortality will be accounted for both by confirmation and estimation using radio collar data. Remaining live wolf populations will be estimated using standard and newly researched techniques that rely on radio collar and GPS data for aerial counting wolves in packs, as well as DNA data, hunter and public reporting, and other techniques. The goal of maintaining wolves at the level approved will assure long-term healthy wolf populations in balance with prey, reduce conflicts and assure that wolves occupy optimal habitat in Idaho. Including hunting as a form of management will improve acceptance of wolves in Idaho and assure that wolves are here to stay.

On April 28, a lawsuit was filed in federal court in Missoula to prevent delisting. The states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming along with several other groups were granted intervener status on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The injunction hearing was in federal court in Missoula on May 29. Judge Malloy said he would get the ruling out soon.

Information and Education

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission met from 7-9 p.m. May 21 to listen to public comment at their open house at the Jerome Fish and Game office. About 100 people attended and many testified.

Carter Niemeyer gave a wolf walk and presentation to about 20 people at the Idaho Conservation League annual meeting at Red Fish Lake on May 17.

Wolves are being reported in Placerville and Lowman areas around residences. Information is being distributed to reduce conflicts.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

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Idaho Wolf Update May 4 - 18, 2008

Monitoring

Wolves apparently denned lower than normal this year and are closer to cattle operations across the state. They are showing up in areas never seen before such as the Camas Prairie near Ferdinand in open wheat fields. Snow conditions in north Idaho and mid elevations are still early spring-like and game is just beginning to move higher.

Michael Lucid and Laura Robinson returned to the wilderness attempting to radio collar wolves after a few days off. Snow and ice are starting to leave and green up has finally arrived as the weather warms up and elk and deer begin to move up in elevation. Wolves are using the trails and a few winter kills were seen. They captured an adult male mountain lion while trapping for wolves in the Selway. They placed a radio collar on it and it will be tracked along with other telemetry flights in the area.

Jason Husseman flew telemetry and located a few den sites including Moyer Basin, Aparejo, Pass ck., Galena, Bear Valley and Basin Butte. Pup counts will begin starting this week. Jason also worked the Moyer Basin pack on Saturday and verified reproduction.

Nez Perce Tribal crews trapped a one- to two-year-old female from the Stolle Meadows pack and fitted it with a GPS collar for Dave Ausband's research.

Control

On 5/5, USDS Wildlife Services (WS) confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land near White Bird. Control efforts are underway to stop further depredation activity.

On 5/6, WS responded to a report that wolves killed a calf on private land near Gardena. WS determined that the incident was a "probable" wolf depredation. The rancher shot a wolf near his cattle and reported it to Fish and Game. Law enforcement is investigating.

On 5/6, a WS aircrew was able to remove an adult gray male wolf after several depredations on cattle over the past several weeks on private land near Leadore.

On 5/7, WS confirmed that wolves from the Pass Creek killed an 800-pound calf on private land near Jimmy Smith Lake. Control efforts are underway to stop further depredation activity.

On 5/13, WS confirmed that wolves killed another calf on BLM land near Leadore. Control efforts are ongoing to get the depredations under control.

On 5/14, WS looked at another calf carcass at the same ranch near Gardena where a rancher shot a wolf last week. While there was not enough evidence to confirm, WS did determine that it was a probable wolf depredation.

On 5/14, WS confirmed that wolves attacked and injured a Great Pyrenees dog on private land near Mullen. Efforts to radio collar a wolf are ongoing. The dog owner legally shot the wolf while it was attacking the dog in his yard.

On 5/14, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land north of Grangeville on the prairie. Control efforts to resolve the problem including placing a radio collar in the pack and attempting nonlethal harassment have begun.

On 5/15, WS investigated a report that wolves killed a calf on private land near Mackay Reservoir. WS was able to determine that the calf was not killed by a predator, but it had been fed on by coyotes.

On 5/16, WS confirmed that wolves from the Pass Creek pack killed two calves on private land along the East Fork of the Salmon River. Nonlethal efforts are ongoing by attempting to haze the pack to move the den site away from the private land calving area. WS and Fish and Game are also attempting to find alternative grazing options for the producer to reduce continued depredations. Lethal control efforts are ongoing from a previous depredation in the area.

On 5/17, WS investigated a report that wolves killed a calf on private land near Council. Despite the producer's insistence that wolves had killed the calf, all evidence at the site showed that coyotes were the responsible predator.

On 5/18, WS confirmed that wolves killed 13 sheep on BLM land between Bliss and Hill City. Control efforts to resolve the problem have begun including placing a radio collar in the new pack.

Management

Wolves injured a dog and were attacking two others in a backyard in the Mullen area of North Idaho, and the dog owner killed one of the wolves while it had the Great Pyrenees down. All dogs survived.

An 80-pound female black wolf was found road killed by collision on Highway 75 north of Ketchum over the weekend. It is believed to be a yearling from the Phantom Hill pack.

On 5/15 a young male wolf was found dead near Lowman airstrip where wolves have been feeding on deer that have been attracted to housing areas by winter feeding. It is under investigation.

A wolf was killed attacking livestock near Red River over the weekend. It is under investigation.

A wolf radio collar is on mortality in the Selway wilderness (Selway pack). Biologists will attempt to find the cause of the mortality signal (dropped collar or mortality).

This year's lingering spring conditions are keeping wolves at lower elevations during peak cattle calving and lambing seasons. All but one depredation report received has occurred on private land at low elevations. Many are occurring in areas we have not historically had high levels of depredations including Council/Cambridge area, Horseshoe Bend, Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, Camas Prairie north of Grangeville, Ashton, Mountain Home and other locations on private ground far from core wolf areas. Wolves are denning at lower elevations as well. All this bodes for higher than usual conflicts.

On April 28, a lawsuit was filed in Federal Court in Missoula to prevent delisting. The states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming along with several other groups were granted intervener status on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The injunction hearing will be held in federal court in Missoula MT on May 29, 2008.

Information and Education

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game held a series of public open house meetings around the state to seek comments on the proposed 2008 wolf hunting season framework. The meetings were lightly attended. More than 1,000 emails and public comments were received online.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. May 21 to hear public comment at the Jerome Fish and Game office. They will consider the wolf hunting rules at 10:30 a.m. on May 22.

Jason Husseman gave a presentation to 10 people at the "Food for Thought" group in Salmon on May 14.

Jason, Michael Lucid, Carter Niemeyer and Steve Nadeau attended the Ninth Cougar Workshop in Sun Valley May 5-9 and led a wolf tour on May 9 of about 25 people.

Wolf hunting season public open houses were held across the state at various towns over the past two weeks. Attendance was quite low at most open houses. Comments are being tallied for the commission meeting on May 22.

Steve Schmidt, Daryl Meints and Virgil Moore held an open house on the hunting rules but also provided a public forum to discuss recent dog and wolf killings in the Ashton area near Idaho Falls and to discuss the new state law. More than 100 people attended.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on the Fish and Game observation form at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing an Idaho-specific wolf update. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the reports historically have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Wyoming was reported on by the USFWS. Past wolf publications are available on the Fish and Game wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report

April 27 – May 2, 2008

Monitoring

Early spring conditions continue keeping wolves in lower elevations mostly along winter range later than usual this year, providing more opportunity for wolves to be in close proximity to cattle calving operations around private ground.

Jason Husseman, Idaho Fish and Game biologist, retrieved a chewed off radio collar from a female wolf in the East Fork of the Salmon River. This is her second radio collar she had chewed off and Jason figures that unless he finds radio collar armor plating, he likely won't place another.

Michael Lucid and Laura Robinson are still working in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness attempting to radio collar wolves for monitoring purposes. Snow and ice are still along the trails normally open this time of year. A pack bridge is out also restricting horse access from Moose Creek upriver. Once again, the wilderness wolves are avoiding their traps, as none have yet been collared.

Control

On 4/27, USDA Wildlife Services (WS) confirmed that a wolf killed a ewe and a lamb on private land SE of Midvale. Control efforts to remove the offending animal are ongoing.

On 4/29, WS captured and killed a sub adult gray female wolf near the depredation site where wolves killed 2 sheep on private land near Horseshoe Bend last week. Control efforts are complete unless another depredation is confirmed.

On 5/1, a WS fixed wing aircrew was able to remove two gray female wolves (1 adult, 1 sub-adult) from the Double Springs pack near the depredation site where they killed a calf last week on private land in the Pahsimeroi. Control efforts are complete unless another depredation is confirmed.

On 5/1, WS investigated a reported wolf depredation on a calf on private land near Kooskia. While wolves had fed on the carcass, there was no indication that the calf was a victim of predation.

Management

Carter Niemeyer (IDFG) talked to several Lowman residents about wolves near their homes, how to reduce conflict, and what the new state law allows. Carter trained the individuals in the use of nonlethal munitions (rubber bullets and cracker shells), and discussed other nonlethal options as well as when lethal control could be used. Evidently the community has been feeding deer and the wolves have been hanging close by as a result.

Many reporters have been asking for the total wolf mortality numbers since delisting and whether the number is higher under state management than under federal management. We have been seeing an annual increase in depredations and resultant wolf control actions every

year since reintroductions under federal authority correlated to higher wolf populations and wolves establishing activity on private land with high conflict potential. Following are the final tally for April wolf depredations and control actions.

Year	April Confirmed Depredations	Wolves Controlled
2005	1	0
2006	3	0
2007	6	4
2008	15	10

This year early spring conditions are keeping wolves at lower elevations during peak cattle calving and lambing seasons as well. All but one depredation report received has occurred on private land at low elevations. Many are occurring in areas we have not historically had high levels of depredations including Council/Cambridge area, Horseshoe Bend, Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, Ashton, Mt. Home and other locations on private ground far from core wolf areas. From March 28 – April 30 we have recorded 20 mortalities: 12 lethal controls by USDA Wildlife Services for confirmed livestock depredations, 2 illegal takes, 3 control under the state law §36-1107 by livestock producers, 2 vehicle collisions, and 1 natural mortality. Two of the above wolves were killed by a livestock owner near Ashton, Idaho under §36-1107, after the owner saw the wolves stalking his livestock. The incident was investigated by IDFG conservation officers and a report filed with the local prosecutor, who determined that no charges should be filed against the livestock owner.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has scheduled a series of public open house meetings around the state to seek comments on the proposed 2008 wolf hunting season framework. The meetings will be announced by regional offices. The proposed seasons and rules are available at all Fish and Game offices and on the Fish and Game Website at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/public/>.

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission approved the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan, and the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains was removed from the endangered species list – both in March. The plan calls for managing wolves at a population level of between 500-700 wolves for the first five years following delisting. The plan includes hunting as part of the methods of maintaining the population levels.

Fish and Game recommendations call for a total mortality quota of 328 wolves in 2008, which includes all reported wolf kills – from natural causes, accidents, wolf predation control actions and hunter kills. Reaching the quota would result in an estimated end-of-year population of 550-600 wolves. When the statewide quota is reached, all hunting would stop. When quotas in individual zones are reached, hunting in those zones would stop.

Details for the fall 2008 hunting season are scheduled to be set by the commission at the May 21-22 meeting and season and rules brochures should be out to the public in July.

Fish and Game has set this schedule for wolf rule setting:

- April 30 – May 16 - Public review and comment period.
- May 16 - Summaries of regional public comments and final regional recommendations are due to Fish and Game headquarters.

- May 21-22 - Idaho Fish and Game Commission scheduled to consider wolf hunting rules and seasons during meeting at Jerome Fish and Game office.

Comments on the proposed seasons and rules may be submitted at regional public meetings or to regional offices; they may be submitted at the Fish and Game Website at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/public/>; or they may be sent by mail to Wolf Hunting Rules, Idaho Fish and Game, P.O. Box 25, Boise, ID 83709.

On April 28, a lawsuit was filed in Federal Court in Missoula to prevent delisting. The state of Idaho is planning on intervening on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Information and Education

On 4/19/08, Marcie Carter (NPT reservation biologist and former wolf project member) gave a wolf biology/ecology talk at the Earth Day Fair sponsored by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Approximately 20 people attended her presentation.

Dave Spicer (IDFG) gave a wolf question and answer session at "Earth Day Fair" in Coeur d'Alene on Saturday, April 19th, 25 to 30 people attended.

Carter Niemeyer (IDFG) gave presentations to three high school zoology and biology classes at Valley High School in Nampa on April 29. He presented information on careers in wildlife management with emphasis on wolf biology, ecology and management. About 60 students attended with good participation and questions.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific wolf weekly. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Wyoming was reported on by the USFWS. You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at:

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

Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report April 13 - April 26, 2008

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific wolf weekly. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Wyoming was reported on by the USFWS. You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>.

Monitoring

Deep and lingering snows are keeping wolves in lower elevations mostly along winter range later than usual this year, providing more opportunity for wolves to be in close proximity to cattle calving operations around private ground.

Michael Lucid flew on April 18 and located the possible den of a potential new pack radio collared last winter in the Lowman area. Most other wolf dens have not yet been pinned down and wolves are still close to winter range.

Michael Lucid and Laura Robinson are working in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness attempting to radio collar wolves for monitoring purposes. Snow and ice are still along the trails normally open this time of year. A pack bridge is out also restricting horse access from Moose Creek upriver. They will be trapping on foot for the next few weeks.

Control

On 4/13, Wildlife Services (WS) confirmed that a wolf came into a barn yard and fought with a pair of dogs (1 guard dog and one stock dog). Both dogs were injured, but the injuries were not considered "life threatening." The incident occurred on private land south of Riggins.

On 4/16, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land near Leadore. This depredation was on a neighboring property to the site where WS confirmed another wolf depredation on cattle last week. Control efforts to stop the depredation activity continue.

On 4/20, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land near Council. This ranch is about 1 1/2 miles SW from the property where another confirmed wolf depredation took place earlier this month. Efforts to stop the depredation activity are ongoing.

On, 4/21, WS shot and killed a large, black wolf from a f/w aircraft near Leadore where several depredations on cattle have been confirmed in the last two weeks. WS confirmed that wolves killed another calf on BLM adjacent to the ranch on 4/23. Control efforts to stop the depredations are continuing.

On 4/21, WS confirmed that five wolves killed a calf on private land near Lemhi. This is the same ranch where WS removed three wolves earlier this month after wolves killed two calves. On 4/25, WS removed another wolf with a fixed wing aircraft. Control efforts to resolve the situation are ongoing.

On 4/23, WS confirmed that wolves from the Double Springs pack killed a calf on private land in the upper end of the Pahsimeroi. On 4/24, WS investigated a report that the pack had killed another calf in the area, but evidence at the site suggested the calf had been stillborn and had been fed on by coyotes. Efforts to stop further depredations are underway.

On 4/24, WS confirmed that a pair of wolves (likely from the Applejack pack) killed 1 ewe on private land near Horseshoe Bend. The herder shot the wolf among his sheep and Idaho Fish and Game officers investigated and confirmed that the kill was legal under state law (or under the old federal 10j law). The second wolf remained in the area and killed a second sheep the next morning and although nonlethally harassed by the landowner, would not leave the area. A shoot on site permit for one wolf has been issued to the producer. Fish and Game and Wildlife Services are reviewing other potential nonlethal actions to assist in this area.

Management

CO Eric Crawford responded to a call of a dead wolf near Squaw Creek, and was able to find and retrieve the carcass of B277. A person apparently reported to the Sheriff in Challis of hitting the wolf as it crossed the road in pursuit of elk the night before (4/22). This wolf was originally captured and handled as a member of the Galena pack by Carter Niemeyer and B. Reeves in May '06. The collar was still functioning, but the frequency had drifted up above what had been bracketed. The pelt is still in good condition, so it will be sold at the Fish and Game fur auction.

A proactive nonlethal project is being developed between 3 sheep producers in the Sun Valley area, Wildlife Services, Defenders of Wildlife, Blain County Commissioners, US Forest Service, and Idaho Fish and Game. The effort to reduce conflict between wolves and sheep will include a cooperative agreement between entities sharing knowledge, funding, and manpower and hiring personnel to assist in nonlethal control in the area. Researchers from USDA Wildlife Services are attempting to establish a scientific approach to learning from this application. Fish and Game will be cooperating by assisting in training, oversight, coordination, and equipment sharing. Pending results of this and other ongoing projects and future funding, Fish and Game may expand nonlethal programs across the state as part of normal wolf management activities.

Many reporters have been asking for the total wolf mortality numbers since delisting and whether the number is higher under state management than under federal management. We have been seeing an annual increase in depredations and resultant wolf control actions every year since reintroductions under federal authority correlated to higher wolf populations and wolves establishing activity on private land with high conflict potential.

Year	April Confirmed Depredations	Wolves Controlled
2005	1	0
2006	3	0
2007	6	4
2008	14	9

This year winter conditions are keeping wolves at lower elevations during peak cattle calving and lambing seasons as well. All but one depredation report received has occurred on private land at low elevations. Many are occurring in areas we have not historically had high levels of depredations including Council/Cambridge area, Horseshoe Bend, Lemhi, Pahsimeroi, Ashton, Mt. Home and other locations on private ground far from core wolf areas. From March 28 – April 24 we have recorded 17 mortalities: nine lethal controls authorized for confirmed livestock depredations, two illegal takes, three control under the state law 36-1107, two vehicle collisions, and one natural mortality.

Fish and Game and Tribal biologists met on April 18, 21, and 22 to review wolf harvest allocation issues.

The following schedule is designed for wolf rule setting.

April 28	Statewide recommendations sent to regions
April 30/May 16	Public review and input
May 16	Summaries of regional public input, and final regional recommendations due to bureau
May 21-23	Commission meeting, Twin Falls
June 18	Brochure ready for final review
July	Brochure distributed

Information and Education

Regan Berkley gave a presentation on wolf delisting and state management to 20 retired Forest Service Employees on April 7 in Twin Falls.

Martha Wackenhut gave a presentation on wolf conservation and management to 30 elementary and high school teachers at a Project Wild Workshop in Pocatello April 19.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are

having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/.

Idaho Wolf Management Weekly Progress Report

To: Idaho Fish and Game Staff and Cooperators

From: IDFG Wolf Program Coordinator, Steve Nadeau

Subject: Status of Gray Wolf Management, Week of March 30-April 12, 2008

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The USFWS successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific wolf weekly. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included the USDA APHIS Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. Wyoming was reported on by the USFWS. You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

Monitoring

Deep and lingering snows are keeping wolves in lower elevations mostly along winter range later than usual this year, providing more opportunity for wolves to be in close proximity to cattle calving operations around private ground.

Two wolves (B216, B362) died of natural causes, both from interpack strife over the last couple weeks.

Control

On 3/30, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on private land near Leadore. While there was not enough evidence left to confirm the depredation, there was enough to determine that it was "probable" that wolves killed that calf. On 4/8, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on a neighboring private ranch. SW-64, a radio-collared wolf that moves back and forth from Montana was in the area during both investigations. Control efforts to halt the depredations are ongoing.

WS confirmed 2 wolf depredations on cattle on the same private ranch near Lemhi. The first depredation was confirmed on 3/31 and the second on 4/1. On 4/4, WS removed three sub-adult males from a f/w aircraft. Control efforts are concluded unless another depredation is confirmed.

On 4/2, WS confirmed that a single wolf killed a calf on private land near Medicine Lodge. WS was able to follow a single set of wolf tracks from the depredation site and shot and killed the

adult, black, male wolf that committed the depredation. Control efforts are concluded unless another depredation is confirmed.

On 4/2, a WS f/w aircrew was able to shoot and kill a large, gray wolf near the Ellis depredation site where a calf was confirmed to have been killed by a wolf the week before. Control efforts are concluded unless another depredation is confirmed.

On 4/3, WS confirmed that a wolf from the High Prairie pack killed a calf on private land north of Mountain Home. On 4/10, WS confirmed that the High Prairie wolves killed another calf on a neighboring private ranch. Control efforts to halt the depredations are ongoing.

On 4/3, WS confirmed that a single wolf killed a heifer on a private ranch near Leadore. Control efforts to remove the offending animal are ongoing.

On 4/5, WS captured, radio-collared and released a sub-adult, gray female wolf from the Double Springs pack at a private ranch in the Pahsimeroi. These wolves have been seen in the cattle several times this year.

On 4/6, WS investigated a report that wolves killed a newborn calf on private land near Clearwater. WS determined that the calf's death was not predator related.

On 4/9, a WS employee was performing non-wolf related duties at a private ranch near Cambridge when he spotted a pair of wolves in a group of cattle. The WS employee shot one of the wolves, an adult, gray female. While investigating, he found a freshly killed calf carcass that he confirmed as a wolf depredation. Control efforts are concluded unless another depredation is confirmed.

Wolves injured 2 dogs in the Ashton area that were later euthanized. Officers responded and investigated. We take this opportunity to offer our sympathy for the owners who lost valued pets. We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

Management

Fish and Game wolf managers and specialists met on April 1 to review statewide wolf population management, wolf harvest rules and allocations. The following schedule is designed for wolf rule setting.

April 1	Statewide coordination meeting of management plan team
April 14	Regional recommendations (biological & nonbiological) due to bureau (standardized format will be provided)
April 21	Statewide recommendations sent to regions and available on website for public review
April 21 – May 16	Public review and input
May 16	Summaries of regional public input, and final regional recommendations due to bureau
May 21-23	Commission meeting, Twin Falls
June 18	Brochure ready for final review
July	Brochure distributed

Idaho Fish and Game conservation officers are investigating the shooting of two wolves on April 1 by a private landowner west of Ashton. He contacted the local conservation officer shortly after the incident, which still is under investigation.

Information and Education

Curt Mack and Jim Holyan attended the North American Wolf Conference at Chico Hotsprings Resort near Pray, MT from 4/8-10/08. They were among the co-authors, also including IDFG and Montana FWP, on a presentation given by Dave Ausband (Univ. of MT Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit) entitled "Tracking Wolves Post Delisting. Mack and Ausband sought additional funding for this research through contacts with organizations/individuals also in attendance at the conference.

On 4/9, ID WS Wolf Specialist Rick Williamson received the "Alpha Award" at the 20th Annual North American Wolf Conference at Chico Hot Springs, MT for his continuous hard work to enable wolves and people to coexist. The conference was sponsored by the Defenders of Wildlife, the Wolf Recovery Foundation and the National Park Service. Although IDFG was not in attendance at the conference, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to Rick for an excellent and professional job of wolf management over the years. Thanks Rick!