

Overwinter fawn survival

Fawn survival in the McCall-Weiser hunting units is at its highest level in a decade. Of the 35 radio-collared fawns in Units 22 & 32 only 3 have died, keeping the 2014 mortality rate in this part of the state at a low 9%. Deer populations around the state saw similarly high fawn survival, so hunters should find a healthy number of young bucks during the 2014 hunting season.



New ways of monitoring wolves

This summer, IDFG is undertaking new methods of monitoring wolves and wolf harvest throughout Idaho. In addition to radio-collaring wolves to monitor movements and reproductive success, we will also be monitoring harvest rates using DNA sampling and obtaining population data using trail cameras.

IDFG staff will conduct scat (poop) samples in selected GMUs across the state this summer. The University of Idaho Genetics lab will extract DNA and let us know how many individuals we sampled. When we collect DNA samples from harvested wolves, we can use both pieces of data to get an idea of overall harvest rates in those GMUs.

Areas of high intensity wolf use may be good candidates for trail cameras, which will give us an idea of how many individuals are in a given pack, as well as whether each pack produced pups. Documentation of breeding pairs is part of keeping Idaho wolves off the Endangered Species List, and we hope this will prove to be a more cost-effective way to do this.

Landowner-Sportsman Program

The Landowner Appreciation Program (LAP) is currently undergoing the negotiated rule making process. The regional meeting was held June 4 in Nampa and a good representation of both landowners and sportsman were there. Ideas generated from that meeting and similar meetings around the state are currently being synthesized. Keep watch in your local newspaper or our website for updates on this process.

Wildlife Diversity Program

Sandhill cranes in central Idaho are no surprise, but cranes from southern California wearing satellite transmitters on their legs sure are. Two such birds appeared near Cascade and Indian Valley this spring. They represent the northern-most occurrence of this Lower Colorado River Valley population, most of which breed in Nevada. Plans are underway to mark 4 more birds here on the breeding grounds in late July.

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