

WYOMING WOLF PROGRAM WEEKLY REPORT

To: Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado

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

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

WYOMING WOLF WEEKLY- August 9 through August 20, 2010

Web Address – USFWS reports (past weekly and annual reports) can be viewed at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov> . All weekly and annual reports are government property and can be used for any purpose. Please distribute as you see fit.

2009 Annual Report

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

Information about Oregon wolves can be viewed at: www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves

Litigation Status

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

Northern Rocky Mountains: The U.S. Federal District Court in Missoula, Montana, issued an order on August 5, 2010, in *Defenders of Wildlife et al. v. Salazar*, CV 09-77-M-DWM and *Greater Yellowstone Coalition v. Salazar*, CV 09-82-M-DWM, which vacated the delisting of the Northern Rocky Mountain (NRM) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the gray wolf. In compliance with this order, wolves are again considered endangered throughout the NRM DPS except where they are classified as experimental populations (southern Montana, Idaho south of Interstate 90, and all of Wyoming).

Monitoring

Wyoming: At least 25 wolf packs have denned in Wyoming in 2010. We anticipate more breeding pairs will be identified this summer as additional den/rendezvous sites are located and reproduction is confirmed. Reproducing packs in Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park (YNP), and Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) include:

Wyoming (outside national parks): 15 packs produced pups (Absaroka, Beartooth, Chagrin River, Dog Creek, East Fork, Elk Fork Creek, Greybull River, Green River, Hoodoo, Lava Mountain, Pacific Creek, Pinnacle Peak, South Fork, Sunlight, Owl Creek, and Wiggins Fork), plus 2 packs that are suspected to have denned (Rim and Washakie).

GTNP: 1 pack produced pups (Phantom Springs), plus 1 pack that is suspected to have denned (Huckleberry).

YNP: 9 packs produced pups out of 13 documented packs.

Figure 1. Wolf population growth in Wyoming (outside YNP) 2000-2009.

Table 1. Total wolf mortality in Wyoming (outside YNP) from 2003-2010.

Control

Wyoming: We continue to manage wolf population growth and wolf distribution to minimize chronic loss of livestock from wolves and promote wolf conservation by maintaining the Wyoming wolf population well above recovery objectives.

Sublette County: WY Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves from the Green River Pack killed 1 calf on 8/14/10, 2 calves on 8/15/10, and 1 calf on 8/17/10 in the Upper Green River drainage. The pack killed 2 additional calves earlier this summer. Wildlife Services is attempting to trap and radio collar ≥ 1 wolf. Control actions are ongoing to remove 3-4 wolves from the pack.

On 8/19/10, WGFD confirmed that a single wolf killed a yearling steer near Bondurant, WY.

Fremont County: WY Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves from the East Fork Pack killed 1 calf on 8/8/10, 1 calf on 8/14/10 and an adult cow on 8/15/10. On 8/20/10, Wildlife Services captured and radio collared an adult male and an adult female wolf. Control actions are ongoing to remove 2 wolves from the pack.

Table 2. Confirmed livestock depredations and control actions in WY from 2003 - 2010.

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

Research

Nothing to report at this time.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

Nothing to report at this time.

Outreach and Education

Montana: MTFWP is advertising for a wolf specialist position in Livingston, Montana. Please see the attached announcement for information and use the following link:

<https://svc.mt.gov/statejobsearch/listingdetails.aspx?id=3555>

Application deadline is 9-17-10.



FWP Wolf Specialist Vacancy Announcement.pdf

NRM: On August 20, 2010, the Defenders of Wildlife announced that they will end their wolf compensation program as of September 10, 2010. For more information, please view the following:

Further Information

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

For additional information, please contact:

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