

## WYOMING WOLF PROGRAM STATUS REPORT

To: Regional Director, Region 6, Denver, Colorado

From: Mike Jimenez, NRM Wolf Management & Science Coordinator, Jackson, WY

Subject: Status of Gray Wolf Management in Wyoming and the NRM – May/June 2012

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

### **2011 Annual Report**

The 2011 Interagency Annual Wolf (*Canis lupus*) Report for the NRM DPS is available on-line at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov> . The annual wolf report is composed of seven sections: 1) Montana; 2) Wyoming; 3) Idaho; 4) Washington; 5) Oregon; 6) USFWS overview of funding, litigation, contact information, and relevant publications; and 7) tables and figures of wolf population statistics and wolf depredations in the NRM DPS.

### **Information about wolves in other NRM states**

Idaho at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/wildlife/wolves/>.

Montana at: <http://fwp.mt.gov/fishAndWildlife/management/wolf/>

Oregon at: [www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wolves)

Washington at: [http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray\\_wolf/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/)

### **MONITORING** (WY outside YNP)

Eleven denning packs have been located as of June 29, 2012: 1) Absaroka, 2) Dog Creek, 3) Greybull River, 4) Hoodoo, 5) Horse Creek, 6) Huckleberry, 7) Lower Gros Ventre, 8) Phantom Springs, 9) Pinnacle Peak, 10) Upper Gros Ventre, and 11) Washakie.

Packs suspected to have denned include: 1) East Fork, 2) Ishawooa, 3) Spring Mountain, and 4) Green River.

Field crews are investigating the breeding status of other known packs including: Dell, Elk Fork, Gooseberry, Lava Mountain, Owl Creek, Pacific Creek, Pahaska, Prospect, Rim, Scab Creek, South Fork, and Sunlight,

Figure 1. Wolf population in WY: 2000 - 2011.

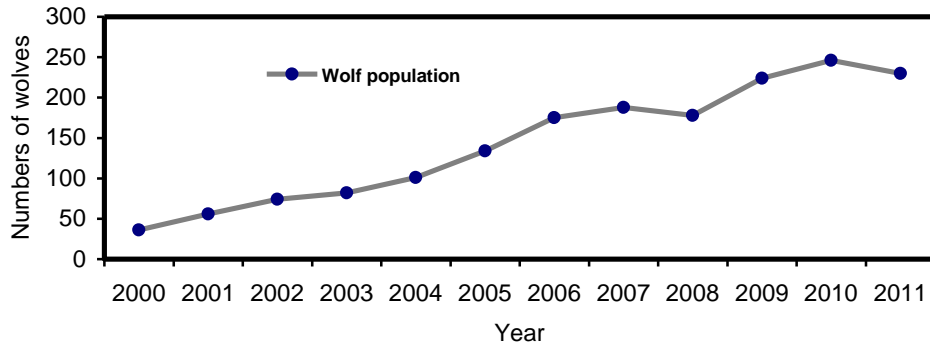


Table 1. Total wolf mortality in WY from 2003 through June 30, 2012.

Cause of Mortality	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Control	18	29	41	44	63	46	31	40	36	14	362
Natural	3	0	3	1	2	3	2	2	3	1	20
Under Investigation	5	1	5	8	5	8	0	8	2	2	44
Unknown	1	0	0	1	2	8	7	4	5	0	28
Other	0	6	2	5	3	14	0	4	5	4	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>497</b>

## LIVESTOCK CONFLICTS

### Lincoln County ( $\geq 16$ sheep killed)

- 5/6/12 - Five ewes and 5 lambs were killed by wolves near Fossil Butte. On 6/12/12, wolves killed 4 lambs. Control actions are ongoing to remove the wolf (wolves) in the area.
- 5/12/12 - One ewe and 1 lamb were killed by a lone wolf near Cokeville. Control actions are ongoing to remove the wolf.

### Park County ( $\geq 3$ cattle killed and $\geq 1$ calf injured)

- 5/14/12 - A calf was killed by wolves on private property. Two wolves were removed from the Ishawooa pack.
- 5/23/12 - Two calves were killed on private property. An adult female wolf was removed from the Clark pack on 6/29/12.
- 6/16/12 - One calf was injured by wolves from the Sunlight pack.

### Fremont County ( $\geq 3$ calves injured)

- 6/16/12 - Wolves from the Washakie pack injured a calf on private property. An adult female wolf was radio collared and released on-site. On 6/29/12, a second calf was injured. Control actions are ongoing.

- 6/16/12 - Wolves from the Spring Mountain pack injured a calf on a state grazing allotment.

Sublette County ( $\geq 2$  calves injured)

- 6/26/12 – Wolves injured 2 calves in the Upper Green River drainage. On 6/30/12, wolves killed 2 more calves. The Green River pack has a long history of chronic depredations every year. Control actions are ongoing to remove the pack.

Table 2: Confirmed livestock depredations in WY from 2003 through May 11, 2012.

Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Cattle	34	75	54	123	55	41	20	26	35	12 <sup>^</sup>	475
Sheep	7	18	27	38	16	26	195	33	30	16	406
Other	2	10	1	0	1	0	0	1	1*	0	16
Dogs	0	2	1	1	2	0	7	0	1	3**	17
Total	43	105	83	162	74	67	222	60	67	31	914

\* A horse broke its leg and had to be euthanized after being chased by wolves in a pasture on private property. Six additional horses, 3 calves, and 1 dog were injured in 2011.

\*\* One dog was also injured by wolves but survived.

<sup>^</sup> At least 7 additional calves were injured by wolves.

### Information/Outreach

On 6/15/12, Jimenez spoke to U.S. Forest Service staff from western states attending a workshop in YNP.

Scott Becker (USFWS wolf biologist stationed in Cody, WY) accepted a wolf biologist position with the Washington DFW and will be stationed in Wenatchee, WA. All those involved with wolf issues near Cody will miss his presence. We wish him the best with the new Washington wolf program.

### FURTHER INFORMATION

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

For additional information, please contact:

Mike Jimenez at (307)330-5631 or (307)733-7096 or [mike\\_jimenez@fws.gov](mailto:mike_jimenez@fws.gov)