

**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- Oct. 18 through Oct. 29, 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

Information about Washington wolves can be viewed at:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/gray_wolf/

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.

MONITORING

Wyoming: As of October 29, 2010, ≥ 28 wolf packs have denned throughout Wyoming (including all national parks) in 2010. Reproducing packs in Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park (YNP), and Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) include:

Wyoming (outside national parks): 17 BP = We estimate ≥ 31 packs in Wyoming (outside national parks) with 17 packs producing 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, Washakie, and Wiggins Fork).

YNP: 9 BP = 13 documented packs with 9 packs producing pups (Agate, Black Tail, Delta, Canyon, 636 group, Lamar, Madison, Molly, Bechler).

GTNP: 2 BP = 2 documented packs with 1 pack producing pups (Phantom Springs), plus 1 pack that is suspected to have denned (Huckleberry).

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

Cause of Mortality	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Depredation Control	18	29	41	44	63	46	31	36
Natural	3	0	3	1	2	3	2	1
Under Investigation	5	1	5	8	5	8	0	5
Unknown	1	0	0	1	2	8	7	2
Other	0	7	2	5	3	14	0	5
Total	27	37	51	59	75	79	40	49

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.

Park County: On 10/10/10, WY Wildlife Services confirmed that 1 calf had been killed by wolves from the Sunlight Pack on a grazing allotment west of Cody, WY. The Sunlight Pack consists of ≥ 12 wolves and has been involved in other cattle depredations this summer. Three wolves were removed on 10/20/10. On 10/23/10, the pack killed a yearling heifer. Control is ongoing.

Sublette County: On 10/27/10, WGFD investigated a dead steer calf on private property west of Pinedale and reported it as a confirmed wolf-kill. Based on tracks and other evidence at the depredation site it appeared that the calf was killed by a single wolf.

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

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Cattle	34	75	54	123	55	41	20	25**
Sheep	7	18	27	38	16	26	195	33
Dogs	0	2	1	1	2	0	7	0
Goats	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Horses	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1*
Wolves Controlled	18	29	41	44	63	46	31	36

*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.

** In addition to 22 confirmed cattle depredations (losses), 1 dead calf was recorded as a probable wolf-kill, and 7 calves & 1 steer were also injured by wolves.

Figure 1. Annual wolf population size and the number of cattle and sheep losses per year in Wyoming (outside YNP) from 2000-2010. Preliminary population estimates and livestock depredations counts for 2010 were recorded as of October 29, 2010. All additional livestock losses due to wolf depredations occurring between October 29, 2010 and December 31, 2010 will be reported in our Weekly Reports and our 2010 Annual Report.

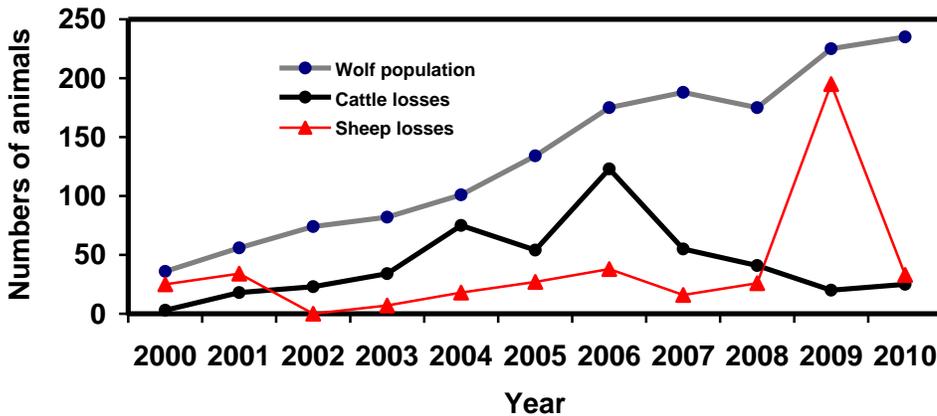
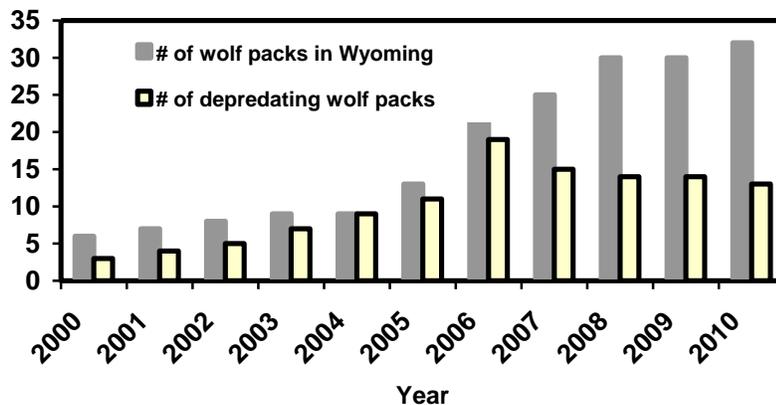


Figure 2. Annual number of wolf packs in Wyoming (outside YNP) and the number of wolf packs that are involved in at least 1 livestock depredation per given year. The following 13 packs have been involved in ≥ 1 livestock depredation in 2010: Sunlight, Rim, Lava Mountain, Wiggins Fork, Black Butte, Pacific Creek, Clark, Dempsy Basin, Dog Creek, Hoodoo, Green River, Absaroka, and East Fork.



RESEARCH

Nothing to report at this time.

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

Nothing to report at this time.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

On the 26th, Jimenez attended a ceremony in Washington, D.C. to accept a Certificate of Appreciate from the Dept. of Justice. He and Bangs were recognized for providing technical assistance to DOJ attorneys who have been legally defending DOI/USFWS decisions regarding wolves since 1994.

On the 26th, Bangs attended a USFWS biologist meeting in Denver to present information on wolf reintroduction, recovery, and management programs.

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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