



United States
Department of
Agriculture

August 20, 2010

Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Russ Holder, Acting Chief, Endangered Species
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Dear Russ:

Wildlife
Services

The Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) Program is requesting renewal of permit TE-081376-12 (copy enclosed) which expired 06/15/2010, to authorize WS involvement in specified activities that may constitute taking a gray wolf. In addition to having the permit renewed, we would like to propose the following changes:

Idaho State Office

9134 W Blackeagle Dr
Boise, ID 83709

(208) 378-5077
(208) 378-5349 Fax

Special Terms and Conditions Item 4.a. – We request that this Item be deleted and the permit be applicable only to wolf populations in Idaho north of Interstate 90 (endangered wolves) only. After discussing this proposal with Brian Kelly, Idaho State Supervisor, USFWS, Ecological Services, Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office, he agrees that an ESA Section 10 permit is not necessary for WS to take wolves while responding to wolf depredations or when involved with control activities and other wolf management actions in the nonessential, experimental population area in Idaho. The ESA Section 10(j) rules under which wolves were originally reintroduced (59 FR 60266-60281) and subsequent revisions in 2005 (70 FR 1286-1311) and again in 2008 (73 FR 4720-4736) provide adequate authority for our involvement in wolf damage management activities.

We contacted the WS program in Montana and they said they have never been issued a Section 10 permit for take of wolves in the nonessential, experimental area of Montana because the USFWS Region 6 office determined years ago that such a permit was not necessary. Their take of wolves in the Northwest Montana recovery area (where wolves are listed as endangered) has been addressed by amending the Section 10 permit issued to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department and adding the names of WS employees to the list of authorized personnel. In Idaho we would prefer to have permit TE-081376-12 renewed in lieu of being added to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game or USFWS's Section 10 permit.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 4.b. – Now that the USFWS Spokane Office is under the supervision of the Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office in Boise, ID, it's assumed that USFWS law enforcement and wolf coordinators from that Office or officials from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game would most likely be responsible for making the day-to-day decisions regarding lethal wolf damage management.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 5. – Four of the employees on our list of individuals



United States Department of Agriculture
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Safeguarding American Agriculture

currently covered under the authority of the subject permit are no longer working for us, so their names should be removed from the list. Those individuals are Craig Maycock, Kirk Tubbs, Mike Foster and James George.

Also, we would like to add 5 additional names to the list of individuals authorized to conduct activities under the authority of our permit:

Todd Sullivan – is our District Supervisor for the Eastern District in Pocatello. Todd has worked for us for about 2½ years and came from the WS' program in North Carolina where he was a District Supervisor. Todd received his Master's Degree in Wildlife Biology from Utah State University, is certified in the use of immobilization and euthanasia drugs and experienced in using foothold traps and other capture devices for large predators.

Alegra Galle – Alegra is the Urban Wildlife Specialist working out of our State office here in Boise for about 4 years. She received her Master's of Science degree in Zoology, with emphasis in fish and wildlife ecology, from North Dakota State University (b) (6). Alegra attended a wildlife immobilization class instructed by Mark Drew, DVM, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and received her certificate. She has experience trapping coyotes, foxes and other smaller carnivores. Beginning in the coming year, Alegra may become involved in assisting some of our other field employees during wolf control actions, primarily by providing occasional relief during extended trap-checking operations associated with some lethal control actions.

Scott Stopak – is our Wildlife Disease Biologist. He has a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Nebraska. Scott joined our program about 3 years ago. He previously worked for the WS program in Tennessee where he worked 13 years as an Assistant District Supervisor, Wildlife Biologist and Airport Wildlife Hazard Biologist. Scott has experience with most canine capture devices and immobilization procedures.

Jeremy Johnson – is a Wildlife Specialist working in southeast Idaho. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Science from Utah State University about 6 years ago. Jeremy has about 8 years experience working with WS in Wyoming and Idaho and experience using capture techniques on small and large carnivores and is certified in the use of immobilization drugs.

Randy Cole – is a Wildlife Specialist working in south-central Idaho and has been in this position for about 2 years. Randy transferred to us from the WS program in Oklahoma where he worked 16 years mainly trapping/snaring coyotes, feral swine and beaver. He has about 25 years total trapping and snaring experience. Randy has not received immobilization training yet and if he becomes involved with wolf damage management activities, we'll restrict his participation with wolf immobilization to assisting only.

With the above deletions and additions to our list of authorized individuals, the list should include: Jeff Ashmead, Keven Brown, Charles Carpenter, Randy Cole, Mark Collinge, Lee Czapenski, Joseph Dory, Jonathan Farr, Alegra Galle, George Graves, Todd Grimm, Douglas Hansen, Gregg Hansen, Jeremy Johnson, Tim Keogh, Samuel Kocherhans, A. J. Kriwox, Gary Looney, Justin Mann, Kelly Parker, Shane Robinson, Gary Rushane, Michael Santini, Eric Simonson, Scott Stopak, Todd Sullivan and Richard Williamson.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 6.a. – It's our understanding that IDFG has had authority to make determinations on implementation of control actions and disposition of problems wolves north of I-90. See the first paragraph in the enclosed Wolf/Livestock Depredation Protocol (4/25/06).

Special Terms and Conditions Item 6.b.ii. We request that these provisions be deleted since these refer to the nonessential, experimental population of wolves.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 6.c. The reference to "south Idaho" should be deleted.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 6.d. We request that these provisions be deleted since these refer to the nonessential, experimental population of wolves.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 6.f. There is a requirement that "Captured wolves that are subsequently relocated or released shall be permanently marked, measured and radio-collared." We ask that this condition be changed to read "*Captured wolves that are subsequently relocated or released shall be permanently marked, measured and radio-collared, if appropriate.*" The reason we ask for this change is to accommodate the release of pups that may be too small to be fitted with a radio collar.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 6.g. In this provision we suggest the language be changed to: "*Captured wolves determined to be unsuitable for release due to physical condition (lethally sick or injured) or repeated depredation offenses, shall be held until a determination is made by the IDFG or Service.*"

Special Terms and Conditions Item 7. – Reference to the nonessential, experimental population area should be deleted.

Special Terms and Conditions Item 8. – If there is a designated depository in the Spokane, WA, that location would be desirable since this permit would be applicable only to wolves north of I-90.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss our proposed changes, please call me at Area Code (208) 378-5077.

Portland office and expired 06/15/2010. However, during the interim, is there a plan to keep our employees on your permit?

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov





"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/05/2010 11:46 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject RE: B-477 Location

Thanks Todd.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 11:08 AM
To: Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; (b) (6) nezperce.org; Rachael,Jon
Subject: B-477 Location

We had an airplane fly this morning and they found B-477 (219.990) in the Thorn Creek area @ 43 58 00, 115 37 00.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Cooley,Hilary"
<hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov
>

08/08/2010 04:53 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: B-477 Location

Thanks for the location, Todd.

Hilary Cooley
Regional Wildlife Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
3101 S. Powerline Road
Nampa, ID 83686
208-559-5527
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thu 8/5/2010 11:08 AM
To: Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; (b) (6) @ezperce.org; Rachael,Jon
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Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



Ed_Bangs@fws.gov
08/09/2010 08:57 AM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov
cc Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov,
dskinner@fs.fed.us, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov,
bcc

Subject Re: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

History: This message has been forwarded.

Howdy Todd thanks for the heads-up. Everything is ID is still in Jon Rachael et al.s capable hands. The court relisting pretty much only means the fall hunts won't go on and that contorl in the Idaho panhandle [where wolves relisted as endangered] cna only be conducted by agency folks [no legal private defense of property.

ps Brian Kelly is the new FWS supervisor in Boise and has tons of wolf experience so you might wnat to add him to any email lists that go to FWS folks. thanks and good luck.

▼ Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

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Toscott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov,
jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov, michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov,
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov, jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov, Ed_Bangs@fws.g
Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, Steve_Duke@fws.gov, scott_kabasa@fws.gov,
scott_winkler@fws.gov, lnutt@fs.fed.us, wririe@fs.fed.us, dskinner@fs.fed.us

ccMark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov, Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov, (b) (6)ida

SubjectThree Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

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On Saturday, 8/7, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain near Lester Creek. WS confirmed another lamb killed on the same band on Sunday, 8/8.

Also on Sunday, WS confirmed that wolves killed 7 lambs and 4 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek near the Yuba River.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077



FAX: (208)378-5349



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/09/2010 09:46 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc "Commons Kemner, Michelle"
<michelle.commonson@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Nadeau, Steve"
<steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Gould, Jeff"
bcc
Subject RE: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

Todd,

For the House Mountain and Grouse Creek depredations please remove offending wolves. This is a 45 day control action starting 8/7/2010.

And just to reiterate, Blue Bunch control action is discontinued.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 8:36 AM
To: Reinecker, Scott; Nadeau, Steve; Rachael, Jon; Commons Kemner, Michelle; Cooley, Hilary; Husseman, Jason; Ed_Bangs@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; Inutt@fs.fed.us; wririe@fs.fed.us; dskinner@fs.fed.us
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)@da.net
Subject: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

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Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/09/2010 02:31 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations

History: This message has been replied to.

Hey Todd—I'm trying to put that wolf shot by the herder in a unit...is Grouse Creek the one that flows into the Johnson Creek near the Graham airstrip?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:54 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott; Nadeau,Steve; Commons Kemner,Michelle; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Inutt@fs.fed.us; wririe@fs.fed.us; aegnew@fs.fed.us; mlaverty@fs.fed.us; dskinner@fs.fed.us; Rohlman,Jeff; Hansen,Jerome; SKeafer@idl.idaho.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net
Subject: Four Wolf Depredations

I was out of the office yesterday and these have started to pile up a little.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Little Mud Creek SW of New Meadows. Possibly the Hornet Creek pack or the Lick Creek pack.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land on Squaw Creek 3-5 miles NW of Ola. Unknown wolves.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek. This is very near the depredation we confirmed in Hunter Creek last month. After WS confirmed this latest depredation and left the site, the herder shot and killed a wolf returning to the kill. I have no information about the age/sex of the wolf killed right now.

Yesterday, 8/4, WS confirmed that wolves killed 5 lambs and 3 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain. The wolves responsible for this depredation are probably the same wolves that were involved in the depredation on Lester Creek last month.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
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PHONE: (208)378-5077

FAX: (208)378-5349



"Husseman, Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/09/2010 02:42 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations

History:

✉ This message has been replied to.

Thanks—knowing the unit is the main thing, but would be interesting to know which Grouse Ck (there's about a million and one in my Topo software) if/when you get word back.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 2:40 PM

To: Husseman, Jason

Subject: RE: Four Wolf Depredations

I know it's in GMU 39, because that's one of the things I ask now when I hear about a depredation. I'd have to check to answer the other question.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Husseman, Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/09/2010 02:31 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations

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Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net
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Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



**George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/09/2010 04:04 PM

To Charles L Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA

bcc

Subject Fw: article

Chuck, I spoke with Carol Bannerman, LPA, at headquarters and asked me to remind our folks that we need to inform LPA before speaking with the media. The only exception, that I'm aware of, is Rick Williamson when he's responding to local media calls regarding wolf issues. Our regular LPA contact is Lyndsay Cole from Ft. Collins, but she's out on maternity leave for about another month. Carol is taking all of Lyndsay's calls. Her phone number is 301-734-6464.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/09/2010 03:57 PM -----

**Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA**

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA

cc

08/09/2010 03:24 PM

Subject article

http://www.magicvalley.com/news/local/twin-falls/article_266ee83e-1b6b-5d74-bfa6-385bbce21a8c.html



Janet L
Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA
08/10/2010 09:19 AM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc
Subject Request for Ed Bangs' Email

Thanks,

Can you please forward Paul Eggert and I the emial you mentioned just now - that Ed Bangs sent out last Friday stating that FWS determined the status of gray wolves to be what it was before the last Final Rule.

Janet L. Bucknall
Deputy Director for Wildlife Operations
USDA APHIS WS Operational Support Staff
4700 River Road, Unit 87
Riverdale, MD 20737
(301)734-5918
Cell: (b) (6)
(301)734-5157 (FAX)



Janet L
Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA
08/10/2010 10:31 AM

To "Booth, James" <JAMES.BOOTH@OGC.USDA.GOV>
cc Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Paul R
Eggert/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc

Subject Fw: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

Janet L. Bucknall
Deputy Director for Wildlife Operations
USDA APHIS WS Operational Support Staff
4700 River Road, Unit 87
Riverdale, MD 20737
(301)734-5918
Cell: (b) (6)
(301)734-5157 (FAX)

----- Forwarded by Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA on 08/10/2010 12:31 PM -----

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/10/2010 12:29 PM

To Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Paul R
Eggert/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Alton
Dunaway/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA

Subject Fw: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/10/2010 10:28 AM -----



Ed_Bangs@fws.gov
08/09/2010 08:57 AM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov
cc Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov,
dskinner@fs.fed.us, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov,
jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov,
jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov, Inutt@fs.fed.us, (b) (6)ida.net,
Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov,
michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov,
scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, scott_kabasa@fws.gov,
scott_winkler@fws.gov, steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov,
Steve_Duke@fws.gov, Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov,
wriie@fs.fed.us, Brian_T_Kelly@fws.gov

Subject Re: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

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▼ Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

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Toscott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov,
jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov, michelle.commonson@idfg.idaho.gov,
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov, jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov, Ed_Bangs@fws.g
Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, Steve_Duke@fws.gov, scott_kabasa@fws.gov,
scott_winkler@fws.gov, lnut@fs.fed.us, wririe@fs.fed.us, dskinner@fs.fed.us

ccMark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov, Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov,
(b) (6)ida.net

SubjectThree Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

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"Booth, James"
<JAMES.BOOTH@OGC.USDA.GOV>

08/10/2010 10:39 AM

To Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov

cc Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov, "Jabaily, Annalisa"
<Annalisa.Jabaily@OGC.USDA.GOV>, "Manoff, Tracey"
<TRACEY.MANOFF@OGC.USDA.GOV>

bcc

Subject RE: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered

History:

This message has been replied to.

Todd, Janet: Only the subject heading of Ed Bangs e-mail is below, nit the entire e-mail. Can you please send us the entire e-mail.

My e-mail address is below that you should use.

Thanks,

Jim

James A. Booth, Esq.
Deputy Assistant General Counsel,
Regulatory Div., OGC, USDA
(Tel) 202-720-3461
(Fax)202-690-4322
james.booth@ogc.usda.gov

From: Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 12:30 PM

To: Booth, James

Cc: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

Subject: Fw: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered

Janet L. Bucknall
Deputy Director for Wildlife Operations
USDA APHIS WS Operational Support Staff
4700 River Road, Unit 87
Riverdale, MD 20737
(301)734-5918
Cell: (b) (6)
(301)734-5157 (FAX)

----- Forwarded by Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA on 08/10/2010 12:30 PM -----

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/
USDA

08/10/2010 12:27
PM

To Paul R Eggert/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Alton
Dunaway/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA

Subject: Fw: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered or experimental. Please coordinate all activities that may involve take with USFWS. ...

Janet, this is the first e-mail I got from Ed Bangs. The subject line says it all. Can you forward this to Jim Booth? There are two in the APHIS directory and I don't want to send it to the wrong one. I've got one more e-mail from Ed Bangs that I'll forward to you after this one that says the only thing that really changed is no wolf hunting season.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/10/2010 10:15 AM -----

**Ed_Bangs@f
ws.gov**

08/05/2010
05:11 PM

To undisclosed-recipients;;
cc

Subject: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered or experimental. Please coordinate all activities that may involve take with USFWS. ...

(See attached file: wolf sj order.pdf)



"Booth, James"
<JAMES.BOOTH@OGC.USDA.GOV>

08/10/2010 10:49 AM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov,
George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov
cc "Jabaily, Annalisa" <Annalisa.Jabaily@OGC.USDA.GOV>,
Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov, "Manoff, Tracey"
<TRACEY.MANOFF@OGC.USDA.GOV>,
bcc

Subject RE: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered

History:  This message has been replied to.

Todd: thanks.

From Ed Bangs' e-mail it appear clears that his advice is that WS needs to confer with USFWS on all future wolf takes:

"Please coordinate all activites that may involve take with USFWS. ..."

Jim

James A. Booth, Esq.
Deputy Assistant General Counsel,
Regulatory Div., OGC, USDA
(Tel) 202-720-3461
(Fax)202-690-4322
james.booth@ogc.usda.gov

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 12:43 PM

To: Booth, James

Cc: Jabaily, Annalisa; Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov; Manoff, Tracey

Subject: RE: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered

That is the entire e-mail. He attached Judge Malloy's ruling and that's it.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Booth, James"
<JAMES.BOOTH@OGC.U
SDA.GOV>

08/10/2010 10:39 AM

To Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov
cc Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov, "Jabaily, Annalisa" <Annalisa.Jabaily@OGC.USDA.GOV>, "Manoff, Tracey" <TRACEY.MANOFF@OGC.USDA.GOV>
Subject RE: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered

Todd, Janet: Only the subject heading of Ed Bangs e-mail is below, nit the entire e-mail. Can you please send us the entire e-mail.

My e-mail address is below that you should use.

Thanks,

Jim

James A. Booth, Esq.
Deputy Assistant General Counsel,
Regulatory Div., OGC, USDA
(Tel) 202-720-3461
(Fax) 202-690-4322
james.booth@ogc.usda.gov

From: Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 12:30 PM

To: Booth, James

Cc: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

Subject: Fw: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered

Janet L. Bucknall
Deputy Director for Wildlife Operations
USDA APHIS WS Operational Support Staff
4700 River Road, Unit 87
Riverdale, MD 20737
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Cell: (301)461-3553
(301)734-5157 (FAX)

----- Forwarded by Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA on 08/10/2010 12:30 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/
USDA**

08/10/2010 12:27

PM

To: Paul R Eggert/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Alton
Dunaway/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA

cc: George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA

Subject: Fw: MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered or experimental. Please coordinate all activities that may involve take with USFWS. ...

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Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/10/2010 10:15 AM -----

**Ed_Bangs@f
ws.gov**

08/05/2010
05:11 PM

To undisclosed-recipients;;
cc

Subject MT court just ordered delisting rule vacated. Wolves throughout NRM are now protected by ESA just as they were before delisting was finalized May 4, 2009. Please be sure to treat all wolves- as is appropriate per their location- as either endangered or experimental. Please coordinate all activities that may involve take with USFWS. ...

(See attached file: wolf sj order.pdf)



"Jim Holyan"
<(b) (6) nezperce.org>
08/10/2010 10:50 AM

To "Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov"
<Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc (b) (6) <(b) (6) nezperce.org>, "Keith Lawrence"
<(b) (6) nezperce.org>, "Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>,
bcc

Subject Blue Bunch

History: This message has been replied to and forwarded.

Todd,

While working on updating mortality numbers, it came to my attention that B218 (Blue Bunch pack female) had been lethally controlled (see email below). I noticed that I was not included on the distribution list- was this an oversight? Your emails regarding WS' wolf control actions are important for us to keep track of wolf mortality records. Could you please include me in all future emails regarding WS' control actions and removals, as this helps me coordinate/manage data with IDFG. Also, were the pups removed prior to B218's death? If not, are there plans to have someone attempt to humanely take them? Thanks. jim

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 9:04 AM
To: Schmidt,Steve; Reinecker,Scott; Husseman,Jason; Rachael,Jon; Cooley,Hilary
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6) da.net
Subject: Wolf Takes

Some already know about these, but I need to catch everybody else up.

On Monday, 8/2, WS captured and killed a sub-adult, black female wolf at the Sand Creek depredation site from last week. The take was on private land 10-15 miles North of St. Anthony.

Also on 8/2, a WS aircrew shot and killed gray, adult female wolf, B-218, on Payette National Forest land on Council Mountain.

Both carcasses were left on site.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

(b)(6)
Ellis; oktrapper065@yahoo.com; Samuel.F.Kocherhans@aphis.usda.gov;
(b)(6)
santini@atcnet.net; scott.reineck@idfg.idaho.gov;
(b)(6)
sfwidaho@clearwire.net; slrob67@aol.com; stanboyd@earthlink.net;
stan.boyd@agri.idaho.gov; steve.schmidt@idfg.idaho.gov;
Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; Manoff,
Tracey
Subject: Re: Reinstated ESA Protection for Gray Wolves in Idaho

Good summary of the situation George. Thanks for providing this guidance to your employees.

Jeff Green, Director
Wildlife Services, Western Region
2150 Centre Ave., Bldg B
Ft. Collins, CO 80526
Office: 970-494-7453
Fax: 970-494-7455

"Great works are performed, not by strength, but by perseverance." Dr. Samuel Johnson

PERSEVERE

George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/U

To SDA

Todd 08/06/2010 09:48
L AM

Joseph

Charles L
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
A Dory/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Doug A
Hansen/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Gregg
Hansen/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
garylooney@turbonet.com, Justin S
Mann/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Kelly O
Parker/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
(b)(6)
slrob67@aol.com, Jeff M
Ashmead/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
(b)(6)
oktrapper065@yahoo.com, Jared L

Hedelius/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Atha
Kriwox/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

J

(b) (6) santini@atcnet.net,

(b) (6) lyneric@custertel.net., Eric L

Simonson/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

(b) (6) da.net, Keven G

Brown/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Leo N

Czapenski/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

(b) (6) H

Farr/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

(b) (6) se@yahoo.com, Samuel F

Kocherhans/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

(b) (6) @dcdi.net, George E

Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Mark D

Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA

cc

Kirk E Gustad/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

Jeffrey S

Green/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA,

tracey.manoff@ogc.usda.gov,

annalisa.jabaily@ogc.usda.gov,

james.booth@ogc.usda.gov,

sfwidaho@clearwire.net,

kathleen.trever@idfg.idaho.gov,

(b) (6) karen@idahocattle.org,

jboyle@house.idaho.gov (b) (6)

(b) (6) s@hotmail.com>,

(b) (6) @mudlake.net,

Dustin.Miller@osc.idaho.gov,

(b) (6) ad@msn.com,

(b) (6) @earthlink.net,

stan.boyd@agri.idaho.gov, David J

Hayes/MT/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Alton

Dunaway/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Bill

Clay/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
Brian_T_Kelly@fws.gov,
jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov,
(b) (6) nezperce.org,
brian.oakey@agri.idaho.gov,
scott.reineck@idfg.idaho.gov,
jerome.hansen@idfg.idaho.gov,
chip.corsi@idfg.idaho.gov,
steve.schmidt@idfg.idaho.gov,
mark.gamblin@idfg.idaho.gov,
dave.cadwallader@idfg.idaho.gov,
jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov,
jim.lukens@idfg.idaho.gov, John E
Steuber/MT/APHIS/USDA@USDA

Subject

Gray

Reinstated ESA Protection for
Wolves in Idaho

Chuck et al.,

In yesterday's summary judgement from Montana's US District Court, Judge Donald Molloy, reinstated Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection for gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountain Distinct Population Segment. That order rescinds the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) April 2, 2009 delisting rules for gray wolves in Idaho and Montana. Attached is a copy of the Judge's decision. Wolves in Idaho have returned to a threatened status, but are still considered a nonessential, experiment population in central Idaho, and wolves in Idaho's panhandle, north of Interstate 90 have been returned to Endangered status.

We will continue responding to requests for wolf depredation assistance. Our activities are in compliance with NEPA since we'll be working under the USFWS's 1994 Wolf EIS and subsequent Environmental Assessments (EAs), our 2 predator damage management EAs and several WS' Wolf Damage Management Categorical Exclusions signed by the Western Regional Office this spring.

We will need to inquire with the US Fish and Wildlife Service permitting office in Portland, OR about reinstating our ESA Section 10 permit which allows us to kill wolves in the central Idaho reintroduction area and wolves north of I-90. Even though Ed Bangs, USFWS, determined several years ago that Idaho WS didn't need a Section 10 permit to take wolves in the nonessential, experimental area, having a permit just makes us more defensible.

This ruling will have some additional minor impacts on how WS in Idaho will respond to requests for wolf damage management. Our wolf depredation activities are now governed by the 10j rules and guidelines that were established by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 1994 under which wolves were originally reintroduced and were revised in 2005 and again in 2008.

We will continue working closely with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

(IDFG) in investigating and addressing wolf depredation on livestock and other domestic animals. We still must receive authorization from IDFG before implementing lethal control, but we can immediately set traps where we confirm wolf predation. Some other changes we will have to incorporate as compared to post-delisting are: 1) we are restricted to the "45-day rule" in initiating and conducting depredation control activities after we confirm wolf predation, 2) must implement a 24-hr. trap check for all foothold traps set for wolves, 3) must implement a 24-hr. check on all foothold traps set for coyotes, bobcats, mtn. lions in occupied gray wolf range, unless #3 or smaller soft-catch traps are used, 4) we can not set M-44s in areas identified by the IDFG or Nez Perce Tribe as gray wolf territories, 5) we must use break-away snares in occupied gray wolf range unless set for lethal take of wolves, and 6) all wolf takes must be reported to Todd Grimm with 24 hr. so he can inform IDFG.

We don't know how this decision will impact the lawsuit filed in Idaho US District Court by Western Watersheds Project and the Wolf Recovery Foundation. Jim Booth, Tracey Manoff and Lisa Jabaily will have to discuss this issue with Mark. However, it appears that we might have an opportunity here to file a motion for dismissal on Count 2 of the lawsuit

(that portion of the complaint that affects Idaho WS). We will continue

with the process of completing our statewide Wolf Damage Management EA which was released for a 30-day public comment period Monday of this week.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6) [REDACTED]
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

(See attached file: 10-08-05-doc-163-sj-order.pdf)

**Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA**
08/10/2010 04:15 PM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
bcc

Subject Re: NUMBERS 

History:  This message has been replied to.

That's good information Todd. Thank you. I may need to come and get actual numbers associated with the graphs.

Carol

Todd K Grimm---08/10/2010 02:48:48 PM---See if this makes sense to you. Let me know if you

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/10/2010 02:48 PM

To Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc

Subject NUMBERS

See if this makes sense to you. Let me know if you need more, or different information.

[attachment "Wolf Data 2005 - 2010.doc" deleted by Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA]

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/10/2010 04:17 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc "Nadeau,Steve" <steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"Commons Kemner,Michelle"

<michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Struthers,Jennifer"
bcc

Subject RE: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola

Todd,

I want to amend the current control action from remove two wolves to remove offending wolves. This is a 45 day control action. Sutton has been issued a kill permit for two. When Andolin request a kill permit it will mirror the amended control order. Thanks, STR

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 4:07 PM

To: Reinecker,Scott; Husseman,Jason; Rachael,Jon; Cooley,Hilary; Nadeau,Steve; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; Inutt@fs.fed.us; wririe@fs.fed.us

Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;

Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net

Subject: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola

Today, WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow and a calf on private land on Squaw Creek, just East of Ola. This is about 6 miles from the last depredation near Ola.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA**
08/11/2010 08:04 AM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
bcc
Subject Re: NUMBERS 

I don't think I will EVER be technologically adept. Thank you Todd.

Carol

Todd K Grimm---08/11/2010 09:48:42 AM---You can just click on the graph and you can get the

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/11/2010 09:48 AM

To Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
Subject Re: NUMBERS 

You can just click on the graph and you can get the data table and see the numbers.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA

**Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA**
08/10/2010 04:15 PM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
Subject Re: NUMBERS 

That's good information Todd. Thank you. I may need to come and get actual numbers associated with the graphs.

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Todd K Grimm---08/10/2010 02:48:48 PM---See if this makes sense to you. Let me know if you



Steve_Duke@fws.gov
08/11/2010 12:23 PM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov
cc
bcc

Subject Re: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

History: This message has been replied to.

Hi Todd,

Thanks for the update. Question: Do you mean House Mountain sw of Prairie? I could not locate Lester Creek on the BNF map.

Steve

Stephen D. Duke
Program Manager - Classification, Recovery and Conservation Partnerships
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
1387 South Vinnell Way, Suite 368
Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 378-5345
▼ Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

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Toscott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov,
jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov, hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov,
Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, Steve_Duke@fws.gov, scott_kabasa@fws.gov,
scott_winkler@fws.gov

ccMark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov, Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov,
(b) (6)ida.net

SubjectTake of Wolf on House Mountain

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This morning, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the House Mountain depredation site near Lester Creek on Boise NF land. The carcass was left at the site, the skull was destroyed and tissue samples were collected. WS also confirmed that another lamb was killed in the depredation that occurred this past weekend.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077



FAX: (208)378-5349



George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA

08/11/2010 12:28 PM

To james.booth@ogc.usda.gov, tracey.manoff@ogc.usda.gov,
annalisa.Jabaily@ogc.usda.gov
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Janet L
Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Alton
Dunaway/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K

bcc

Subject Wolf Fact Sheet

Jim et al.,

Todd Grimm provided the below website address for a wolf fact sheet prepared by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) which addresses wolf management in Idaho following Judge Molloy's order reinstating ESA protection for wolves in the NRM DPS. The fact sheet provides some very specific information on how predation to livestock will be addressed. If you have any questions about the fact sheet, you can contact Jon Rachael, Wildlife Manager, IDFG, at 208-287-2795 (office) or 208-914-4316 (cell).

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

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

Relisted: Wolf Fact Sheet - August 10, 2010

Wolves are Relisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains

- A U.S. District Court decision reinstated federal Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies on August 5.
- Idaho Fish and Game is reviewing the ruling to determine our options.
- Federal laws and regulations apply statewide.

Legal Status of Wolves in Idaho

- Wolves Idaho, north of Interstate 90, are reclassified as endangered and wolves south of I-90 are reclassified as an experimental, nonessential population under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Federal laws and regulations guide the actions of Idaho residents and Idaho Fish and Game wolf management activities.

Wolf Management in Idaho

- Fish and Game will retain the authority to manage wolves according to the federal regulations while federal and state efforts to delist wolves resume.
- An interagency cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants authority to Fish and Game to carry out as much of Idaho's wolf management plan as allowed by federal regulations.
- Fish and Game continues to be the lead agency for wolf monitoring, public outreach, research and resolving wolf-livestock conflicts.
- The state program will still be funded by federal dollars.

Wolves, Livestock and Pets

- Federal regulations guide how Fish and Game and Idaho residents can resolve wolf-livestock interactions in each of the two interim management areas.
- North of Interstate 90, where wolves are classified as endangered, agency management decisions will be more conservative. Livestock owners or state residents are not allowed to haze or harass wolves or kill wolves seen attacking livestock or domestic dogs.
- South of I-90 where wolves are classified as experimental, agency management decisions are guided by rules in section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. Livestock owners, their immediate family members, or their employees can haze or harass wolves or kill wolves they see actively chasing, molesting or harassing livestock, herding or guarding animals, or domestic dogs on public or private lands. The incident must be reported to Idaho Fish and Game within 24 hours.
- USDA Wildlife Services agents investigate reports of injured or dead livestock and carry out Fish and Game decisions on control actions if wolf predation is confirmed.

Wolves and Human Safety

- Federal regulations allow anyone to kill a wolf in self defense or defense of others. Report the incident to Fish and Game within 24 hours.

Wolf Hunting Season

- Federal regulations do not allow public hunting or trapping of wolves.
- Idaho Fish and Game and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission had not yet set a hunting season for the fall of 2010. With the change in legal status, no hunting season is planned this year. Fish and Game is pursuing options to restore wolf hunting as soon as possible.

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This morning, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the House Mountain depredation site near Lester Creek on Boise NF land. The carcass was left at the site, the skull was destroyed and tissue samples were collected. WS also confirmed that another lamb was killed in the depredation that occurred this past weekend.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077



FAX: (208)378-5349

(See attached file: wolf sj order.pdf)





"Lukens,Jim"
<jim.lukens@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/12/2010 09:17 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: We're flying today

Good, good luck!

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 12, 2010 8:31 AM

To: Lukens,Jim

Subject: We're flying today

Weather has prevented us from getting up there any earlier, but we've got a plane in the Salmon area today and we're going to give it one last try.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/12/2010 10:10 AM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc David J Hayes/MT/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc
Subject Fw: Wolf EA Public Comment Email Inbox Access

A couple dozen comments so far on the wolf EA, but nothing substantive. Most appear to be from out of state/out of country.

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/12/2010 09:09 AM -----



**George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA**
07/29/2010 12:15 PM

To Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
Subject Wolf EA Public Comment Email Inbox Access

Environmental Assessment for Wolf Damage Management in Idaho - 

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/12/2010 12:46 PM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Charles L
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
cc
bcc
Subject More outfitter feedback on impacts of wolves on Idaho
moose

FYI

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/12/2010 11:46 AM -----



<jhagedorn@idahoforwildlife.com>

08/04/2010 07:59 AM

Please respond to
<jhagedorn@idahoforwildlife.com>

To "Jim and Barbara Hagedorn" <jhag1@verizon.net>
cc "Cal Groen" <cgroen@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject Fw: just a note from some one that spends 200 days in the
mountians.

Why can't our IDFG employees see this. Are they blind to the problem or do they just want to ignore it as they don't want to find and publish the answer. Our State Legislators, sportsmen and women agreed after much debate and discussion and compromise that we could live with 150 to 200 wolves. The Federal Government and the enviro community agreed to this. What the hell has happened. Who cheated? Who lied? We in the sporting industry have kept our word how about the rest???????????????

Jim Hagedorn

----- Original Message -----

From: Mile High Outfitters: Travis and Brenda Bullock

To: jhagedorn@idahoforwildlife.com

Sent: Thursday, July 29, 2010 7:37 AM

Subject: Re: just a note from some one that spends 200 days in the mountians.

Jim, I also agree with Lynn. Our moose population is extinct but no one, including fish and game or defenders of wildlife, wants to say anything about it. Our elk herds are hurting but the moose are past the point of ever being helped unless we reintroduce them. Sadly, reintroduction of moose will not work unless we reduce the number of wolves. Trav

Travis and Brenda Bullock
Mile High Outfitters
PO Box 1189
Challis, Idaho 83226
208-879-4500
www.milehighoutfitters.com

----- Original Message -----

From: jhagedorn@idahoforwildlife.com

To: Jim and Barbara Hagedorn

Sent: Wednesday, July 28, 2010 9:27 PM

Subject: just a note from some one that spends 200 days in the mountians.

Jim, please don't leave the total destruction of the moose population out of this discussion. This might be one where everyone will agree that moose have been almost totally obliterated. In some areas it may be too late for saving them. We have been here 32 years and now haven't seen a moose in two years and our area isn't even one of the most impacted by wolves!

(b) (6)

Shepp Ranch Outfitters LLC

HC 83 Box 8000

Cascade, ID 83611-8000

Jim Hagedorn

Idaho For Wildlife

Phone: 2088833423



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/13/2010 08:56 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc "Rohlman, Jeff" <jeff.rohman@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Gould, Jeff" <jeff.gould@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Cooley, Hilary" <hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Commons"
bcc

Subject RE: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Josephine Lake

Todd, you are authorized to remove two but release collared wolves. This is a 45 day control action ending Sept 27, 2010. STR

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 8:44 AM
To: Reinecker, Scott; Rachael, Jon; Nadeau, Steve; Commons Kemner, Michelle; Rohlman, Jeff; abaumer@fs.fed.us; aeegnew@fs.fed.us; mlaverty@fs.fed.us; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net
Subject: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Josephine Lake

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a ewe and probably killed a lamb on a Payette NF grazing allotment near Josephine Lake NE of McCall. We believe the Bear Pete pack was involved.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Lisa M. Nutt
Forest Wildlife Biologist, Boise NF
1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200
Boise, Idaho 83709

1-208-373-4154

----- Forwarded by Lisa Nutt/R4/USDAFS on 08/13/2010 07:29 AM -----

Todd.K.Grimm
@aphis.usda.gov

08/05/2010
08:53 AM

To scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov, michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov,
jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov, jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov, hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov, lnutt@fs.fed.us,
wriirie@fs.fed.us, aeegnew@fs.fed.us, mlaverty@fs.fed.us, dskinner@fs.fed.us, jeff.rohman@idfg.idaho.gov,
jerome.hansen@idfg.idaho.gov, SKeafer@idl.idaho.gov
cc Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov, Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov,
Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov, (b) (6)@da.net
Subjec Four Wolf Depredations
t

I was out of the office yesterday and these have started to pile up a little.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Little Mud Creek SW of New Meadows. Possibly the Hornet Creek pack or the Lick Creek pack.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land on Squaw Creek 3-5 miles NW of Ola. Unknown wolves.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek. This is very near the depredation we confirmed in Hunter Creek last month. After WS confirmed this latest depredation and left the site, the herder shot and killed a wolf returning to the kill. I have no information about the age/sex of the wolf killed right now.

Yesterday, 8/4, WS confirmed that wolves killed 5 lambs and 3 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain. The wolves responsible for this depredation are probably the same wolves that were involved in the depredation on Lester Creek last month.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Compton,Brad"
<brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov
v>

08/16/2010 10:18 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject Use of Aircraft

History:

✉ This message has been replied to.

Todd,

Senator Pierce asked me to inquire whether WS was planning to use the airplane to facilitate implementation of the latest kill order on West Mountain?

Bradley B. Compton
Assistant Chief, Wildlife
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 25, 600 S. Walnut Street
Boise, Idaho 83707
208.334.2920
brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov



'(b) (6)
'(b) (6) nezperce.org
08/16/2010 11:39 AM

To "Rachael,Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"jason.hussman@idfg.idaho.gov"
<jason.hussman@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Lucid,Michael"

cc

bcc

Subject updated flight sheet

Been a long time since I've sent one of these out. Hopefully it is accurate up through the most recent captures (next new wolf will be B499) and latest numbered mortality was B218. It also reflects recaptures of B397 (now Deception; though I don't know it's freq. or the other wolf caught and collared in that pack) and B145 (Moyer Basin). On the '(b) (6)' attachment, be advised that the only tab that is updated is the actual '(b) (6)' one. In the future you will probably only receive the flight sheet pertinent to your area, though if you'd like the others I can get them to you also. If you find errors, omissions, etc., please let me know so I can make corrections to the master version. Sorry if you've received this a second time; my fingers may not have worked properly before. jim



E Idaho_16AUg10.xls Husseman_16Aug10.xls Mack_Holyan_16Aug10.xls Nampa_16AUg10.xls Panhandle_16AUg10.xls

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|-----------------------|------------|---------|----------|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | BISHOP MT. PACK | B-485- | 9.325 | | | | |
| | BISCUIT BASIN PACK | B-392-M GR | 9.980 | | | | |
| | SAGE CK. PACK | GRAY-F | 216.570 | | | | |
| | CHAGRIN CK. PACK | #549-F GR | 217.528 | | | | |
| | BITCH CREEK PACK | | | | | | |
| | GIBBON PACK | #688-M GR | 216.690 | | | | |
| | | #768-F GR | 217.850 | | | | |
| | | #769-M GR | 216.180 | | | | |

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|-----------------------------|--|--|----------|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | LONERS & OTHER WOLVES | B-288-F GR | 8.230 | | | | |
| | | Salmon R. N of Riggins | | | | | |
| | | B-366-F BL | 8.485 | | | | |
| | | lower Selway River | | | | | |
| | | B-429-F BL | 151.135 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-447-F GR | 8.640 | | | | |
| | | B-450-M GR | 8.860 | | | | |
| | | near Atlanta | | | | | |
| | | B-470-M GR | 9.597 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-477-M GR | 9.990 | | | | |
| | Smith's Prairie area | | | | | | |
| | SW47-F GR | 216.670 | | | | | |
| | SW20-? ?? | 220.282 | on mortality near summit of Nez Perce Peak, ID in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-162-M BL | 8.235 | | | | |
| | | B-164-M BL | 8.170 | | | | |
| | | B-166-F GR | 8.700(.706) | | | | |
| | | Red River, missing since 7/7/05 | | | | | |
| | | B-170-F GR | 8.770 | | | | |
| | | High Prairie, missing since 2/27/08 | | | | | |
| | | B-173-M GR | 8.210 | | | | |
| | | unknown, missing since 11/7/03 | | | | | |
| | | B-177-M GR | 8.465 | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt., missing since 3/7/05 | | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-184-M GR | 8.950 | | | | |
| | | Hazard Lk., missing since 4/23/04 | | | | | |
| | | B-186-F GR | 8.135 | | | | |
| | | Steel Mt., last located 3/7/05 | | | | | |
| | | B-195-M GR | 8.830 | | | | |
| | | Castle Pk., missing since 3/3/04 | | | | | |
| | | B-200-M GR | 8.350 | | | | |
| | | Florence wolf, missing since Mar. 08 | | | | | |
| | | B-207-F GR | 8.955 | | | | |
| | | Eldorado Ck. terr. July 2008 | | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-210-M GR | 8.450 | | | | |
| | | Hemlock Ridge wolf | | | | | |
| | | B-212-F GR | 8.540 | | | | |
| | | along St. Joe River, missing since 10/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-223-M BL | 8.025 | | | | |
| | | Jureano Mt., missing since 3/15/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-232-F GR | 8.325 | | | | |
| | | Lochsa wolf, missing since 12/2006 | | | | | |
| | | B-240-M GR | 8.500 | | | | |
| | | Y. Fork, missing since 12/11/07 | | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-246-M BL | 8.670 | | | | |
| | | Orphan wolf, missing since 3/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-247-M GR | 8.100 | | | | |
| | | Bimerick Mdw., missing since 5/2007 | | | | | |

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|---|----|-------------------|
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-257-F GR | 8.495 | | | | |
| | | Carey Dome, missing since 8/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-259-M GR | 8.180 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-261-M BL | 8.490 | | | | |
| | | Packer John, missing since 4/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-265-M GR | 8.815 | | | | |
| | | Timberline, missing since 3/19/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-266-F GR | 8.935 | | on mortality Selway-Bitterroot/Wideness | | |
| | | Timberline wolf, | | | | | |
| | B-272-M GR | 8.710 | | | | | |
| | Lemhi, missing since 10/25/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-275-F BL | 8.810 | | | | | |
| | E'quake Basin wolf, missing since 3/2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-285-M GR | 8.455 | | | | | |
| | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | B-287-F GR | 8.265 | | | | | |
| | Monumental Ck. wolf, missing since 12/2007 | | | | | | |
| | B-299-M GR | 8.875 | | | | | |
| | Timberline wolf, missing since 9/06 | | | | | | |
| | B-324-F GR | 9.410 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | Moyer Basin, missing since 6/22/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-326-F BL | 8.945 | | | | | |
| | Phantom Hill, missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-329-M GR | 8.270 | | | | | |
| | Hemlock Ridge, missing since 2/2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-346-F BL | 8.910 (907) | | | | | |
| | Coolwater Ridge, missing since 8/10/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-373-M BL | 8.280 | | | | | |
| | Little Anderson, missing since 10/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-375-M GR | 9.357 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | Calderwood, missing since 10/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-377-M GR | 8.690 | | | | | |
| | Bishop Mt., missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-380-F BL | 9.058 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | B-385-M GR | 9.205 | | | | | |
| | Wapiti, missing since 9/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-399-F GR | 9.345 | | | | | |
| | Bishop Mt., missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-406-F GR | 9.107 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | Scott Mt., missing since 5/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-408-M GR | 8.595 | | | | | |
| | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | B-427-F BL | 151.339 (A) | | | | | |
| | B-428-M GR | 150.069 (A) | | | | | |
| | 213F GR | 216.920 | | | | | |
| | Bishop Mt. | | | | | | |

ARGOS satellite radiocollars (A) duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700 during winter
 VHF beacon audible from 0900 - 1800 during summer (after daylight savings time switch)

Univ. of MT (GPS) radiocollar duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700
 when in mortality mode maintains programmed duty cycle

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| | GALENA PACK | | | | | | |
| | BASIN BUTTE PACK | | | | | | |
| | YANKEE FORK PACK | | | | | | |
| | APAREJO PACK | B-269-F GR B-481-F WH | 8.775 9.185 | | | | |
| | MAHONEY PACK | B-332-M GR B-480-M GR | 8.825 9.699 (A) | | | | |
| | BUFFALO RIDGE PACK | B-492-F BL | 8.075 | | | | |
| | HUGHES CK. PACK | | | | | | |
| | MORGAN CK. PACK | | | | | | |
| | MOYER BASIN PACK | B-145-F GR B-471-F GR | 8.725 8.570 | | | | |
| | JUREANO MT. PACK | B-486-M GR B-487-F BL | 9.235 8.860 | | | | |
| | HOODOO PACK | | | | | | |
| | BALDY MT. PACK | B-482-F GR | 8.795 | | | | |
| | LEMHI PACK | | | | | | |
| | GIBBON PACK | #688-M GR #768-F GR #769-M GR | 216.690 217.850 216.180 | | | | |

Univ. of MT (GPS) radiocollar duty cycle:

VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700

when in mortality mode maintains programmed duty cycle

IDFG ARGOS radiocollar duty cycle:

VHF beacon audible from 1000-1600 (mountain savings time); 1100-1700 (mountain daylight time)

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | LONERS & OTHER WOLVES | B-288-F GR | 8.230 | | | | |
| | | Samon R. N of Higgins | | | | | |
| | | B-356-F BL | 8.485 | | | | |
| | | lower Selway River | | | | | |
| | | B-429-F BL | 151.138 (A) | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | B-447-F GR | 8.640 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | B-450-M GR | 8.850 | | | | |
| | | near Atlanta | | | | | |
| | B-470-M GR | 9.597 (A) | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | B-477-M GR | 9.890 | | | | | |
| | Smith's Prairie area | | | | | | |
| | SW47-F GR | 216.670 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | SW20-7 ?? | 220.282 | on mortality near summit of Nez Perce Peak, ID in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-162-M BL | 8.235 | | | | |
| | | B-164-M BL | 8.170 | | | | |
| | | B-166-F GR | 8.700(.706) | | | | |
| | | Red River; missing since 7/7/05 | | | | | |
| | | B-170-F GR | 8.770 | | | | |
| | | High Prairie; missing since 2/27/08 | | | | | |
| | | B-173-M GR | 8.210 | | | | |
| | | unknown; missing since 11/7/03 | | | | | |
| | | B-177-M GR | 8.465 | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt.; missing since 3/7/05 | | | | | |
| | B-184-M GR | 8.950 | | | | | |
| | Hazard Lk.; missing since 4/23/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-186-F GR | 8.135 | | | | | |
| | Steel Mt.; last located 3/7/05 | | | | | | |
| | B-195-M GR | 8.830 | | | | | |
| | Castle Pk.; missing since 3/3/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-200-M GR | 8.350 | | | | | |
| | Florence wolf; missing since Mar. 08 | | | | | | |
| | B-207-F GR | 8.955 | | | | | |
| | Eldorado Ck. terr. July 2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-210-M GR | 8.450 | | | | | |
| | Hemlock Ridge wolf | | | | | | |
| | B-212-F GR | 8.540 | | | | | |
| | along St. Joe River; missing since 10/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-223-M BL | 8.025 | | | | | |
| | Jureano Mt.; missing since 3/15/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-232-F GR | 8.325 | | | | | |
| | Lochea wolf; missing since 12/2006 | | | | | | |
| | B-240-M GR | 8.500 | | | | | |
| | Y. Fork; missing since 12/11/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-246-M BL | 8.670 | | | | | |
| | Orphan wolf; missing since 3/06 | | | | | | |
| | B-247-M GR | 8.100 | | | | | |
| | Bimerick Mdw.; missing since 5/2007 | | | | | | |

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--|-----------------------------------|-------|----------|---|----|-------------------|
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-257-F GR | 8.495 | | | | |
| | | Carey Dome, missing since 8/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-259-M GR | 8.180 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-261-M BL | 8.490 | | | | |
| | | Packer John, missing since 4/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-265-M GR | 8.815 | | | | |
| | | Timberline, missing since 3/19/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-266-F GR | 8.935 | | on mortality Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | | |
| | | Timberline wolf, | | | | | |
| | B-272-M GR | 8.710 | | | | | |
| | Lemhi, missing since 10/25/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-275-F BL | 8.810 | | | | | |
| | Equake Basin wolf, missing since 3/2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-285-M GR | 8.455 | | | | | |
| | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | B-287-F GR | 8.265 | | | | | |
| | Monumental Ck. wolf, missing since 12/2007 | | | | | | |
| | B-299-M GR | 8.875 | | | | | |
| | Timberline wolf, missing since 9/06 | | | | | | |
| | B-324-F GR | 9.410 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | Moyer Basin, missing since 6/22/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-326-F BL | 8.945 | | | | | |
| | Phantom Hill, missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-329-M GR | 8.270 | | | | | |
| | Hemlock Ridge, missing since 2/2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-346-F BL | 8.910 (907) | | | | | |
| | Coolwater Ridge, missing since 8/10/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-373-M BL | 8.280 | | | | | |
| | Little Anderson, missing since 10/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-375-M GR | 9.357 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | Calderwood, missing since 10/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-377-M GR | 8.690 | | | | | |
| | Bishop Mt., missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-380-F BL | 9.058 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | B-385-M GR | 9.205 | | | | | |
| | Wapiti, missing since 9/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-399-F GR | 9.345 | | | | | |
| | Bishop Mt., missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-406-F GR | 9.107 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | Scott Mt., missing since 5/09 | | | | | | |
| | B-408-M GR | 8.595 | | | | | |
| | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | B-427-F BL | 151.339 (A) | | | | | |
| | B-428-M GR | 150.069 (A) | | | | | |
| | 213F GR | 216.920 | | | | | |
| | Bishop Mt. | | | | | | |

ARGOS satellite radiocollars (A) duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700 during winter
 VHF beacon audible from 0900 - 1800 during summer (after daylight savings time switch)

Univ. of MT (GPS) radiocollar duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700
 when in mortality mode maintains programmed duty cycle

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: PILOT: SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO FLIGHT NO:
 DURATION: OBSERVER: SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP DATE ENTERED:
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER WGS84 RECORD NO:

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|-----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | ELDORADO CK. PACK | B-281-M GR | 8.240 | | | | |
| | MUSSELSHELL PACK | B-360-F GR | 8.085 | | | | |
| | HEMLOCK RIDGE PACK | B-493-M GR | 8.325 (A) | | | | |
| | GRANDAD PACK | B-458-F GR | 8.050 | | | | |
| | | B-496-M GR | 8.135 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-497-F GR | 9.050 | | | | |
| | BIMERICK | B-289-F GR | 8.550 | | | | |
| | MDWS. PACK | B-398-F GR | 8.285 | | | | |
| | KELLY CK. PACK | | | | | | |
| | LOCHSA PACK | B-345-F GR | 8.300 (298) | | | | |
| | CACHE CK. PACK | B-348-M BL | 9.100 | | | | |
| | EAGLE MOUNTAIN PACK | | | | | | |
| | SPIRIT RIDGE PACK | | | | | | |
| | TAHOE SUSP. PACK | B-342-F BL | 8.345 | | | | |
| | EARTHQUAKE BASIN PACK | B-274-F BL | 8.275 | | | | |
| | | B-489-F BL | 8.170 (A) | | | | |
| | RED RIVER PACK | | | | | | |
| | SELWAY PACK | | | | | | |
| | STOLLE MDWS. PACK | | | | | | |
| | GOLDEN CREEK PACK | B-319-M GR | 8.420 | malfunction | | | |
| | MONUMENTAL CK. PACK | B-478-M GR | 8.735 | | | | |
| | | B-479-F WH | 8.499 (A) | | | | |
| | SLEEPY HOLLOW PACK | | | | | | |
| | BLUE BUNCH PACK | | | | | | |
| | JERSEY CREEK PACK | | | | | | |
| | HORNET CK. PACK | B-290-F BL | 8.685 | | | | |
| | SEVEN DEVILS PACK | B-288-F GR | 8.230 | | | | |
| | LICK CK. PACK | | | | | | |
| | HARD BUTTE PACK | | | | | | |
| | WHITE BIRD CK. PACK | | | | | | |
| | BEAR PETE PACK | B-331-F GR | 8.360 | | | | |

Univ. of MT (GPS) radiocollar duty cycle:

VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700

IDFG ARGOS radiocollar duty cycle:

when in mortality mode maintains programmed duty cycle

VHF beacon audible from 1000-1600 (mountain savings time); 1100-1700 (mountain daylight time)

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ WGS84 _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | LONERS & OTHER WOLVES | B-356-F BL | 8.485 | | | | |
| | | lower Selway River | | | | | |
| | | B-429-F BL | 151.135 (A) | malfunction? | | | |
| | | B-433-F GR | 149.698 | | | | |
| | | in Eagle Mt. pack territory | | | | | |
| | | B-447-F GR | 8.640 | | | | |
| | | B-450-M GR | 8.650 | | | | |
| | | near Atlanta | | | | | |
| | | B-470-M GR | 9.597 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-477-M GR | 9.990 | | | | |
| | Smith's Prairie area | | | | | | |
| | SW47-F GR | 216.670 | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | SW20-? ?? | 220.282 | on mortality near summit of Nez Perce Peak, ID in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-162-M BL | 8.235 | | | | |
| | | B-164-M BL | 8.170 | | | | |
| | | B-166-F GR | 8.700(.706) | | | | |
| | | Red River; missing since 7/7/05 | | | | | |
| | | B-170-F GR | 8.770 | | | | |
| | | High Prairie; missing since 2/27/08 | | | | | |
| | | B-173-M GR | 8.210 | | | | |
| | | unknown; missing since 11/7/03 | | | | | |
| | | B-177-M GR | 8.465 | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt.; missing since 3/7/05 | | | | | |
| | B-184-M GR | 8.950 | | | | | |
| | Hazard Lk.; missing since 4/23/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-186-F GR | 8.135 | | | | | |
| | Steel Mt.; last located 3/7/05 | | | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-195-M GR | 8.830 | | | | |
| | Castle Pk.; missing since 3/3/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-200-M GR | 8.350 | | | | | |
| | Florence wolf; missing since Mar. 08 | | | | | | |
| | B-207-F GR | 8.955 | | | | | |
| | Eldorado Ck. terr. July 2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-210-M GR | 8.450 | | | | | |
| | Hemlock Ridge wolf | | | | | | |
| | B-212-F GR | 8.540 | | | | | |
| | along St. Joe River; missing since 10/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-223-M BL | 8.025 | | | | | |
| | Jureano Mt.; missing since 3/15/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-232-F GR | 8.325 | | | | | |
| | Lochsa wolf; missing since 12/2006 | | | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-240-M GR | 8.500 | | | | |
| | Y. Fork; missing since 12/11/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-246-M BL | 8.670 | | | | | |
| | Orphan wolf; missing since 3/06 | | | | | | |
| | B-247-M GR | 8.100 | | | | | |
| | Bimerick Mdw.; missing since 5/2007 | | | | | | |

| IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---|-------------|---|-----------|---------------|-------------------|--|
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| DURATION: | | OBSERVER: | | SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP | | DATE ENTERED: | RECORD NO: | |
| REASON FOR FLIGHT: | | MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER | | | | WGS84 | | |
| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE | |
| MISSING WOLVES | | B-257-F GR | 8.495 | | | | | |
| | | Carey Dome; missing since 8/06 | | | | | | |
| | | B-259-M GR | 8.180 | | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | | B-261-M BL | 8.490 | | | | | |
| | | Packer John; missing since 4/06 | | | | | | |
| | | B-265-M GR | 8.815 | | | | | |
| | | Timberline; missing since 3/19/07 | | | | | | |
| | | B-266-F GR | 8.935 | on mortality Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | | | | |
| | | Timberline wolf; | | | | | | |
| MISSING WOLVES | | B-272-M GR | 8.710 | | | | | |
| | | Lemhi; missing since 10/25/07 | | | | | | |
| | | B-275-F BL | 8.810 | | | | | |
| | | E'quake Basin wolf; missing since 3/2008 | | | | | | |
| | | B-285-M GR | 8.455 | | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | | B-287-F GR | 8.265 | | | | | |
| | | Monumental Ck. wolf; missing since 12/2007 | | | | | | |
| | | B-299-M GR | 8.875 | | | | | |
| | | Timberline wolf; missing since 9/06 | | | | | | |
| MISSING WOLVES | | B-324-F GR | 9.410 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | | Moyer Basin; missing since 6/22/07 | | | | | | |
| | | B-326-F BL | 8.945 | | | | | |
| | | Phantom Hill; missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | | B-329-M GR | 8.270 | | | | | |
| | | Hemlock Ridge; missing since 2/2008 | | | | | | |
| | | B-346-F BL | 8.910 (907) | | | | | |
| | | Coolwater Ridge; missing since 8/10/07 | | | | | | |
| | | B-373-M BL | 8.280 | | | | | |
| | | Little Anderson; missing since 10/09 | | | | | | |
| MISSING WOLVES | | B-375-M GR | 9.357 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | | Calderwood; missing since 10/09 | | | | | | |
| | | B-377-M GR | 8.690 | | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt.; missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| | | B-380-F BL | 9.058 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | | B-385-M GR | 9.205 | | | | | |
| | | Wapiti; missing since 9/09 | | | | | | |
| | | B-399-F GR | 9.345 | | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt.; missing since 1/09 | | | | | | |
| MISSING WOLVES | | B-406-F GR | 9.107 (GPS) | | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt.; missing since 5/09 | | | | | | |
| | | B-408-M GR | 8.595 | | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | | |
| | | B-427-F BL | 151.339 (A) | | | | | |
| | | B-428-M GR | 150.069 (A) | | | | | |
| MISSING WOLVES | | 213F GR | 216.920 | | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt. | | | | | | |

ARGOS satellite radiocollars (A) duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700 during winter
VHF beacon audible from 0900 - 1800 during summer (after daylight savings time switch)

Univ. of MT (GPS) radiocollar duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700
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| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|----------------------------|--|--|----------|-----------|----|--|
| | PHANTOM HILL PACK | | | | | | |
| | HYNDMAN PACK | | | | | | |
| | SCOTT MOUNTAIN PACK | B-375-M GR B-406-F GR | 9.357 (GPS) 9.107 (GPS) | | | | collar malfunction collar malfunction |
| | CASNER CREEK PACK | B-404-F GR B-415-M GR | 148.050 (A) 149.750 (A) | | | | suspected mortality as of 4/14/10 |
| | LITTLE ANDER- SON PACK | B-373-M BL | 8.280 | | | | last heard 10/15/09 |
| | TIMBERLINE PACK | B-368-M GR B-491-M GR | 149.455 (A) 9.175 | | | | |
| | CALDERWOOD PACK | B-141-F GR | 151.959 | | | | |
| | APPLEJACK PACK | | | | | | |
| | WAPITI PACK | B-385-M GR B-419-M GR B-422-F WH B-426-M GR | 9.205 148.080 (A) 149.115 (A) 9.306 (GPS) | | | | collar malfunction collar malfunction |
| | STEEL MT. PACK | R-241-M GR B-467-F ?? | 8.900 (.903) 9.396 | | | | last heard 1/29/10 last heard 8/24/09 |
| | THORN CK. PACK | | | | | | |
| | ARCHIE MOUNTAIN PACK | B-341-F GR B-495-F GR | 151.689 (A) 148.160 | | | | |
| | SOLDIER MT. PACK | B-412-F BL | 9.185 | | | | last heard 1/29/10 |
| | BEAR WALLOW PACK | B-454-F GR | 9.955 | | | | |
| | LITTLE WOOD RIVER PACK | | | | | | |

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| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| | LONERS & OTHER WOLVES | B-288-F GR | 8.230 | | | | |
| | | Salmon R. N of Riggins | | | | | |
| | | B-356-F BL | 8.485 | | | | |
| | | lower Selway River | | | | | |
| | | B-425-F BL | 181.138 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-447-F GR | 8.640 | | | | |
| | | B-460-M GR | 8.650 | | | | |
| | | near Atlanta | | | | | |
| | | B-470-M GR | 9.597 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-477-M GR | 9.890 | | | | |
| | Smiths Prairie area | | | | | | |
| | SW47-F GR | 216.670 | | | | | |
| | SW20-? ?? | 220.282 | | | | on mortality near summit of Nez Perce Peak. ID in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-162-M BL | 8.235 | | | | |
| | | B-164-M BL | 8.170 | | | | |
| | | B-166-F GR | 8.700(,706) | | | | |
| | | Red River, missing since 7/7/05 | | | | | |
| | | B-170-F GR | 8.770 | | | | |
| | | High Prairie, missing since 2/27/08 | | | | | |
| | | B-173-M GR | 8.210 | | | | |
| | | unknown, missing since 11/7/03 | | | | | |
| | | B-177-M GR | 8.465 | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt., missing since 3/7/05 | | | | | |
| | B-184-M GR | 8.950 | | | | | |
| | Hazard Lk., missing since 4/23/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-186-F GR | 8.135 | | | | | |
| | Steel Mt., last located 3/7/05 | | | | | | |
| | B-195-M GR | 8.830 | | | | | |
| | Castle Pk., missing since 3/3/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-200-M GR | 8.350 | | | | | |
| | Florence wolf, missing since Mar. 08 | | | | | | |
| | B-207-F GR | 8.955 | | | | | |
| | Eldorado Ck. terr. July 2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-210-M GR | 8.450 | | | | | |
| | Hemlock Ridge wolf | | | | | | |
| | B-212-F GR | 8.540 | | | | | |
| | along St. Joe River; missing since 10/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-223-M BL | 8.025 | | | | | |
| | Jureano Mt., missing since 3/15/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-232-F GR | 8.325 | | | | | |
| | Locha wolf, missing since 12/2006 | | | | | | |
| | B-240-M GR | 8.500 | | | | | |
| | Y. Fork, missing since 12/11/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-246-M BL | 8.670 | | | | | |
| | Orphan wolf, missing since 3/06 | | | | | | |
| | B-247-M GR | 8.100 | | | | | |
| | Bimerick Mdw., missing since 5/2007 | | | | | | |

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|----------------|--|-------------|---|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-257-F GR | 8.495 | | | | |
| | | Carey Dome; missing since 8/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-259-M GR | 8.180 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-261-M BL | 8.490 | | | | |
| | | Packer John; missing since 4/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-265-M GR | 8.815 | | | | |
| | | Timberline; missing since 3/19/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-266-F GR | 8.935 | on mortality Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | | | |
| | | Timberline wolf; | | | | | |
| | | B-272-M GR | 8.710 | | | | |
| | | Lemhi; missing since 10/25/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-275-F BL | 8.810 | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | E'quake Basin wolf; missing since 3/2008 | | | | | |
| | | B-285-M GR | 8.455 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-287-F GR | 8.265 | | | | |
| | | Monumental Ck. wolf; missing since 12/2007 | | | | | |
| | | B-299-M GR | 8.875 | | | | |
| | | Timberline wolf; missing since 9/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-324-F GR | 9.410 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | Moyer Basin; missing since 8/22/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-326-F BL | 8.945 | | | | |
| | | Phantom Hill; missing since 1/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-329-M GR | 8.270 | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | Hemlock Ridge; missing since 2/2008 | | | | | |
| | | B-346-F BL | 8.910 (907) | | | | |
| | | Coolwater Ridge; missing since 8/10/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-373-M BL | 8.280 | | | | |
| | | Little Anderson; missing since 10/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-375-M GR | 9.357 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | Calderwood; missing since 10/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-377-M GR | 8.690 | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt.; missing since 1/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-380-F BL | 9.058 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-385-M GR | 9.205 | | | | |
| | | Wapiti; missing since 9/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-399-F GR | 9.345 | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt.; missing since 1/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-406-F GR | 9.107 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt.; missing since 5/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-408-M GR | 8.595 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-427-F BL | 151.339 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-428-M GR | 150.069 (A) | | | | |
| | | 213F GR | 216.920 | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt. | | | | | |

ARGOS satellite radiocollars (A) duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700 during winter
 VHF beacon audible from 0900 - 1800 during summer (after daylight savings time switch)

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 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--------------------------|--|--|---------------|-----------|----|-------------------|
| | HONEY JONES PACK | B-490-F GR | 8.670 (A) | | | | |
| | BOUNDARY PACK | B-444-M GR | 8.145 | | | | |
| | MARBLE MT. PACK | B-314-F GR B-494-? GR | 8.665 9.045 | | | | |
| | FISHHOOK PACK | B-294-M GR | 8.560 | | | | |
| | AVERY PACK | B-465-M GR | 8.175 | | | | |
| | KOOTENAI PEAK PACK | B-459-M GR | 8.865 | | | | |
| | POND PEAK PACK | B-460-M GR B-462-M GR B-464-M GR | 9.475 217.397 (A) 8.660 | failed collar | | | |
| | NAKARNA MT. PACK | B-308-M GR | 8.990 | | | | |
| | SILVER LAKE PACK | NW563-F BL | 221.658 | | | | |
| | SUPERIOR PACK | NW224-M BL | 221.208 | | | | |
| | De BORGIA PACK | NW85-F BL | 220.550 | | | | |
| | FIVE LAKES BUTTE PACK | B-488-F | 150.130 | | | | |
| | GIANT CEDAR PACK | B-401-F GR | 8.375 | | | | |
| | TANGLE CK. PACK | B-310-M GR | 8.805 | | | | |
| | DECEPTION PACK | B-397-M GR B-498-F GR | | | | | |
| | FISH CREEK PACK | B-433-F GR B-434-F GR B-435-M GR | 149.698 (A) 149.794 (A) 151.169 (A) | | | | |
| | POT MT. PACK | B-382-F GR B-393-M GR B-431-F GR B-432-F GR | 148.640 151.599 (A) 151.879 (A) 151.200 (A) | | | | |
| | CHESIMA PACK | B-451-F GR B-458-M GR B-483-F BL | 8.980 8.295 8.490 | | | | |
| | GRANDAD PACK | B-458-F GR B-496-M GR B-497-F GR | 8.050 8.135 (A) 9.050 | | | | |
| | MUSSEL SHELL PACK | B-380-F GR | 8.095 | | | | |

ARGOS satellite radiocollars (A) duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700 during winter
 VHF beacon audible from 0900 - 1800 during summer (after daylight savings time switch)

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----------|--|-------------------|
| | LONERS & OTHER WOLVES | B-288-F GR | 8.230 | | | | |
| | | Salmon R. N of Higgins | | | | | |
| | | B-386-F BL | 8.485 | | | | |
| | | lower Selway River | | | | | |
| | | B-428-F BL | 181.138 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-447-F GR | 8.640 | | | | |
| | | B-450-M GR | 8.650 | | | | |
| | | near Atlanta | | | | | |
| | | B-470-M GR | 9.597 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-477-M GR | 9.990 | | | | |
| | Smith's Prairie area | | | | | | |
| | SW47-F GR | 216.670 | | | | | |
| | SW20-? 77 | 220.262 | | | | on mortality near summit of Nez Perce Peak, ID in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-162-M BL | 8.235 | | | | |
| | | N side main Salmon 12/2005 | | | | | |
| | | B-164-M BL | 8.170 | | | | |
| | | Red River, missing since 8/2/04 | | | | | |
| | | B-166-F GR | 8.700(.706) | | | | |
| | | Red River, missing since 7/7/05 | | | | | |
| | | B-170-F GR | 8.770 | | | | |
| | | High Prairie, missing since 2/27/08 | | | | | |
| | | B-173-M GR | 8.210 | | | | |
| | | unknown, missing since 11/7/03 | | | | | |
| | B-177-M GR | 8.465 | | | | | |
| | Scott Mt., missing since 3/7/05 | | | | | | |
| | B-184-M GR | 8.950 | | | | | |
| | Hazard Lk., missing since 4/23/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-186-F GR | 8.135 | | | | | |
| | Steel Mt., last located 3/7/05 | | | | | | |
| | B-195-M GR | 8.830 | | | | | |
| | Castle Pk., missing since 3/3/04 | | | | | | |
| | B-200-M GR | 8.350 | | | | | |
| | Florence wolf, missing since Mar. 08 | | | | | | |
| | B-207-F GR | 8.955 | | | | | |
| | Eldorado Ck. terr. July 2008 | | | | | | |
| | B-210-M GR | 8.450 | | | | | |
| | Hemlock Ridge wolf | | | | | | |
| | B-212-F GR | 8.540 | | | | | |
| | along St. Joe River, missing since 10/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-223-M BL | 8.025 | | | | | |
| | Jureano Mt., missing since 3/15/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-232-F GR | 8.325 | | | | | |
| | Locha wolf, missing since 12/2006 | | | | | | |
| | B-240-M GR | 8.500 | | | | | |
| | Y. Fork, missing since 12/11/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-246-M BL | 8.670 | | | | | |
| | Orphan wolf, missing since 3/06 | | | | | | |
| | B-247-M GR | 8.100 | | | | | |
| | Bimerick Mdw., missing since 5/2007 | | | | | | |

IDAHO GRAY WOLF AERIAL LOCATION DATA FORM

DATE: _____ PILOT: _____ SYSTEM CHECK? YES or NO _____ FLIGHT NO: _____
 DURATION: _____ OBSERVER: _____ SOURCE: GPS /LORAN/ MAP _____ DATE ENTERED: _____
 REASON FOR FLIGHT: MONITOR / CONTROL & MGMT / FIELD CREW / COLLARING / OTHER _____ RECORD NO: _____

| SR | PACK | WOLF | FREQ | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | NF | COMMENTS/DRAINAGE |
|----|-------------------------------|--|-------------|----------|-----------|----|---|
| | MISSING WOLVES | B-257-F GR | 8.495 | | | | |
| | | Carey Dome, missing since 8/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-259-M GR | 8.180 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-261-M BL | 8.490 | | | | |
| | | Packer John, missing since 4/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-265-M GR | 8.815 | | | | |
| | | Timberline, missing since 3/19/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-266-F GR | 8.935 | | | | on mortality Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness |
| | | Timberline wolf, | | | | | |
| | B-272-M GR | 8.710 | | | | | |
| | Lemhi, missing since 10/25/07 | | | | | | |
| | B-275-F BL | 8.810 | | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | E'quake Basin wolf, missing since 3/2008 | | | | | |
| | | B-285-M GR | 8.455 | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-287-F GR | 8.265 | | | | |
| | | Monumental Ck. wolf, missing since 12/2007 | | | | | |
| | | B-299-M GR | 8.875 | | | | |
| | | Timberline wolf, missing since 9/06 | | | | | |
| | | B-324-F GR | 9.410 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | Moyer Basin, missing since 6/22/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-326-F BL | 8.945 | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | Phantom Hill, missing since 1/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-329-M GR | 8.270 | | | | |
| | | Hemlock Ridge, missing since 2/2008 | | | | | |
| | | B-346-F BL | 8.910 (907) | | | | |
| | | Coolwater Ridge, missing since 8/10/07 | | | | | |
| | | B-373-M BL | 8.280 | | | | |
| | | Little Anderson, missing since 10/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-375-M GR | 9.357 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | Calderwood, missing since 10/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-377-M GR | 8.690 | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | Bishop Mt., missing since 1/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-380-F BL | 9.058 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-385-M GR | 9.205 | | | | |
| | | Wapiti, missing since 9/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-399-F GR | 9.345 | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt., missing since 1/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-406-F GR | 9.107 (GPS) | | | | |
| | | Scott Mt., missing since 5/09 | | | | | |
| | | B-408-M GR | 8.595 | | | | |
| | MISSING WOLVES | missing since 10/2009 | | | | | |
| | | B-427-F BL | 151.339 (A) | | | | |
| | | B-428-M GR | 150.069 (A) | | | | |
| | | 213F GR | 216.920 | | | | |
| | | Bishop Mt. | | | | | |

ARGOS satellite radiocollars (A) duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700 during winter
 VHF beacon audible from 0900 - 1800 during summer (after daylight savings time switch)

Univ. of MT (GPS) radiocollar duty cycle: VHF beacon audible from 0800 - 1700
 when in mortality mode maintains programmed duty cycle



"Cadwallader,Dave"
<dave.cadwallader@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/16/2010 05:54 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc "Crenshaw,Jay" <jay.crenshaw@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"Rachael,Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>

bcc

Subject RE: Confirmed Wolf Depredation in Clearwater Co.

In follow up to our phone conversation of Thursday evening August 12, WS is authorized to remove up to 4 wolves associated with this confirmed depredation. I understand WS removed two wolves Friday August 13th. Please keep me informed as to control measure results and observations which may require reevaluation of the control number.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 7:01 AM

To: Cadwallader,Dave; Crenshaw,Jay; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary;
Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov

Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net

Subject: Confirmed Wolf Depredation in Clearwater Co.

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 600 lb. calf on Elk Creek in Long Meadows on private land adjacent to Clearwater National Forest. Right now, I don't know which wolf pack may have been involved, but it was several individuals.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/17/2010 07:37 AM

To "TRACEY.MANOFF@OGC.USDA.GOV"
<TRACEY.MANOFF@OGC.USDA.GOV>,
"Annalisa.Jabaily@OGC.USDA.GOV"
cc
bcc

Subject FWS press release regarding status of wolves and wolf
management

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/17/2010 05:54 AM -----



"US Fish and Wildlife
Service"
<margaret_laxalt_mackey@f
ws.gov>
08/16/2010 03:18 PM

To mark.d.collinge@aphis.usda.gov
cc
Subject ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION
REINSTATED FOR NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF
POPULATION

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NEWS RELEASE
Pacific Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-231-6121; Fax: 503-231-2122
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific>

August 16, 2010

10-120

Contact: Sharon Rose 303-236-4580
Joan Jewett 503-231-6211

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION REINSTATED FOR NORTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN WOLF
POPULATION

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).

The Service and the Department are evaluating the decision and considering our options as we move forward. We believe that state and tribal management is the most appropriate conservation tool to manage the recovered gray wolf population in this area. While the delisting has been vacated, reinstated rules provide the States with authority of many management decisions.

Within the experimental population areas of Montana and Idaho and on the Wind River Tribal Lands in Wyoming, States and Tribes with approved wolf management plans can again operate under the 2005/2008, experimental population rules and lead wolf management under these rules within the boundaries of their

respective State or reservation through interagency cooperative agreements. In short, these rules allow maximum flexibility under the law. The Service, State, Tribe, or their agents may take wolves when circumstances warrant. In addition, anyone may legally shoot a wolf in the act of attacking any type of livestock on their private land or grazing allotment, and anyone may shoot a wolf chasing or attacking their dog or stock animals anywhere except National Parks. In certain circumstances these rules allow lethal removal of wolves where they are a major cause of the inability of ungulate populations or herds to meet established state or Tribal population or herd management goals. This State and Tribal management authority allows for great flexibility and timely response to local conditions. Additional take in the experimental population areas not specifically authorized by the 2005/2008 experimental population rules requires additional authorization.

Within Wyoming, the Service continues to be the lead management agency for wolves and the original 1994 experimental population rule still governs wolf management. The only exception is on Wind River Tribal lands, because those tribes have a Service-approved Tribal wolf management plan. While the 1994 rule addressed depredation issues to some extent, without a Service-approved wolf management plan, the state of Wyoming cannot take advantage of the greater management flexibility afforded by the 2005 and 2008 experimental rules. For example, a Wyoming landowner (outside of Wind River Tribal lands) may only legally take wolves if wolves are physically biting or grasping their cattle, sheep, horses, or mules on their private land. Any taking of wolves on public land requires advance written authorization from the Service which can be obtained only after previous wolf attacks have been verified. Also, without a Service-approved wolf management plan, Wyoming Department of Game and Fish cannot address wolves causing significant negative impacts to wild ungulate populations, unless they receive Service approval to relocate those wolves elsewhere within Wyoming. For specific or more detailed information about either experimental population rule, please refer to the rule located at <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/mammals/wolf/>

NRM wolves outside of the experimental population areas are listed as endangered. This includes a portion of northern Idaho and the northern half of Montana as well as formerly delisted portions of Oregon, Washington and Utah. While not impacted by this ruling, wolves that disperse into other neighboring States (i.e., North Dakota, South Dakota, & Colorado) also continue to be listed as endangered. Endangered wolves are subject to additional protections and can be legally taken when authorized by a section 10 permit or if exempted by an incidental take statement associated with a Section 7 consultation and biological opinion. Livestock owners are prohibited from taking wolves seen actively chasing, attacking, or killing their livestock; only authorized agents can take chronically depredating endangered wolves. Should any NRM wolf become a chronic depredator, we will work with the appropriate State game agency and USDA Wildlife Services to resolve the situation.

As always, we will continue to work closely with States, Tribes, conservation organizations, ranchers, and other landowners to manage wolf recovery and ensure that the wolves coexist with livestock, other wildlife populations, and people.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.

- FWS -

If you would rather not receive future communications from U.S. Fish and Wildlife, please go to
<http://usfish.pr-optout.com/OptOut.aspx?146x186x49815x3x1051938x24000x6&Email=mark.d.collinge%40aphis.usda.gov>.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife, 911 N.E 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4181 United States



"Cadwallader, Dave"
<dave.cadwallader@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/17/2010 06:29 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc "Rachael, Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"Crenshaw, Jay" <jay.crenshaw@idfg.idaho.gov>
bcc

Subject RE: Take of another wolf in Elk Creek

Thanks Todd. I too talked with Gary today. This is number three, I repeated the control order of 4 wolves and requested Gary continue to trap after number 4 is captured and killed but put a collar and release on wolf capture number 5, if successful. This locale is more accurately defined as McGary Butte, Long Meadows, about 7-8 air miles west of Elk Creek. This is interesting since in the past our flights had confined the Chesamia pack to the East side of Elk Creek, but they (the collar at least) has moved back and forth readily on both sides of the Elk Creek Drainage the past couple years. And this area is also the southern end of the Big Cedar pack, as well as more traditionally the territory of the Tangle Creek pack. All 3 packs have collars. But I suppose there has been some reassembling of these pack members and indeed this trapping effort by Gary may be a new pack wedged in there. That is why a collar may be of help.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 1:28 PM
To: Cadwallader, Dave; Crenshaw, Jay; Rachael, Jon; Husseman, Jason; Cooley, Hilary; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)@da.net
Subject: Take of another wolf in Elk Creek

This morning, WS captured and killed a sub-adult, gray male wolf at the Elk Creek depredation site. The skull was crushed and the carcass was left on site.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA

08/18/2010 07:26 AM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Conference Call Wolf Recovery Foundation v. APHIS
WS

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/18/2010 06:27 AM -----



Janean
Romines/MD/APHIS/USDA

08/18/2010 05:27 AM

To "George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov"
<George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov>,
"Bill.Clay@aphis.usda.gov" <Bill.Clay@aphis.usda.gov>,
"Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov"
<Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov>,
"Alton.Dunaway@aphis.usda.gov"
<Alton.Dunaway@aphis.usda.gov>,
"David.J.Hayes@aphis.usda.gov"
<David.J.Hayes@aphis.usda.gov>,
"Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov"
<Janet.L.Bucknall@aphis.usda.gov>,
"Janean.Romines@aphis.usda.gov"
<Janean.Romines@aphis.usda.gov>
cc "Annalisa.Jabaily@OGC.USDA.GOV"
<Annalisa.Jabaily@OGC.USDA.GOV>,
"JAMES.BOOTH@OGC.USDA.GOV"
<JAMES.BOOTH@OGC.USDA.GOV>

Subject Conference Call Wolf Recovery Foundation v. APHIS WS

Good morning-

I am working on getting a conference call scheduled for this afternoon 3 p.m. EST. Will let you know the specifics ASAP.

Janean Romines
Wildlife Biologist/Staff Officer
USDA APHIS WS Operational Support Staff
4700 River Rd., Unit 87
Riverdale, MD 20737
Phone (301)734-3570
Cell (301)466-7981
Fax (301)734-5157

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/18/2010 11:29 AM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Idaho County wants to join wolf fight

Do we know anything about the reported wolf predation of 3 bull calves valued at \$10,000 each in Idaho County?

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/18/2010 10:30 AM -----



<jhagedorn@idahoforwildlife.com>

08/18/2010 10:13 AM

Please respond to
<jhagedorn@idahoforwildlife.com>

To "Jim and Barbara Hagedorn" <jhag1@verizon.net>

cc

Subject Fw: Idaho County wants to join wolf fight

THANKS SKIP AND IDAHO COUNTY IT WOULD BE NICE IF OUR STATE LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNOR AND THE COMMISSION WOULD COME OUT AND MAKE SOME NOISE. I HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTIES WILL JOIN IN. WATCH FOR THE NEXT OUTDOORSMEN. IT WILL HAVE SOME NEWS.

LOST CAUSE HAGEDORN

Atta Boy Skip!

Idaho County wants to join wolf fight

- August 18th, 2010
- (0) comments

By Kathy Hedberg of the Tribune

County commissioners meet with county attorney to evaluate possible action following judge's latest ruling

GRANGEVILLE - Idaho County commissioners are pondering jumping into the legal battle over whether wolves should be hunted in Idaho.

Commissioners Skip Brandt, Jim Rehder and James Rockwell met with Idaho County Attorney Kirk MacGregor Tuesday morning to discuss taking action challenging a federal judge's decision earlier this month that returned wolves in Idaho and Montana to federal protection.

The county commissioners voiced support for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game Commission's pledge to pursue all legal options to regain full management authority over wolves.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy of Missoula, Mont., "shouldn't be managing wildlife," Rockwell said. "I want to see Molloy's credentials specific to wolves. He doesn't have the expertise" to make a ruling that contradicts the science regarding wolf populations in Idaho and their effect on other wildlife.

Commission Chairman Brandt agreed. "He's legislating from the bench, which shouldn't be permitted. We need to support strong action by the state."

The commissioners pointed out Idaho County's elk population has been affected by wolves as much as any other county in Idaho.

Rehder said one local rancher claims to have recently lost three bull calves worth \$10,000 each from wolf predation. That claim is still under investigation by the Idaho Fish and Game Department.

The commissioners discussed petitioning the court to become a party in a lawsuit challenging the Endangered Species Act, which protects wolves from being hunted. Other options included filing a separate lawsuit on behalf of Idaho County or drafting a disaster declaration and sending it to Gov. C.L. (Butch) Otter.

"We recognize we have an extraordinarily serious problem," Rehder said. "How do we counter a poor decision by a federal judge?"

Rockwell, who said Molloy's decision has cost the taxpayers of Idaho untold dollars by undoing a previous decision to delist the wolves, said: "Can we file an action (saying) to the judge, 'You're not a wildlife biologist. Sit down and shut up?'"

Hedberg may be contacted at khedberg@camasnet.com or (208) 983-2326.



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/19/2010 08:16 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject RE: Meeting with Tribe

History:

📧 This message has been forwarded.

Sounds very productive. Thank you.

Sent from my Windows Mobile® phone.

-----Original Message-----

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 1:56 PM
To: jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject: Meeting with Tribe

FYI, Mark and I met with Jim, Curt and Keith this morning about the e-mail I sent out last week. We had a pretty productive meeting and aired things out. We resolved that if any members of the public contact the Tribe about wolf depredation control actions, they would be referred to the appropriate IDFG RS. The Tribe will receive notifications of livestock depredations and WS takes from me as they occur. Curt indicated that he wants to stay "in the loop" and if any of us has a problem with anything the Tribe is, or is preceived to be, involved with wolf wise - he wants to be notified. He expressed committment to being a partner with WS and IDFG.

This is a meeting you probably should have been a part of, but you had other committments. You may get a call from Curt to make sure IDFG's concerns are vented.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 11:39 AM

To dmiller@osc.idaho.gov, stanboyd@earthlink.net,
karen@idahocattle.org, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Defenders ending compensation for wolf losses

I presume Suzanne Stone will be sending out something similar to this message.

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 10:35 AM -----

----- Forwarded by David L Bergman/AZ/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 10:26 AM -----



Eva Sargent
<ESARGENT@defenders.org>
>
08/20/2010 09:09 AM

To "david.l.bergman@aphis.usda.gov"
<david.l.bergman@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject Defenders Compensation Transition

20 August 2010

David Bergman
State Director, USDA Wildlife Services
8836 N 23rd Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85021

Dear Mr. Bergman,

Last year, Congress passed the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, which included a provision by Senators Jon Tester of Montana and John Barrasso of Wyoming, authorizing funds to initiate state run wolf compensation programs. In view of the passage of this legislation, after 23 years of helping livestock owners by paying more than \$1.4 million nationwide for verified wolf depredations, Defenders of Wildlife is bringing our Wolf Compensation Trust to a close. We will shift our support to states and tribes to help them start their own compensation programs, and will otherwise focus on collaborative efforts to help ranchers coexist with wolves.

We recognize that producers will contact you about wolf compensation, and we would like to help you with your response. We hope the enclosed copy of our letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, press release and fact sheet with questions and answers, all concerning this transition, will be of assistance.

In the Southwest, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have established the Mexican Wolf Interdiction Trust Fund to offer compensation and conflict avoidance assistance to ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico. Defenders will make a substantial start-up contribution to the Interdiction Fund. In Arizona, we will also continue to offer compensation to the White Mountain Apache and San Carlos Apache tribes for one additional year,

while we assist them in setting up tribal compensation programs.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



(b) (6)
Director Southwest Program

110 S. Church Ave, Suite 4292, Tucson AZ 85701

Tel: 520-623-9653 | Fax: 520-623-0447

esargent@defenders.org | www.defenders.org



AZ Bergman.pdf



Defenders Letter to the USFWS re. Transition.pdf



dow_compensation_transition_factsheet.pdf



Compensation transition statement FINAL.docx



Rodger Schlickeisen

President & Chief Executive Officer

National Headquarters

1130 17th Street, N.W. | Washington, D.C. 20036-4604 | tel 202.682.9400 | fax 202.682.1331
www.defenders.org

Dr. Rowan Gould
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C.

August 18, 2010

Dear Dr. Gould:

Defenders of Wildlife's Wolf Compensation Trust has been instrumental in building tolerance for wolves within the ranching and livestock industry. In 23 years, we have paid more than \$1.4 million for verified wolf depredations. When the compensation program was launched in 1987, we planned to compensate ranchers for verified livestock losses to wolves until state, federal or tribal programs took its place. We've honored that commitment and have continued to pay compensation across the Northern Rockies and Southwest.

As you know, new federal legislation, authored by Senators Jon Tester of Montana and John Barrasso of Wyoming now provides funding to help states initiate their own compensation programs, which they are doing. In light of this, we have determined that Defenders' compensation program is no longer needed and, therefore, will end in most states on September 10, 2010. Defenders will focus on its collaborative projects through our Wolf Coexistence Partnership that help ranchers coexist with wolves.

In order to smooth the transition to state-run compensation programs, Defenders is offering to make a one-time contribution to those states in need of matching funds, and Defenders regional staff is offering expert guidance to help design and implement these new programs. In Montana, Defenders has already provided the state with grants of \$50,000 for each of the last two years to help get that state's livestock compensation program up and running. In Idaho, Defenders compensation payments already made to livestock producers this year will be credited toward fulfilling the state's matching requirement. In Arizona and New Mexico, Defenders will make a contribution to the Mexican Wolf Interdiction Trust Fund, which will provide for livestock compensation for wolf depredations. In Washington State, Defenders will offer substantial contributions to help the state meet its matching funds requirements. Elsewhere, Defenders will continue to offer livestock compensation in Oregon, Colorado, and Utah, and to certain tribes, for one year while those states and tribes adopt measures necessary to establish livestock compensation programs.

Under our Wolf Coexistence Partnership, we work with ranchers to prevent wolves from preying on livestock, which gives wolves a better chance of staying out of harm's way. Together with ranchers, we implement nonlethal techniques to keep wolves away from livestock, including:

- Range riders or cowboys to protect livestock (a constant human presence discourages wolves from getting too close)
- Guard dogs to alert herders and range riders of nearby wolves
- Portable fencing or fladry (brightly colored flags strung across a rope or electrified wire that scare wolves) to protect livestock, especially overnight
- Nonlethal hazing techniques, such as shining bright lights or firing a loud starter pistol, to drive off wolves
- Good husbandry practices, such as removing carcasses, which attract wolves to livestock.
- Relocation of livestock to grazing pastures away from wolf dens.

We look forward to working with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the states during this transition, and we would welcome you as a partner in our Wolf Coexistence Partnership.

Sincerely,



Rodger Schlickeisen
President and Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Dan Ashe, Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Gary Frazer, Assistant Director for Endangered Species, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Robyn Thorson, Regional Director, Pacific Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, Region Director, Southwest Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Steve Guertin, Regional Director, Mountain-Prairie Region, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Transitioning wolf compensation



Defenders announced on Aug. 20, 2010 that it will be transitioning its landmark wolf compensation program. Defenders will be providing additional support to some western states and tribes to aid in the transition as they take over compensation. The implementation of new federal legislation that provides funds to initiate state-run compensation programs will allow Defenders to focus on promoting coexistence by partnering with ranchers to prevent conflict between livestock and wolves.

Why are you transitioning your compensation program now?

After 23 years of compensating ranchers for livestock lost to wolves, Defenders of Wildlife is bringing its highly successful program to a close. We are thrilled that our dedicated conservation efforts, in combination with federal legislation authored by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and John Barrasso (R-WY), have allowed states to follow suit and establish their own compensation programs.

When the compensation program was launched in 1987, we planned to compensate ranchers for verified livestock losses to wolves until state, federal or tribal programs took its place. We've honored that commitment and have continued to pay compensation across the Northern Rockies and Southwest.

However, with the passage of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, which included a provision by Sens. Tester and Barrasso authorizing funds to initiate state-run compensation programs, the time has come to transition livestock compensation programs to the states and focus instead on expanding our programs that help wolves and ranchers coexist.

In the Southwest, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation have also formed the Mexican Wolf Interdiction Trust Fund to compensate ranchers for their livestock loss to wolves.

State-run compensation programs to increase tolerance for wolves are appropriate and timely. We contributed \$100,000 to the state of Montana in 2008 and 2009 to help start a state-run compensation program there. We're pleased that more states will now be able to do the same, and we will be providing seed funds to help other such programs

launch as well. In Idaho, compensation payments already made to livestock producers this year will be credited toward fulfilling the state's matching funds requirement. In Arizona and New Mexico, Defenders will make a contribution to the Mexican Wolf Interdiction Trust Fund, which will provide for livestock compensation. In Washington, Defenders will offer a substantial contribution to help the state meet its matching funds requirement. Defenders will continue to offer livestock compensation in Oregon, Colorado, and Utah, and with certain tribes, for one year while those states and tribes adopt measures necessary to establish livestock compensation programs.

What are you doing with the money that went into compensation?

Now that most states are taking on compensation responsibilities, we anticipate focusing on supporting proactive conservation and wolf coexistence partnerships. Defenders will make a one-time contribution to some compensation programs to help them get up and running, and will focus on preventing conflicts between wolves and livestock before any animals are harmed. This includes helping ranchers hire range riders to watch over livestock, installing fences equipped with fladry – brightly colored flags that scare off wolves – and using nonlethal hazing techniques when wolves get too close.

What is the "Wolf Coexistence Partnership" all about?

While compensating ranchers helps build tolerance and social acceptance for having wolves on the landscape, it does nothing to prevent future

FAQ: Transitioning wolf compensation

conflicts. The goal of our Wolf Coexistence Partnership is to work with ranchers to minimize losses and conflicts altogether. There are a variety of preventative, nonlethal tools we use to protect livestock and discourage wolves from preying on them:

- Range riders provide a constant human presence near livestock to help keep wolves at bay.
- Guard dogs are good at detecting wolves and can alert a nearby herder or rider.
- Portable fencing or fladry (red flags strung across a rope or electrified wire) can be used to pen livestock in overnight and keep wolves away.
- Nonlethal hazing techniques, such as shining bright lights or firing a starter pistol, can act as a deterrent to wolves.
- Removing livestock carcasses and protecting carcass pits will help prevent wolves from being attracted to the area.
- Moving livestock to alternate grazing pastures away from known wolf dens can keep them out of harm's way.

For more details, we have an entire guidebook dedicated to nonlethal techniques for reducing conflict between wolves and livestock. You can also read more about our Wolf Coexistence Partnership at www.defenders.org/coexistence.

What are the impacts on livestock producers who lose livestock to wolves?

States will be establishing their own livestock compensation programs, with financial assistance from the federal government and, initially, from Defenders of Wildlife. Nothing should change except for the name on the check. Ranchers who used to receive compensation from Defenders of Wildlife will now receive compensation from a state agency or the Interdiction Fund. Meanwhile, Defenders will continue to be a go-to resource for wolf conservation efforts, and we look forward to sharing our expertise and experience with state

wildlife agencies as they take over compensation. Our regional staff will continue to have a strong presence on the ground, focusing on helping landowners and wolves better coexist through techniques that help to prevent depredations before they happen. With the states taking over compensation, we will have more time and staff resources to work with ranchers to safeguard livestock and save wolves. We are also smoothing the transition by offering a one-year financial commitment to help states and tribes that do not yet have compensation programs in place.

Does this have anything to do with the recent lawsuit decision restoring federal protections for wolves under the Endangered Species Act?

No, it is totally unrelated. This process was set in motion with the passage of the federal legislation sponsored by Senators Tester and Barrasso, which took place long before the ruling came down from the U.S. District Court in Montana. While we are pleased that the court decided to restore protections for wolves, this had nothing to do with our plans to evolve our focus from paying compensation to promoting coexistence. We had always planned to transition out of compensation once states took it over, and we're glad that is now happening. Working with ranchers to protect livestock and save wolves will continue to be a top priority, regardless of the legal status of wolves in the region.

Will you be doing away with compensation completely?

Defenders will officially end its livestock compensation program for wolves on September 30, the end of our fiscal year. But we will continue to honor our commitment to states that are likely to have wolves in the future, and to tribes that do not yet have compensation programs in place. To help smooth the transition, we will make funds available in Oregon, Colorado, and Utah, and on Apache tribal lands in Arizona, for another year and work with these states and tribes to help get their

FAQ: Transitioning wolf compensation

programs up and running. Our field staff will also provide input and guidance to help with this process.

Fortunately, many states are already paying compensation or are well on their way. In 2008 and 2009, we provided a total of \$100,000 to the state of Montana to help set up its compensation program. Compensation claims are now handled by the state, so we no longer pay compensation there, although we do have a representative who sits on the board that oversees the program. We continue to invest in coexistence projects in Montana to help keep wolves and livestock apart and safe (including two range rider projects outside Glacier and Yellowstone national parks).

Ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico are now eligible to receive compensation through the Interdiction Fund being administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and advised by regional stakeholders. Defenders will make a substantial contribution to the Interdiction Fund this year to support their compensation and coexistence programs. The Interdiction Fund will allow ranchers to have greater control in determining how funds are spent, and we look forward to partnering with them to protect both livestock and wolves.

In 2010, Defenders has already paid more than \$140,000 to the state of Idaho for compensation and coexistence efforts. This amount exceeds the total matching funds necessary to meet the FY2010 funding requirements under the federal legislation. Defenders will process compensation claims received by September 10. Claims received after September 10 will be forwarded to the state for processing and payment. We will maintain our anticipated commitments for FY2011 for proactive wolf conservation work. Coexistence partnerships have been a major priority in Idaho, and this year marks our third season returning to the Big Wood River Valley to work with sheep producers. We sponsor, train and manage a team of field technicians that protect more than 10,000 sheep as they move across summer grazing allotments in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area. In three years, we've lost only a handful of sheep thanks to nonlethal prevention techniques such as putting up fencing, using guard dogs and hazing wolves at night.

Wyoming already has its own compensation program in place, so Defenders will no longer make payments for livestock lost to wolves. However, we will continue to look for additional opportunities to partner with ranchers to promote coexistence.

Oregon now has two confirmed packs of wolves with breeding pairs living in the northeast corner of the state. Ranchers have already experienced depredations, but the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is not allowed to pay compensation under state law. Defenders will continue to pay compensation for one additional year until a state-run compensation program is established. Meanwhile, we continue to partner with the state wildlife agency on projects that promote coexistence with wolves, including helping to remove predator attractants such as livestock carcass pits, and providing funding for a range rider to watch over livestock. We have also committed to working with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association on new state legislation to implement a state-run compensation program.

Colorado and Utah are not known to have breeding wolf packs living within their borders, so they are not currently eligible for funding through the new federal legislation. However, individual wolves have dispersed there and are likely to continue to do so. Defenders will pay compensation for one year until state-run compensation programs are established.

Washington has two confirmed wolf packs living in the north-central and northeastern parts of the state. Defenders will make a contribution to help the state meet its matching requirements in order to receive funds through the new legislation.

What are you doing to help tribes?

Tribal cooperation has been and will continue to be vital to wolf recovery. Tribes are eligible for only a limited amount of funding under the federal legislation, and no formal application process yet exists. On Apache tribal lands in Arizona, where Mexican wolves currently exist, we will continue to pay compensation for one additional year and help them design a tribal-run compensation program.

FAQ: Transitioning wolf compensation

Will additional funding be made available in the future?

The federal legislation makes a five-year commitment to paying compensation through state-run programs, but only funding for the first year has been appropriated thus far. Defenders is committed to working to help secure longer-term federal funding for compensation programs.

How will Defenders contributions be counted towards state matching funds?

Funds expended by Defenders in its compensation and proactive programs may help the states and tribes to access the federal funds available under the federal legislation by serving as a third-party match.

Will this decision affect Defenders' grizzly compensation program?

No, we will continue grizzly compensation as usual as well as our proactive and coexistence work to protect livestock from grizzly bears. The federal legislation authorizing funding for state livestock compensation programs only applies to livestock lost to wolves.

What should ranchers do now with their compensation claims?

Defenders will continue to process compensation claims it receives by September 10. Claims received after September 10 will be forwarded to the appropriate state for processing and payment. In Oregon, Colorado, and Utah, where compensation programs are not yet in place and for Arizona's White Mountain and San Carlos Apache tribes, Defenders will continue to pay compensation for one more year. After that, and for all states that will be receiving federal funds, claims should be submitted to the proper state-run compensation program. For more information, please contact the appropriate agency below or your state wildlife agency at <http://www.fws.gov/offices/statelinks.html>.

| | |
|---|---|
| New Mexico and Arizona | Wally Murphy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service P.O. Box 1306 Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306 (505) 761-4781 Wally_Murphy@fws.gov |
| Idaho | Dustin Miller Office of Species Conservation 304 N. 8th Street, Room 149 Boise, ID 83702 (208) 334-2189 x1555 dustin.miller@osc.idaho.gov |
| Montana | George Edwards Livestock Loss Reduction & Mitigation Board PO Box 202005 Helena, MT 59620-2005 (406) 444-5609 gedwards@mt.gov |
| Wyoming | Wyoming Game and Fish 5400 Bishop Boulevard Cheyenne, WY 82006 (307) 777-4600 |
| Washington | Harriet Allen Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife 600 Capitol Way N. Olympia, WA 98501-1091 (360) 902-2515 |
| Oregon, Utah, Colorado and Apache tribes | <i>Send claims made in FY2010 or FY2011 to:</i> Suzanne Asha Stone (Northern Rockies) Defenders of Wildlife PO Box 773 Boise, ID 83701 sstone@defenders.org Craig Miller (Southwest) Defenders of Wildlife 110 S. Church Ave. Suite 4292 Tucson, AZ 85701 cmiller@defenders.org <i>Claims made after FY2011 should be sent to the appropriate state or tribal agency.</i> |

For more information, please contact:

*John Motsinger, jmotsinger@defenders.org, or
James Navarro, jnavarro@defenders.org*

Defenders shifts focus to wolf coexistence partnerships

As states take over compensation, Defenders devotes resources to working with ranchers

- New federal legislation supplants need for Defenders of Wildlife Wolf Compensation Trust
- Defenders transitions landmark Wolf Compensation Trust after 23 years of helping livestock owners by paying more than \$1.4 million for verified losses to wolves
- Defenders is contributing funds to help states initiate compensation programs authorized by new federal legislation
- Defenders will dedicate support for Wolf Coexistence Partnership, funding range riders, guard dogs and portable fencing projects

WASHINGTON, DC (Aug. 20, 2010) – Defenders of Wildlife announced today that, with the implementation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and states of new federal legislation providing federal funds for state programs to compensate ranchers for livestock taken by wolves, Defenders' highly successful livestock compensation program is no longer needed and will end in most states on Sept. 10. Defenders is providing support to states as they start their own compensation programs, and will be focusing on collaborative efforts to help ranchers coexist with wolves.

The Wolf Compensation Trust has been instrumental in building tolerance for wolves within the ranching and livestock industry as wolf populations have made a comeback across the Northern Rockies and have begun to repopulate the Southwest. New federal legislation that provides funding to help states initiate their own compensation programs will allow Defenders to focus its resources on safeguarding livestock and saving wolves by preventing conflicts.

The following is a statement by Rodger Schlickeisen, president of Defenders of Wildlife:

“For nearly a quarter of a century, Defenders' livestock compensation program has been a resounding success in helping ranchers who live and work in wolf country. Without it, recovery of wolves in the western United States would not have been possible.

“We are pleased that federal legislation authored by Senators Jon Tester of Montana and John Barrasso of Wyoming, and financial contributions by Defenders of Wildlife, are enabling states with recovering wolf populations to continue this legacy by initiating or expanding their own compensation programs. At the same time, we look forward to building more partnerships with livestock owners, helping them find ways to reduce or avoid losses to wolves.”

Background:

Last year's Omnibus Public Lands Management Act included a provision sponsored by Senators Jon Tester (D-MT) and John Barrasso (R-WY) authorizing the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to provide up to \$1 million in FY2010 for wolf compensation and nonlethal deterrence programs in Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Those states are eligible for up to \$140,000 each as a result of the new legislation, but they must provide a 50 percent cost-share to match their request for federal funding. Awarded funds are to be used both to compensate ranchers for verified livestock losses and to prevent conflicts with wolves.

In order to smooth the transition toward state-run compensation programs, Defenders is offering to make a one-time contribution to help states in need of matching funds, and Defenders regional staff is offering expert guidance to help design and implement these new programs. In Montana, Defenders has already provided the state with grants of \$50,000 for each of the last two years to help get that state's livestock compensation program up and running. In Idaho and Wyoming, Defenders' compensation payments already made to livestock producers this year will be credited toward fulfilling those states' matching requirements. In Arizona and New Mexico, Defenders will make a contribution to the Mexican Wolf Interdiction Trust Fund, which will provide for livestock compensation for wolf depredations. In Washington, Defenders will offer a substantial contribution to help the state meet its matching funds requirement. Defenders will continue to offer livestock compensation in Oregon, Colorado, and Utah, and with certain tribes, for one year while those states and tribes adopt measures necessary to establish livestock compensation programs. Meanwhile, Defenders is focusing resources on projects to safeguard livestock and protect wolves.

Defenders' Wolf Coexistence Partnership

What is the Wolf Coexistence Partnership all about? We work with ranchers to prevent wolves from preying on livestock, which gives wolves a better chance of staying out of harm's way. Together, we are implementing nonlethal techniques to keep wolves away from livestock, including:

- Range riders or cowboys to protect livestock (a constant human presence discourages wolves from getting too close)
- Guard dogs to alert herders and range riders of nearby wolves
- Portable fencing or fladry (brightly colored flags strung across a rope or electrified wire that scare wolves) to secure livestock overnight
- Nonlethal hazing techniques, such as shining bright lights or firing a loud starter pistol, to drive off wolves
- Good husbandry practices, such as removing carcasses, which attract wolves to livestock, offering them an easy meal
- Moving livestock to grazing pastures away from wolf dens to avoid conflicts

###

Defenders of Wildlife is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With more than 1 million members and activists, Defenders of Wildlife is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come. For more information, visit www.defenders.org.

Links:

Read our [Frequently Asked Questions on transitioning wolf compensation](#)

Visit our [wolf coexistence partnership website](#) with a [map of projects in the region](#) and our [guide to nonlethal tools](#)

Read about our ongoing [project in the Wood River Valley](#) of central Idaho and our new [range rider project in eastern Oregon](#)

Learn about all of [Defenders' wolf conservation efforts](#)

See chart of [annual statistics for compensation payments](#) from 1987 to Oct. 2009

Contacts:

Suzanne Stone, (208) 424-9385, ssone@defenders.org

Eva Sargent, (520) 623-9653, esargent@defenders.org

John Motsinger, (202) 772-0288, jmotsinger@defenders.org
James Navarro, (202) 772-0247, jnavarro@defenders.org



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/20/2010 01:21 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: Heads Up

History:

 This message has been replied to.

10-4, where is little valley?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 1:16 PM

To: Reinecker, Scott

Subject: Heads Up

I've got a guy headed to Little Valley to look at a couple of carcasses reported as wolf kills. I'll let you know what he finds.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/20/2010 01:23 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: Heads Up

History:

✉ This message has been replied to.

Thanks.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 1:23 PM

To: Reinecker, Scott

Subject: RE: Heads Up

Cascade area

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker, Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/20/2010 01:21 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

Subject RE: Heads Up

10-4, where is little valley?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 1:16 PM

To: Reinecker, Scott
Subject: Heads Up

I've got a guy headed to Little Valley to look at a couple of carcasses reported as wolf kills. I'll let you know what he finds.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Cadwallader, Dave"
<dave.cadwallader@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/20/2010 01:30 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Take of wolf in Long Meadows in Clearwater Co.

thanks

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 12:28 PM
To: Cadwallader, Dave
Subject: Fw: Take of wolf in Long Meadows in Clearwater Co.

Gary is pulling his traps for the weekend and will try to hang a collar on a wolf next week.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 01:27 PM -----

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/US
DA

08/20/2010 01:25 PM

To: Clearwater supervisor cadwallader, Jay Crenshaw, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, scott kabasa, scott winkler, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke
cc: Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)da.net
Subject: Take of wolf in Long Meadows in Clearwater Co.
t

This morning, WS captured and killed a gray juvenile male wolf near the Elk Creek depredation site. The carcass was left on site and the skull was crushed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA

08/20/2010 01:34 PM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Charles L
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Doug A
cc dmiller@osc.idaho.gov, (b) (6)@earthlink.net,
wyatt@idahocattle.org

bcc

Subject Fw: Defenders of Wildlife Transitions from Wolf
Compensation to Coexistence

History: This message has been forwarded.

As you talk to your cooperators who may be having wolf problems, please let them know that Defenders of Wildlife will be discontinuing their wolf damage compensation program in Idaho as of September 10, 2010. See attachments below. If any of you have any wolf depredation investigation forms to be turned in, please do so as soon as possible to increase the likelihood that livestock producers will be able to submit their claims to Defenders by their Sept. 10th deadline.

Mark Collinge
State Director
APHIS Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
Phone (208) 378-5077
Fax (208) 378-5349
mark.d.collinge@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 12:11 PM.-----



(b) (6)
Suzanne Stone
<SSStone@defenders.org>
08/20/2010 12:00 PM

To "jeffrey.s.green@usda.gov" <jeffrey.s.green@usda.gov>
cc

Subject Defenders of Wildlife Transitions from Wolf Compensation to
Coexistence

August 20, 2010

Jeffrey Green
Western Regional Director
USDA / APHIS / WS
2150 Centre, Bldg B
Ft Collins, CO 80526

Dear Director Green,

As you know, last year federal legislation authorized the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide up to \$1 million for wolf compensation and nonlethal wolf predation prevention programs in Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. We are ending our compensation program in most states on September 10, 2010 and shifting our support and focus to collaborative efforts to help ranchers coexist with wolves with

our Wolf Coexistence Partnership.

You can find more information about this transition in the enclosed copy of a letter to the Service, press release and fact sheet of questions and answers. We look forward to working with your staff on regional wolf conservation efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)



(b) (6)

Northern Rockies Representative

P.O. Box 773, Boise, ID 83701

Tel: 208-424-9385 | Fax: 208-424-0169

sstone@defenders.org | www.defenders.org

Cc:

Mark Collinge, Idaho Wildlife Services State Director

Rod Krischke, Wyoming Wildlife Services State Director

Mike Linnell, Utah Wildlife Services State Director

John E. Steuber, Montana State Director Wildlife Services

David E. Williams, Oregon Wildlife Services State Director

Roger Woodruff, Washington and Alaska Wildlife Services State Director

Mike Yeary, Colorado Wildlife Services State Director



Defenders Letter to the USFWS re Transition.pdf dow_compensation_transition_factsheet.pdf



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/23/2010 08:24 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject FW: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

History:  This message has been replied to.

Do you guys have any plans reference below?

-----Original Message-----

From: Cooley, Hilary
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 10:54 AM
To: Reinecker, Scott
Subject: FW: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Hi Scott,

There can't be many more adults (if any) left in Bluebunch. Is WS going to do anything about the pups?

Hilary Cooley
Regional Wildlife Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
3101 S. Powerline Road
Nampa, ID 83686
208-559-5527
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Fri 8/20/2010 9:11 AM
To: Reinecker, Scott; Rachael, Jon; Husseman, Jason; Cooley, Hilary; Nadeau, Steve; (b) (6) @ezperce.org; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6) @da.net
Subject: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Yesterday, 8/19, WS captured and killed an adult, black male wolf near the Yuba River depredation site.

Also yesterday, a WS f/w aircrew shot and killed a black wolf on Council Mountain. We believe it is a member of the Blue Bunch pack. When I get the age/sex information, I'll pass it on.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor

USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/23/2010 08:46 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>, "Commons
Kemner, Michelle" <michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"Struthers, Jennifer" <jennifer.struthers@idfg.idaho.gov>,

cc

bcc

Subject FW: Wolf Depredations over the Weekend

In response to the new depredation (Nicholson 2 calves) east of Cascade we have a new 45 day control action (ends Oct 6) to remove offending wolves.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 8:12 AM

To: Reinecker, Scott; Rachael, Jon; Nadeau, Steve; Commons Kemner, Michelle; Husseman, Jason; Cooley, Hilary; Inutt@fs.fed.us; wririe@fs.fed.us; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; (b) (6) nezperce.org; Rohlman, Jeff; abaumer@fs.fed.us; mlaverty@fs.fed.us; aegnew@fs.fed.us

Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;

Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6) da.net

Subject: Wolf Depredations over the Weekend

On Friday, 8/20, WS confirmed that wolves killed a lamb on Fisher Creek Saddle, on the Payette National Forest, NE of McCall.

On Saturday, 8/21, WS looked at a cow on a grazing allotment on Council Mountain that was reported as a wolf kill. There was not enough evidence to confirm the depredation, but it was determined to be a probable wolf kill.

On Saturday, 8/21, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land in Little Valley, East of Cascade.

On Saturday, 8/21, WS confirmed that wolves killed 7 lambs and a ewe on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain.

On Sunday, 8/22, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land near Ola.

We've had previous depredations in all of these places earlier this year.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/24/2010 12:49 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>, "Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Cooley,Hilary"
<hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov>, <mark.drew@idahoag.us>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: DNA kits??

History: This message has been replied to.

I have a supply ready to go here at HQ. You can have someone stop by and pick them up, I can put them in the mail and have them to you in a couple days, or you can pick them up from me on Monday when you're here for our meeting if you can wait that long.

Let me know your preference.

Jon

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 8:52 AM
To: Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; mark.drew@idahoag.us
Subject: DNA kits??

I need a handful of wolf DNA kits. Where can I get them?

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



**George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/24/2010 02:04 PM

To Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Kirk E
Gustad/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc

Subject Fw: ESA Section 10 Permit for Wolf Damage Management
Activities

Mark, I just spoke with Gary Burton on the phone, and he said USFWS Region 1 is reluctant to issue us a renewal Section 10 permit because they will have to prepare a formal Section 7 consultation, a biological opinion, an environmental assessment (I think he meant to say "biological assessment") and publish the issuance of the permit in the Federal Register. They're also concerned that in light of the Aug. 5, ruling by Judge Molloy, they would be prone to litigation should they issue us a permit at this time. Instead, Gary offered to keep our employees on their Section 10 permit as long as necessary and make adjustments as needed, such as including a statement that we have up to 45 days to address livestock depredations and implement control activities after wolf predation is confirmed.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/24/2010 11:48 AM -----



Gary_Burton@fws.gov
08/24/2010 11:38 AM

To George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov
cc

Subject Re: ESA Section 10 Permit for Wolf Damage Management
Activities

Hi George - If you can give me a call when you are available, I'll give you an update. Thanks,

Gary L. Burton
Deputy State Supervisor
Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
(208) 378-5266, Fax (208) 378-5262
e-mail: gary_burton@fws.gov
▼ George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov

**George.E.Gra
ves@aphis.usd
a.gov**

08/23/2010
04:52 PM

ToGary_Burton@fws.gov

ccBrian_T_Kelly@fws.gov, Jesse_DElia@fws.gov,
Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov

SubjectRe: ESA Section 10 Permit for Wolf Damage Management
Activities

Gary,

I'll be in the office all this week but have commitments on Tuesday, from 10:45 AM to 3:15 PM and on Friday from 10:45 AM to 1:45 PM. The remaining days and times I'm available. Mark is out of the office this week and next, but if you need his input, we'll need to wait until Sept. 7.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

Gary_Burton@fws.gov

ToGeorge.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov

08/23/2010 04:44 PM

ccMark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, Jesse_DElia@fws.gov, Brian_T_Kelly@fws.gov
SubjectESA Section 10 Permit for Wolf Damage Management Activities

Hi George,
Our regional office has received your permit renewal request, but has a few questions / issues that they would like to clarify. Would you be available for a conference call with our office and the regional office to discuss further? If so, let me know your availability and I'll set it up. Thanks,



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/25/2010 10:10 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: DNA kits??

I should be around except maybe 12:30 – 2 or so, but will leave a stash on the corner of my desk for you in case I'm not chained to my computer when you arrive.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 9:22 AM
To: Rachael,Jon
Subject: RE: DNA kits??

I'll try to sneak over there this afternoon.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/24/2010 12:49 PM

To<Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>, "Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"Cooley,Hilary" <hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov>, <mark.drew@idahoag.us>
cc
SubjectRE: DNA kits??
t

I have a supply ready to go here at HQ. You can have someone stop by and pick them up, I can put them in the mail and have them to you in a couple days, or you can pick them up from me on Monday when you're here for our

meeting if you can wait that long.

Let me know your preference.

Jon

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Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/25/2010 02:36 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc "Commons Kemner, Michelle"
<michelle.common@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Rohlman, Jeff"
<jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Rachael, Jon"
bcc
Subject RE: Two Confirmed Wolf Depredations

Todd,

You are authorized to remove two wolves reference the Grassy Mtn. depredation.

Because of the depredation history, you are authorized to remove uncollared, offending wolves reference the depredation near Bear.

Both are 45 day control actions ending October 9, 2010

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 25, 2010 1:08 PM
To: Reinecker, Scott; Rohlman, Jeff; Rachael, Jon; Husseman, Jason; Cooley, Hilary; (b) (6) nezperce.org; Nadeau, Steve; Commons Kemner, Michelle; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; mlaverty@fs.fed.us; abaumer@fs.fed.us; aeegnew@fs.fed.us; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6) da.net
Subject: Two Confirmed Wolf Depredations

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 lambs and a ewe on a Payette National Forest allotment on Grassy Mountain near Coffee Cup Lake NE of McCall. This has been the territory of the Hard Butte pack in the past.

Also yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves attacked and injured a calf near Bear. There was a second injured calf that was determined to be a probable wolf depredation. The radio collared member of Hornet Creek pack was in the area when we were conducting the investigation.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA

08/25/2010 03:25 PM

To Jeffrey S Green/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Kirk E
Gustad/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Gary A
Littauer/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
cc David J Hayes/MT/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
charles.l.carpenter@aphis.usda.gov,
todd.l.sullivan@aphis.usda.gov,
bcc

Subject Fw: Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups

Jeff et al.,

See the below email from Dave Hayes.

I thought something might be going on since we've received 3-4 calls so far today from irate members of the public complaining that we shouldn't be gassing and killing hundreds of wolves in Idaho. I have a sneaky gut-feeling this campaign from Defenders might have something to do with us not extending the 30-day public comment period.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/25/2010 02:59 PM -----

David J Hayes/MT/APHIS/USDA

08/25/2010 02:58 PM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc

Subject Fw: Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups

In case you haven't seen this.

David J. Hayes
Environmental Coordinator

USDA-APHIS-WS-OSS
P.O. Box 50848
Billings, Montana 59105

(406) 245-0977
FAX 245-0924



Campaign to
Save America's Wolves
www.savewolves.org



**A Brutal Plan for
Northern Rockies Wolves**



Wolf pups like this would be gassed in their dens by federal agents according to plans from USDA's Wildlife Services.

Speak out now to stop the out-of-control wolf killing plan -- before the government-sponsored killing starts.

Help Stop the
Wolf Slaughter
TAKE ACTION >

Hurry -- the deadline for comments on this outrageous wolf-killing plan is Tuesday, August 31st!

Please forward
this message. 

Please forward this message on to others who care about wildlife.

ered Species Act protections for Greater Yellowstone wolves is only weeks old. But that's not stopping Wildlife Services agents -- the government's wildlife killing experts -- from planning to kill hundreds of wolves in the region, including helpless pups in

their dens.

The federal Wildlife Services agency has gone too far -- and we need your help to stop them.

Please take action now to speak out against the Wildlife Services plan to expand their wolf-killing role in Idaho.

The federal Wildlife Services agency (a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) is the primary wolf-killer in the United States. Now they want to expand their wolf-killing operations. **They plan to work with Idaho officials to kill up to 80 percent of the wolves in north-central Idaho by land and from the air .**

Their plan also includes **killing entire packs -- including gassing helpless wolf pups in their dens -- and surgically sterilizing alpha wolf pairs.**

All this despite the fact that wolves in the region are once again protected by federal law.

Speak out now to stop the out-of-control wolf killing plan -- before the government-sponsored killing starts.

USDA's Wildlife Services is the same agency that helped kill off wolves by the 1940s. **And their new plan shows their intent to escalate their current war on these magnificent animals that you and I have fought so hard to protect.**

Instead of helping ranchers co-exist with wolves and other native wildlife with proven non-lethal techniques, Wildlife Services is expanding their role as the nation's top wolf-killers -- and dragging wolf management back to the brutal and archaic practices of the past.

Wildlife Services' outrageous wolf-killing plan seeks to punish wolves for doing what they do naturally: preying on elk and fulfilling their ecological role as part of a natural system .

This unacceptable wolf-killing plan cannot be allowed to go forward -- especially since wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Rockies regained protections under the Endangered Species Act.

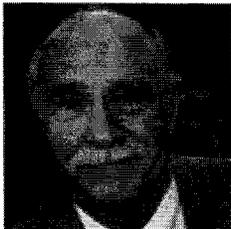
Oppose Wildlife Services' plan to kill more endangered wolves in Idaho.

Idaho officials are claiming that wolves are the major cause of elk declines in parts of the state. But in 23 of the 29 elk management zones, *populations of these animals are at or above population targets* -- many of the areas experiencing declines in elk numbers contain no wolves. And the Clearwater National Forest was experiencing steep declines in elk numbers by 1988 -- *long before wolves returned to the area.*

Politics is clearly driving state officials to call on USDA's Wildlife Services to kill more wolves to artificially boost game populations beyond what current habitat can support.

Take action now to help stop the federal Wildlife Services plan for killing more protected wolves in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Rockies region.

Please take action today -- the deadline for public comments on this outrageous wolf-killing plan is Tuesday, August 31st.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rodger Schlickeisen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rodger Schlickeisen
President
Defenders of Wildlife

P.S. Please forward this message on to others who care about wildlife so they can lend their voice to the fight to save wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Rockies.

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This message was sent to kimberly.k.wagner@usda.gov.

Please do not respond to this message.

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Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

Defenders of Wildlife can be contacted at:
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

David Ruid/WI/APHIS/USDA
08/26/2010 07:03 AM

To Robert C Willging/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Jason
Suckow/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups

FYI ... DOW announcement on WS wolf management in ID.

Dave Ruid
Assistant District Supervisor-Wildlife Biologist
USDA/Wildlife Services
P.O. Box 1064
Rhineland, WI 54501-1064
(715)369-5221 ext. 13, phone
(715)369-1257, fax
david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov
----- Forwarded by David Ruid/WI/APHIS/USDA on 08/26/2010 08:01 AM -----



"Rodger Schlickeisen,
Defenders of Wildlife"
<defenders@mail.defenders.org>

To david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov
cc

08/25/2010 02:24 PM

Subject Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups

Please respond to
"Rodger Schlickeisen,
Defenders of Wildlife"
<defenders@mail.defenders.org>



Campaign to
Save America's Wolves
www.savewolves.org



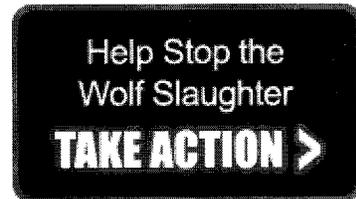
A Brutal Plan for Northern Rockies Wolves



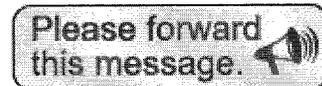
Wolf pups like this would be gassed in their

dens by federal agents according to plans from USDA's Wildlife Services.

Speak out now to stop the out-of-control wolf killing plan -- before the government-sponsored killing starts.



Hurry -- the deadline for comments on this outrageous wolf-killing plan is Tuesday, August 31st!



Please forward this message on to others who care about wildlife.

Dear David,

The court decision to restore Endangered Species Act protections for Greater Yellowstone wolves is only weeks old. **But that's not stopping Wildlife Services agents -- the government's wildlife killing experts -- from planning to kill hundreds of wolves in the region, including helpless pups in their dens.**

The federal Wildlife Services agency has gone too far -- and we need your help to stop them.

Please take action now to speak out against the Wildlife Services plan to expand their wolf-killing role in Idaho.

The federal Wildlife Services agency (a branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture) is the primary wolf-killer in the United States. Now they want to expand their wolf-killing operations. **They plan to work with Idaho officials to kill up to 80 percent of the wolves in north-central Idaho by land and from the air .**

Their plan also includes **killing entire packs -- including gassing helpless wolf pups in their dens -- and surgically sterilizing alpha wolf pairs.**

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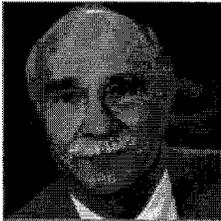
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President
Defenders of Wildlife

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This message was sent to david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov.

Please do not respond to this message.

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Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

Defenders of Wildlife can be contacted at:
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Carol A
Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA
08/26/2010 07:52 AM

To David Ruid/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Jason Suckow/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Robert C
Willging/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups 

Thank you for sharing this Dave.

Carol

David Ruid---08/26/2010 09:03:35 AM---FYI ... DOW announcement on WS wolf management i

David Ruid/WI/APHIS/USDA
08/26/2010 09:03 AM

To Robert C Willging/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Jason
Suckow/WI/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Carol A
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Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
Subject Fw: Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups

FYI ... DOW announcement on WS wolf management in ID.

Dave Ruid
Assistant District Supervisor-Wildlife Biologist
USDA/Wildlife Services
P.O. Box 1064
Rhineland, WI 54501-1064
(715)369-5221 ext. 13, phone
(715)369-1257, fax
david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by David Ruid/WI/APHIS/USDA on 08/26/2010 08:01 AM -----



"Rodger Schlickeisen,
Defenders of Wildlife"
<defenders@mail.defenders.org>

To david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov
cc
Subject Out-of-Control: Feds Plan to Gas Wolf Pups

08/25/2010 02:24 PM

Please respond to
"Rodger Schlickeisen,
Defenders of Wildlife"
<defenders@mail.defenders.org>



Campaign to
Save America's Wolves
www.savewolves.org



A Brutal Plan for Northern Rockies Wolves

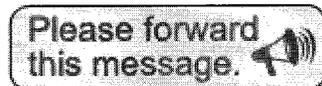


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Speak out now to stop the out-of-control wolf killing plan -- before the government-sponsored killing starts.

USDA's Wildlife Services is the same agency that helped kill off wolves by the 1940s. **And their new plan shows their intent to escalate their current war on these magnificent animals that you and I have fought so hard to protect.**

Instead of helping ranchers co-exist with wolves and other native wildlife with proven non-lethal techniques, Wildlife Services is expanding their role as the nation's top wolf-killers -- and dragging wolf management back to the brutal and archaic practices of the past.

Wildlife Services' outrageous wolf-killing plan seeks to punish wolves for doing what they do naturally: *preying on elk and fulfilling their ecological role as part of a natural system* .

This unacceptable wolf-killing plan cannot be allowed to go forward -- especially since wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Rockies regained protections under the Endangered Species Act.

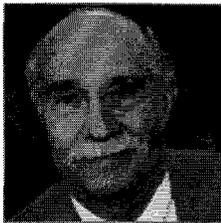
Oppose Wildlife Services' plan to kill more endangered wolves in Idaho.

Idaho officials are claiming that wolves are the major cause of elk declines in parts of the state. But in 23 of the 29 elk management zones, *populations of these animals are at or above population targets* -- many of the areas experiencing declines in elk numbers contain no wolves. And the Clearwater National Forest was experiencing steep declines in elk numbers by 1988 -- *long before wolves returned to the area.*

Politics is clearly driving state officials to call on USDA's Wildlife Services to kill more wolves to artificially boost game populations beyond what current habitat can support.

Take action now to help stop the federal Wildlife Services plan for killing more protected wolves in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Rockies region.

Please take action today -- the deadline for public comments on this outrageous wolf-killing plan is Tuesday, August 31st.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Rodger Schlickeisen".

Rodger Schlickeisen
President
Defenders of Wildlife

P.S. **Please forward this message on to others** who care about wildlife so they can lend their voice to the fight to save wolves in Greater Yellowstone and the Northern Rockies.

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This message was sent to david.ruid@aphis.usda.gov.

Please do not respond to this message.
[Click here to unsubscribe.](#)

Defenders of Wildlife is a national, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to the protection of all native wild animals and plants in their natural communities.

Defenders of Wildlife can be contacted at:
1130 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036



George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/26/2010 08:51 AM

To Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
tracey.manoff@ogc.usda.gov,
annalisa.jabaily@ogc.usda.gov, Alton
bcc
Subject Fw: Idaho Wolf Damage Management

Janet,

Thanks for responding to Ms. Grabein's request for information about our draft wolf EA. It was on my "to do" list for this morning, but I've had other distractions that needed tending to. I spoke with Alton this morning and told him as of Tuesday afternoon this week, we had 28 comments in the wolf EA email box, but when I checked it yesterday about 4:00 PM MST, there were 8,438 comments. I just now checked it again and there are over 45,000 comments. All of these are chain letters that I believe was provided by the Defenders of Wildlife from the action alert they distributed to their membership yesterday.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/26/2010 08:38 AM -----
Janet L Bucknall/MD/APHIS/USDA

08/26/2010 08:32 AM

To (b) (6)@yahoo.com
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
Subjec Idaho Wolf Damage Management
t

Good Morning Ms. Grabein ,

This is to follow up on our telephone conversation yesterday afternoon. I understand your priority for the US government to use legal and environmentally responsible methods when implementing predation

management programs.

You had asked about the potential use of gas cartridges in wolf dens in Idaho, and I am sending you the link to the Environmental Assessment (comment period open through AUG 31) that discusses that (pages 56-57).

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/ws/ws_nepa_public_notice_ID.shtml

If you have specific program-related questions, I would encourage you to contact our Idaho State Office in Boise (208-378-5077). I hope this information is useful to you.

Janet Bucknall
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
Riverdale, MD 20737
(301)734-5918
(301)734-5157 (FAX)

Good Morning Ms.Grabien ,

This is to follow up on our telephone conversation yesterday afternoon. I understand your priority for the US government to use legal and environmentally responsible methods when implementing predation management programs.

You had asked about the potential use of gas cartridges in wolf dens in Idaho, and I am sending you the link to the Environmental Assessment (comment period open through AUG 31) that discusses that (pages 56-57).

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Janet Bucknall
USDA APHIS Wildlife Services
Riverdale, MD 20737
(301)734-5918
(301)734-5157 (FAX)



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/30/2010 07:16 AM

To "Ausband, David" <David.Ausband@mso.umt.edu>, <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>, "Jim Holyan" <(b) (6) nezperce.org>, "Husseman,Jason"
cc
bcc
Subject input for August wolf update

It's that time again... I haven't managed to put together the July report yet but it's time to get the August updates together. If you have anything to include, please get your information in. I'm going to try to get both the July and August updates out this week.

Thanks!

Jon

Jon Rachael
State Wildlife Manager
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
600 S Walnut ST
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov
(208) 287-2795



"Husseman, Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/30/2010 12:06 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

These things always end up right on a GMU border...House Mountain is in 39, and Lester Ck is in 43. Any idea which side the wolf was dispatched?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 11, 2010 11:27 AM

To: Reinecker,Scott; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov

Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)@da.net

Subject: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

This morning, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the House Mountain depredation site near Lester Creek on Boise NF land. The carcass was left at the site, the skull was destroyed and tissue samples were collected. WS also confirmed that another lamb was killed in the depredation that occurred this past weekend.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/30/2010 12:29 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

History:

This message has been replied to.

Another 'tweener—39, or 43?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 9:27 AM

To: Reinecker,Scott; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Nadeau,Steve; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov

Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;

Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net

Subject: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

This morning, WS shot and killed a sub-adult, gray female wolf near the House Mountain depredation site. The carcass was retrieved due to its proximity to a public road. For the time being, it will be stored at the WS hangar in Gooding and will be transferred to IDFG at some time in the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/30/2010 12:40 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

Got it, thanks.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2010 12:40 PM
To: Husseman,Jason
Subject: RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

Both 39

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/30/2010 12:29 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

Another 'tweener—39, or 43?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 9:27 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Nadeau,Steve; scott_kabasa@fws.gov;

scott_winkler@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)@da.net
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Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



"Jim Holyan"
<(b) (6) nezperce.org>
08/30/2010 04:42 PM

To "Rachael, Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"craig.white@idfg.idaho.gov" <craig.white@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"dave.cadwallader@idfg.idaho.gov"
cc
bcc
Subject Elk Ck. depredation

I spoke with Gary Looney and he has chosen the name Long Meadow pack for the wolves that he has been working on here. This group meets pack definition (verified reproduction) and has probably existed since at least 2009 due to the presence of a subadult. Gary believes there is still at least 1 pup remaining, based on tracks, and time permitting, he will attempt to collar a wolf. He was aware that B451 (former Chesimia breeding female) is present in the area and has been scanning for her. He also mentioned that he is/was aware of wolf activity in the Mason Butte/Meadow area (~8 mi. S of Long Meadow) in 2009, but that there doesn't seem to be any activity there this year. It is possible that the wolves in the Mason area in 2009 were the Long Meadow pack (or not). jim (6)



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/30/2010 10:16 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>,
<George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
bcc

Subject FW: Wolf Killing EA

George, Todd,

See attached. I read most of the comments and now I'm really confused. Is he commenting on YOUR EA? Or our Lolo 10j proposal? I sent him a note and tried to point out there are 2 different processes going on here, but then I read further into his comments and now can't figure out who is more confused--Him? Or Me?

Geez.

Jon

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [REDACTED]@friendsoftheclearwater.org]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2010 5:39 PM
To: Rachael,Jon
Subject: Wolf Killing EA

See attached.



Wolf Killing EA comment.pdf

August 30, 2010

Idaho Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707

RE: Wolf Killing Proposal and Environmental Assessment

Sent via Email and FAX to: jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov, (208) 334-2148 / (208) 334-2114

The following comments are being submitted by Friends of the Clearwater, Wilderness Watch (the portions dealing with designated wilderness) and Alliance for the Wild Rockies on the "Draft Environmental Assessment, Gray Wolf Damage Management in Idaho for Protection of Livestock and other Domestic Animals, Wild Ungulates, and Human Safety." This environmental assessment (EA) is fatally flawed from both a policy and scientific perspective. The two agencies that produced it should immediately withdraw the proposal.

Introduction

These comments focus mainly on the so-called wild ungulate portion of the purpose and need. We refer you to comments submitted by other organizations for more detailed criticisms of the livestock loss and other aspects of this EA.

Process

Why are comments being sent to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) when the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) prepared it? While the IDFG is a cooperating agency (the only other one), APHIS is clearly the lead agency. This needs to be explained. Furthermore, the site referenced in the EA (page 29) is an error and unavailable. Even though we have commented on these proposals in the past, if it were not for another organization that informed us of this EA, we would not have received it. The comment period is very short. As such, the process is not truly available to the public as required by NEPA.

NEPA

Did APHIS go to the public for scoping on this proposal? If so, why weren't we informed? If not, how is that consistent with CEQ regulations?

The purpose and need for the proposal is simply a wish list of those who want to kill wolves and not based upon sound reasons. Indeed, the EA itself admits that there has been significant wolf killing by government entities even while the wolves were listed. Is the EA suggesting that the past killing programs have been ineffective? If so, why

continue with an expansion of the ineffective killing programs?

The purpose and need cites the IDFG rather than the USFWS for wolf recovery numbers. Why not go to the source?

The purpose and need is predicated on killing wolves in the front country and suggests that wolves in the backcountry are not targeted by this proposal. The Lolo and Selway zones are both in the backcountry and neither have had confirmed livestock depredation (no livestock allotments are found in those zones). If wolf killing for ungulates is to occur in the Lolo and Selway zones, it does not meet the purpose and need as stated in the EA.

An EIS needs to be prepared. Such a large-scale killing program, as proposed in the EA, is significant. Aerial gunning in wilderness, for example, is contrary to wilderness regulations. There is scientific controversy over whether wolves are recovered at all (see Bergstrom et al., 2009, *The Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Is Not Yet Recovered*, *BioScience*, vol. 59 No. 11, 991-999). These are just a few examples.

What is the role of the FWS? Will another EA or EIS be prepared for killing wolves, especially if the goal is to increase ungulate numbers? What about the US Forest Service and their duty in stewardship of wilderness? Will other EAs or EISs be prepared?

The EA is based upon faulty assumptions that result in an inadequate analysis. Perhaps the most glaring is the ridiculous allegation that the EA is somehow designed to protect human health. Wolves are arguably the least threatening species of any medium to large wild mammal in Idaho. The USDA would be better served by addressing real issues to human health rather than feeding into the anti-wolf, Little Red Riding Hood hysteria.

Another problem is that the EA does not address the fact that canids, when stressed, have a reproductive strategy that can increase predation. The EA also does not address whether wolves are recovered (see Bergstrom et al., 2009, *The Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Is Not Yet Recovered*, *BioScience*, vol. 59 No. 11, 991-999).

The EA does not adequately analyze the issues in the Lolo and Selway zones or if wolves are to blame. Data obtained from the IDFG notes elk calf survival of 80% in Lolo Zone the early part of 2010 (January to mid April), when elk are most vulnerable. Cow and bull survival rates were 98 and 100 percent respectively. Thus, there is no rationale for killing wolves in the Lolo Zone.

From the bigger picture perspective, elk declines in the upper Clearwater are nature's way to reach another necessary equilibrium. The issue of elk declines in the Clearwater is not new. It raises its head every 25 or so years. The upper Clearwater is rather unique. There isn't winter range typical of most of the interior West, dry shrub steppes, where elk go to foothills. Winter elk forage consists of hardwood brush, the result of large fires in the early 1900s on formerly forested slopes.

At the same time, the upper Clearwater is wetter than one would expect in the Interior

West and that favors forests rather than semi-arid or arid steppes. Indeed, Lowell Idaho had about eight feet of snow in one winter in the late 1940s, the time of the first major die-off of Clearwater elk.

Elk habitat in the upper Clearwater is a function of recent large burns. Plant succession is taking place and needs to take place for soil and watershed health. In other words, the elk habitat on the Clearwater is ephemeral. The preferred brush forage, *redstem ceanothus*, declines in quality after 10 or so years.

At the time of the big fires in the early 1900s, and shortly thereafter, elk were few. The state established at least one game preserve (the old Selway preserve). At the same time, the war on predators was reaching its culmination. Elk increased rapidly. The number of elk in the 1900s was not normal, it was incredibly high, but since our perspective is short, it seemed normal. That skewed perception is at the heart of the problem.

Dworshak reservoir inundated some of the best elk winter range in the Clearwater. Everything between about 900 and 1500 feet in elevation on the North Fork is gone. Another problem is that nobody has been doing condition or trend studies in the Clearwater. Neither the IDFG nor the Forest Service has this information.

The two biggest influences in the past 60 years on Clearwater elk are the construction of Highway 12 (greatly increased hunter access) and hunting regulations (cow harvest and lack thereof). Technological changes in hunting during the past 10 to 15 years (easy to use bugle calls, instruction videos, etc.) have made hunters more effective. Big bulls have a harder time surviving even in the backcountry. Cow demographics are important. Wolves have been killing older cows who are not as productive and bringing the herd into demographic health. IDFG data support this finding but this is not addressed in the EA. Indeed, nearly 40% of the cows killed by wolves were over 15 years old in the Lolo Zone! Mature bull to cow ratios are also a problem. Young bulls sire calves, which are born at varying intervals, rather than in one flush and thus predators have a longer time to prey on vulnerable young thereby increasing the mortality.

Simply put, the EA does not make a case for killing wolves to protect ungulates. It has no information on wolf numbers, range conditions, or other factors in elk decline.

Policy

The EA has many policy flaws. We address them in the paragraphs below.

The EA is predicated mainly on the fact that wolves are delisted and that the IDFG has complete authority over wolves. While the latter may not be true even under delisting on federal lands, the important point is that wolves are now relisted because they have not been shown to be recovered. Indeed, there is significant scientific controversy over whether wolves are recovered (see Bergstrom et al., 2009, *The Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Is Not Yet Recovered*, *BioScience*, vol. 59 No. 11, 991-999).

The EA is inconsistent and obfuscates the actual policy of the State of Idaho. As such, the EA lacks credibility and integrity required in the NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1500). Examples of this issue are detailed below.

The EA states that the Idaho plans to maintain wolves in a sustainable manner so that they would continue to play their role in the ecosystem. Specifically, the EA alleges that the benefits of wolves would be realized under an increased killing program.

There are three problems with this analysis. First, the official state policy is to have the federal government (of which APHIS is a part) remove all of the wolves from Idaho. If there are no wolves on the landscape, they can't play their ecological role. Second, the research on trophic cascades was conducted on an un hunted and uncontrolled wolf population in Yellowstone National Park. It is not applicable to Idaho which wants all wolves gone or, at best, maintain token numbers of wolves. There is no evidence that heavily manipulated wolf populations provide the benefits they do in Yellowstone. Indeed, the state plan and the EA itself state that wolves are to be prevented from influencing ungulate populations or people who derive personal financial gains from public resources. As such, it seems the EA's goal is to prevent wolves from playing their ecological role in the landscape. Third, the EA refused to even address the issue of the appropriate wolf population. Since the EA refuses to address this issue it can't logically assume that wolves will play their ecological role under an increased killing program without evaluating the level at which wolves would play this role.

The EA states that the Idaho plan is a "good faith effort." That is nonsense as the state government (as opposed to the citizens) wants all wolves removed by the federal government. That state's plan was not done in good faith.

The EA states it is up to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to determine whether wolves, if relisted (which they are) should be killed to boost numbers of wild ungulates. Yet this EA is being prepared to kill wolves, ostensibly to protect ungulates, without any clear decision-making role on the part of the FWS. It seems the EA is engaging in obfuscation. As citizens, we expect you, as public servants, to be honest and open. At the very least, this EA is premature and the FWS should be the lead agency. The FWS is not even one of the two cooperating agencies.

The EA leads one to believe that the core of central Idaho would not be affected by this proposal, as it is a core source for wolf security. However, the EA also mentions the Lolo and Selway zones as places where ungulates are below IDFG's goals (NOTE: These goals are not based upon sound biology and current range conditions but on social factors which were influenced by an anomalous high elk population in the mid 1900s). It should also be noted that both zones are within the large central/north-central Idaho wildlands complex.

Wilderness

There is no analysis to determine if this proposal meets the Wilderness Act. It should be

recognized that the Lolo and Selway zones both contain significant designated wilderness. Regulations on wilderness stewardship from the US Forest Service (FSM 2323.31) note wilderness provides, "an environment where the forces of natural selection and survival rather than human actions determine which and what numbers of wildlife species will exist." FSM 2323.32 discourages, "measures for direct control (other than normal harvest) of wildlife and fish populations." The FSM is even more explicit regarding predator control (FSM 2323.33c):

Predacious mammals and birds play a critical role in maintaining the integrity of natural ecosystems. Consider the benefits of a predator species in the ecosystem before approving control actions. The Regional Forester may approve predator control programs on a case-by-case basis where control is necessary to protect federally listed threatened or endangered species, to protect public health and safety, or to prevent serious losses of domestic livestock. Focus control methods on offending individuals and under conditions that ensure minimum disturbance to the wilderness resource and visitors. Poison baits or cyanide guns are not acceptable. Poison bait collars may be approved.

The regulations do not allow predator control to boost elk numbers. This same section of the FSM later notes, "The Forest Service is responsible for determining the need for control, the methods to be used, and approving all proposed predator damage control programs in wilderness." As such, this proposal creates a conflict between wilderness and the game-farming mentality of some within the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Simply put, this proposal is not legal in wilderness. Aerial gunning is approved in this EA. That is also clearly prohibited in wilderness.

Summary

The EA is grossly inadequate. It has no clear purpose and need, it fails to clearly address the roles of various agencies, and it fails to recognize that the very area the IDFG wants to kill wolves to boost elk numbers contains designated wilderness. It should be immediately withdrawn.

Sincerely,

//s//

(b) (6)

Friends of the Clearwater

PO Box 9241

Moscow, ID 83843

--and--

Board Member, Wilderness Watch

And Alliance for the Wild Rockies



George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/31/2010 07:32 AM

To "Rachael,Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc
Subject Re: FW: Wolf Killing EA

Jon,

Thanks for forwarding the comment letter from the Friends of the Clearwater. After reading it, I'm fairly confident that the letter should have come to us in response to our draft Wolf EA. I'll add it to our stack of public comment letters.

I haven't checked our EA public comment email in-box recently, but a copy of this letter might be in there too.

George E. Graves
Assistant State Director
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services
9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, Idaho 83709-1572
Office (208) 378-5077
Cell (b) (6)
FAX (208) 378-5349
george.e.graves@aphis.usda.gov

"Rachael,Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov
>
08/30/2010 10:16 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>,
<George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject FW: Wolf Killing EA

George, Todd,

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Geez.

Jon

-----Original Message-----

From: (b) (6) [redacted]@friendsoftheclearwater.org]
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2010 5:39 PM
To: Rachael,Jon
Subject: Wolf Killing EA

See attached.



Wolf Killing EA comment.pdf



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/31/2010 02:08 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE:

10-4, do you have an idea of what drainage (landmark) the depredation occurred?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 2:07 PM

To: Reinecker, Scott

Cc: Rohlman, Jeff

Subject: Re:

We confirmed the depredation on the 13th. As far as what the pack's boundaries are, I think the best data is probably in IDFG's Annual Wolf Report. You'll probably need a GIS guy to do an overlay to see how much of the allotment is covered by the pack's territory. The Bluebunch pack is the only known pack in that area, but there may be more that we don't know about.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/31/2010 01:50 PM

To "Rohlman, Jeff" <jeff.rohman@idfg.idaho.gov> ,

<Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

Subject

t

Jeff and Todd,

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Todd, where bouts did the Yantis depredation occur and Todd and Jeff, what are your guys thoughts? Todd, what day did you confirm the Yantis depredation? STR

Scott Reinecker

Southwest Regional Supervisor

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

phone: (208)465-8465

cell: (208)850-2206

**email: sreinecker@idfg.idaho.gov[attachment "Council Mountain C&H Map.pdf"
deleted by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA]**



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/31/2010 02:14 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE:

History:

✉ This message has been replied to.

Disregard, .East Fork Weiser River

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 2:07 PM

To: Reinecker, Scott

Cc: Rohlman, Jeff

Subject: Re:

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Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/31/2010 01:50 PM

To "Rohlman, Jeff" <jeff.rohman@idfg.idaho.gov> ,

<Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc

Subject

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deleted by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA]**

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/31/2010 02:47 PM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Charles L
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, George E
cc
bcc
Subject Rationale for appealing Molloy's wolf decision

This article mentions the good argument that wolves were downlisted in the Great Lakes region by state boundary (i.e., considered threatened in Minnesota, but endangered in Wisconsin and Michigan), as the basis for appealing Molloy's ruling that FWS couldn't legally exclude Wyoming from the delisting decision.

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/31/2010 01:42 PM -----

Groups form coalition on wolf issue

Story

Groups form coalition on wolf issue

By EVE BYRON Independent Record helenair.com | Posted: Saturday, August 21, 2010 12:00 am

Representatives of livestock producers, outfitters, hunters and wildlife enthusiasts promised Friday to present a united front with the state of Montana as it moves forward as quickly as possible, on multiple pathways, to try to regain tools needed to control growing gray wolf populations.

Joe Maurier, director of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and Bob Lane, FWP attorney, said they're planning on filing a motion with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn an Aug. 5 U.S. District Court ruling that put wolves in Montana and Idaho back on the list of animals protected under the federal Endangered Species Act. While that appeal is pending — which is expected to take a year or longer — the state also will ask the federal government to issue "take" permits in Montana that would allow for some public hunting.

The state also is considering entering into discussions with plaintiffs in the case over what it would take to return full management of wolves to the state; seek federal legislation to change the status of gray wolves in Montana; and ask Congress to make it clear that delisting of wolves in one state, but not in an adjoining one, is part of the flexibility allowed under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition, officials will ask the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services to consider wolves a threatened species rather than endangered in the northern half of Montana, which allows for more management latitude. They're considered an experimental population in southern Montana, which means wolves can be shot on sight when caught preying on livestock.

Maurier added that what both Montana and Idaho officials probably won't do is try to convince Wyoming to lift the predator status of wolves in that state, because at a meeting among leaders of the three states Thursday, Wyoming officials made it clear they weren't planning on making any changes at this time.

"Our intent is to be more aggressive than we have in the past and we'll see how that works," Maurier said.

"... We are going to work our tails off as long as I'm here to do whatever we can to provide a clear path forward and resolve this problem. If there was a silver bullet we would have used it by now.

"The bottom line is we can't do it alone ... and that's why we brought you here today."

While members of the 10 groups at Friday's meeting agreed with some of the tactics Maurier outlined, many were resoundingly opposed to any type of talks with the 13 environmental organizations that filed the lawsuit to return wolves in Montana and Idaho to the list of endangered species.

"How do you negotiate any kind of settlement with those folks that is binding for any kind of long period of time?" asked David Allen, president of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. "Anyone with a computer, attorney and blog can become an environmental group overnight. What's to stop that group from becoming another group and suing you?"

"... I just figure what's the point with those folks? They have shown no propensity to sit down and deal like big boys and girls."

While acknowledging Allen's point, Maurier added that it doesn't hurt to at least open discussions.

"It never hurts to talk, maybe for educational purposes, if nothing else," he said.

Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which handled the reintroduction of gray wolves into the Northern Rockies ecosystem beginning in 1994, declared in May 2009 that wolves in Montana and Idaho no longer needed federal protection status, and took them off the list of endangered species. As part of the two states' management efforts, they each held their first-ever hunting season last fall, and wolves that were harassing livestock were able to be shot without permits.

However, Wyoming's wolf management plan declared them to be predators in most of the state outside of Yellowstone National Park, and allowed them to be shot on sight as long the state retained a minimum population of about 75 animals, or 15 packs of at least five animals each. That wasn't acceptable to the USFWS, and they remained protected under federal law.

In his ruling earlier this month, U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy wrote that the wolf population can't be considered "recovered" and delisted in Montana and Idaho, but not in Wyoming.

Lane said he thinks that argument won't stand up to an appeal, since wolves are considered only threatened in Minnesota, but endangered in Michigan and Wisconsin. Montana and Idaho will appeal Molloy's ruling on that basis, he said, but added that if it is remanded back to Molloy, other issues raised by the environmental groups also would need to be resolved, which could take a few years.

That's why the state and groups will also take their case to Congress, seeking fast-track clarification that partial delisting is allowed under the Endangered Species Act. Both Sen. Max Baucus and Rep. Denny Rehberg have announced plans to introduce legislation to give more control of wolf management to Montana. Maurier said those bills probably will be reconciled as they pass through the House and Senate. Currently, about 1,700 wolves roam throughout Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, eastern Oregon and Washington. Montana is home to about 525 wolves and plans to manage for 400 or more; Idaho has about 835 wolves, with a management goal of 520; and Wyoming has about 320.

Those at Friday's meeting said wolves have dramatically lowered elk and moose populations in some parts of Montana and are preying in ever increasing numbers on livestock. They fear that as the number of wolves continues to rise, so will conflicts.

"We have screwed around with this far too long," Allen said.

Reporter Eve Byron: 447-4076 or eve.byron@helenair.com



"Rohlman,Jeff"
<jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov>
>

08/31/2010 03:24 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>, "Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

cc

bcc

Subject RE:

Scott,

I've looked at the activity map for the Bluebunch pack and it looks like it overlaps the Council Mountain grazing allotment in its entirety. There does not appear to be another pack involved in this area. It looks like you could make this SOS for the entire allotment and not effect non pack members.

Jeff

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
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To: Reinecker,Scott
Cc: Rohlman,Jeff
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FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott"
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08/31/2010 01:50 PM

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**email: sreinecker@idfg.idaho.gov[attachment "Council Mountain C&H Map.pdf"
deleted by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA]**



"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/31/2010 03:38 PM

To "Rohlman, Jeff" <jeff.rohman@idfg.idaho.gov>, <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc "Gould, Jeff" <jeff.gould@idfg.idaho.gov>

bcc

Subject RE:

10-4, Thanks Jeff, that is what I will do. STR

From: Rohlman, Jeff
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 3:24 PM
To: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov; Reinecker, Scott
Subject: RE:

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"Reinecker, Scott"
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08/31/2010 01:50 PM

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email: sreinecker@idfg.idaho.gov[attachment "Council Mountain C&H Map.pdf" deleted by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA]

Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
09/01/2010 02:31 PM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Kirk E Gustad/CO/APHIS/USDA@USDA, John E Steuber/MT/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Rodney F Krischke/WY/APHIS/USDA@USDA

bcc

Subject More form letters...

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 09/01/2010 01:27 PM -----

Bill Clay/MD/APHIS/USDA
09/01/2010 01:23 PM

To Bethany X Jones/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, James C Ivy/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Carol A Bannerman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc Cindy J Smith/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Gregory L Parham/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Kevin A Shea/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Amy R Spillman/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Janel L Barsi/MD/APHIS/USDA@USDA

Subject Fw: Help stop the aerial slaughter and gassing of Idaho wolves by USDA

There is a new letter-writing campaign suggesting opposition letters go to the Secretary, APHIS Administrator, and Deputy Secretary Merrigan. All the people have to do is hit a pre-set icon on the website below and it will electronically send the form letter to the recipients. We have currently received over 118,000 comment form letters opposing our wolf EA in Idaho, so there could be several thousand of these emails coming in to OSEC and the AO.

Bill

----- Forwarded by John A Sinclair/MD/APHIS/USDA on 09/01/2010 04:06 PM -----



(b) (6)
[Redacted]
@stopextinction.org>

09/01/2010 04:05 PM

Please respond to
(b) (6)@stopextinction.org>

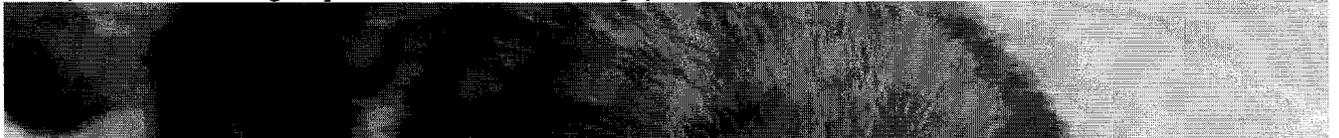
To <john.a.sinclair@usda.gov>

cc

Subject Help stop the aerial slaughter and gassing of Idaho wolves by USDA

Dear John,

After years of working to protect wolves, I'm deeply saddened to see things come to this. In the wake of:



Take action. Tell Secretary Vilsack to intervene and stop this wolf-killing proposal.

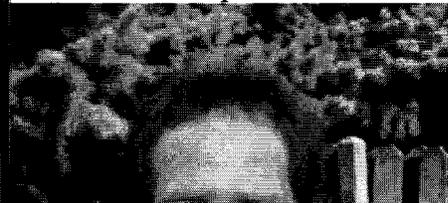
USDA Wildlife Services is the agency responsible for exterminating wolves during the last century. Now big game animals. Yet, according to a recent report by Idaho Fish and Game, elk are within or above major livestock loss to wolves.

This extreme USDA proposal will even go so far as to include the following outrageous tactics for killing:

- Gassing pups in their dens**
- Aerial slaughter from helicopter**
- Capturing and sterilizing breeding pairs of wolves**

Go here to tell Secretary Vilsack you oppose this inhumane proposal.

While I work to protect wolves every day, I know I can't stop this alone. We need your help.



s(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Endangered Species Coalition

P.S. If the links above do not work, please visit <http://org2.democracyinaction.org/o/6014/p/dia>

The Endangered Species Coalition is a national network of hundreds of conservation, scientific, sporting

Check out o

You received this email because you have previously supported the Endangered Species Coalition's efforts. We g

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/05/2010 08:53 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Steve Nadeau, Michelle
Commons, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley,
lisa nutt, warren ririe, Ana Egnaw, Maura Laverty, david
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Four Wolf Depredations

I was out of the office yesterday and these have started to pile up a little.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Little Mud Creek SW of New Meadows. Possibly the Hornet Creek pack or the Lick Creek pack.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land on Squaw Creek 3-5 miles NW of Ola. Unknown wolves.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek. This is very near the depredation we confirmed in Hunter Creek last month. After WS confirmed this latest depredation and left the site, the herder shot and killed a wolf returning to the kill. I have no information about the age/sex of the wolf killed right now.

Yesterday, 8/4, WS confirmed that wolves killed 5 lambs and 3 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain. The wolves responsible for this depredation are probably the same wolves that were involved in the depredation on Lester Creek last month.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/05/2010 09:03 AM

To Upper Snake Regional Supervisor Schmidt, SW Regional
Supervisor Reinecker, Jason Husseman, Jon Rachael, hilary
cooley
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Wolf Takes

Some already know about these, but I need to catch everybody else up.

On Monday, 8/2, WS captured and killed a sub-adult, black female wolf at the Sand Creek depredation site from last week. The take was on private land 10-15 miles North of St. Anthony.

Also on 8/2, a WS aircrew shot and killed gray, adult female wolf, B-218, on Payette National Forest land on Council Mountain.

Both carcasses were left on site.

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FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/05/2010 10:46 AM

To Jon Rachael
cc
bcc
Subject July WS Wolf Input

On 7/3, WS confirmed that wolves injured a bull (1800 lbs.) that had to be euthanized. This depredation occurred on private property near Horsethief Res./Cascade, Idaho.

On 7/6/10, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on public lands (FS) near Cottonwood Creek Guard Station/Arrowrock Reservoir.

On 7/6, WS trapped and killed an uncollared, gray colored, non-reproducing adult female wolf in response to predation confirmed 7-6-10. She was taken on the Boise National Forest about 3-5 miles northwest of the Cottonwood Creek guard station. The carcass was left on site. We will continue our efforts to trap and collar a wolf in this area.

On 7/8, WS confirmed wolf predation on 1 ewe and 1 lamb on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in the Franklin Basin (located about 15 miles west of Franklin, ID).

On 7/9, WS confirmed wolf predation on 1 ewe in Taylor Creek near Sawtooth City, ID within the Sawtooth National Forest.

On 7/10, WS confirmed 1 calf killed by wolves on private lands near Bear, Idaho

On July 13, WS confirmed that wolves attacked and injured a calf on private land near Bear. This is the same ranch where WS confirmed another wolf depredation on Saturday, 7/10. Efforts to radio collar a wolf are ongoing.

On 7/14, WS captured and killed a large, gray male wolf on private land East of Cascade where we confirmed a depredation on 7/3. The carcass will be buried on site.

On 7/15, WS confirmed wolf predation on a lamb on a Sawtooth NF grazing allotment. The predation occurred at the head waters of Little Smoky Creek.

On 7/15, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 lambs on a Boise National Forest allotment in Corbus Creek, near Atlanta. This has been Steel Mountain pack territory in the past.

On 7/16, WS confirmed that wolves killed a lamb and a ewe on a Boise National Forest allotment in Lester Creek, near Pine. We also confirmed that a black bear killed a lamb in the same band. This area is in the traditional territory of the Steel Mountain pack.

On 7/20, WS confirmed that wolves killed a lamb on an IDL grazing allotment NE of Payette Lake, just outside of McCall. There was evidence that several wolves were present. This area has been territory of the Jungle Creek pack in previous years.

On 7/20, WS captured and killed an adult, gray female wolf at the Lester Creek depredation site. She had not given birth to any pups this year. The carcass was left at the site.

On 7/24, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 sheep on a Boise National Forest allotment near the Yuba River along the eastern edge of GMU 39. This is the second depredation on this band in the last week. This has been the territory of the Steel Mountain pack in the past.

On 7/29, WS shot and killed a sub-adult, gray female wolf at the Yuba River depredation site from 7/24.

To summarize;

In July, WS confirmed 11 wolf depredations on livestock. WS confirmed that wolves killed 11 sheep, 1 bull, 1 calf and injured another calf. In response to these and previous depredations, WS killed 4 wolves. In comparison, in July 2009, WS confirmed 34 wolf depredations where 70 sheep, 10 calves, and 3 dogs were killed.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
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Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/05/2010 11:08 AM

To Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, Jon Rachael
cc
bcc
Subject B-477 Location

We had an airplane fly this morning and they found B-477 (219.990) in the Thorn Creek area @ 43 58 00,
115 37 00.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/06/2010 02:44 PM

To Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Chuck Carpenter, Todd L
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA, rick williamson, kirk gustad
cc
bcc
Subject 10(j) rules

I had to re-familiarize myself with the specific rules allowed under 10(j). For example, people *can* shoot wolves on public land to protect hounds that are being attacked. Here is the rule for you to have available.



10jFeb08.pdf

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
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Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
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§ 178.274 Specifications for UN portable tanks.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(1) The design temperature range for the shell must be -40 °C to 50 °C (-40 °F to 122 °F) for hazardous materials transported under normal conditions of transportation, except for portable tanks used for refrigerated liquefied gases where the minimum design temperature must not be higher than the lowest (coldest) temperature (for example, service temperature) of the contents during filling, discharge or transportation. * * *

* * * * *

■ 40. In § 178.337-9, paragraph (b)(8) is revised to read as follows:

§ 178.337-9 Pressure relief devices, piping, valves, hoses, and fittings.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(8) *Chlorine cargo tanks.* Angle valves on cargo tanks intended for chlorine service must conform to the standards of the Chlorine Institute, Inc., Dwg. 104-8 or "Section 3, Pamphlet 166, Angle Valve Guidelines for Chlorine Bulk Transportation." (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter). Before installation, each angle valve must be tested for leakage at not less than 225 psig using dry air or inert gas.

* * * * *

■ 41. In § 178.337-10, paragraph (d) is revised to read as follows:

§ 178.337-10 Accident damage protection.

* * * * *

(d) *Chlorine tanks.* A chlorine tank must be equipped with a protective housing and a manway cover to permit the use of standard emergency kits for controlling leaks in fittings on the dome cover plate. For tanks manufactured on or after October 1, 2009, the housing and manway cover must conform to the Chlorine Institute, Inc., Dwg. 137-5 (IBR, see § 171.7 of this subchapter).

* * * * *

PART 180—CONTINUING QUALIFICATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PACKAGINGS

■ 42. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 5101-5128; 49 CFR 1.53.

■ 43. In § 180.205, a new paragraph (g)(6) added to read as follows:

§ 180.205 General requirements for qualification of specification cylinders.

* * * * *

(g) * * *

(6) Training materials (e.g., CGA publication C-1.1) may be used for training persons who requalify cylinders using the volumetric expansion test method.

* * * * *

Issued in Washington, DC, on January 16, 2008 under authority delegated in 49 CFR part 1.

Krista L. Edwards,
Deputy Administrator.

[FR Doc. E8-1211 Filed 1-25-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-60-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

50 CFR Part 17

[FWS-R6-ES-2008-009; 92220-1113-0000; ABC Code: C3]

RIN 1018-AV39

Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of Special Regulation for the Central Idaho and Yellowstone Area Nonessential Experimental Populations of Gray Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: We, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), have revised the 2005 special rule for the central Idaho and Yellowstone area nonessential experimental population (NEP) of the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) in the northern Rocky Mountains. Specifically, we have modified the definition of "unacceptable impact" to wild ungulate populations so that States and Tribes with Service-approved post-delisting wolf management plans (hereafter, referred to as wolf management plans) can better address the impacts of a recovered wolf population on ungulate herds and populations while wolves remain listed. We made other minor revisions to clarify the requirements and processes for submission of proposals to control wolves for unacceptable ungulate impacts. We also modified the 2005 special rule to allow persons in States or on Tribal lands with wolf management plans to take wolves that are in the act of attacking their stock animals or dogs. All other provisions of the special rule remain unchanged. As under the existing terms of the 2005 special rule, these modifications do not apply to States or Tribes without wolf management plans or to wolves outside

the Yellowstone or central Idaho NEP areas.

DATES: The effective date of this rule is February 27, 2008.

ADDRESSES: This final rule is available on the Internet at <http://www.regulations.gov>. Once the complete decision file for this rule is completed it will be available for inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of the Western Gray Wolf Recovery Coordinator, 585 Shepard Way, Helena, Montana 59601. Call 406-449-5225 to make arrangements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ed Bangs, Western Gray Wolf Recovery Coordinator, at the above address or telephone 406-449-5225, extension 204, at ed_bangs@fws.gov, or on our Web site at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Previous Federal Actions

In 1974, four subspecies of gray wolf were listed as endangered, including the NRM gray wolf (*Canis lupus irremotus*), the eastern timber wolf (*C. l. lycaon*) in the northern Great Lakes region, the Mexican wolf (*C. l. baileyi*) in Mexico and the southwestern United States, and the Texas gray wolf (*C. l. monstabilis*) of Texas and Mexico (50 CFR 17.11(h)). In 1978, we relisted the gray wolf as endangered at the species level (*C. lupus*) throughout the conterminous 48 States and Mexico, except for Minnesota where it was reclassified as threatened (50 CFR 17.11(h)). In 2007, we delisted the Western Great Lakes distinct population segment of wolves that includes all of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and parts of North and South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio (72 FR 6051, February 8, 2007). The Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan was approved in 1980 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1980, p. i) and revised in 1987 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1987, p. i).

On November 22, 1994, we designated unoccupied portions of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming as two nonessential experimental population (NEP) areas for the gray wolf under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) (50 CFR 17.84(i)). One area is the Greater Yellowstone Area experimental population, which includes all of Wyoming and parts of southern Montana and eastern Idaho. The other is the central Idaho experimental population area, which includes most of Idaho and parts of southwestern Montana. In 1995 and 1996, we reintroduced wolves from

southwestern Canada into these areas (Bangs and Fritts 1996, pp. 407–409; Fritts, *et al.* 1997, p. 7; Bangs, *et al.* 1998, pp. 785–786). These reintroductions and accompanying management programs greatly expanded the numbers and distribution of wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains (NRM). At the end of 2000, the NRM population first met its numerical and distributional recovery goal of a minimum of 30 breeding pairs and more than 300 wolves well-distributed among Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (68 FR 15804, April 1, 2003; Service, *et al.* 2001, Table 4). This minimum recovery goal has been exceeded annually through 2007 (Service, *et al.* 2002–2006, Table 4, Service, *et al.* 2007, p.1).

On January 6, 2005, we published a revised NEP special rule increasing management flexibility of these recovered populations for those States and Tribes with Service-approved wolf management plans (50 CFR 17.84(n)). For additional detailed information on previous Federal actions, see the 1994 and 2005 NEP special rules (59 FR 60252, November 22, 1994; 59 FR 60266, November 22, 1994; 70 FR 1286, January 6, 2005), the 2003 reclassification rule (68 FR 15804, April 1, 2003), the advanced notice of proposed rulemaking to designate the NRM gray wolf population as a distinct population segment and remove the Act's protections for this population (71 FR 6634, February 8, 2006), and the 2007 proposal to designate the NRM gray wolf population as a distinct population segment and remove the Act's protections for this population (i.e., delist) (72 FR 6106, February 8, 2007).

Background

Addressing Unacceptable Impacts on Wild Ungulate Populations—Both the 1994 Environmental Impact Statement for wolf reintroduction (Service 1994, pp. 6, 8) and the 1994 NEP special rules addressed the potential impact of wolf restoration on State and Tribal objectives for wild ungulate management. The 1994 NEP special rules allowed, under certain conditions, States and Tribes to translocate wolves causing unacceptable impacts to ungulate populations (50 CFR 17.84(i)).

On January 6, 2005, we published a new NEP special rule that allowed greater management flexibility for managing a recovered wolf population in the experimental population areas in the NRM for States and Tribes that had Service-approved wolf management plans (50 CFR 17.84(n)). The 2005 NEP special rule allowed those States and Tribes to lethally control wolves to

address unacceptable impacts to ungulate populations, under certain conditions. The 2005 NEP special rule also required that a State or Tribal proposal to control wolves describe data indicating the ungulate herd is below management objectives, data indicating impact of wolf predation on the herd, why wolf removal is warranted, the level and duration of wolf removal, how the ungulate response would be measured, and other remedies and conservation measures. The State or Tribe also had to provide an opportunity for peer review and public comment before submitting the proposal for Service approval. Before we could approve such proposals, we had to determine that the proposed wolf control was scientifically based and would not reduce the wolf population below recovery levels.

The 2005 NEP special rule authorized lethal take because we recognized that the wolf population had exceeded its recovery goals, extra management flexibility was required to address conflicts given the recovered status of the population, most of the suitable wolf habitat in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming was occupied by resident wolf packs, and wolf translocations were likely to fail because no unoccupied suitable habitat remained (70 FR 1294, January 6, 2005; Bradley, *et al.* 2005, p. 1506).

The 2005 NEP special rule's definition of "unacceptable impact" was a "State or Tribally-determined decline in a wild ungulate population or herd, primarily caused by wolf predation, so that the population or herd is not meeting established State or Tribal management goals. The State or Tribal determination must be peer-reviewed and made available for review and comment by the public, prior to a final determination by the Service that an unacceptable impact has occurred, and that wolf removal is not likely to impede wolf recovery" (50 CFR 17.84(n)(3)). This definition set a threshold that we have found over time did not provide the intended flexibility to allow States and Tribes to resolve conflicts between wolves and ungulate populations. Current information indicates that wolf predation alone is unlikely to be the primary cause of a reduction of any ungulate herd or population in Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming (Bangs, *et al.* 2004, pp. 89–100). No populations of wild ungulates occur in Montana, Idaho, or Wyoming where wolves are the sole predator. Wolf predation is unlikely to impact ungulate population trends substantially unless other factors contribute, such as declines in habitat quality and quantity

(National Research Council 1997, pp. 185–186; Mech and Peterson 2003, p. 159), other predators (Barber, *et al.* 2005, p. 42–43; Smith, *et al.* 2006, p. vii), high harvest by hunters (Vucetich, *et al.* 2005, p. 259; White and Garrott 2005, p. 942; Evans, *et al.* 2006, p. 1372; Hamlin 2006, p. 27–32), weather (Mech and Peterson 2003, pp. 138–139), and other factors (Pletscher, *et al.* 1991, pp. 545–548; Garrott, *et al.* 2005, p. 1245; Smith, *et al.* 2006, pp. 246–250). However, in combination with any of these factors, wolf predation can have a substantial impact to some wild ungulate herds (National Research Council 1997, p. 183; Mech and Peterson 2003, pp. 155–157; Evans, *et al.* 2006, p. 1377) with the potential of reducing them below State and Tribal herd management objectives.

The unattainable nature of the threshold set in the 2005 NEP special rule became apparent soon after its completion. In 2006, the State of Idaho submitted a proposal to the Service that indicated wolf predation was impacting the survival of adult cow elk in the Clearwater area of central Idaho and that some elk populations in the Lolo and Selway zones in this area were below State management objectives (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2006 pp. 11–12, Figures 1, 2, and 3). In the Clearwater proposal, the State of Idaho and the peer reviewers clearly concluded that wolf predation was not "primarily" the cause of the elk populations' decline, but was one of the major factors maintaining the elk populations' status below State management objectives. Declining habitat quality due to forest maturation was the primary factor affecting the populations' status, but black bear predation on elk calves, mountain lion predation on adults, and the harsh winter of 1996–1997 also were major factors. Data also clearly indicated that wolf predation was one of the major causes of mortality of adult female elk, which contributed to the elk populations remaining below State management objectives. After discussions with the Service, Idaho put their proposal on hold because the proposal did not meet the regulatory standard for unacceptable ungulate impacts set by the 2005 special rule.

In this NEP special rule, we have modified the definition of "Unacceptable impact" in order to achieve the management flexibility intended by the 2005 NEP special rule. Specifically, we now define "Unacceptable impact" as "Impact to a wild ungulate population or herd where a State or Tribe has determined that wolves are one of the major causes of

the population or herd not meeting established State or Tribal population or herd management goals." This definition expands the potential impacts for which wolf removal might be warranted beyond direct predation or those causing immediate population declines. It would, in certain circumstances, allow removal of wolves when they are a major cause of the inability of ungulate populations or herds to meet established State or Tribal population or herd management goals. Management goals or their indicators might include population or herd numbers, calf/cow ratios, movements, use of key feeding areas, survival rates, behavior, nutrition, and other biological factors.

Under this NEP special rule, as was the case in the 2005 NEP special rule, proposals for wolf control from a State or Tribe with a Service-approved wolf management plan will have to undergo both public and peer review. Based on that peer review and public comment, the State or Tribe will finalize the proposal and submit it to the Service for a final determination. This NEP special rule requires the following to be described in the proposal: (1) The basis of ungulate population or herd management objectives; (2) what data indicate that the ungulate herd is below management objectives; (3) what data indicate that wolves are a major cause of the unacceptable impact to the ungulate population; (4) why wolf removal is a warranted solution to help restore the ungulate herd to management objectives; (5) the level and duration of wolf removal being proposed; (6) how ungulate population response to wolf removal will be measured and control actions adjusted for effectiveness; and (7) demonstration that attempts were and are being made to address other identified major causes of ungulate herd or population declines or of State or Tribal government commitment to implement possible remedies or conservation measures in addition to wolf removal. Before wolf removals can be authorized, the Service must determine (1) if the State or Tribe followed the rule's procedures for submitting a proposal to remove wolves in response to unacceptable impacts; (2) if an unacceptable impact has occurred; (3) if the data and other information presented in the proposal support the recommended action; and (4) that the proposed removal would not contribute to the wolf population in the State below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves or impede recovery of the NRM wolf population.

The NRM wolf population is a metapopulation comprised of three

primary population segments: central Idaho, northwest Montana, and the greater Yellowstone area (GYA). These population segments are spatially separated but are not completely isolated from each other. Each population segment is comprised of a varying number of packs and individuals that disperse within segments and to other segments. Exchange of individuals from these segments also occurs with nearby wolf packs in Canada. The population segments in central Idaho, GYA, and to a lesser extent northwestern Montana, include core refugia, which are areas of relatively high concentrations of wolves on protected public lands (National Parks or Wilderness areas) or habitats with very few human-caused impacts. These refugia are primary sources for a continual supply of dispersing wolves. In this document, the term "NRM wolf population" will mean this metapopulation, and the term "wolf population(s)" will mean the segments within the NRM wolf population.

The minimum recovery goal for the NRM wolf population requires at least 30 breeding pairs and at least 300 wolves equally distributed in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (62 FR 15804). To ensure this goal is achieved, each of these States has committed to manage for at least 15 breeding pairs in mid-winter (ILWOC 2002, p. 18; MWMAC 2003, App.1; WGF 2007a, p. 4). This objective would provide a reasonable cushion to ensure each State's share of the wolf population does not risk falling below the minimum recovery goal of 10 breeding pairs and 100 wolves.

Because this NEP special rule will likely result in more wolf control than is currently occurring, we have established safeguards to ensure that wolf control for ungulate management purposes would not undermine the objectives in the States' wolf management plans. Specifically, before any lethal control of wolves is authorized under this NEP special rule, we must determine that such actions will not contribute to reducing the wolf population in the State below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves. This safety margin provides a buffer against unforeseen mortality events that might occur after such removal, and ensures that each State's ability to manage for 15 breeding pairs would not be compromised. This limit is a necessary and advisable precaution while wolves remain listed to ensure the conservation of the species given the additional take that might be authorized pursuant to this rule.

Providing this revision to the NEP special rule for additional management

flexibility is appropriate because the NRM wolf population has met all its numerical, temporal, and distributional recovery goals (62 FR 15804). By middle of 2007, the NRM wolf population was estimated to contain 1,545 wolves in 105 breeding pairs (over 3 times the minimum numeric recovery goal for breeding pairs and more than 5 times the minimum population goal), and will exceed the minimum recovery levels for the 7th consecutive year. Montana had an estimated 394 wolves in 37 breeding pairs, Idaho had 788 wolves in 41 breeding pairs, and Wyoming had 362 wolves in 27 breeding pairs.

We do not expect this NEP special rule to adversely affect the species because wolf biology allows for rapid recovery from severe disruptions. After severe declines, wolf populations can more than double in just 2 years if mortality is reduced and adequate food is available (Fuller, *et al.* 2003, pp. 181–183). Increases of nearly 100 percent per year have been documented in low-density suitable habitat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, *et al.* 2007, Table 4). The literature suggests that in some situations wolf populations can remain stable despite annual human-caused mortality rates ranging from about 30 to 50 percent (Keith 1983, p. 66; Fuller, *et al.* 2003, pp. 182–184). Given abundant prey availability, wolf populations can sustain such high levels of human-caused mortality due to their high reproductive potential and replacement of losses by dispersing wolves from nearby populations (Fuller, *et al.* 2003, pp. 183–185).

Total mortality of adults in the NRM wolf population was nearly 26 percent per year from 1994 to 2006, and the human-caused mortality was about 20 percent per year (Smith 2007). However, the NRM wolf population still continued to expand at about 24 percent annually (Service, *et al.* 2007, p. Table 4). These data indicate that the current annual human-caused mortality rate of about 20 percent in the adult portion of the NRM wolf population could be increased to some extent without causing the NRM wolf population to decline. Wolf populations and packs within the NRM wolf population are expected to be quite resilient to regulated mortality because adequate food supplies are available and core refugia provide a constant source of dispersers to replenish breeding vacancies in packs.

Wolf populations within the portion of the NRM where this rule applies are characterized by robust size, high productivity, closely neighboring packs, and many dispersers (Service, *et al.* 2007, Figure 1; Jimenez, *et al.* in prep.).

Wolf populations now occupy most of the suitable wolf habitat in the NRM (Service, *et al.* 2007, Figure 1). These populations are unlikely to expand their current distributions because little unoccupied suitable habitat is available (Bradley, *et al.* 2005, p. 1506; Service, *et al.* 2007, Figure 1). Because suitable habitat is nearly saturated, core refugia within these populations will continue to produce a large number of "surplus" wolves which will either fill in social vacancies within the core refugia, die, or disperse out of the core refugia. Therefore, the core refugia would have an abundant supply of wolves ready to fill any vacancies caused by agency control for unacceptable ungulate impacts. Even when entire packs are removed, new packs are likely to form. During wolf control for livestock depredation in Wyoming, the Daniel, Green River, Carter Mountain, and Owl Creek packs all reformed after they were entirely or almost entirely removed (Jimenez, *et al.* in prep, pp. 198–200). Bradley, *et al.* (in press, pp. 8–13) found that, following the removal of wolves for livestock depredation in the NRM wolf population, the breeding status of packs was not greatly affected, regardless of breeding status of individuals or proportion of a pack removed.

Furthermore, many ungulate herds and populations in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming are at or above State management objectives and most of those below management objectives are most affected by factors other than wolves. Of the 78 elk game management units (GMU) in Idaho, 3 GMUs were identified to be below management objectives with wolves being one of the major causes of decline between 2003 and 2006 (IDFG 2006, pp. 11–12, Figures 1, 2, and 3). Of the 35 elk herds in Wyoming, wolf packs were present in the area used by 7 herds. Wyoming Game and Fish Commission identified 3 of those 7 herds as either below management objectives or having calf/cow ratios indicating that the herd was likely to fall below management objectives soon (Wyoming Governor and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission 2005, pp. 5–6). Because nearly all suitable wolf habitat is now occupied in the NRM (Bradley, *et al.* 2005, p. 1506; Service, *et al.* 2007, Figure 1), the current wolf distribution is unlikely to significantly expand and wolves are not likely to begin affecting elk in many new areas. On the other hand, increasing wolf density within already occupied wolf habitat in some areas may cause increased impacts to those elk herds or other wild ungulate herds. Therefore, we expect the need for wolf

control to be relatively confined to existing areas of wolf-ungulate impacts, although the need for control in those areas may increase as wolf density increases.

Given the resilience of wolf populations, the current status of the NRM wolf population, and the number and location of ungulate populations or herds identified as below management objectives with wolves as one of the major causes, we determined that any increased mortality from wolf control actions under this rule would not affect the recovered status of the NRM wolf population in Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming.

Addressing Take To Protect Stock Animals and Dogs—The 1994 NEP special rules stated that any livestock producers on their private land may take (including to kill or injure) a wolf in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock (defined as cattle, sheep, horses, and mules) (50 CFR 17.84(i)). Similar provisions applied to livestock producers on public land if they obtained a permit from the Service (50 CFR 17.84(i)).

The 2005 NEP special rule expanded this provision to allow landowners in States with Service-approved wolf management plans to lethally take wolves that were "in the act of attacking" their livestock and any kind of dog on private land, where "in the act of attacking" was defined as "the actual biting, wounding, grasping, or killing of livestock or dogs, or chasing, molesting, or harassing by wolves that would indicate to a reasonable person that such biting, wounding, grasping, or killing of livestock or dogs is likely to occur at any moment." (50 CFR 17.84(n)(3)). The expanded definition in the 2005 NEP special rule also provided Federal land permittees the ability to take wolves in the act of attacking livestock on active public grazing allotments or special-use areas. The definition of "Livestock" was expanded in 50 CFR 17.84(n)(3) as "Cattle, sheep, horses, mules, goats, domestic bison, and herding and guarding animals (llamas, donkeys, and certain breeds of dogs commonly used for herding or guarding livestock). Livestock excludes dogs that are not being used for livestock guarding or herding."

The 1994 and 2005 NEP special rules did not cover some circumstances for potential damage of private property by wolves. For instance, landowners could lethally take wolves in the act of attacking dogs on their own private land, but could not do the same when on public lands unless the dogs were certain breeds of dogs being used for herding or guarding livestock and were

being used for work on Federal lands under an active permit. Recreationists also could not lethally take wolves in the act of attacking stock animals used to transport people or their possessions.

This NEP special rule adds a new provision for lethal take of wolves in States with Service-approved wolf management plans when in defense of "stock animals" (defined as "a horse, mule, donkey, llama, or goat used to transport people or their possessions") or any kind of dog. Specifically, this modified NEP special rule states that "any legally present person on private or public land except land administered by the National Park Service may immediately take a wolf that is in the act of attacking the individual's stock animal or dog, provided there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding, or deliberate attractants of wolves. The person must be able to provide evidence that taken wolves were recently (less than 24 hours) in the act of attacking stock animals or dogs, and we or our designated agents must be able to confirm that the wolves were in the act of attacking stock animals or dogs. To preserve evidence that the take of a wolf was conducted according to this rule, the carcass of the wolf and the area surrounding should not be disturbed. The take of any wolf without such evidence of a direct and immediate threat may be referred to the appropriate authorities for prosecution."

Since 1995, only 60 wolves (about 9 percent of the 672 wolves legally removed in agency-authorized control actions) have been legally killed by persons in defense of their private property in the NRM. Wolf depredations on stock animals accompanied by their owners have not been documented in the past 12 years, but a few instances of stock animals being spooked by wolves have been reported. Two wolves have been taken by Federal land permittees as wolves chased and harassed horses in corrals or on pickets. While this revision provides additional opportunity for persons to protect their private property, these instances are likely to be rare. Therefore, we expect no impacts on the recovered status of the NRM wolf population from this additional flexibility in the rule.

Reports confirm that 101 dogs have been killed by wolves from 1987 to 2007 (Service, *et al.* 2007, Table 5, Service 2008, p. 1), but no wolves are known to have been killed solely to protect dogs. We know of one credible and one unconfirmed report of wolves killing pet dogs while humans have been nearby (USDA 2007, p. 1). Wolves have killed at least 35 hunting hounds, primarily on public land. In only a few of those

instances, the hounds' owners were close enough that they might have been able to better protect their dogs by shooting at the wolves involved. Although we expect that take of wolves involved in conflicts with pet dogs or hunting hounds would be rare, these reports indicate that such instances could occur. This modification would allow persons in States with Service-approved wolf management plans to protect their dogs from wolf attacks.

Dispersing wolves would quickly fill vacancies created by any take of wolves to protect stock animals and dogs. Because such take of wolves is expected to be extremely low, cumulative impacts of this take combined with agency control for ungulate impacts would be negligible.

Summary of Peer Reviews

In accordance with our joint policy published in the **Federal Register** on July 1, 1994 (59 FR 34270), and the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review, dated December 16, 2004, we solicited independent review of the science in the proposed NEP special rule from ten experts on wolves, ungulates, or predator-prey relationships. The purpose of such review was to ensure that our decisions on the proposed revisions to the 10(j) special regulations were based on scientifically sound data, assumptions, analyses, and conclusions. All ten peer reviewers submitted comments on the proposed rule. We considered their comments and recommendations as we made our final decision on the proposed revisions. Substantive peer reviewer comments are summarized in the remaining paragraphs of this section as well as discussed in greater detail in the appropriate Issue/Response sections that follow.

All eight peer reviewers who specifically stated an opinion on the soundness of our proposed revisions regarding management of wolves for impacts to ungulates confirmed that our approach was reasonable. Seven of them provided additional considerations and recommendations. The remaining two peer reviewers raised some concerns and recommendations described below, but did not explicitly express opposition or support to the proposed revisions.

In general, the peer reviewers agreed with our conclusion that wolf predation is never the primary cause of ungulate population impacts but can be among major contributing factors. They also generally confirmed that the proposed safeguards are appropriate for ensuring

that wolf control under the revised special regulations would not compromise wolf recovery in the NEP areas of the NRM. While none of the peer reviewers expressed concern that such wolf control would adversely impact wolf recovery, four reviewers questioned a claim in the proposal regarding the level of mortality wolf populations could sustain while maintaining positive growth. Four peer reviewers believed the proposed safety margin of 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves and other safeguards were adequate to prevent impacts to wolf recovery, while two questioned the necessity of the additional safety margin given the resilience of wolf populations to relatively high mortality.

Two peer reviewers expressly stated that the proposed criteria, required in the NEP special rule, for Service approval of State or Tribal wolf control proposals were adequate or "sufficiently rigorous." Three others indicated that the standards should be made more specific. One reviewer thought the proposed NEP special rule did not clearly identify criteria for assessing whether a wolf control program will result in ungulate population recovery. Their suggestions for improving the standards included requiring effectiveness monitoring and that we suggest the kind of data to be used for determining wolf predation impacts and ungulate population vigor.

Three reviewers raised a concern for a potential lack of biological validity of ungulate management objectives set by a State or Tribe. Their concerns included objectives that may be based on historical ungulate population levels in the absence of wolves, desired hunter harvest, or without consideration for the inverse relationship between density and productivity in ungulate populations.

Two peer reviewers indicated that the NEP special rule should explicitly require States and Tribes to address other major factors affecting ungulate populations along with wolf control. Two peer reviewers recommended that we define "major" for the purpose of determining when wolves may be one of the major causes of unacceptable ungulate impacts.

Two peer reviewers agreed that the proposed revised NEP special rule provided an appropriate, transparent review process to ensure science-based decisions, but another reviewer warned that, due to the complexities of predator-prey relationships and other influencing factors, trusting the peer review process to catch and identify all interactions that should be considered in a control program may be difficult.

One peer reviewer expressed a preference that hunting and trapping be used as methods of wolf control over aerial gunning or poisoning for more public acceptance of control programs. He did not make a recommendation that the preferred methods be required. None of the other peer reviewers offered opinions on control methods.

The six peer reviewers who specifically addressed the revisions addressing lethal take of wolves for the protection of stock animals and dogs stated that our approach was reasonable. There was general agreement that this additional protection was not likely to result in a level of take that would affect wolf populations. One reviewer agreed with our opinion that it might increase public tolerance of wolves.

One peer reviewer asked what kind of evidence would support a claim of "harassment" where physical evidence may be lacking. He acknowledged that such specifics need not be incorporated into the rule, but cautioned that the Service develop sound procedures addressing this issue to prevent abuse.

Summary of Comments and Recommendations

A. Soliciting Public Comment

In our July 6, 2007, proposed rule (72 FR 36942), we requested that all interested parties submit comments or information that might aid in our decisions or otherwise contribute to the development of this final rule. We also contacted the appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, and scientific and other interested parties and organizations and invited them to comment on the proposed rule. We conducted numerous press interviews to promote wide coverage of our proposed rule in the media. We published legal notices in many newspapers announcing the proposal and hearings and invited comment. We posted the proposal and numerous background documents on our Web site, and we provided them upon request by mail or e-mail and at our hearings and informational meetings. We established several avenues for interested parties to provide comments and other information, including verbally or in writing at public hearings, by letter, e-mail, or facsimile transmission.

The initial comment period was open from July 6, 2007, through August 6, 2007. During that period, we publicized and conducted public hearings on the proposed revised special rule in Cody, Wyoming, on July 17, 2007; in Helena, Montana, on July 18, 2007; and in Boise, Idaho, on July 19, 2007. We also held general public meetings on the same day

of each hearing to provide additional information and explain our proposal. At these meetings, we also offered the public opportunity to ask questions and provide input.

A second comment period was opened from September 11, 2007, through October 11, 2007, to provide the public additional opportunity to review and comment on the proposal concurrent with a public comment period on the draft environmental assessment (EA) of the proposed revisions.

At the three hearings, 54 people testified, and we received 19 written comments. During the first comment period, we received more than 176,000 comments by e-mail. During the second comment period, we received about 86,000 additional comments by e-mail. We received a total of approximately 450 mailed and faxed comments. Comments were submitted by a wide array of parties, including the general public, environmental organizations, hunting and outfitter's groups, Tribes, agricultural agencies and organizations, and Federal, State, and local government agencies. Comments originated from throughout the country and even from people in a few other nations.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department submitted a letter commenting on the proposed NEP special rule on August 3, 2007 (WGF 2007b). On October 22, 2007, the Wyoming Governor issued a letter (Wyoming Governor 2007) describing how several stipulations in Wyoming law related to delisting and management of the gray wolf are being resolved. One of these stipulations included modifications to the NEP special rule. The Wyoming Governor stated that in light of the resolution of this stipulation, the comments submitted on the proposed NEP special rule are now superseded and do not require our response. Therefore, we do not respond to the comments from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in this document. However, we have responded to similar comments if they were raised by other parties.

Substantive comments and new information received from peer reviewers and the public during the comment period have either been addressed below or incorporated directly into this final rule. Related comments (referred to as "Issues") are grouped together below and are followed by our responses. In addition to the following discussion, refer to the "Changes From the Proposed Rule" section for more details. We received thousands of messages supporting and

protesting the proposed revisions that did not include substantive comments or new information. Although we reviewed these messages, the number of opinions was not part of the basis of our decisions on the final rule.

B. Technical and Editorial Comments

Issue 1—Peer reviewers and commenters provided editorial suggestions, information updates, and corrections to literature citations. Some peer reviewers thought we misstated conclusions from the Oakleaf, *et al.* (2006, pp. 554–559) study. One peer reviewer asked if we could provide any published citations besides the personal communication (Smith 2005) regarding a 26 percent mortality rate in the NRM wolf population.

Response 1—We corrected and updated numbers and other data where appropriate. We edited the preamble to the rule to make its intent and purpose clearer.

The reference year for the Oakleaf, *et al.* (2006, p. 556) wolf pack home range analysis was 2000. The study indicated that at that time relatively large tracts of suitable wolf habitat remain unoccupied in the Rocky Mountains (Oakleaf, *et al.* 2006, p. 554). Since then, the wolf population continued to grow, as the study predicted, to 1,545 wolves in summer 2007 (Service 2008, p. 1), and most habitat predicted by Oakleaf, *et al.* (2006, Figure 2) as suitable is now occupied (Service, *et al.* 2007, Figure 1). We have corrected the citations and text in the rule's preamble to reflect this information.

The data on wolf survival and mortality in the NRM has not been published yet, but Smith (2007) is currently preparing it for publication. We have determined that the data, although not yet published, constitutes the best scientific data available on wolf survival and mortality in the NRM. This information was gathered and compiled by State, Tribal, and Federal members of the Interagency Wolf Recovery Team and entails data from over 900 radio-collared wolves in the NRM population since 1994.

Issue 2—A few commenters expressed confusion over the difference between the 1994 and 2005 rules and the revised rule because we did not include the entire 50 CFR 17.84(n) regulations in the **Federal Register** notice for the proposed rule. Some thought we would now have four different 10(j) rules in place.

Response 2—In 1994 we promulgated special regulations at 50 CFR 17.84(i) for the reintroduction of two NEPs of the wolf in the NRM. In 2005, we modified the NEP special rule, 50 CFR 17.84(n), and we are doing so again in this rule.

This approach does not result in multiple sets of these regulations. The regulations in 50 CFR 17.84(i), which apply to States and Tribes without wolf management plans, will remain the same, and the revised regulations in 50 CFR 17.84(n), which apply to States and Tribes with wolf management plans, will supersede the 2005 edition. We have included additional explanation in this rule's preamble to ensure clarity of the changes.

Issue 3—Some peer reviewers questioned the claim in the proposed rule that the literature indicates that wolf populations could sustain an annual human-caused mortality of 30 percent or more. One peer reviewer pointed out that this statement does not provide an upper bound on mortality rate and, therefore, could be misleading. Another did not recommend that such a high rate of mortality be allowed, but acknowledged that the rule's safeguards would preclude this concern.

Response 3—We corrected the rule's preamble to indicate that the literature indicates that some wolf populations could remain stable at mortality rates of around 30 to 50 percent.

Issue 4—Several commenters questioned the need for the proposed revisions because they believed that the 2005 special regulation already allows for control of wolves because of ungulate impacts. Many expressed the concern that the biology and current ungulate herd and population numbers do not justify a need for increasing flexibility for wolf control. A few commenters did not think increasing flexibility to control wolves to protect stock animals was necessary because the current special regulations already allow wolf control to protect livestock or because there is no evidence that wolves attack stock animals.

Response 4—As explained in the proposed rule and the preamble of this final rule, the 2005 NEP special regulations did not provide States and Tribes the intended flexibility to control wolves causing unacceptable impacts to ungulate herds or populations because such impacts have never been shown to be "primarily caused by wolf predation." Thus, the wording in the definition of "unacceptable impact" to a wild ungulate population or herd in the 2005 special regulation set an unattainable standard for approval of wolf control and no State or Tribe was able to use the special rule for that purpose. The revision of the definition of "unacceptable impact" to include wolves as "one of the major causes" now provides the intended flexibility for wolf management by States and Tribes.

We acknowledged in the preamble of the revised rule and final EA that many ungulate populations and herds currently are at or above States' management objectives. However, we also are aware of a few instances where herds are not meeting or soon may not meet those objectives, and evidence indicates that wolves are one of the major causes of the failure to maintain those objectives (Wyoming Governor and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission 2005, pp. 5–6; IDFG 2006, pp. 11–12, Figures 1, 2, and 3). The intention of this revision is to provide States and Tribes the flexibility to control wolves in such localized situations. We expect that such situations will continue to be few, and, along with the safeguards in the revised NEP special rule, resulting take of wolves would not have a meaningful impact on wolf populations and would not affect recovery of the NRM wolf population.

The terms "livestock" and "stock animals" were confusing to some commenters who thought the revision to increase wolf control flexibility for the latter is unnecessary. Although the animals listed in "livestock" overlap with some "stock animals" (e.g., horse, mule, donkey, llama), the latter refers to animals used for transport of people or their possessions. The revision does not supplant the definition of livestock with that of stock animals. The 2005 special regulation did not allow any person on public land, who was legally present but did not have a land-use permit to graze livestock or operate an outfitter or guiding business, to kill wolves in defense of these animals. For example, an individual using a llama to pack-in gear while recreating on public lands for his or her enjoyment was not allowed to lethally take a wolf to protect that llama under the 2005 special regulation. The revised special regulation now allows anyone legally present on private or public land, except land administered by the National Park Service, to lethally take wolves in defense of horses, mules, donkeys, llamas or goats that are being used to transport people or their possessions. The 2005 rule also did not allow outfitters and guides or the public on public land to take wolves to protect hunting dogs. The revised rule now allows anyone legally present on private or public land, except land administered by the National Park Service, to take wolves in defense of any dog.

While there have been no reports of wolves depredating stock animals accompanied by their owners in recent years, some reports indicate that wolves have been close enough to spook stock

animals. Two wolves have been taken by Federal land permittees as wolves chased and harassed horses in corrals or on pickets. This demonstrates that wolves may occasionally attack stock animals. The increased flexibility in the revised special regulation will allow owners to protect their private property in the few instances when this type of situation may occur.

Issue 5—A large proportion of commenters were alarmed because they believed that the revisions to the 2005 NEP special rule would allow States and Tribes to kill wolves in large numbers, reduce populations to the minimum recovery numbers, or even reduce them below recovery levels. Others thought that the safety margin of 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves per State was not adequate based on population viability analysis theories. Some stated that the constraints in the rule on wolf control are not adequate to prevent abuse of the increased management flexibility and that wolves could be killed for reasons other than those described. Others thought the rule would allow "open season" or public hunting of wolves. On the other hand, some supporters of the revised rule expressed belief that a wolf population explosion has decimated elk and moose populations. They advocated killing as many wolves as possible by any means necessary.

Response 5—The minimum numerical and distributional recovery goal for the NRM wolf population is at least 10 breeding pairs and at least 100 wolves in each of the States of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming (62 FR 151804). Under this modified special rule, a State cannot be authorized to control wolves for ungulate population impacts if such control would contribute to reducing wolves to below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves in that State. These numbers are twice the minimum recovery goals. Therefore, this NEP special rule should not result in the reduction of the NRM wolf population to minimum recovery numbers. Furthermore, this NEP special rule's restriction preventing wolf control below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves does not mean that States and Tribes will be allowed to eliminate all wolves above those levels. This is only one of many prerequisites. As in the 2005 special rule, this modified NEP special rule requires States and Tribes to address specific criteria in their proposals for wolf control and follow rigorous peer review, public comment, and Service approval processes before control can be authorized. The State or Tribe proposing to control wolves would have to demonstrate that an ungulate herd or population cannot meet management objectives and wolves

are one of the major causes. They also have to scientifically demonstrate that wolf control is warranted and the proposed level and duration of wolf control is appropriate for addressing the impacts to ungulates.

As explained in the preamble, many of the elk populations in the NEP areas are currently at or above State management objectives and only a few elk herds or other ungulate populations are considered to be declining or low due to wolf predation. We also explain in the preamble that core refugia in the NRM would supply a constant source of dispersers to fill in vacancies created by agency control. Because agency control of wolves is likely to occur in only a few discrete areas, the movement of dispersers between packs and populations, and thus connectivity, would not be disrupted.

This rule applies only to wolves in the two NRM NEP areas in States with Service-approved wolf management plans. Control of wolves in national parks and other lands administered by the National Park Service, as well as wolves listed as endangered, is not authorized by this rule.

Furthermore, the standards in this NEP special rule for approving a wolf control proposal would not allow wolves to be killed for just any reason. In their proposal, the State or Tribe must describe impacts from wolves on the ungulate herd or populations and demonstrate in the proposal that wolf control is warranted for relieving unacceptable impacts to ungulate herds or populations. If effects to ungulates by wolves are not among the major causes of the inability to achieve management objectives, wolf control would not be appropriate.

Based on records of wolf threats or attacks on dogs and stock animals, the number of incidents in which wolves might be taken under the modified special rule for these purposes is expected to be very small. Furthermore, when one wolf out of an attacking group is shot, the rest of the wolves almost invariably flee. Fleeing wolves could no longer be "in the act of attacking" and taking of such wolves would be in violation of the law. Therefore, we fully expect that abuse of the law and taking of more than one wolf during each incident to be unlikely.

This modified NEP special rule does not authorize open public hunting nor would it allow States or Tribes to use public hunting as a method for controlling wolves causing unacceptable impacts to ungulates. A State or Tribe may choose to enlist persons as designated agents of that agency to conduct highly controlled damage hunts

on private property for controlling wolves, but this method would need to be included in their proposal and subject to all the NEP special rule's criteria and procedural requirements for our approval.

Evidence does not support the belief that wolves are decimating ungulate populations in the NRM. Currently many elk populations are at or above management objectives in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. Some populations of other ungulates, such as mule deer, bighorn sheep, and moose are depressed in some areas, but this is mostly due to causes other than wolf predation, such as disease and poor habitat quality. The need for wolf control to help restore ungulate herds or populations to State or Tribal management objectives is not pervasive, and uncontrolled removal of wolves is not necessary, appropriate, or allowable under this NEP special rule.

We agree that wolf populations tend to be resilient to regulated human-caused mortality. However, because we anticipated that the revised NEP special rule may result in more killing of wolves than is currently occurring, we established measures to ensure that wolf control for ungulate management purposes would not undermine wolf recovery goals or the States' ability to manage for 15 breeding pairs as obligated by their Service-approved wolf management plans. Most peer reviewers noted that the rule's safeguards and safety margins were adequate to prevent abuse and that the revisions would result in little impact to the recovered wolf population. No peer reviewer expressed concern that the revisions would result in significant impacts to the recovered NRM wolf population or that the rule's safety margin is inadequate. Two peer reviewers questioned the necessity of the additional safety margin of 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves in consideration of the resilience of wolves to take and the current recovery level safety margin of 15 breeding pairs required by the States' Service-approved wolf management plans. The additional safety margin of 5 breeding pairs above the 15 breeding pairs the States will manage for is the same size of the safety margin over the 10 breeding pairs necessary for delisting. This buffer is intended to prevent the compromise of State wolf management objectives from unforeseen events that may cause wolf declines in combination with the additional mortality from wolf control.

Issue 6—We received a number of comments, including from two peer reviewers, that the term "major causes" in the proposed revised definition of

"unacceptable impacts" be further defined. One of the peer reviewers suggested some criteria to consider. Some commenters said that long-term studies would be necessary to show that wolves are one of the major causes of ungulate declines.

Response 6—Consideration of whether wolves are one of the major causes of ungulate population declines would require comparing the significance of the wolf impact with that of the other causes. Because the relationship between wolf predation and ungulate populations is very complex (Mech and Peterson 2003, pp. 146) and because a host of other interconnected local factors can influence how it might affect ungulate populations (Garrott, *et al.* 2005, pp. 1245), we could not predict all the specifics in each way wolves could be one of the major causes of ungulate impacts. If we attempted to develop a specific list of required criteria, we may unintentionally exclude other valid conditions. Furthermore, even the suggested criteria from the peer reviewer included some level of subjectivity (e.g., "high proportion," "strong evidence," "excessive") that would require further definition. Therefore, we believe that the validity of a State's claim that wolves are a major cause of ungulate impacts would be better determined on a case-by-case basis, where such a determination will depend upon the adequacy of the data and science describing the conditions, and their relative importance, contributing to ungulate herd or population declines. We would rely on professional evaluation and judgment inherent in the required peer reviews and our approval process to ensure that such determinations are appropriate.

Due to the complexity of wolf-ungulate interactions, it may be difficult to unequivocally prove that wolves are one of the major causes of ungulate decline. However, reasonable inferences can sometimes be made by comparing ungulate herds or populations with similar environmental conditions where wolves are absent, are present in much smaller numbers, and are present in similar or larger numbers. We would consider this information along with other data required by the NEP special rule and the soundness of the science presented in the proposal.

Issue 7—We received several suggestions that the States should be required to demonstrate that they are addressing other major causes of ungulate herd or population declines in concert with wolf control. These suggestions were in response to an interpretation that the rule requires the

States or Tribes merely to describe the other major causes in their proposals. We also received a comment that the State may not have control over all other major causes, such as climate change.

Response 7—Our intent was that States or Tribes would need to demonstrate that they have attempted to address other major causes or that they are committed to do so in concert with wolf control. We have refined the wording in the rule so that it more clearly expresses that intent (see Changes From the Proposed Rule section). We would not disapprove a proposal merely because the State or Tribe has no power to address certain other causes of ungulate declines. However, we would expect the proposal to describe why the State or Tribe does not have control over those issues and how they otherwise might be addressed.

Issue 8—Some commenters stated that social effects to wolf packs from killing alpha males and females (i.e., breeders) were not considered, nor were effects to pack structure and productivity from killing subadults and pups. Others thought removing entire packs would fragment populations and prevent genetic exchange.

Response 8—As explained in the preamble, wolf packs and populations are known to be very resilient to a number of causes of mortality, including human-caused, as long as there is adequate food and a surrounding population with dispersing individuals to provide replacements. Ultimately, the population's productivity in terms of recruitment and immigration is what allows it to persist under human harvest (Fuller, *et al.* 2003, pp. 184–185). Populations with average or high productivity can withstand higher levels of take, especially if populations that can provide replacements are nearby (Fuller, *et al.* 2003, pp. 184–185). Population size, proximity of other wolf packs, and the number of dispersing wolves influence the frequency with which alpha males and females will be replaced (Brainerd, *et al.* in press, pp. 15–16). Wolf populations in the NRM where this rule applies are characterized by robust size, high productivity, and closely neighboring packs, and have many dispersers (Jimenez, *et al.* in prep). Therefore, social vacancies, whether from loss of breeders or nonbreeders, in these areas are likely to be quickly filled by dispersing wolves or other wolves within the pack. Often subadults and pups are the first to be removed in wolf control programs because they tend to be naive and, therefore, more vulnerable to take. Vacancies from loss of subadults and pups, like other age-class vacancies,

are likely to be readily filled by dispersers or new offspring, given the ready supply of dispersers from core refugia in the NRM. If an entire pack is removed, a new pack is likely to form for the same reasons as described earlier in this preamble. Therefore, gaps that would fragment populations and disrupt genetic exchange are not likely to occur in the NRM wolf population.

Issue 9—Some commenters stated that localized wolf control would create population sinks that deplete nearby source populations. Others thought wolf control to relieve unacceptable ungulate impacts would be futile because wolves would constantly fill in vacancies created by control actions.

Response 9—We agree that the vacancies created by wolf control (or other forms of wolf mortality) are likely to be filled with wolves from other packs. However, in the NRM this situation is not likely to constitute a population sink that depletes or affects stability of source populations (*core refugia*). Wolves disperse from their natal packs regardless of human-caused mortality elsewhere. Wolf populations and packs routinely turn over members (Mech 2007). Vacancies created by wolf control are most likely to be filled by young adult dispersers that leave their packs because they are unable to breed or as an evolutionary strategy to avoid inbreeding (VonHoldt, *et al.* 2007), because they are attempting to increase access to food (Mech and Boitani 2003, p. 12), or due to social tensions in their natal pack (Mech and Boitani 2003, p. 13). Such individuals would not have directly contributed, through breeding, to the productivity of the packs they left. Although some of these dispersers may have filled other vacancies within the source population and had the potential to breed there, those vacancies will be quickly filled by other dispersing wolves or wolves within those packs (Fuller, *et al.* 2003, p. 181 and 183). As described earlier in this preamble, core refugia in the NRM wolf population provide a constant source of dispersers. While removing a pack may draw another pack into that area, approved wolf removal under this rule will not be at a rate and level (see preamble) that would create a void large and long enough in the core refugia to impact the stability of the wolf populations in the NRM.

While vacancies created by wolf control are likely to be filled, wolf density in the control area could be temporarily lowered to the extent that would allow the ungulate herd or population to respond, depending on the proposed level and duration of control. For example, control on an

annual basis for 3 to 5 years may decrease predation and relieve impacts to the herd or population enough to allow the population to return to management objective levels. As long as other major causes of ungulate population impacts have been addressed, the lowered post-control wolf density should allow the ungulate herd or population to remain at management objectives. Wolf removal as envisioned under this rule is limited in time until the ungulate herd meets its management objectives or until it is evident that wolf removal is not having a positive effect on the herd's status. If the required monitoring shows that the desired results are not achieved under the terms of the approved proposal, we would expect the State or Tribe to reevaluate whether continued control is warranted. If wolf densities and ungulate depredation return to levels that cause the ungulate herd or population to decline below management objectives again, the State or Tribe would need to submit another proposal under the processes required by this rule.

Issue 10—Commenters provided several reasons why they believe the NEP special rule was inappropriate, such as: (1) Wolves keep ungulate healthy by culling the sick and weak; (2) it allows killing of wolves for preying on their natural prey; (3) wolves are keystone predators that play an important role in the ecosystem; and (4) wolves decrease impacts of ungulate herds on riparian vegetation.

Response 10—Although wolves often prey on the less fit individuals of a prey population, they can also kill healthy animals resulting in additive mortality that can contribute to failure to sustain State or Tribal ungulate management objectives. We agree that ungulates are part of wolves' natural prey base and that wolves can play an important role in ecosystem function, as do other large predators. However, the anticipated levels of wolf removal under this NEP special rule would not result in disruption of ecosystem functions or meaningful impacts on other species that benefit from wolf presence. The most dramatic improvement of riparian vegetation after the return of wolves appeared to reduce elk browsing pressure is in Yellowstone National Park, where this rule does not apply and wolf control would not be allowed. However, the magnitude of cascading ecological effects from wolves is under some debate (Ripple and Beschta 2004, p. 755), and a number of biotic and abiotic factors are believed to affect woody browse conditions along with changes in ungulate behavior due to

wolf presence (Smith, *et al.* 2003, pp. 338–339). Given observations in Yellowstone National Park and depending on a variety of conditions, removal of wolves to meet State or Tribal ungulate management objectives for a particular herd or population may result in increased browsing pressure in those localized areas. However, balancing management of ungulate populations with that of plant communities and habitats outside Federal lands is under the purview of State and Tribal natural resource agencies, not the Act.

Issue 11—Some commenters were concerned that wolf control would prevent wolves from re-establishing in neighboring States that do not currently have wolf populations.

Response 11—Given the levels and extent of anticipated control of wolves for unacceptable ungulate impacts, we do not expect wolf numbers to be reduced enough to cause a meaningful reduction in the probability of dispersers reaching other States.

Issue 12—Some commenters believed that we improperly considered economic, political, or other factors in developing the proposed rule. Some believed we were influenced by special interests and State politicians, while others thought we favored environmental interests and the public outside the affected region. Several commenters believed that we neglected to address economic impacts to the tourist industry in the Yellowstone area and provided a citation on the economic benefits of wolves (Duffield, *et al.* 2006, p. 51). Others expressed that wolf predation on ungulates has negatively affected local economies by reducing clients for outfitters and guides and causing elk to move from feed grounds into areas where they cause damage and transmit disease to livestock.

Response 12—The Act requires that the decision to list a species as threatened or endangered be based on the best available science, and this prohibits economic considerations when making that decision. However, no similar prohibition is applicable to the promulgation of a 10(j) rule, and economic and other factors, including the effects on other wildlife populations, are appropriate for consideration. In promulgating this regulation, we have fully complied with the requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act. Moreover, we have addressed the various benefits and costs associated with this rulemaking as required by the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) (see Required Determinations section).

In particular, the expected level of wolf control resulting from this rule and the fact that this rule does not apply within Yellowstone National Park, where most of the public now goes to view wolves, will not affect wolf numbers and distribution in a manner that will significantly alter the opportunities for the public to observe and enjoy wolves in the wild. Therefore, we do not expect wolf-based tourism and dependent economies to be materially affected. We also acknowledge that in some situations this rule may result in economic benefits for guides and outfitters, and possibly other associated businesses, if wolf control results in higher ungulate populations that allow higher rates of hunter harvest.

Issue 13—Some commenters believed that we are promoting public intolerance by allowing killing of wolves for natural predation and others questioned the basis of our statement that the revision to the NEP special rule may increase public tolerance and decrease illegal take. Others suggested that public education should be used to reduce anti-wolf sentiments instead of controlling wolves.

Response 13—Because wolves are currently at population levels much higher than recovery goals, we believe it is appropriate to provide increased management flexibility to address conflicts between wolves and human uses. It is not unreasonable to assume that incentives for illegal take of wolves would be diminished by providing a legal and responsible mechanism for addressing those issues that are part of the basis for intolerance of wolves. However, because data are not available to support or disclaim this premise, we have removed this claim from the EA. State and Federal agencies, such as the National Park Service (NPS), and numerous conservation organizations continue to provide the public extensive information about wolf biology, ecology, and behavior.

Issue 14—Some, including one peer reviewer, questioned how we would be able to determine that a killed wolf had been chasing or harassing a dog or stock animal, when such activities would not result in physical signs on the subject of the attack.

Response 14—Making such a determination may be difficult in some cases, especially if the incident is not reported quickly because such evidence is generally temporary in nature. The requirement for reporting within 24 hours of take of the wolf will help ensure that the evidence is available upon investigation. If no actual biting, wounding, grasping, or killing has occurred, evidence must be available

that a reasonable person would have believed that it was likely to occur at any moment. In such cases, we expect that the wolf carcass would be in very close proximity to the stock animal or dog or evidence that the stock animal or dog was chased, molested, or harassed by wolves. Evidence to indicate this activity may include photographs of stock animals or dogs, pickets, temporary livestock corrals or camps, the wolf carcass, and the surrounding area immediately following the taking of the wolf, and/or tracks of the stock animal or dog and wolf, hairs, damaged vegetation, or trampled ground. Since the 2005 special rule went into effect, 27 wolves have been killed while in the act of attacking livestock and, based on the evidence, the resulting investigations resulted in determinations that most of these wolves had been chasing, molesting, or harassing livestock. In two additional incidents where wolves were killed, one person was charged and convicted for violating the law and a second person is under investigation because the evidence did not indicate that wolves were in the act of attacking livestock. Thus, staff from State and Federal agencies involved with livestock depredations have developed expertise in determining wolf activities from field evidence and in most cases can make a reasonable determination whether that evidence indicates that a wolf was in the act of attacking the stock animal or dog.

Issue 15—The Wildlife Services division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service indicated that language in the proposed rule implied that dogs are safe from wolf attack if they are near humans and provided information on some reports of wolves killing pet, herding, and guarding dogs with humans nearby (USDA 2007, p. 1).

Response 15—Although wolf attacks on dogs in the presence of humans are extremely rare, we acknowledge that the possibility exists. Hence, the revision to the NEP special rule to provide individuals the additional flexibility to defend their dogs against wolf attacks. We have added the information on reported attacks in the preamble of this final rule.

Issue 16—Several commenters were concerned that wolves would be killed when attracted to dogs used for hunting, or when protecting pups.

Response 16—The rule prohibits killing of wolves with the use of intentional baiting, feeding, or deliberate attractants of wolves. For example, it would be unlawful to knowingly approach a wolf den or rendezvous site with a dog and then

attempt to shoot those wolves. Anyone who uses dogs to deliberately attract wolves to kill them while in the guise of hunting would also be in violation of the law. On the other hand, the rule is intended to allow hunters to protect their hunting dogs from wolves that are in the act of attacking their dogs, if the hunter did not knowingly attract those wolves to the dogs.

Issue 17—One peer reviewer thought we should clarify what take this NEP special rule would allow in national parks and asked for clarification of what the "legally present" requirement means.

Response 17—This NEP special rule does not authorize any take of wolves on lands administered by the National Park Service. "Legally present" means that the person is (1) on their own property, (2) not trespassing and has the landowner's permission to bring their stock animal or dog on the property, or (3) abiding by regulations governing legal presence on public lands. As a means of clarification we have included this definition in this NEP special rule (see Changes From the Proposed Rule section).

Issue 18—We received requests that goats be added to the definition of stock animals in the revised NEP special rule, because goats are used as pack animals in areas of the NRM where wolves could be a threat.

Response 18—We revised the definition of stock animals to add goats to the list (see Changes From the Proposed Rule section).

C. Comments on Processes and Requirements

Issue 19—Questions arose from commenters and peer reviewers regarding how approvals of proposals to control wolves could be scientifically based, as required by the NEP special rule, should State or Tribal management objectives for ungulate populations or herds have no biological basis. Some feared that management objectives would be deliberately inflated as an excuse to kill wolves. Others, including two peer reviewers, were concerned that management objectives may be set on carrying capacity for ungulates without consideration of the presence of wolves and thus unattainable with wolves in the system. Another peer reviewer stressed that ungulate populations at high densities relative to available resources will have low productivity regardless of wolf predation. This peer reviewer suggested that we provide a list of potential morphological indices of population vigor related to resource availability (such as antler size, hind leg length, and newborn calf weight) that

States and Tribes could consider in the development of management objectives.

Response 19—We agree that determining the scientific validity of a proposal to control wolves to restore ungulate herd or population management objectives would be difficult without a clear picture of the basis of those objectives. However, because the States and Tribes are experts in management of their ungulate populations, and management objectives may need to be determined by a number of complex factors and can change depending on conditions, we have elected not to direct specific factors the States and Tribes should consider in the establishment of their management objectives. Instead, we have added a requirement that the basis of the State or Tribal management objectives for the affected ungulate herd or population be described in the proposals for wolf control (see Changes From the Proposed Rule section). The NEP special rule also requires any such proposal for wolf control to include a description of the data indicating that the ungulate herd or population is below management objectives and why wolf control is a warranted solution to restore the herd or population to management objective levels. If management objectives are not being met because ungulate productivity is affected by its population density, the State or Tribe will still have to demonstrate in the proposal that the removal of wolves will help restore the ungulate herd or population to management objectives because wolves are a major factor in the decline of the herd or population. We believe that inclusion of such information in the proposal, combined with the required peer review and public comment processes, will enable us to make a sound science-based determination on whether the proposed wolf control is appropriate.

Issue 20—We received requests to include a trigger in the rule to allow wolf control when calf/cow ratios in elk populations drop below 30 calves per 100 cows.

Response 20—As explained in Response 19, we will rely on the States and Tribes to provide in their proposals specific information indicating that ungulate herd or population objectives cannot be met. With respect to this comment, the proposal will need to demonstrate that a specific calf/cow ratio indicates that the herd or population will be unable to meet the established management objectives that wolves are a primary cause of the inability to meet management

objectives, and that wolf control will resolve this problem.

Issue 21—Some commenters wanted the definition of unacceptable impacts to include effects caused by wolves at key ungulate feeding areas or feed grounds. Others expressed disapproval that wolf control would be allowed for merely causing ungulate herds or populations to move from normal feeding areas.

Response 21—As explained in Response 19, we do not specify factors that the State or Tribe must consider in the establishment of their ungulate management objectives. If the State or Tribe proposes to control wolves because they are affecting ungulates at key feeding areas, we will expect the proposal to include information that demonstrates that management objectives cannot be met because wolves are disrupting ungulate feeding patterns and behavior. The proposal should provide support linking wolf activities at the feeding areas with disruption of ungulate feeding, poor nutrition in ungulates, and effects to survival and recruitment of ungulates as a consequence.

Issue 22—Some commenters thought that the Service, rather than the State or Tribe, should select peer reviewers or at a minimum have the option to reject peer reviews of proposals to control wolves for unacceptable ungulate impacts. Others recommended that we drop the requirement for peer and public review altogether so that wolf control actions would not be delayed when critically needed.

Response 22—Independent peer review plays an important role in maximizing the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of the information upon which we will base our decisions. Peer review will help ensure that such information is the best scientific and commercial information available. Because the relationships between ungulate populations and wolves and other factors affecting such populations are highly complex, peer review from those with expertise in these relationships is even more critical in evaluating whether proposed wolf control is appropriate. Through their extensive level of experience with ungulate conservation, State and Tribal game and fish agencies have access to experts on predator-prey relationships in the academic and scientific communities. Assigning the responsibility to conduct peer reviews to each State and Tribe proposing to control wolves will result in a more efficient process.

In this final NEP special rule, we clarify that the States and Tribes will be

required to follow the OMB Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664, January 14, 2005), which provides the professional standards that the Service uses in soliciting peer review from independent experts who have demonstrated expertise and specialized knowledge on the relevant issues. We also added details to the NEP special rule to clarify the requirements for peer review of wolf control proposals. Specifically, before submitting a wolf control proposal to us for approval, the State or Tribe will need to obtain five independent peer reviews of the proposal. To avoid a potential appearance of conflict of interest, those peer reviews must be obtained from experts other than staff of State, Tribal, or Federal agencies directly or indirectly involved in predator control or ungulate management in Montana, Idaho, or Wyoming. The State or Tribe also must explain in their proposal how the standards of the OMB peer review bulletin were considered and satisfied (see Changes From the Proposed Rule section).

Wolf predation significantly impacting ungulate populations is known to occur only in combination with a number of other causes of population declines. The relationships between these other factors, wolves, and prey populations are very complex and rarely result in a sudden precipitous decline requiring response in less than the normal time to conduct peer reviews and a public comment process.

Issue 23—A number of commenters objected to approval of any State or Tribal programmatic proposal for wolf control because they feared such an approach would allow the States or Tribes to rely on claims of broad-based ungulate impacts rather than providing evidence of localized impacts to a particular herd or population. Some commenters were also concerned that peer reviewers would not be able to predict the significance of the role of wolf predation in future ungulate impacts given the complex nature of interrelated factors affecting ungulate populations. Some also believed that programmatic proposals would limit the ability of the public to comment on issues related to local conditions and specific actions that would not be evident at the time of public review of the programmatic proposal. A commenter asked what the consequences would be if a control project was not consistent with an approved programmatic proposal. On the other hand, some promoted acceptance of programmatic proposals because such an approach would allow

States and Tribes to expeditiously address wolf impacts without delay associated with peer and public review on each individual control action.

Response 23—The NEP special rule does not discuss programmatic proposals per se. A programmatic proposal could be approved if it adequately addresses all the criteria required by the NEP special rule to show that the science supports the need for the proposed wolf control and has undergone all the procedural requirements for submission to the Service. We expect a programmatic proposal to clearly delineate specific conditions that would warrant wolf control for the period of time and geographic area covered by the proposal. Furthermore, before we could approve a programmatic proposal, we would have to be able to determine that control under such a proposal would not contribute to reducing the wolf population in the State below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves.

A programmatic proposal must undergo the same peer and public review processes as would a specific proposal. As stated above, a programmatic proposal would need to contain enough details to show that the required criteria for approving wolf control have been met. During review, peer reviewers and the public would have the opportunity to provide input on whether the details are sufficient or appropriate in such a programmatic proposal.

If a specific control action is not consistent with the approved programmatic plan, it would be subject to enforcement of the Act's existing regulations governing NEPs of the gray wolf.

As explained in our response to Issue 22, typical times for peer review and public comment processes are not expected to affect the timeliness of control actions.

Issue 24—Some commenters wanted the regulations to include and describe an appeal process for the approval or disapproval of a proposal to control wolves for ungulate impacts. We also received requests that the regulations require specific means for public review of proposals, such as posting proposals on the Internet and providing 60-day comment periods. Others asked how we would rescind an approval if a State or Tribe continued to control wolves if the State's population dropped below the special rule's safety margin of 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves.

Response 24—We encourage States and Tribes to work closely with us while developing their proposals to ensure that all the required criteria in

the regulations will be met. Based on expected coordination with the States and Tribes, we do not believe an appeal process for disapproved proposals is necessary. We believe that transparency of the peer review and public comment processes, the NEP special rule's criteria for an approvable proposal, and our standards for the use of the best scientific and commercial information available preclude the need for an appeal process. Furthermore, should we disapprove a proposal, we would explain the reasons for the disapproval, and the State or Tribe may revise the proposal and resubmit it for further consideration.

In the NEP special rule, we intend to allow for a transparent process for review of wolf control proposals by requiring the State or Tribe to implement peer reviews and a public comment period. The methods and processes for providing adequate and reasonable public review and input will be determined by the State or Tribe submitting a wolf control proposal.

Monitoring of wolf populations (see Response 26) will provide a feedback loop that would inform the State or Tribe if the control actions are no longer appropriate or in danger of noncompliance with the regulations. If a State or Tribe continued to take wolves after the State's wolf population dropped below the rule's safety margin, the State or Tribe will be in violation of the law and subject to an investigation and further action by the Service's Division of Law Enforcement.

Issue 25—We received thousands of comments asking to prohibit aerial gunning as part of wolf control actions and some suggesting that the proposed revisions to the NEP special rule would violate the Airborne Hunting Act. Other commenters asked for prohibitions on a variety of methods, including but not limited to hunting, trapping, poisoning, and killing with motorized vehicles. One peer reviewer expressed a preference for hunting and trapping over aerial gunning and poisoning to gain more public acceptance of control measures. Some commenters objected to the use of trapping and poisoning on public property. Some commenters suggested using various forms of nonlethal control before resorting to killing wolves.

Response 25—The States will likely use shooting from the ground and air as the primary method of control of wolves for ungulate impacts. These methods are considered the most efficient and humane of those available. Based on the experience and expertise of State agency staff, we believe the States should be allowed the flexibility to determine the

appropriate methods of control within the confines of existing laws and regulations. This NEP special rule does not supersede or invalidate any other Federal, State, or Tribal laws and regulations, including the Airborne Hunting Act. All management activities under this NEP special rule must be conducted in compliance with all other applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, if control methods result in take of wolves exceeding the level in an approved proposal under this NEP special rule, the control actions must cease and will be subject to enforcement under the Act.

We and our partners in wolf recovery continue to investigate and implement a variety of nonlethal methods of wolf management. While preventative and nonlethal control methods can be useful in some situations, they are not consistently reliable, so lethal control remains a primary tool for managing wolves affecting ungulate populations, livestock, and domestic animals.

Issue 26—Some commenters, including two peer reviewers, said that the rule should include a requirement for monitoring to determine effectiveness of wolf control actions and a process for adaptive management. Some questioned how monitoring by the States or Tribes would be funded or urged us to provide such funding.

Response 26—In the NEP special rule's requirement for wolf control proposals to include a description of how ungulate population responses to wolf removal will be measured, we now specify that the proposal must describe how control actions will be adjusted to maintain their effectiveness. While the wolf is listed, Idaho and Montana receive Federal funding to conduct wolf population monitoring, and we provide staff to conduct monitoring in Wyoming. Wolf control for livestock depredation is reported informally on a weekly basis and officially in annual reports. The annual reports include comprehensive information on control actions, wolf population status, and analyses of the effectiveness of wolf control for livestock depredation. This reporting mechanism will be used for wolf control actions for unacceptable ungulate impacts under this rule. We expect the annual reports to include an evaluation of the effectiveness of wolf control and other measures in relieving unacceptable impacts to ungulate herds or populations just as is done for wolf control for livestock depredation. An adaptive management framework for wolf control for unacceptable ungulate impacts may entail slight modifications to the approved control actions. However, any necessary changes that

would increase level and duration of take of wolves or impacts to wolf populations that were not considered for the approval of the control actions will require submission of a new proposal and must comply with the rule's criteria and procedures for approval. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game's proposal for wolf control, submitted in 2006 (Idaho Department of Fish and Game 2006, pp. 20–21), provides an example of the type of information on proposed monitoring that should be included.

Wolf populations in the NRM have been and will continue to be intensively monitored. This monitoring is conducted by the Service, NPS, Nez Perce Tribe, and the States of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming and will help provide information on any effects to wolf populations from wolf control actions. Currently, Idaho and Montana receive Federal funding for wolf management and monitoring. Such funding is likely to continue at least until the wolf is delisted. While the wolf is listed, the Service provides funding and staff to conduct wolf management and monitoring in Wyoming outside the national parks. The NPS covers funding for monitoring in the national parks, but wolf control under this rule will not occur there.

Issue 27—A couple of commenters claimed that the proposed rule is arbitrary and capricious because (1) the post-delisting wolf management plans, required for a State or Tribe to be eligible to use the NEP special rule, would be implemented only after delisting, yet we could approve wolf control before then, and (2) the Act provides no basis for allowing wolf control before delisting based on how a State or Tribe might manage wolves after delisting.

Response 27—The requirement for approved post-delisting management plans for a State or Tribe to be eligible to apply the revised NEP special rule is not based on the specifics of wolf management after delisting, when the NEP special rule will no longer exist. Development of a wolf management plan demonstrates that the State or Tribe has undertaken a formal process that commits it to a management strategy for sustaining wolf recovery. This commitment assures that any proposal to remove wolves will be in alignment with long-term wolf conservation and not based solely on a goal to benefit ungulate populations. In addition, adoption of the wolf management plan will demonstrate that the wildlife agency has received the necessary local political and administrative support within the State

or Tribe for implementing the plan and approved wolf control.

Issue 28—We received requests, including from a State agency, to increase the required reporting period after a wolf is killed from 24 to 72 hours to accommodate instances where the take occurred in remote areas.

Response 28—In recognition of the need for a greater reporting time in certain situations, 50 CFR 17.84(n)(6) already allows for reasonable additional time for reporting if access to a site is limited. We believe this existing provision appropriately addresses the concern raised by the commenter and that no modification is needed.

Issue 29—One commenter recommended that the NEP special rule specifically prohibit trapping of wolves in primary conservation areas for grizzly bears.

Response 29—Only two grizzly bears have been accidentally trapped since trapping wolves for monitoring and livestock control purposes began in 1986. The type of trap in one incident is now used by State or Federal agency staff only when grizzly bears are hibernating. In the other incident in Glacier National Park, a trapped bear was killed by another bear. Currently, several measures are implemented to minimize accidental trapping and safety issues for nontarget species and agency staff (unintentional trapping of bears is much more dangerous to agency staff than it is to the bears). Some of these measures include the use of transmitters on traps to detect sprung traps, careful placement of traps, and use of less odorous bait to minimize attracting bears. If a bear is accidentally trapped, agency staff dart and release it. Therefore, wolf control authorized by this NEP special rule is highly unlikely to compromise grizzly bear conservation.

Issue 30—Some commenters requested additional time for public comment. Some believed that we did not advertise the hearings and public comment periods sufficiently. Some objected that hearings were not held in major population areas such as Denver, Colorado, or Portland, Oregon.

Response 30—We provided a total of 60 days in two separate 30-day periods for public comment. We announced information on the comment period and hearings in the **Federal Register** notice of the proposed rule, our national Web site, and regional Web sites in the two affected regions. We also provided legal notices of the comment period and hearings for publication in 11 major and local newspapers in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. We sent out press releases to print and broadcast media;

members of Congress; relevant State, Tribal, Federal, and local agencies; and hundreds of interested parties in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. We also sent information on the opportunity for public comment to two major national environmental organizations that distributed the information to their membership, on their Web sites, and to other organizations that made similar efforts. Given that we received more than 260,000 comments from throughout the country, we believe sufficient notice and time was provided for widespread public comment. In selecting hearing locations, we believe that we achieved a balance between proximity to the most affected public in the three States where the rule would apply and the public's accessibility to the hearing locations.

D. Comments on Legal Compliance With Laws, Regulations, and Policies

Issue 31—The proposed revised special rule is not in compliance with section 2 of the Act nor does it conform to the purposes of section 10(j) because it does not further the conservation of the species. The proposed revisions are tantamount to delisting and in violation of Section 4 of the Act by allowing take as if the species was not listed.

Response 31—The regulations under the Act relating to establishment of experimental populations specifically recognize the creation of special rules containing both prohibitions and exceptions for those populations (50 CFR 17.82). Under section 10(j), such exceptions are intended to allow management practices to address potential negative impacts or concerns from reintroductions. The 10(j) special regulations of 1994 and 2005 for the NEP of the gray wolf in the NRM include provisions for managing wolf populations impacting livestock and ungulate populations. Such provisions are necessary for the continued enhancement and conservation of wolf populations because they foster local tolerance of introduced wolves. However, these revisions do not alter the protected status of the gray wolf in the NRM provided under section 4 of the Act. The reintroduction of the gray wolf into Central Idaho, Southwestern Montana, and Yellowstone National Park under the 10(j) provisions clearly furthered the conservation of the species. Since 1995, when the reintroductions first occurred, wolf populations expanded in size and distribution and reached the minimum recovery goals in 2000 and have exceeded those goals every year since then. As described above, our

modifications to the provisions of the 2005 special rule do not compromise the continued conservation of these populations in this remarkable recovery success story.

Issue 32—One commenter thought that we should prepare an environmental impact statement rather than an EA to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) because the rule would allow the killing of nearly 1,000 wolves, constituting a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Response 32—As a result of the analysis in the EA, we made a finding of no significant impact because we concluded, among other reasons, that the likely amount of take of wolves that the rule would authorize would be relatively low and would not compromise recovery of the NRM wolf population. Based on the current available information where wolves may be causing unacceptable impacts to ungulate populations, it is our expectation that the total number of wolves taken would be well below 1,000.

E. General Comments on the Proposed Rule

Issue 33—The State of Montana supported all aspects of the revisions to the 10(j) special rule, but did not want efforts to finalize it to take priority over, and thus delay, finalizing the delisting rule.

Response 33—The Service remains committed to finalizing both the 10(j) rule and its decision on the proposed delisting rule in early 2008. The revised 10(j) special rule is intended to provide flexibility for wolf management in the NEP areas (including in Montana) in case the final determination on the delisting is delayed or concludes the wolf should remain listed.

F. Comments Not Germane to the Revisions of the Special Regulations

Some comments went beyond the scope of this rulemaking, or beyond the authority of the Service or the Act. Since these issues do not relate to the action we proposed, they are not addressed here. These comments included support or opposition for future delisting, assertions that wolf reintroduction was illegal and/or usurped States' rights, and that the type of wolf that currently lives in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming is a nonnative wolf. Many of these types of comments were discussed in the reclassification rule (68 FR 15804, April 1, 2003). We also received comments expressing support for, and opposition to wolf

recovery efforts and the proposal (or parts of it) without further explanation.

Changes From the Proposed Rule

As a result of comments and additional information received during the comment period, and additional analysis, we made several changes to the special rule as proposed on July 6, 2007 (72 FR 36942). We describe the specific changes below. Discussion of the basis for these changes are in our responses to the relevant comments where indicated below.

1. Proposed—Among the criteria States or Tribes would be required to address in a proposal to control wolves for unacceptable impacts to ungulate herds or populations was "Identifies possible remedies or conservation measures in addition to wolf removal."

1. Final—The requirement is changed to "Demonstrates that attempts were and are being made to address other identified major causes of ungulate herd or population declines or the State or Tribal government commitment to implement possible remedies or conservation measures in addition to wolf removal; * * *." See Response 7 in Summary of Comments and Recommendations.

2. Proposed—Defined "stock animal" as a "horse, mule, donkey, or llama used to transport people or their possessions."

2. Final—The definition of "stock animal" is changed to "a horse, mule, donkey, llama, or goat used to transport people or their possessions." See Response 18 in Summary of Comments and Recommendations.

3. Proposed—Required States and Tribes to describe data showing that ungulate herds or populations are below management objectives, but did not require a description of the basis of the management objectives.

3. Final—In proposals for wolf control to address unacceptable ungulate impacts, in addition to other criteria States and Tribes must meet, the basis of the ungulate management objectives must be described. See Response 19 in Summary of Comments and Recommendations.

4. Proposed—Required States and Tribes to conduct peer review of wolf control proposals before submission to the Service for approval, but did not provide details of peer review requirements.

4. Final—The rule now specifies that the State or Tribe must conduct the peer review process in conformance with the OMB's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review and obtain five peer reviews from experts on the related issues, other than those employed by

State, Tribal, or Federal agencies directly or indirectly involved in predator control or ungulate management. See Response 22 in Summary of Comments and Recommendations.

5. Proposed—Required State or Tribal proposals to control wolves for unacceptable ungulate impacts to include a description of how ungulate population responses to wolf control would be measured, but did not address adaptive management.

5. Final—The rule now includes a requirement that the proposal describe how control actions will be adjusted for effectiveness. See Response 26 in Summary of Comments and Recommendations.

6. Proposed—Referred to the individuals to whom the take provisions in this rule would apply as "citizens".

6. Final—To be consistent with the language in the Act, the rule now substitutes the word "person" for "citizen".

7. Proposed—Specified that individuals must be "legally present" on private or public land in order to lethally take wolves in defense of their stock animals and dogs, but did not provide a description of what we meant by "legally present".

7. Final—As a means of clarification this rule now includes a definition of when a person is "legally present". See Response 17 in Summary of Comments and Recommendations.

Required Determinations

Regulatory Planning and Review—In accordance with the criteria in Executive Order 12866, this rule is a significant regulatory action and subject to Office of Management and Budget (OMB) review. An economic analysis is not required because this rule will result in only minor and positive economic effects on a small percentage of people in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming.

(a) This regulation will not have an annual economic effect of \$100 million or adversely affect an economic sector, productivity, jobs, the environment, or other units of government. A brief assessment to clarify the costs and benefits associated with this rule follows:

Costs Incurred—Under this rule, management of wolves by States or Tribes with wolf management plans is voluntary. Therefore, associated costs to States and Tribes for control of wolves causing unacceptable impacts to ungulate herds or populations are discretionary. While we do not quantify expected expenditures, these costs may consist of staff time and salary as well as transportation and equipment

necessary to control wolves. Costs to the Service would include those associated with staff time and salary coordinating with States and Tribes during development of wolf control proposals and review and determination of approval of proposals.

We have funded State and Tribal wolf monitoring, research, and management efforts for gray wolves in Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and intend to continue to do so as long as wolves are listed in these States. For the past several years Congress has specifically provided funding for wolf management to Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming, and the Nez Perce. In addition, Federal grant programs are available that fund or partially fund wildlife management programs by the States and Tribes.

Benefits Accrued—The objectives of the proposed rule change are (1) to provide a means for States and Tribes with Service-approved wolf management plans to address the unacceptable impacts of a recovered wolf population to ungulate populations and herds, and (2) to allow persons in the boundaries of the NEP areas within any States or Tribal lands that has a Service-approved wolf management plan other than on lands administered by NPS to take wolves that are in the act of attacking their stock animals or dogs. Allowing wolf removal in response to unacceptable impacts will help maintain ungulate populations or herds at or above State or Tribal objectives. As a result, hunters and associated businesses, including guides, outfitters, and the hunting retail industry, may benefit from increased hunting opportunities. Increased hunting opportunities provide States with additional revenue which is used for wildlife management and habitat restoration, protection, and enhancement.

Allowing take of wolves in the act of attacking stock animals or dogs would have a beneficial economic impact to the affected individuals by allowing them to protect such private property, as well as avoid the need for persons to unnecessarily replace and retrain these animals.

(b) This regulation does not create inconsistencies with other agencies' actions. Agency responsibilities for section 7 of the Act are the same for this rule as the previous NEP special rules. This rule reflects the continuing success in recovering the gray wolf through long-standing cooperative and complementary programs by a number of Federal, State, and Tribal agencies. Implementation of Service-approved State or Tribal wolf management plans supports these existing partnerships.

(c) This rule will not alter the budgetary effects or entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs, or the rights and obligations of their recipients, because we do not foresee, as a result of this rule, any new impacts or restrictions to existing human uses of lands in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, or any Tribal reservations that remain under the 1994 NEP special rules.

(d) OMB has determined that this rule could raise novel legal or policy issues.

Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*)

Under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*, as amended by the SBREFA of 1996), whenever a Federal agency is required to publish a notice of rulemaking for any proposed or final rule, it must prepare and make available for public comment a regulatory flexibility analysis that describes the effects of the rule on small entities (i.e., small businesses, small organizations, and small government jurisdictions). However, no regulatory flexibility analysis is required if the head of the agency certifies the rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The SBREFA amended the Regulatory Flexibility Act to require Federal agencies to provide a statement of the factual basis for certifying that a rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The SBREFA also amended the Regulatory Flexibility Act to require a certification statement. Based on the information that is available to us at this time, we certify that this regulation will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The following discussion explains our rationale.

The revisions in this rule relax some of the previous restrictions on take of wolves and do not increase restrictions. For a discussion of how small entities may benefit from this increased flexibility see the Benefits Accrued section in the Required Determinations section above. One study indicated that the return of wolves to the NRM infused approximately \$35.5 million to local economies from increased tourism to observe wolves in the wild (Duffield, *et al.* 2006, p.51). The expected level of wolf control resulting from this rule and the fact that this rule does not apply within Yellowstone National Park, where most of the public goes to view wolves, will not affect wolf numbers and distribution in a manner that would significantly alter the opportunities for the public to observe and enjoy wolves in the wild. Therefore, local small entities benefiting from tourism

associated with wolf-viewing are not likely to see decreases in business as the result of the revisions to this rule.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This regulation is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 801, *et seq.*, the SBREFA.

(a) This regulation will not have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more and is fully expected to have no significant economic impacts. The proposed regulation further reduces the effect that wolves will have on a few persons by increasing the opportunity for them to protect their stock animals and dogs. Since there are so few small businesses impacted by this regulation, the combined economic effects are minimal.

(b) This regulation will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, Federal, State, or local government agencies, or geographic regions and will impose no additional regulatory restraints in addition to those already in operation.

(c) This regulation will not have significant adverse effects on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of United States-based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises. Based on the analysis of identified factors, we have determined that no individual industries within the United States will be significantly affected and that no changes in the demography of populations are anticipated. The intent of this special rule is to facilitate and continue existing commercial activities while providing for the conservation of species by better addressing the concerns of affected landowners and the impacts of a recovered wolf population.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

This rule defines a process for voluntary and cooperative transfer of management responsibilities for a listed species back to the States. Therefore, in accordance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (2 U.S.C. 1501, *et seq.*):

(a) This rule will not "significantly or uniquely" affect small governments. A Small Government Agency Plan is not required.

(b) This rule will not produce a Federal mandate of \$100 million or greater in any year; that is, it is not a "significant regulatory action" under the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. This rule is not expected to have any significant economic impacts nor will it impose any unfunded mandates on other Federal, State, or local government agencies to carry out specific activities.

Takings (Executive Order 12630)

In accordance with Executive Order 12630, this rule will not have significant implications concerning taking of private property by the Federal Government. This rule will substantially advance a legitimate government interest (conservation and recovery of listed species) and will not present a bar to all reasonable and expected beneficial use of private property. Because this proposed rule change pertains only to the relaxation of restrictions on lethal removal of wolves, it will not result in any takings of private property.

Federalism (Executive Order 13132)

This rule maintains the existing relationship between the States and the Federal Government. The State of Wyoming requested that we undertake this rulemaking in order to assist the States in reducing conflicts with local landowners and returning wolf management to the States or Tribes. We have cooperated with the States in preparation of this rule. Maintaining the recovery goals for these wolves will contribute to their eventual delisting and their return to State management. It is a voluntary decision whether to undertake Programs and actions to take wolves under this rule. This rule will not have substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the States and the Federal Government, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government. No intrusion on State policy or administration is expected; roles or responsibilities of Federal or State governments will not change; and fiscal capacity will not be substantially directly affected. Therefore, this rule does not have significant Federalism effects or implications to warrant the preparation of a Federalism Assessment pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order 13132.

Civil Justice Reform (Executive Order 12988)

In accordance with Executive Order 12988, the Department of the Interior has determined that this rule does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the applicable standards provided in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the order.

Paperwork Reduction Act

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations at 5 CFR 1320, which implement provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.*) require that Federal agencies obtain approval from OMB before collecting information from the public. A Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor and

a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. This rule does not contain any new collections of information that would require us to obtain OMB approval. OMB approval is required if information will be collected from 10 or more persons (5 CFR 1320.3). "Ten or more persons" refers to the persons to whom a collection of information is addressed by the agency within any 12-month period, and to any independent entities to which the initial addressee may reasonably be expected to transmit the collection of information during that period, including independent State, territorial, Tribal, or local entities and separately incorporated subsidiaries or affiliates. For the purposes of this definition, "persons" does not include employees of the respondent acting within the scope of their employment, contractors engaged by a respondent for the purpose of complying with the collection of information, or current employees of the Federal government when acting within the scope of their employment, but it does include former Federal employees. This rule includes a requirement that a State or Tribe requesting approval to control wolves for unacceptable ungulate impacts submit a proposal to us. However, as these proposals will only be submitted by States or Tribes with Service-approved wolf management plans, we do not anticipate that it will affect 10 or more persons, as defined above. Therefore, OMB approval and a control number are not needed for information collections associated with these proposals. Existing information collections already approved under the Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501, *et seq.* include permit application forms, assigned OMB control number 1018-0094, and the notification requirements in our experimental population regulations under 50 CFR 17.84, assigned OMB control number 1018-0095.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

We have prepared an environmental analysis and finding of no significant impact, as defined under the authority of the NEPA of 1969. These documents are available from the Office of the Western Gray Wolf Recovery Coordinator (see **ADDRESSES** section) or from our Web site at <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov/>.

Government-to-Government Relationship With Tribes (Executive Order 13175)

In accordance with the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, "Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments" (59 FR 22951), Executive Order 13175, and 512 DM 2, we have coordinated with affected Tribes within the experimental population areas of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming on this rule. We have fully considered all comments on the proposed special regulations that were submitted by Tribes and Tribal members during the public comment period and have attempted to address those concerns, new data, and new information where appropriate.

Energy Supply, Distribution or Use (Executive Order 13211)

On May 18, 2001, the President issued Executive Order 13211 requiring agencies to prepare Statements of Energy Effects when undertaking certain actions that significantly affect energy supply, distribution, and use. This rule is not expected to significantly affect energy supplies, distribution, or use. Therefore, this action is not a significant energy action and no Statement of Energy Effects is required.

References Cited

A complete list of all references cited in this rulemaking is available upon request from our Helena office (see **ADDRESSES** section).

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Exports, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, and Transportation.

Regulation Promulgation

■ Accordingly, we amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

PART 17—[AMENDED]

■ 1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1544; 16 U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500, unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Amend § 17.84 by revising paragraph (n) as follows:

■ a. In paragraph (n)(3), revise the term "unacceptable impact" and, in alphabetical order, add the terms "legally present," "stock animal," and "ungulate population or herd," to read as set forth below; and

■ b. In paragraph (n)(4), revise the first sentence following the heading and paragraph (n)(4)(v) and add paragraph (n)(4)(xiii) to read as set forth below:

§ 17.84 Special rules—vertebrates.

- * * * * *
- (n) * * *
- (3) * * *
- * * * * *

Legally present—A Person is legally present when (1) on their own property, (2) not trespassing and has the landowner's permission to bring their stock animal or dog on the property, or (3) abiding by regulations governing legal presence on public lands.

* * * * *

Stock animal—A horse, mule, donkey, llama, or goat used to transport people or their possessions.

Unacceptable impact—Impact to ungulate population or herd where a State or Tribe has determined that wolves are one of the major causes of the population or herd not meeting established State or Tribal management goals.

Ungulate population or herd—An assemblage of wild ungulates living in a given area.

* * * * *

(4) Allowable forms of take of gray wolves. The following activities, only in the specific circumstances described under this paragraph (n)(4), are allowed: Opportunistic harassment; intentional harassment; take on private land; take on public land except land administered by National Parks; take in response to impacts on wild ungulate populations; take in defense of human life; take to protect human safety; take by designated agents to remove problem wolves; incidental take; take under permits; take per authorizations for employees of designated agents; take for research purposes; and take to protect stock animals and dogs. * * *

* * * * *

(v) Take in response to wild ungulate impacts. If wolf predation is having an unacceptable impact on wild ungulate populations (deer, elk, moose, bighorn sheep, mountain goats, antelope, or bison) as determined by the respective State or Tribe, a State or Tribe may lethally remove the wolves in question.

(A) In order for this provision to apply, the State or Tribes must prepare a science-based document that:

(1) Describes the basis of ungulate population or herd management objectives, what data indicate that the ungulate population or herd is below management objectives, what data indicate that wolves are a major cause of the unacceptable impact to the

ungulate population or herd, why wolf removal is a warranted solution to help restore the ungulate population or herd to State or Tribal management objectives, the level and duration of wolf removal being proposed, and how ungulate population or herd response to wolf removal will be measured and control actions adjusted for effectiveness;

(2) Demonstrates that attempts were and are being made to address other identified major causes of ungulate herd or population declines or the State or Tribe commits to implement possible remedies or conservation measures in addition to wolf removal; and

(3) Provides an opportunity for peer review and public comment on their proposal prior to submitting it to the Service for written concurrence. The State or Tribe must:

(i) Conduct the peer review process in conformance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review (70 FR 2664, January 14, 2005) and include in their proposal an explanation of how the bulletin's standards were considered and satisfied; and

(ii) Obtain at least five independent peer reviews from individuals with relevant expertise other than staff employed by a State, Tribal, or Federal agency directly or indirectly involved with predator control or ungulate management in Idaho, Montana, or Wyoming.

(B) Before we authorize lethal removal, we must determine that an unacceptable impact to wild ungulate populations or herds has occurred. We also must determine that the proposed lethal removal is science-based, will not contribute to reducing the wolf population in the State below 20 breeding pairs and 200 wolves, and will not impede wolf recovery.

* * * * *

(xiii) Take to protect stock animals and dogs. Any person legally present on private or public land, except land administered by the National Park Service, may immediately take a wolf that is in the act of attacking the individual's stock animal or dog, provided that there is no evidence of intentional baiting, feeding, or deliberate attractants of wolves. The person must be able to provide evidence of stock animals or dogs recently (less than 24 hours) wounded, harassed, molested, or killed by wolves, and we or our designated agents must be able to confirm that the stock animals or dogs were wounded, harassed, molested, or killed by wolves. To preserve evidence

that the take of a wolf was conducted according to this rule, the person must not disturb the carcass and the area surrounding it. The take of any wolf without such evidence of a direct and immediate threat may be referred to the appropriate authorities for prosecution.

* * * * *

Dated: December 27, 2007.

Kenneth Stansell,

Acting Director,

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 08-334 Filed 1-24-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-55-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

50 CFR Part 648

[Docket No. 070627217-7523-02]

RIN 0648-AV70

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Region Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology Omnibus Amendment

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS is implementing approved management measures contained in the Standardized Bycatch Reporting Methodology (SBRM) Omnibus Amendment (SBRM Amendment) to the Fishery Management Plans (FMPs) of the Northeast Region, developed by the Mid-Atlantic and New England Fishery Management Councils (Councils). The SBRM Amendment establishes an SBRM for all 13 Northeast Region FMPs, as required under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act). The measures include: Bycatch reporting and monitoring mechanisms; analytical techniques and allocation of at-sea fisheries observers; an SBRM performance standard; a review and reporting process; framework adjustment and annual specifications provisions; a prioritization process; and provisions for industry-funded observers and observer set-aside programs.

DATES: This final rule is effective February 27, 2008.

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/09/2010 08:35 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Steve Nadeau, Jon Rachael, Michelle Commons, hilary cooley, Jason Husseman, Ed_Bangs@fws.gov, Brian_Kelly@fws.gov,
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

On Saturday, 8/7, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain near Lester Creek. WS confirmed another lamb killed on the same band on Sunday, 8/8.

Also on Sunday, WS confirmed that wolves killed 7 lambs and 4 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek near the Yuba River.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/09/2010 02:40 PM

To "Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations 

I know it's in GMU 39, because that's one of the things I ask now when I hear about a depredation. I'd have to check to answer the other question.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/09/2010 02:31 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations

Hey Todd—I'm trying to put that wolf shot by the herder in a unit... is Grouse Creek the one that flows into the Johnson Creek near the Graham airstrip?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:54 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott; Nadeau,Steve; Commons Kemner,Michelle; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Inutt@fs.fed.us; wririe@fs.fed.us; aeegnew@fs.fed.us; mlaverty@fs.fed.us; dskinner@fs.fed.us; Rohlman,Jeff; Hansen,Jerome; SKeafer@idl.idaho.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net
Subject: Four Wolf Depredations

I was out of the office yesterday and these have started to pile up a little.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Little Mud Creek SW of New Meadows. Possibly the Hornet Creek pack or the Lick Creek pack.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land on Squaw Creek 3-5 miles NW of Ola. Unknown wolves.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek. This is very near the depredation we confirmed in Hunter Creek last month. After WS confirmed this latest depredation and left the site, the herder shot and killed a wolf returning to the kill. I have no information about the age/sex of the wolf killed right now.

Yesterday, 8/4, WS confirmed that wolves killed 5 lambs and 3 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain. The wolves responsible for this depredation are probably the same wolves that were involved in the depredation on Lester Creek last month.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/09/2010 03:57 PM

To "Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations 

It's the one near the Yuba River if that helps.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/09/2010 02:42 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE: Four Wolf Depredations

Thanks—knowing the unit is the main thing, but would be interesting to know which Grouse Ck (there's about a million and one in my Topo software) if/when you get word back.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 09, 2010 2:40 PM
To: Husseman,Jason
Subject: RE: Four Wolf Depredations

I know it's in GMU 39, because that's one of the things I ask now when I hear about a depredation. I'd have to check to answer the other question.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/09/2010 02:31 PM

To: <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject: RE: Four Wolf Depredations

Hey Todd—I'm trying to put that wolf shot by the herder in a unit... is Grouse Creek the one that flows into the Johnson Creek near the Graham airstrip?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 8:54 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott; Nadeau,Steve; Commons Kemner,Michelle; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Inutt@fs.fed.us; wririe@fs.fed.us; aeegnew@fs.fed.us; mlaverty@fs.fed.us; dskinner@fs.fed.us; Rohlman,Jeff; Hansen,Jerome; SKeafer@idl.idaho.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net
Subject: Four Wolf Depredations

I was out of the office yesterday and these have started to pile up a little.

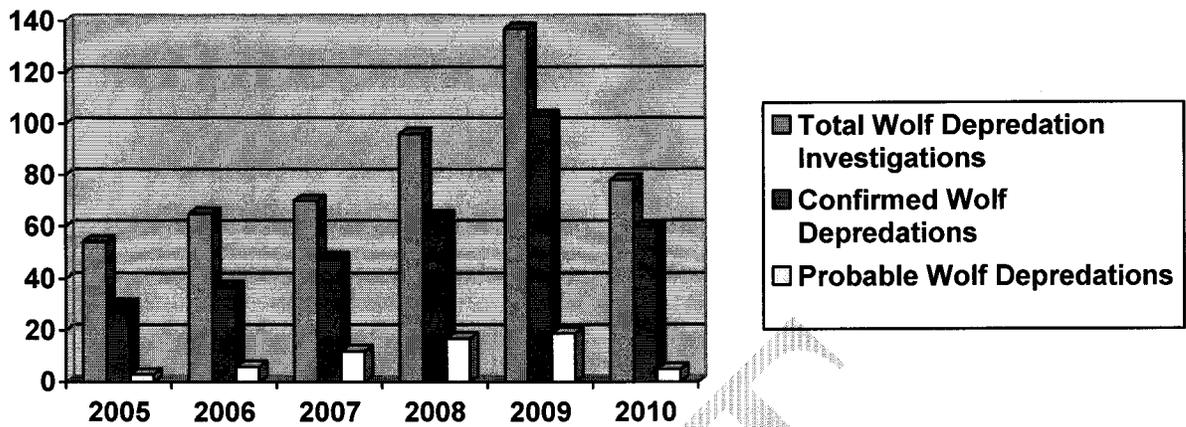
On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Little Mud Creek SW of New Meadows. Possibly the Hornet Creek pack or the Lick Creek pack.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land on Squaw Creek 3-5 miles NW of Ola. Unknown wolves.

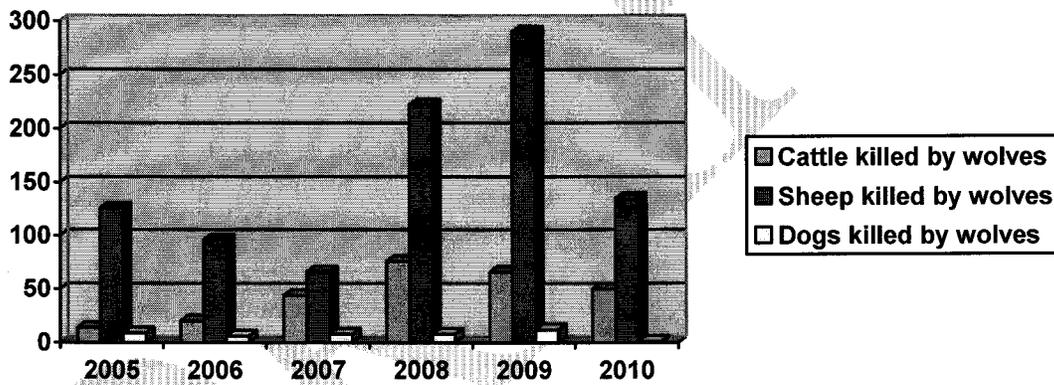
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Yesterday, 8/4, WS confirmed that wolves killed 5 lambs and 3 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain. The wolves responsible for this depredation are probably the same wolves that were involved in the depredation on Lester Creek last month.

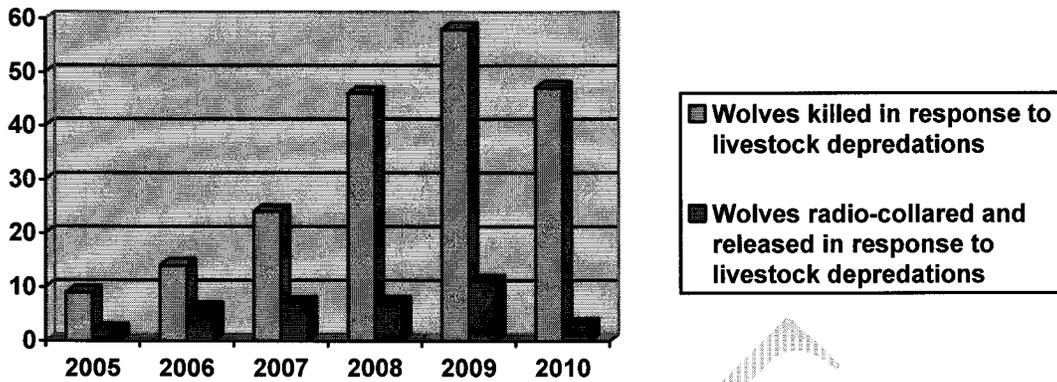
Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



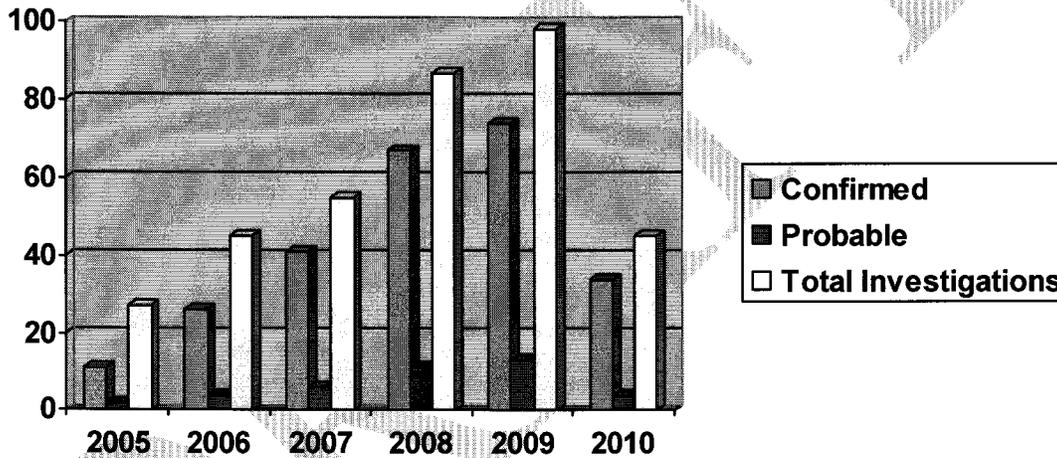
This data is from January 1 – August 10 for years 2005 – 2010. The data for 2010 is preliminary but should not change significantly.



This graph shows verified wolf kills (Confirmed + Probable) that occurred in Idaho from January 1 – August 10 in each respective year. The 2010 data is preliminary but should not change significantly.



This graph shows how many wolves ID WS captured/killed or radio-collared and released from January 1 – August 10 in each respective year.



This graph probably best demonstrates the effect of the wolf hunting season in Idaho. The data is from April 1 – July 31 for each respective year and shows wolf depredation investigations. Idaho's first wolf hunting season closed March 31, 2010.

Wolves were a listed species in Idaho until March 27, 2008, then re-listed again from July 18, 2008 – May 3, 2009, then re-listed again on August 5, 2010. Idaho's only wolf hunting season ran from September 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010. Idaho hunters harvested 188 wolves during the season.

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/11/2010 10:47 AM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA
cc
bcc
Subject Fact Sheet

Maybe our lawyers could review this to understand what our role is.

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

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Relisted: Wolf Fact Sheet - August 10, 2010

Wolves are Relisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains

- A U.S. District Court decision reinstated federal Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies on August 5.
- Idaho Fish and Game is reviewing the ruling to determine our options.
- Federal laws and regulations apply statewide.

Legal Status of Wolves in Idaho

- Wolves Idaho, north of Interstate 90, are reclassified as endangered and wolves south of I-90 are reclassified as an experimental, nonessential population under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Federal laws and regulations guide the actions of Idaho residents and Idaho Fish and Game wolf management activities.

Wolf Management in Idaho

- Fish and Game will retain the authority to manage wolves according to the federal regulations while federal and state efforts to delist wolves resume.
- An interagency cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants authority to Fish and Game to carry out as much of Idaho's wolf management plan as allowed by federal regulations.
- Fish and Game continues to be the lead agency for wolf monitoring, public outreach, research and resolving wolf-livestock conflicts.
- The state program will still be funded by federal dollars.

Wolves, Livestock and Pets

- Federal regulations guide how Fish and Game and Idaho residents can resolve wolf-livestock interactions in each of the two interim management areas.
- North of Interstate 90, where wolves are classified as endangered, agency management decisions will be more conservative. Livestock owners or state residents are not allowed to haze or harass wolves or kill wolves seen attacking livestock or domestic dogs.
- South of I-90 where wolves are classified as experimental, agency management decisions are guided by rules in section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. Livestock owners, their immediate family members, or their employees can haze or harass wolves or kill wolves they see actively chasing, molesting or harassing livestock, herding or guarding animals, or domestic dogs on public or private lands. The incident must be reported to Idaho Fish and Game within 24 hours.
- USDA Wildlife Services agents investigate reports of injured or dead livestock and carry out Fish and Game decisions on control actions if wolf predation is confirmed.

Wolves and Human Safety

- Federal regulations allow anyone to kill a wolf in self defense or defense of others. Report the incident to Fish and Game within 24 hours.

Wolf Hunting Season

- Federal regulations do not allow public hunting or trapping of wolves.
- Idaho Fish and Game and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission had not yet set a hunting season for the fall of 2010. With the change in legal status, no hunting season is planned this year. Fish and Game is pursuing options to restore wolf hunting as soon as possible.

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/11/2010 11:20 AM

To wolves, rick williamson
cc
bcc

Subject Wolf Fact Sheet

As you know, last Thursday, a federal Court in Montana re-instated Endangered Species Act protections to gray wolves in Idaho and Montana. The IDFG has produced the attached fact sheet and has posted it on their web site. Feel free to print the information off and share it with the cooperators you work with.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions.



Relisted Fact Sheet.pdf

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/11/2010 11:27 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott
kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Take of Wolf on House Mountain

This morning, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the House Mountain depredation site near Lester Creek on Boise NF land. The carcass was left at the site, the skull was destroyed and tissue samples were collected. WS also confirmed that another lamb was killed in the depredation that occurred this past weekend.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/11/2010 12:24 PM

To Steve_Duke@fws.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Take of Wolf on House Mountain 

That's the one. I you want I can try to figure out just where Lester Creek is. Let me konw.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Steve_Duke@fws.gov



Steve_Duke@fws.gov
08/11/2010 12:23 PM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov
cc
Subject Re: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

Hi Todd,

Thanks for the update. Question: Do you mean House Mountain sw of Prairie? I could not locate Lester Creek on the BNF map.

Steve

Stephen D. Duke
Program Manager - Classification, Recovery and Conservation Partnerships
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Idaho Fish and Wildlife Office
1387 South Vinnell Way, Suite 368
Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 378-5345
☐ Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

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Toscott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov,
jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov, hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov,
Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, Steve_Duke@fws.gov, scott_kabasa@fws.gov,

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scott_winkler@fws.gov

ccMark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov, Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov,
(b) (6)ida.net

SubjectTake of Wolf on House Mountain

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This morning, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the House Mountain depredation site near Lester Creek on Boise NF land. The carcass was left at the site, the skull was destroyed and tissue samples were collected. WS also confirmed that another lamb was killed in the depredation that occurred this past weekend.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
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9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077

FAX: (208)378-5349



**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/12/2010 08:30 AM

To Salmon Regional Supervisor Lukens
cc
bcc
Subject We're flying today

Weather has prevented us from getting up there any earlier, but we've got a plane in the Salmon area today and we're going to give it one last try.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/12/2010 09:44 AM

To Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA
cc
bcc
Subject This will probably go nowhere, but...



NO ESA Protection Bill.pdf

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6028

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit treatment of the Gray Wolf as an endangered species or threatened species.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2010

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to prohibit treatment of the Gray Wolf as an endangered species or threatened species.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITION ON TREATMENT OF GRAY WOLF**

4 **AS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES OR THREAT-**
5 **ENED SPECIES.**

6 Section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973
7 (16 U.S.C. 1533(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
8 following new paragraph:

1 “(4) The Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*) shall not be treat-
2 ed as an endangered species or threatened species for pur-
3 poses of this Act.”.

○

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/12/2010 02:02 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon
Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, Joanne M Bonn,
Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Probable Wolf Depredation in Earthquake Basin

This afternoon, WS investigated a reported wolf depredation on an adult cow on a Nez Perce Forest allotment on Blacktail Butte. Most of the carcass was consumed, but we were able find enough evidence to determine that it was a "probable" wolf kill. The Earthquake Basin pack is most likely responsible.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/12/2010 03:14 PM

To "Jim Holyan" <(b) (6) nezperce.org>
cc (b) (6) <(b) (6) nezperce.org>, "jason.hussman@idfg.idaho.gov", "jason.hussman@idfg.idaho.gov", "Rachael,Jon"
bcc
Subject Re: Blue Bunch

It was not an oversight that your name was left off the distribution list for that e-mail. In recent months, the professionalism of some of the NPT staff has come into question. From withholding requested information, to publicly criticizing WS personnel and activities, to sharing information with outside entities with the intent and/or result of making it more difficult for WS employees to conduct authorized control actions- some actions of NPT staff have gone too far. Due to this unprofessional behavior, we are reviewing how, and when, we will provide information to the NPT in the future. We have no legal responsibility to provide the NPT information in a timely manner. It is quite possible that we will provide a summary of our actions once a month and leave it at that.

The NPT has been a valuable partner in Idaho's Wolf Management Program. We would hope that any personal philosophical opposition to authorized wolf control actions could exist without detracting from the professional working relationship between the NPT and other agency partners in managing Idaho's wolves. Regrettably, that does not appear to be the case.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Jim Holyan" <(b) (6) nezperce.org>



"Jim Holyan"
<(b) (6) nezperce.org>
08/10/2010 10:50 AM

To "Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov"
<Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc (b) (6) <(b) (6) nezperce.org>, "Keith Lawrence"
<(b) (6) nezperce.org>, "Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>,
"Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov"
<Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov>,
"jason.hussman@idfg.idaho.gov"
<jason.hussman@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject Blue Bunch

Todd,

While working on updating mortality numbers, it came to my attention that B218 (Blue Bunch pack female) had been lethally controlled (see email below). I noticed that I was not included on the distribution list- was this an oversight? Your emails regarding WS' wolf control actions are important for us to keep track of wolf mortality records. Could you please include me in all future emails regarding WS' control actions and removals, as this helps me coordinate/manage data with IDFG. Also, were the pups

removed prior to B218's death? If not, are there plans to have someone attempt to humanely take them?

Thanks. (b) (6) jim

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]

Sent: Thursday, August 05, 2010 9:04 AM

To: Schmidt,Steve; Reinecker,Scott; Husseman,Jason; Rachael,Jon; Cooley,Hilary

Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net

Subject: Wolf Takes

Some already know about these, but I need to catch everybody else up.

On Monday, 8/2, WS captured and killed a sub-adult, black female wolf at the Sand Creek depredation site from last week. The take was on private land 10-15 miles North of St. Anthony.

Also on 8/2, a WS aircrew shot and killed gray, adult female wolf, B-218, on Payette National Forest land on Council Mountain.

Both carcasses were left on site.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 08:00 AM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation in Clearwater Co.

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 600 lb. calf on Elk Creek in Long Meadows on private land adjacent to Clearwater National Forest. Right now, I don't know which wolf pack may have been involved, but it was several individuals.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 08:43 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Steve Nadeau, Michelle Commons, Jeff Rohlman, amy baumer, Ana Egnaw, Maura Laverty, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Josephine Lake

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a ewe and probably killed a lamb on a Payette NF grazing allotment near Josephine Lake NE of McCall. We believe the Bear Pete pack was involved.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 08:50 AM

To David T Romero <dtromero@fs.fed.us>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola 

Hi Dave. I'll try to remember to include you, but I'm not real familiar with the district boundaries on any of the Forests. That's why I make sure that I "cc" Lisa Nutt on anything on or near the Boise Forest and let her distribute to the appropriate personnel. If I get up to Emmett anytime soon, I'll try to stop by. Feel free to come in here if you find yourself in the "Big" town. I'm about 1 1/2 blocks from Lisa's office.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

David T Romero <dtromero@fs.fed.us>



David T Romero
<dtromero@fs.fed.us>
08/13/2010 08:27 AM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov
cc
Subject Re: Fw: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola

Good Morning Todd,

My name is Dave Romero, I am the Emmett District Wildlife Biologist here on the Boise National Forest, a recent transfer from the Bitterroot Valley of Montana where I spent 10 years of my career. I have worked closely with Ed Bangs and Joe Fontaine and Carolyn Sime to name a few on issues pertaining to the gray wolf. Can you please add me to your mailing list and let me know when things are occurring on the Emmett district. If you are in town and have the time would you mind stopping in I would enjoy meeting you. If there is anyway I can help you, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Thanks and Have a Great Weekend!

Dave Romero
Supervisory Wildlife Biologist
Emmett Ranger District
Boise National Forest
(208)365-7009
dtromero@fs.fed.us

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 11:19 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Steve Nadeau, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)ida.net, Charles E
bcc

Subject Wolf Taken on Trail Creek

Yesterday, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf on Trail Creek in the Boise National Forest. This wolf was associated with the confirmed depredation from Sunday 8/8 that WS confirmed near the Yuba River. The carcass was left at the site and the skull was destroyed.

Scott K. - I'll have GPS coordinates for you on Monday.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 12:59 PM

To Scott_Kabasa@fws.gov
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Wolf Taken on Trail Creek 

The IDFG Regional Supervisors are all the ones calling the shots nowadays. So in this case, it was Scott Reinecker. As a rule, the first name on the list of e-mail recipients is the RS who I worked with to set up the control action.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Scott_Kabasa@fws.gov



Scott_Kabasa@fws.gov
08/13/2010 12:37 PM

To Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov
cc
Subject Re: Wolf Taken on Trail Creek

Todd,

In your notifications to LE on wolf "takes", we would appreciate knowing who gave the order. It goes on without saying, but just to ask - who gave the order on this one?

Thanks, Scott

Scott Kabasa
Special Agent
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1387 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 341
Boise, Idaho 83709
(208) 378-5333, Fax: (208) 378-5339
scott_kabasa@fws.gov

 Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov

T

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Toscott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov,
steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov, jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov,
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov, scott_kabasa@fws.gov,
scott_winkler@fws.gov

ccMark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov,
Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov, (b) (6)ida.net,
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov

SubjectWolf Taken on Trail Creek

Yesterday, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf on Trail Creek in the Boise National Forest. This wolf was associated with the confirmed depredation from Sunday 8/8 that WS confirmed near the Yuba River. The carcass was left at the site and the skull was destroyed.

Scott K. - I'll have GPS coordinates for you on Monday.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive

Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077



FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 01:19 PM

To Gary Burton
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Wolf Taken on Trail Creek

I'll catch you up.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:19 PM -----

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 11:19 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Steve Nadeau, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)jda.net, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
Subject Wolf Taken on Trail Creek

Yesterday, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf on Trail Creek in the Boise National Forest. This wolf was associated with the confirmed depredation from Sunday 8/8 that WS confirmed near the Yuba River. The carcass was left at the site and the skull was destroyed.

Scott K. - I'll have GPS coordinates for you on Monday.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**

08/13/2010 01:19 PM

To Gary Burton

cc

bcc

Subject Fw: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Josephine Lake

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:19 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**

08/13/2010 08:43 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Steve Nadeau, Michelle Commons, Jeff Rohlman, amy baumer, Ana Egnaw, Maura Laverty, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler

cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)ida.net

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Josephine Lake

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a ewe and probably killed a lamb on a Payette NF grazing allotment near Josephine Lake NE of McCall. We believe the Bear Pete pack was involved.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 01:19 PM

To Gary Burton
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Confirmed Wolf Depredation in Clearwater Co.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:19 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 08:00 AM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)ida.net
Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation in Clearwater Co.

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 600 lb. calf on Elk Creek in Long Meadows on private land adjacent to Clearwater National Forest. Right now, I don't know which wolf pack may have been involved, but it was several individuals.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 01:20 PM

To Gary Burton
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Probable Wolf Depredation in Earthquake Basin

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:20 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/12/2010 02:02 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, Joanne M Bonn, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)@ida.net
Subject Probable Wolf Depredation in Earthquake Basin

This afternoon, WS investigated a reported wolf depredation on an adult cow on a Nez Perce Forest allotment on Blacktail Butte. Most of the carcass was consumed, but we were able find enough evidence to determine that it was a "probable" wolf kill. The Earthquake Basin pack is most likely responsible.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 01:20 PM

To Gary Burton
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:20 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/11/2010 11:27 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott
kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)@da.net
Subject Take of Wolf on House Mountain

This morning, WS captured and killed a gray, sub-adult male wolf at the House Mountain depredation site near Lester Creek on Boise NF land. The carcass was left at the site, the skull was destroyed and tissue samples were collected. WS also confirmed that another lamb was killed in the depredation that occurred this past weekend.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 01:21 PM

To Gary Burton
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:20 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/10/2010 04:06 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jason Husseman, Jon
Rachael, hilary cooley, Steve Nadeau, steve duke, scott
kabasa, scott winkler, lisa nutt, warren ririe
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)@da.net
Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola

Today, WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow and a calf on private land on Squaw Creek, just East of Ola. This is about 6 miles from the last depredation near Ola.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/13/2010 01:21 PM

To Gary Burton
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/13/2010 01:21 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/09/2010 08:35 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Steve Nadeau, Jon Rachael, Michelle Commons, hilary cooley, Jason Husseman, Ed_Bangs@fws.gov, Brian_Kelly@fws.gov, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler, lisa nutt, warren ririe, david skinner
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)ida.net
Subject Three Confirmed Wolf Depredations on BNF

On Saturday, 8/7, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain near Lester Creek. WS confirmed another lamb killed on the same band on Sunday, 8/8.

Also on Sunday, WS confirmed that wolves killed 7 lambs and 4 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek near the Yuba River.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 01:23 PM

To Gary Burton
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA
bcc
Subject Catching up

Gary,

I think I've forwarded all of the relevant e-mails to you since the 8/5 ruling. I'll include you on all future notifications of wolf depredations and takes.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 03:17 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Jay Crenshaw, Brian Kelly, Gary
Burton, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler

cc

bcc

Subject Take of 2 wolves @ Elk Creek

This morning, WS captured and killed an adult (non-breeding) gray female wolf and a juvenile gray male wolf at the Elk Creek depredation site where we confirmed a depredation on a calf yesterday. Both carcasses were left at the site and the skulls were crushed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/13/2010 03:56 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Steve Nadeau, Jon
Rachael, Michelle Commons, Jason Husseman, hilary
cooley, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa,
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation on Council Mountain

This afternoon, WS confirmed that wolves killed a bull on a Payette National Forest allotment at the head of the East Fork of the Weiser River. This is where the last remnants of the Blue Bunch pack were last sighted.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/16/2010 08:51 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jeff Rohlman, Steve
Nadeau, Michelle Commons, hilary cooley, Jason
Husseman, amy baumer, Maura Laverty, Ana Egnew, scott
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L

bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation NE of McCall

Yesterday, 8/15, WS confirmed that wolves killed a lamb on a Payette National Forest allotment on Fisher Creek Saddle. This depredation occurred only about 4-5 miles from the depredation we confirmed late last week, so we are assuming that the same wolves are involved in both depredations.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/16/2010 10:06 AM

To Scott F Bodle <sbodle@fs.fed.us>
cc Lisa Nutt <lnutt@fs.fed.us>, Tina Ruffing
<truffing@fs.fed.us>, Jared L
Hedelius/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: Four Wolf Depredations 

The wolves causing problems near the Yuba River were most likely a couple of individuals - now just one. We believe the wolf causing problems in the Lime Creek area was alone. There may be a reproductive pack on House Mountain, but we haven't seen any sign of pups. The Trinity Creek adults/pups may be remnants of the Steel Mountain pack. This e-mail was the first I've heard of them, since we haven't had any depredations there (yet).

Once the depredations get under control, IDFG will probably try to get a head count and figure out who is who.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Scott F Bodle <sbodle@fs.fed.us>



Scott F Bodle
<sbodle@fs.fed.us>
08/16/2010 09:43 AM

To Lisa Nutt <lnutt@fs.fed.us>,
Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov, Tina Ruffing
<truffing@fs.fed.us>
cc

Subject Re: Fw: Four Wolf Depredations

My question is what are we doing to determine what packs these wolves belong to. From what I have seen we have possibly three new groups on the Mountain Home District. The 2 adults and 3 pups operating around Wagontown and Trinity Creek (SO Fish Crew observation and Personal observations), the group off of Grouse Creek/Lime Creek (depredations and a public contact) and a third group that had a female removed over off of Fall Creek/House Mtn and Goat Creek. It is my understanding Steele Mountain Pack is over in the Yuba River allotment getting in sheep and based on sightings and depredations we have possibly 4 groups if you include Steele Mtn operating in what was just the Steele Mtn territory. I think the whole area is in a flux after the dominant pack was practically removed last September at the Trinity Corrals and there is a need to place some collars on these new groups. I am playing phone tag with Hillary Cooley of IDFG to get her views on what is going on.

Scott F Bodle
District Wildlife Biologist
Mountain Home Ranger District
Boise NF
sbodle@fs.fed.us
(208)587-7961 ext. 7149

**Lisa
Nutt/R4/U
SDAFS**

08/13/2010
07:34

AM

To Scott F Bodle/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Stephaney Church/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Michael D Feiger/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Barbara Levesque/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, David T Romero/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, John R Erickson/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Robert A Bumgarner/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Tina Ruffing/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES

cc Warren Ririe/R4/USDAFS@FSNOTES

Su Fw: Four Wolf Depredations

bje
ct

I was out of the office and am catching up with past email messages this morning. Here is a message from Todd from last week. Also, on August 11th one wolf was killed in Lester Creek as part of a control action, I do not have information on the age or sex. --Lisa

Lisa M. Nutt
Forest Wildlife Biologist, Boise NF
1249 S. Vinnell Way, Suite 200
Boise, Idaho 83709

1-208-373-4154

----- Forwarded by Lisa Nutt/R4/USDAFS on 08/13/2010 07:29 AM -----

**Todd.K.Grim
m@aphis.us
da.gov**

08/05/2010
08:53 AM

To scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov, steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov, michelle.commonson@idfg.idaho.gov, jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov, jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov, hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov, lnutt@fs.fed.us, wririe@fs.fed.us, aeegnew@fs.fed.us, mlaverty@fs.fed.us, dskinner@fs.fed.us, jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov, jerome.hansen@idfg.idaho.gov, SKeafer@idl.idaho.gov
cc Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov, George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov, Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov, Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov, (b) (6)@ida.net

Su Four Wolf Depredations
bje
ct

I was out of the office yesterday and these have started to pile up a little.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Little Mud Creek SW of New Meadows. Possibly the Hornet Creek pack or the Lick Creek pack.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land on Squaw Creek 3-5 miles NW of Ola. Unknown wolves.

On Tuesday, 8/3, WS confirmed that wolves killed 1 lamb on a Boise National Forest allotment on Grouse Creek. This is very near the depredation we confirmed in Hunter Creek last month. After WS confirmed this latest depredation and left the site, the herder shot and killed a wolf returning to the kill. I have no information about the age/sex of the wolf killed right now.

Yesterday, 8/4, WS confirmed that wolves killed 5 lambs and 3 ewes on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain. The wolves responsible for this depredation are probably the same wolves that were involved in the depredation on Lester Creek last month.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/16/2010 10:26 AM

To "Compton,Brad" <brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Use of Aircraft 

Absolutely. Our airplane is flying over Sweet/Ola right now, but I'm sure we'll fly the Council area at least once before the week is out.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Compton,Brad" <brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Compton,Brad"
<brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/16/2010 10:18 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject Use of Aircraft

Todd,

Senator Pierce asked me to inquire whether WS was planning to use the airplane to facilitate implementation of the latest kill order on West Mountain?

Bradley B. Compton
Assistant Chief, Wildlife
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
PO Box 25, 600 S. Walnut Street
Boise, Idaho 83707
208.334.2920
brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/17/2010 08:53 AM

To Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Chuck Carpenter, Todd L
Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA, rick williamson
cc
bcc
Subject IDFG Commission Wolf Resolution



resolution8_16_10.pdf

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

RESOLUTION OF THE IDAHO FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

ADOPTED AUGUST 16, 2010

RE: WOLF MANAGEMENT

RESOLUTION of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopted August 16, 2010, at the special meeting conducted in Idaho Falls, Idaho, for the purpose of providing direction for the management of wolves in Idaho with their relisting by federal court order on August 5, 2010.

RECITALS:

1. It is the law and policy of the State of Idaho that "All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated and managed."
2. Idaho's law and policy includes providing Idaho citizens (and others as permitted by law) "continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping."
3. The Idaho Fish and Game Commission has the authority, power and duty to administer and carry out the State of Idaho's wildlife policy consistent with state law.
4. Wildlife management under this policy includes maintaining healthy populations, balancing predator and prey relationships, providing hunting opportunities for game species, and addressing conflicts between wildlife and people.
5. In 1974 the gray wolf was listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and protected as an endangered species.
6. In 1987 the United States Fish and Wildlife Service ("Service") developed a Wolf Recovery Plan, which established a recovery goal of at least 10 breeding pairs and at least 100 wolves for three consecutive years in three core recovery areas: Central Idaho, Northwestern Montana and the Greater Yellowstone Area.
7. In 1994 the Service proposed designating portions of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming as nonessential experimental wolf population areas for the gray wolf. Before introducing wolf populations, the Service prepared an Environmental Impact Statement supporting the Plan's recovery goal of 10 breeding pairs and 100 wolves in three separate recovery areas for a period of three years.
8. In 1995 and 1996, 66 wolves were captured in southwestern Canada, with 35 released in central Idaho and 31 released in Yellowstone National Park. By 2000, the northern Rocky Mountain wolf population had expanded to include more than 30 breeding pairs and 300 wolves.
9. In 2002 the Idaho Legislative Wolf Oversight Committee developed the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, which was accepted and passed by the Idaho Legislature. The Legislature authorized the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

("IDFG") to assist the Governor's Office of Species Conservation in implementing the 2002 State Management Plan.

10. In 2006, Governor Kempthorne and Secretary of the Interior Norton signed a Memorandum of Agreement providing for Idaho to assume lead management of wolves in Idaho.
11. On March 6, 2008, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission ("Commission") adopted the Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan ("2008 Plan"). The purpose of the 2008 Plan is to sustain a viable gray wolf population, provide harvest and non-consumptive opportunity, reduce conflicts, and provide a flexible, adaptive document and tools to manage wolf populations during the five-year period following de-listing. The 2008 Plan will ensure that wolf populations are maintained at 2005 levels (518 wolves) or higher during the five-year post de-listing period. The 2008 Plan will also maintain balanced gray wolf and prey populations, ensure genetic transfer through maintaining connectivity, and minimize conflict with humans and domestic animals.
12. The Service's recovery goal of 10 breeding pairs and 100 wolves in three separate recovery areas for a period of three consecutive years was reached in 2002.
13. On May 22, 2008, as a part of the 2008 Plan, the Commission adopted a proposed Wolf Hunting Season and Rules for the fall of 2008, intending to manage wolf populations at the 2005 level (518 wolves), being in excess of five times the 10 breeding pairs and 100 wolves required for Idaho under the federal recovery goals.
14. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisted wolves in the northern Rocky Mountains in 2008, but a federal court decision resulted in wolves being returned to the Endangered Species List.
15. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proceeded with another rulemaking and delisted wolves in Idaho and Montana in May 2009.
16. On August 17, 2009 the Idaho Fish and Game Commission set a hunting season for 2009-2010, based on an estimated Idaho wolf population of over 1,000 wolves, with a harvest limit of 220, with the goal of reducing the wolf population to 518 wolves in accordance with the 2008 Plan.
17. In August 2009, certain special interest groups filed a court challenge to the delisting rule and asked for a court order to stop Idaho's hunting season. In September 2009, U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy denied the request to stop the hunting season, finding that Idaho's proposed hunt would not cause harm to the wolf population.
18. Idaho proceeded with a hunting season, with 188 wolves were counted against harvest limits. This hunting season was orderly, with Idaho hunters acting responsibly.

19. By year-end 2009, the minimum estimate of wolves in Idaho was around 850 wolves, with a minimum of 1,600 in the Northern Rocky Mountain population. Gray wolves now populate an area from northern Utah to the Arctic Circle, with an estimated 60,000 to 70,000 wolves in North America.
20. Idaho's wolf population continues to grow and expand. With spring reproduction, there are estimated to be more than 1,000 wolves in Idaho, 10 times the minimum recovery level for Idaho.
21. Confirmed wolf depredations have escalated with increasing wolf populations. Confirmed wolf depredations in 2009 included cattle (76), sheep (295), and dogs (14), a total of 385.
22. Wolf predation continues to have a substantial adverse affect on elk populations in certain areas, particularly in northern and central Idaho where population objectives are no longer met. For example, in the Lolo, Sawtooth and Smoky Mountain Zones, wolves are the primary cause of elk mortality. Wolf predation has necessitated reduced opportunities for hunters, negatively affecting Idaho's economy, as well as Department revenues.
23. On August 5, 2010, U.S. District Court Judge Molloy issued a court order in the lawsuit *Defenders of Wildlife et al. v. Salazar* to vacate the 2009 delisting rule and to re-list wolves in Idaho and Montana under the Endangered Species Act.

NOW, on August 16, 2010 the Commission reviewed three broad options for management of wolves while they are relisted: no active state management, continuing in the lead role for wolf management, and or keeping only limited management under the supervision of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Commission fully considered the limited management authorities available to Idaho while wolves are re-listed, and we confronted the difficult choice of either having full responsibility for wolf management with little authority to address conflicts, or leaving entirely in the hands of our federal government the fate of our ranchers, pet owners, sportsmen, and others who are hurt by the decline in elk and other wildlife caused by wolf predation.

THEREFORE, by reason of the foregoing, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the Commission finds that the relisting of wolves for the second time by federal court order is contrary to State management of wildlife, the intent and purpose of the Endangered Species Act, and the clear biological recovery of wolves,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the objective and intent of the Commission to pursue all legal options to restore full state authority and control over the management of wolves in the State of Idaho,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission advocates and supports an appeal of the August 5, 2010 federal court decision re-listing wolves and revoking state management authority to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission supports and will cooperate with the Office of the Governor and Idaho's Congressional Delegation in pursuing federal legislation to correct the August 5th federal court decision re-listing wolves,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission reaffirms its commitment to resume state management as soon as wolves can be delisted under Idaho's federally approved state wolf population management plan, together with the management goal of achieving a 2005 population management objective of 518 wolves,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission will proceed to set a hunting season and harvest limits as soon as wolves are delisted, based upon the existing rules previously established for public hunting in Idaho,

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commission will work with the Office of the Governor to establish Idaho's "Lead Role" in managing re-listed wolves, provided that Idaho can enter into a new Memorandum of Agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within ninety (90) days that re-defines the State's management responsibilities consistent with current priorities and resources, including restrictions on the use of IDFG funds for enforcement and other purposes,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission advocates and supports the use of 10j and other legal authorities to their full extent for wolves south of I-90 while wolves are re-listed to respond to threats to human safety, livestock depredations, and excessive impacts on elk and other wild ungulates, and

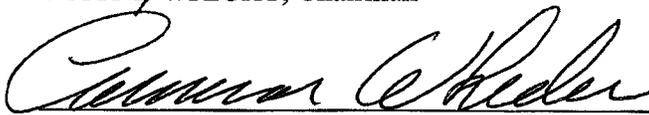
FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission advocates and supports the use of section 10(a) and other legal authorities to their full extent north of I-90, where wolves again have "endangered" status, to protect endangered woodland caribou and to respond to wolf conflicts with both lethal and non-lethal control.

DATED this 16th day of August, 2010.

COMMISSIONERS:



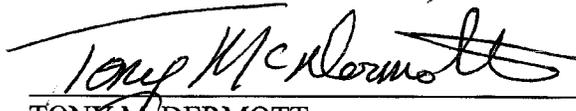
WAYNE WRIGHT, Chairman



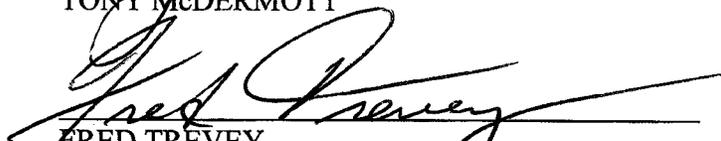
CAMERON WHEELER



BOB BAROWSKY



TONY McDERMOTT



FRED TREVEY



RANDY BUDGE



GARY POWER

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/17/2010 09:27 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Steve Nadeau, scott kabasa, scott
winkler, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Take of Wolf on House Mountain

This morning, WS shot and killed a sub-adult, gray female wolf near the House Mountain depredation site. The carcass was retrieved due to its proximity to a public road. For the time being, it will be stored at the WS hangar in Gooding and will be transferred to IDFG at some time in the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/17/2010 11:15 AM

To Salmon Regional Supervisor Lukens, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, scott kabasa, scott winkler, Gary
Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc
Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation West of Salmon

Yesterday, 8/16, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on private land on Phelan Creek. This area has been in the territory of the Jureano Mountain pack.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/17/2010 02:27 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon
Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, scott kabasa, scott
winkler, steve duke, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Take of another wolf in Elk Creek

This morning, WS captured and killed a sub-adult, gray male wolf at the Elk Creek depredation site. The skull was crushed and the carcass was left on site.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/17/2010 03:58 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Steve Nadeau, Jon
Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, Michelle
Commons, scott kabasa, scott winkler, Gary Burton, Brian
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc
Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Bear

Yesterday, 8/16, WS confirmed that wolves attacked and injured 2 calves on a ranch near Bear. Both calves should survive. The attack site(s) may have been on the adjacent Payette Forest allotment, or they may have occurred on the private land. This has been the territory of the Snake River pack.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/18/2010 03:46 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jeff Rohlman, Jon
Rachael, Steve Nadeau, Michelle Commons, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, scott kabasa, scott winkler, Gary
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Wolf Taken near McCall

This morning, WS captured and killed an adult, gray male wolf at the Fisher Creek Saddle depredation site from this weekend. The skull was crushed and the carcass was left at the site.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/19/2010 08:31 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Steve Nadeau, lisa nutt, warren
ririe, Gary Burton, steve duke, Brian Kelly, scott kabasa,
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Yuba River

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed a lamb on the same Boise NF allotment on Grouse Creek where several other wolf depredations have occurred in recent weeks.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/19/2010 08:51 AM

To Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, mark drew
cc
bcc
Subject DNA kits??

I need a handful of wolf DNA kits. Where can I get them?

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/19/2010 09:27 AM

To "Jon Farr"
cc Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
bcc
Subject FYI

I found this on Defenders web site regarding compensation for livestock losses to grizzly bears.

http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/wildlife_conservation/solutions/grizzly_compensation_trust/guidelines/guidelines.php

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Frequently Asked Questions

Media Contacts

Please direct media inquiries to:

Cat Lazaroff

Guidelines for Compensation of Grizzly Bear-related Livestock Losses Eligibility

It is our intent to offer this compensation to help reduce grizzly bear-related economic losses for individual ranchers and promote grizzly bear conservation.

To best serve these goals, Defenders has established eligibility and documentation guidelines for compensation of grizzly bear-related livestock losses.

Livestock owners who demonstrate best management practices, including reasonable use of nonlethal methods, will be eligible for compensation. When possible, we will assist with appropriate nonlethal deterrents to help livestock owners reduce future grizzly bear losses.

To be eligible for compensation from Defenders of Wildlife, the following requirements must be met:

1. The livestock in question were legally present on the land where the depredation occurred.
2. Defenders of Wildlife must receive claims within six months of the depredation event.
3. There is no evidence of long-term or habitual presence of dead or dying livestock in the immediate area, which suggests bears and possibly caused the depredation.
4. The loss is determined by Wildlife Services, or their authorized agency equivalent, as a *confirmed or **probable loss.
5. The livestock covered under these guidelines include sheep, cattle, horses, mules, goats, llamas, donkeys, pigs, turkeys, herding dogs and livestock guarding dogs.
6. The livestock loss is not being compensated by a private insurance policy or compensation process other than that of Defenders of Wildlife.
7. Provided the above requirements have been met, livestock owners will be compensated the first time they lose livestock to grizzly bears. In the case of subsequent losses, landowners, permittees or their representatives must have followed the federal, state or tribal bear management specialists or Wildlife Services for preventing losses. Alternatively, landowners and their representatives need to demonstrate that they have actively and properly implemented appropriate prevention methods to avoid livestock losses to grizzly bears. These methods include, but are not limited to: electric or predator-resistant fencing, guard dogs (use of several per band), increased human presence, herders or range riders, predator deterrent lights, alarm systems. Defenders of Wildlife, in consultation with livestock owners and agency field representatives, will evaluate the effectiveness and appropriate execution of these methods.
8. The livestock owner seeking compensation must not be a publicly-owned entity, since the goal of this fund is to shift the responsibility for grizzly bear recovery away from individual farmers and ranchers.
9. Defenders of Wildlife reserves the right to deny compensation or assistance to anyone who intentionally submits false information, purposefully attempts to entice grizzly bears to kill livestock, illegally wounds or kills grizzly bears, refuses to utilize nonlethal deterrents or acts in an abusive or threatening manner toward any Defenders' employee.

Process

The compensation fund will pay 100 percent of the current market value of adult livestock or the projected market value at marketable age for *confirmed losses, up to \$3,000 per animal. The compensation fund will pay 50 percent of the value for **probable losses. Appropriate documentation, such as a contract, previous sales record or current market report, is required. Most claims are processed in less than six weeks.

To process a compensation claim for grizzly bear depredations on livestock, the following information must be submitted: a copy of the investigation report form for *confirmed and/or **probable losses due to grizzly bear predation. These reports should be based on a reasonable record of evidence based on standard criteria. The report should contain a complete record of this evidence and be referred back to the livestock owner with instructions to contact their field investigator for more information.

Reports should be sent to:

Jonathan Proctor

Rocky Mountain Region Representative

Defenders of Wildlife

140 South 4th St. West, Suite 1

Missoula, MT 59801

Phone: (406) 549-4103

Fax: (406) 542-5632

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/19/2010 03:26 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, lisa nutt, IDL Keafer,
warren ririe, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Ola

This morning, WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow and probably killed a calf on private land in Squaw Creek in High Valley. This is the third confirmed depredation in this area in the last couple of weeks.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/20/2010 09:11 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Steve Nadeau, jim holyan, scott
kabasa, scott winkler, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Yesterday, 8/19, WS captured and killed an adult, black male wolf near the Yuba River depredation site.

Also yesterday, a WS f/w aircrew shot and killed a black wolf on Council Mountain. We believe it is a member of the Blue Bunch pack. When I get the age/sex information, I'll pass it on.

Please let me know if you have any quesitons.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 01:16 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker
cc
bcc

Subject Heads Up

I've got a guy headed to Little Valley to look at a couple of carcasses reported as wolf kills. I'll let you know what he finds.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 01:22 PM

To "Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Heads Up 

Cascade area

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/20/2010 01:21 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE: Heads Up

10-4, where is little valley?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 1:16 PM
To: Reinecker,Scott
Subject: Heads Up

I've got a guy headed to Little Valley to look at a couple of carcasses reported as wolf kills. I'll let you know what he finds.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 01:25 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, scott kabasa, scott winkler, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Take of wolf in Long Meadows in Clearwater Co.

This morning, WS captured and killed a gray juvenile male wolf near the Elk Creek depredation site. The carcass was left on site and the skull was crushed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/20/2010 01:27 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: Take of wolf in Long Meadows in Clearwater Co.

Gary is pulling his traps for the weekend and will try to hang a collar on a wolf next week.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 01:27 PM -----

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/20/2010 01:25 PM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, scott kabasa, scott winkler, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L Sullivan/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)jda.net
Subject Take of wolf in Long Meadows in Clearwater Co.

This morning, WS captured and killed a gray juvenile male wolf near the Elk Creek depredation site. The carcass was left on site and the skull was crushed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 01:38 PM

To Chuck Carpenter
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA
bcc
Subject Fw: Defenders of Wildlife Transitions from Wolf
Compensation to Coexistence

I've already talked to Rick about this.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

----- Forwarded by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 01:37 PM -----

Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 01:34 PM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Charles L
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Doug A
Hansen/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Gregg
Hansen/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
garybooney@turbonet.com, Justin S
Mann/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Kelly O
Parker/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Shane L
Robinson/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Jeff M
Ashmead/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA,
oktrapper065@yahoo.com, Jared L
Hedelius/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Atha J
Kriwox/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, santini@atcnet.net, Eric L
Simonson/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, (b) (6)@ida.net, Keven G
Brown/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Leo N
Czapenski/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Jonathan H
Farr/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, csawhorse@yahoo.com,
Samuel F Kocherhans/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Gary A
Rushane/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Joseph A
Dory/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Scott R
Stopak/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Alegra M
Galle/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc dmiller@osc.idaho.gov, stanboyd@earthlink.net,
(b) (6)@wyatt@idahocattle.org
Subject Fw: Defenders of Wildlife Transitions from Wolf
Compensation to Coexistence

As you talk to your cooperators who may be having wolf problems, please let them know that Defenders of Wildlife will be discontinuing their wolf damage compensation program in Idaho as of September 10, 2010. See attachments below. If any of you have any wolf depredation investigation forms to be turned in, please do so as soon as possible to increase the likelihood that livestock producers will be able to submit their claims to Defenders by their Sept. 10th deadline.

Mark Collinge
State Director
APHIS Wildlife Services

9134 W. Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
Phone (208) 378-5077
Fax (208) 378-5349
mark.d.collinge@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA on 08/20/2010 12:11 PM -----



(b) (6)

(b) (6) @defenders.org>

08/20/2010 12:00 PM

To "jeffrey.s.green@usda.gov" <jeffrey.s.green@usda.gov>

cc

Subject Defenders of Wildlife Transitions from Wolf Compensation to Coexistence

August 20, 2010

Jeffrey Green
Western Regional Director
USDA / APHIS / WS
2150 Centre, Bldg B
Ft Collins, CO 80526

Dear Director Green,

As you know, last year federal legislation authorized the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to provide up to \$1 million for wolf compensation and nonlethal wolf predation prevention programs in Arizona, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin and Wyoming. We are ending our compensation program in most states on September 10, 2010 and shifting our support and focus to collaborative efforts to help ranchers coexist with wolves with our Wolf Coexistence Partnership.

You can find more information about this transition in the enclosed copy of a letter to the Service, press release and fact sheet of questions and answers. We look forward to working with your staff on regional wolf conservation efforts.

If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Stone



(b) (6)

Suzanne Asha Stone

Northern Rockies Representative

P.O. Box 773, Boise, ID 83701

Tel: 208-424-9385 | **Fax:** 208-424-0169

ssstone@defenders.org | www.defenders.org

Cc:

Mark Collinge, Idaho Wildlife Services State Director

Rod Krischke, Wyoming Wildlife Services State Director

Mike Linnell, Utah Wildlife Services State Director

John E. Steuber, Montana State Director Wildlife Services

David E. Williams, Oregon Wildlife Services State Director

Roger Woodruff, Washington and Alaska Wildlife Services State Director

Mike Yeary, Colorado Wildlife Services State Director



Defenders Letter to the USFWS re Transition.pdf dow_compensation_transition_factsheet.pdf

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/20/2010 02:44 PM

To "Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Heads Up 

Change of plans - it won't be until tomorrow when we know something here. (Schedule conflict)

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/20/2010 01:23 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE: Heads Up

Thanks.

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 1:23 PM
To: Reinecker,Scott
Subject: RE: Heads Up

Cascade area

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/20/2010 01:21 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc
SubjectRE: Heads Up

10-4, where is little valley?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 1:16 PM
To: Reinecker,Scott
Subject: Heads Up

I've got a guy headed to Little Valley to look at a couple of carcasses reported as wolf kills. I'll let you know what he finds.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/23/2010 08:12 AM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jon Rachael, Steve
Nadeau, Michelle Commons, Jason Husseman, hilary
cooley, lisa nutt, warren ririe, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Wolf Depredations over the Weekend

On Friday, 8/20, WS confirmed that wolves killed a lamb on Fisher Creek Saddle, on the Payette National Forest, NE of McCall.

On Saturday, 8/21, WS looked at a cow on a grazing allotment on Council Mountain that was reported as a wolf kill. There was not enough evidence to confirm the depredation, but it was determined to be a probable wolf kill.

On Saturday, 8/21, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land in Little Valley, East of Cascade.

On Saturday, 8/21, WS confirmed that wolves killed 7 lambs and a ewe on a Boise National Forest allotment on House Mountain.

On Sunday, 8/22, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 calves on private land near Ola.

We've had previous depredations in all of these places earlier this year.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/23/2010 08:26 AM

To "Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject Re: FW: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Yes. I just left you a voicemail. Give me a call to discuss.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/23/2010 08:24 AM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject FW: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Do you guys have any plans reference below?

-----Original Message-----

From: Cooley,Hilary
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2010 10:54 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott
Subject: FW: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Hi Scott,

There can't be many more adults (if any) left in Bluebunch. Is WS going to do anything about the pups?

Hilary Cooley
Regional Wildlife Biologist
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
3101 S. Powerline Road
Nampa, ID 83686
208-559-5527
hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Fri 8/20/2010 9:11 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary;
Nadeau,Steve; (b) (6) @ezperce.org; scott_kabasa@fws.gov;

scott_winkler@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov;
Steve_Duke@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov;
Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov;
(b) (6) da.net
Subject: Two Wolves Taken Yesterday

Yesterday, 8/19, WS captured and killed an adult, black male wolf near the Yuba River depredation site.

Also yesterday, a WS f/w aircrew shot and killed a black wolf on Council Mountain. We believe it is a member of the Blue Bunch pack. When I get the age/sex information, I'll pass it on.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/25/2010 09:22 AM

To "Rachael,Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: DNA kits??

I'll try to sneak over there this afternoon.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Rachael,Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Rachael,Jon"
<jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>
>
08/24/2010 12:49 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>, "Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Cooley,Hilary"
<hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov>, <mark.drew@idahoag.us>
cc
Subject RE: DNA kits??

I have a supply ready to go here at HQ. You can have someone stop by and pick them up, I can put them in the mail and have them to you in a couple days, or you can pick them up from me on Monday when you're here for our meeting if you can wait that long.

Let me know your preference.

Jon

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 8:52 AM
To: Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; mark.drew@idahoag.us
Subject: DNA kits??

I need a handful of wolf DNA kits. Where can I get them?

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709

PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/25/2010 01:07 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jeff Rohlman, Jon
Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, Steve
Nadeau, Michelle Commons, steve duke, Gary Burton, Brian
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Two Confirmed Wolf Depredations

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 lambs and a ewe on a Payette National Forest allotment on Grassy Mountain near Coffee Cup Lake NE of McCall. This has been the territory of the Hard Butte pack in the past.

Also yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves attacked and injured a calf near Bear. There was a second injured calf that was determined to be a probable wolf depredation. The radio collared member of Hornet Creek pack was in the area when we were conducting the investigation.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/25/2010 01:38 PM

To MagicValleySupervisor Hansen, rachael Jon, Magic Valley
Regional Biologist Smith, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley,
Regan Berkley, lisa nutt, warren ririe, jim holyan, Gary
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L

bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Pine

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves killed 33 lambs and 3 ewes at the lower end of the Green Creek drainage. The attack started on private ground and spilled over onto adjacent Boise National Forest land. This has been the territory of the Steel Mountain pack in the past, but we have received reports of new pack activity in the area.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

**Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA**
08/26/2010 01:05 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, Jeff Rohlman, Steve
Nadeau, Jon Rachael, Michelle Commons, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, Gary Burton, Brian Kelly, steve
cc Amy L Cochran/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Cascade

This morning, WS confirmed that wolves killed a yearling heifer on private land about 1 mile NE of Cascade. WS confirmed wolf depredation at this same ranch this past June and there was a confirmed depredation on a neighboring ranch last week.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/27/2010 10:23 AM

To Salmon Regional Supervisor Lukens, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, Gary Burton, Brian
Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc
Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation in Pahsimeroi

This morning, WS confirmed that wolves killed a calf on a Salmon-Challis National Forest grazing allotment on Horse Heaven Pass. WS has confirmed multiple wolf depredations in this area over the past few years and it has been the territory of the Doublesprings pack.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/27/2010 12:30 PM

To Salmon Regional Supervisor Lukens, Jon Rachael, Jason
Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, scott kabasa, scott
winkler, Brian Kelly, Gary Burton, steve duke
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc
Subject Wolf Take near Salmon

This morning, WS captured and killed an adult, gray male wolf near the Phelan Creek depredation site.
The carcass was left at the site and the skull was crushed.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/30/2010 12:01 PM

To SW Regional Supervisor Reinecker, MagicValleySupervisor
Hansen, Regan Berkley, Magic Valley Regional Biologist
Smith, Jon Rachael, Jason Husseman, Michelle Commons,
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation near Rocky Bar

On Saturday, 8/28, WS confirmed that wolves killed 2 lambs near Rocky Bar on the Boise National Forest. The depredation occurred near the shipping corrals and is very near the unit boundary between GMU 39 and GMU 43. The wolves responsible for this depredation may be the same ones responsible for the depredation last week in Green Creek. Both are areas where the Steel Mountain pack had been involved in depredations in the past.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/30/2010 12:39 PM

To "Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain 

Both 39

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Husseman,Jason" <jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Husseman,Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/30/2010 12:29 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

Another 'tweener—39, or 43?

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 9:27 AM
To: Reinecker,Scott; Rachael,Jon; Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Nadeau,Steve; scott_kabasa@fws.gov; scott_winkler@fws.gov; gary_burton@fws.gov; Brian_Kelly@fws.gov; Steve_Duke@fws.gov
Cc: Mark.D.Collinge@aphis.usda.gov; George.E.Graves@aphis.usda.gov; Charles.L.Carpenter@aphis.usda.gov; Todd.L.Sullivan@aphis.usda.gov; (b) (6)da.net
Subject: Take of Wolf on House Mountain

This morning, WS shot and killed a sub-adult, gray female wolf near the House Mountain depredation site. The carcass was retrieved due to its proximity to a public road. For the time being, it will be stored at the WS hangar in Gooding and will be transferred to IDFG at some time in the future.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349



Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/31/2010 08:39 AM

To Clearwater supervisor cadwaller, Jay Crenshaw, Jon
Rachael, Jason Husseman, hilary cooley, jim holyan, Gary
Burton, Brian Kelly, steve duke, scott kabasa, scott winkler,
cc Mark D Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA, George E
Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Charles E
Carpenter/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA, Todd L
bcc

Subject Confirmed Wolf Depredation south of White Bird

Yesterday, WS confirmed that wolves attacked and injured a calf on a Nez Perce Forest grazing allotment on Skookumchuk Creek southeast of Whitebird. This area has been part of the White Bird pack's territory in the past.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/31/2010 02:06 PM

To "Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc "Rohlman,Jeff" <jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov>
bcc
Subject Re: 

We confirmed the depredation on the 13th. As far as what the pack's boundaries are, I think the best data is probably in IDFG's Annual Wolf Report. You'll probably need a GIS guy to do an overlay to see how much of the allotment is covered by the pack's territory. The Bluebunch pack is the only know pack in that area, but there may be more that we don't know about.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/31/2010 01:50 PM

To "Rohlman,Jeff" <jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov>, <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject

Jeff and Todd,

I am going to issue a SOS to the Council Mtn grazing association in reference to the Yantis depredation.. Attached is a map of the allotment. In visiting with Gould, I need to decide if the permit should be good for the entire allotment or just a territory within the allotment that the wolves frequent. Does this pack roam the entire allotment? Is there more than one pack in the allotment? If there is more than one pack, I may need to limit the permit to the area where the offending wolves roam so as not to inadvertently authorize control on a pack that is not causing depredations.

Todd, where bouts did the Yantis depredation occur and Todd and Jeff, what are your guys thoughts?
Todd, what day did you confirm the Yantis depredation? STR

Scott Reinecker
Southwest Regional Supervisor
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
phone: (208)465-8465
cell: (208)850-2206
email: sreinecker@idfg.idaho.gov[attachment "Council Mountain C&H Map.pdf"
deleted by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA]

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
08/31/2010 02:17 PM

To "Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc
bcc
Subject RE: 

I was just about to give you a section number (5).

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker,Scott" <scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>



"Reinecker,Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/31/2010 02:14 PM

To <Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>
cc
Subject RE:

Disregard, .East Fork Weiser River

From: Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov [mailto:Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 31, 2010 2:07 PM
To: Reinecker,Scott
Cc: Rohlman,Jeff
Subject: Re:

We confirmed the depredation on the 13th. As far as what the pack's boundaries are, I think the best data is probably in IDFG's Annual Wolf Report. You'll probably need a GIS guy to do an overlay to see how much of the allotment is covered by the pack's territory. The Bluebunch pack is the only know pack in that area, but there may be more that we don't know about.

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

"Reinecker, Scott"
<scott.reinecker@idfg.idaho.gov>

08/31/2010 01:50 PM

To "Rohlman, Jeff" <jeff.rohman@idfg.idaho.gov>,
<Todd.K.Grimm@aphis.usda.gov>

cc
Subje
ct

Jeff and Todd,

I am going to issue a SOS to the Council Mtn grazing association in reference to the Yantis depredation.. Attached is a map of the allotment. In visiting with Gould, I need to decide if the permit should be good for the entire allotment or just a territory within the allotment that the wolves frequent. Does this pack roam the entire allotment? Is there more than one pack in the allotment? If there is more than one pack, I may need to limit the permit to the area where the offending wolves roam so as not to inadvertently authorize control on a pack that is not causing depredations.

Todd, where bouts did the Yantis depredation occur and Todd and Jeff, what are your guys thoughts? Todd, what day did you confirm the Yantis depredation? STR

Scott Reinecker
Southwest Regional Supervisor
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
phone: (208)465-8465
cell: (208)850-2206
email: sreinecker@idfg.idaho.gov[attachment "Council Mountain C&H Map.pdf"
deleted by Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA]

Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
09/01/2010 09:38 AM

To Scott R Stopak/ID/APHIS/USDA, Jason Husseman, mark
drew
cc
bcc
Subject Re: Fw: wolf gi tracts and elk lungs 

We've got a wolf carcass that was taken on House Mountain a couple of weeks ago. The carcass is in the freezer at our Gooding Hangar. Is it close enough to the South Fork to qualify??

Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349

Scott R Stopak/ID/APHIS/USDA



Scott R
Stopak/ID/APHIS/USDA
09/01/2010 09:24 AM

To Todd K Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA@USDA
cc
Subject Fw: wolf gi tracts and elk lungs

Scott R. Stopak
Wildlife Disease Biologist

USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Black Eagle Drive
Boise, ID 83709
Ph. 208/378-5341
FAX 208/378-5349
scott.r.stopak@aphis.usda.gov

----- Forwarded by Scott R Stopak/ID/APHIS/USDA on 09/01/2010 09:24 AM -----



"Husseman, Jason"
<jason.husseman@idfg.idaho.gov>
08/30/2010 10:24 AM

To "Drew, Mark" <mark.drew@idfg.idaho.gov>
cc "Cooley, Hilary" <hilary.cooley@idfg.idaho.gov>, <Scott.R.Stopak@aphis.usda.gov>, "Garwood, Lee" <lee.garwood@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Compton, Brad" <brad.compton@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Rachael, Jon" <jon.rachael@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Hayden, Jim" <jim.hayden@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Crenshaw, Jay" <jay.crenshaw@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Rohlman, Jeff" <jeff.rohlman@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Nadeau, Steve" <steve.nadeau@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Smith, Randy" <randy.smith@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Boudreau, Toby" <toby.boudreau@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Meints, Daryl" <daryl.meints@idfg.idaho.gov>, "Keegan, Thomas"



<thomas.keegan@idfg.idaho.gov>
Subject RE: wolf gi tracts and elk lungs

If carcasses can't be removed from the field, are there specific organs that would suffice, or samples thereof (e.g., a sample of stomach or intestine contents)?

From: Drew,Mark

Sent: Monday, August 23, 2010 8:55 AM

To: Hayden,Jim; Crenshaw,Jay; Rohlman,Jeff; Nadeau,Steve; Smith,Randy; Boudreau,Toby; Meints,Daryl; Keegan,Thomas

Cc: Husseman,Jason; Cooley,Hilary; Scott.R.Stopak@aphis.usda.gov; Garwood,Lee; Compton,Brad; Rachael,Jon

Subject: wolf gi tracts and elk lungs

To all

I am trying to finish the directives to IDFG, ISDA and IDHW from last legislative session about wolves and echinococcus. The last step is to confirm the identity of the parasite as far as the genotype (domestic form with sheep and dog cycle vs. wild form with cervids and wolves). I need to find some wolf gi tracts to obtain adult worms and I need some hydatid cysts from elk lungs. We get a fair number of infected elk lungs reported each year from the wood river valley, the Stanley basin and the south fork of the boise. But we have had both infected wolves and some infected elk from other areas as well.

If you are able to get wolf gi tracts from depredation removals or road kills, or elk lungs from hunters at check stations, road kills or depredation hunts, please freeze them and let me know so I can arrange shipment to the WHL or if they are fresh and I can get to you in a timely manner, call and I will come out to do a field necropsy and get specimens.

Thanks in advance for your help. Call if you have any questions or concerns.

Mark Drew

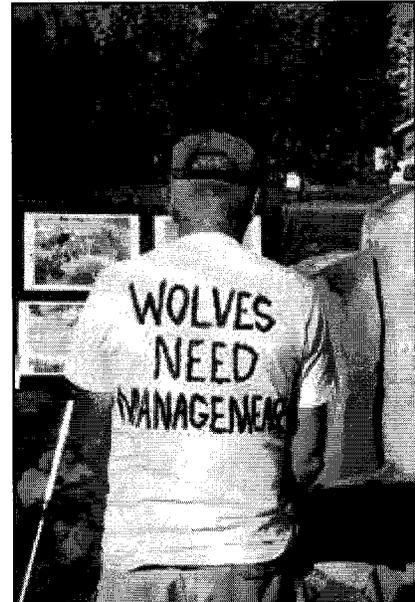
Todd K
Grimm/ID/APHIS/USDA
09/01/2010 10:04 AM

To George E Graves/ID/APHIS/USDA, Mark D
Collinge/ID/APHIS/USDA
cc
bcc
Subject Wolf EA Article in Idaho Mountain Express

<http://mtexpress.com/index2.php?ID=2005133036>

Agency: Manage wolves more aggressively Sterilization, gassing of pups proposed

by *KATHERINE WUTZ*



A man who favors wolf management lets his feelings be known during a wolf-related event in Ketchum last year.

Photo by Mountain Express

gement in Idaho calls for a more aggressive approach for dealing with wolves, including the use of lethal gas to kill pups in dens when an entire pack must be removed.

There are three alternatives to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services' preferred plan, which was drafted in early August, varying in scale from no federal wolf management or only non-lethal wolf management to retaining the state's current management plan.

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The preferred plan is the most aggressive of the alternatives, similar to the management techniques Wildlife Services was already using to manage wolves in the state, with new provisions for pup removal and sterilization.

The gassing would occur in cases in which the pups would be orphaned otherwise. For example, if a pack needed to be removed because it was continually preying on livestock, pack removal would include any dened pups.

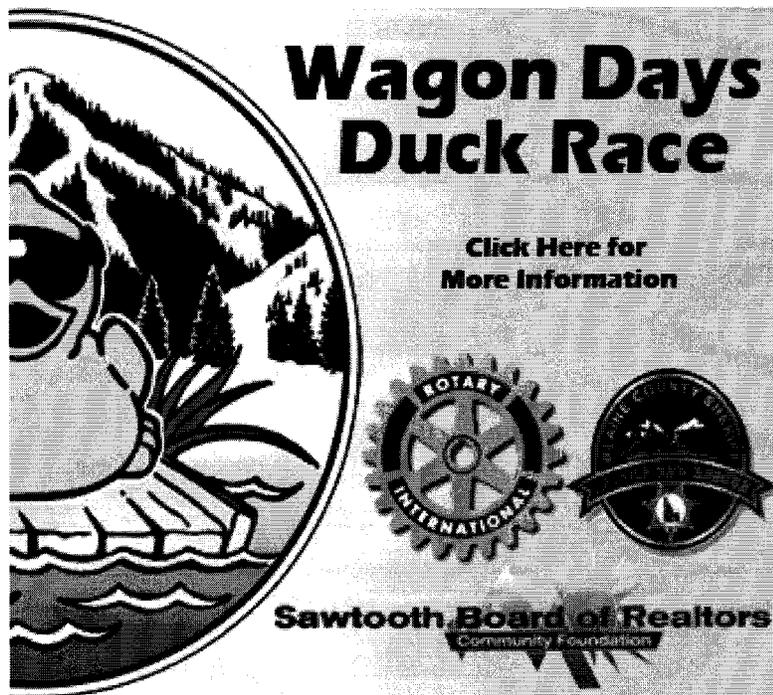
Rather than trying to remove the pups from the den, Wildlife Services officers would use gas cartridges to kill the animals.

"The most practical, humane approach to this infrequent scenario would be to employ the use of an EPA-registered den fumigant to euthanize the pups in the den," the report states.

"I can't imagine when that method would ever be used," said Ed Mitchell, spokesman for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Infrequent or not, this method of pack removal has been vigorously opposed by wolf advocates.

"We are appalled," said Suzanne Stone, spokeswoman for national conservation group Defenders of Wildlife. "This is a very aggressive use of lethal control."



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The report was drafted while a court decision to relist Northern Rocky Mountain wolves under the Endangered Species Act was still pending.

Though Idaho wolves are now protected, federal wolf management is not prohibited by the Endangered Species Act. Under the act, Wildlife Services has the right to remove any wolves in nonessential populations that are threatening livestock and ungulate populations such as deer and elk. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that includes all wolves south of Interstate 90, in the Idaho panhandle.

The sterilization of alpha pairs of wolves is also proposed under the service's preferred plan. This method involves killing an entire pack of wolves with the exception of the breeding pair, which would be captured and sterilized. The goal, according to the report, is to halt population growth while allowing the pair to defend their territory against larger wolf packs that are more likely to successfully prey on livestock.

According to the report, this method would be "infrequent" and would only be used on packs that have been "implicated in chronic depredations on livestock" or on wolves that threaten elk or deer populations.

The effectiveness of the method, which relies on the ability of two wolves to successfully defend an independent territory against potentially larger packs, is described as needing further study.

Sterilization to control population growth is prohibited under the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Policy for Avian and Mammalian Predation Management. To use this method, the Idaho Fish and Game Commission would have to pass a rule change granting an exception for gray wolves.

Carol Bannerman, spokeswoman for Wildlife Services, declined to comment on the proposed plan for wolf management or the reasons for including these new methods.

According to Bannerman, Wildlife Services will consider feedback received during a month-long public comment period that ended yesterday in its decision. If Wildlife Services decides to approve its own preferred plan, it will go into effect barring litigation from conservation groups or objection from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Katherine Wutz: kwutz@mtexpress.com

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Todd K. Grimm, Wildlife Biologist
Western District Supervisor
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
9134 West Blackeagle Drive

Boise, ID 83709
PHONE: (208)378-5077
FAX: (208)378-5349