

# Idaho Wolf Management Progress Report December 5 - December 31, 2008

## Monitoring

Aerial telemetry flights and end of year counts are ongoing. Snow conditions and time of year when pack members tend to congregate on winter range allow us to get quality pack sizes from the air. Due to typically poor weather conditions, however, flying this time of year can be iffy. Final 2008 counts will be made by mid January and end-of-year population estimates will be completed by the end of the month and published by end of February.

## Management

From January 1 – December 31, agencies have documented 151 dead wolves in Idaho. These data are not complete and still need to be corrected and cross referenced. Of those, 94 were depredation control actions by USDA Wildlife Services, 13 legal kills, nine illegal kills, four natural kills, and 31 other/unknown.

From January 1 – December 31, Wildlife Services (tentatively) confirmed that wolves have killed 16 cows, 1 steer, 87 calves, 215 sheep, 14 dogs, 1 foal; injured 1 cow, 7 calves, 6 sheep, 7 dogs; probably killed 6 cows, 22 calves, 57 sheep; and probably injured 1 cow, 3 calves, 1 sheep, 2 dogs.

Table 1. Confirmed wolf depredations and wolf mortality in Idaho from 2003 to Dec 31, 2008 (tentative).

YEAR	Depredations <sup>1</sup>				Wolf Mortality			
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS <sup>2</sup>	10j <sup>3</sup>	Other	Total
2003	7	130	3	140	7	0	8	15
2004	19	176	4	199	17	0	21	38
2005	29	166	12	207	24	3	16	43
2006	41	237	4	282	35	7	19	61
2007	57	211	10	278	43	7	27	77
2008	104	215	14	333	94	13	44	151
Total	247	1133	47	1427	220	30	135	385

<sup>1</sup> Includes confirmed depredations resulting in death or injury

<sup>2</sup> Authorized take by Wildlife Services

<sup>3</sup> Authorized take under 10j or while delisted for protection of stock and dogs

## Control

During the reporting period of December 4 – December 31, Wildlife Services documented two confirmed depredations on livestock – wolves killed one steer and one calf, both on private land. In response to those and previous depredations, Wildlife Services killed seven wolves. During the same period in 2007, WS also documented two confirmed wolf depredations on livestock and killed two wolves.

## **Research**

Nothing new to report.

## **Information and Education**

Nothing new to report.

The Fish and Game Commission met on November 6 and discussed timelines and management direction for the Idaho Fish and Game wolf program now and following the proposed delisting in mid January. A short video on these discussions can be viewed at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hv24KW6mu7k>

Further information and updates, including the directives provided by the commission can be viewed at: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cms/wildlife/wolves/>

A reminder: Wolves are protected under the endangered species act and killing one illegally is a federal offense.

Please help us manage wolves by reporting wolf sightings on our Fish and Game observation form found at: [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf\\_report/](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/)

### **Delisting: FWS – Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Status (WY, MT, ID):**

For the time being, all wolves to the north of Interstate-90 in Idaho remain listed as endangered. All wolves in the southern half of Montana, all portions of Idaho south of Interstate-90, and all of Wyoming are being managed under the 2005 and 2008 Endangered Species Act nonessential experimental population 10j regulations. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is acting as the designated agent for the USFWS in implementing day-to-day management of wolves under the MOU between the Department of Interior and Idaho, signed in January 2006.

Delisting wolves and assuring their proper long-term management is and has been of highest priority for the state of Idaho and the Fish and Game Department. We continue to work with the Department of Interior, Department of Justice, and other states and interveners toward the eventual delisting of wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains, and move toward state management under the State Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and the Wolf Population Management Plan.

***New on delisting*** - The USFWS is rewriting the rule based on comments and will resubmit a final delisting rule supposedly in early 2009. You may read the State of Idaho's comments to the USFWS on the delisting rule at:

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

You may review past wolf weekly publications on our wolf webpage and links along with all pertinent and updated wolf information and publications at:

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