

## **Idaho Wolf Update**

### **May 31 – June 14, 2008**

#### **Monitoring**

Isaac Babcock (Nez Perce Tribe) verified a minimum of six gray pups with the B315 group, making them a newly documented pack (Snake River pack). He also has recorded three pups (two black, one gray) with the B290 group (newly documented Hornet Creek pack). Finally, Blue Bunch pack has a minimum of four gray pups.

Jim Holyan (Nez Perce Tribe) observed B327 (GPS radiocollared wolf occupying the “former” Orphan pack home range) alone on June 5; every sighting of this individual he has been alone, despite one aerial this past winter. Holyan also saw female B249 (Stolle Meadows pack) and was barked/howled at for about 10 minutes, but no evidence of other wolves was detected in the area.

Jason Husseman was able to get two new collars in the Hoodoo pack this week, a yearling black male and an adult (2 to 3?) black male. He also confirmed reproduction based on howling (two-plus) and observation of a lactating female.

Carter Niemeyer caught a subadult male, gray wolf along the Grandjean road yesterday. It was traveling with at least two other wolves and, from looking at Argos data from the area, appears it's a different pack than Warm Springs. Niemeyer named it Wapiti.

On June 8, Michael Lucid verified multiple pups in the Steel Mountain pack. On June 9, Lucid attempted to verify reproduction in the Thorn Creek pack. On June 12, Lucid verified two gray pups in the Applejack pack.

Idaho Fish and Game elk researchers trapped a 2-year-old female wolf May 31 and fitted her with a vhf radio collar. She was captured near Fourth of July Creek on the North Fork of the Clearwater. They are not sure which pack she belongs to but will determine such based on future locations.

An employee of the U.S. Forest Service photographed and verified six pups in the Kilgore area of eastern Idaho. These are likely members of the Bishop Mountain pack but further work will be needed to verify their affiliation.

Also, one quick amusing story from Husseman: “I was woken up Tuesday about midnight to a noise right outside my tent, which I immediately dismissed as a rodent, and tried to go back to sleep. However, about a minute later I heard the sound of plastic crunching as something was picking up one of the 2.5 gallon water jugs just outside my tent door. I immediately thought “bear,” and clapped my hands and yelled to run it off. I waited a bit to see what would happen, and shortly after I heard the plastic jug crunching about 20 yards above my tent. I reluctantly decided to brave the cold rain coming down and run this critter off, so I

put my headlamp on and got out to go to my truck for a bigger flashlight. One quick glance up hill in my headlamp on the way to the truck revealed two green-yellow glowing eyes attached to a prone black form. I got the flashlight and walked towards the glowing eyes, and as I got to 20 yards or so could make out the shape of a youngish looking black wolf. He laid there until I started yelling, then finally got up and walked slowly up the hill. I eventually got him chased off, and then went to retrieve my water jug, which turns out was the nearly full one. Also, in addition to taking my water, I found my catch pole laying there, which apparently was the source of the first noise that initially woke me up and another item this wolf apparently was interested in. The jug was pretty well chewed up in the short time my visitor was there, and I now have a nice memento with perfect canine bite impressions to remember him by.”

**Editor’s Note:** *Wolves can usually be easily scared away from camps day or night by yelling, banging pots, using noise makers, pepper spray etc., but similar to all carnivores they may be attracted to camps by the smell of foods, meat hanging, scents around camp, dogs, etc. They may also be using the area you are visiting as a rendezvous site. To avoid conflicts with wolves, bears, and other wildlife, please keep a clean camp and store food in a hard sided vehicle or hang between two trees 10 feet off the ground, or use bear resistant containers. Please report any incident to the nearest Fish and Game office or online at: [http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf\\_report/](http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/wolf_report/)*

## **Control**

On June 2, U.S.D.A. APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) confirmed that wolves killed 18 sheep, all lambs, and injured a number of others, on private land north of Carey. This property neighbors the ranch where WS confirmed two buck sheep and counted 13 more “probable” depredations the week before.

On June 3, WS confirmed that wolves from the Pass Creek pack killed a calf on Salmon-Challis National Forest land along the East Fork of the Salmon River. WS found another carcass that was consumed to the point where only a “probable” wolf depredation could be determined. The producer is missing eight more calves. To date, WS has confirmed that the Pass Creek wolves have killed five calves and probably killed one calf this spring.

On June 3, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on private land near Howe. WS determined that the calf died of causes other than predation.

On June 3, WS investigated a report that wolves had injured a calf on private land near Orifino. WS determined that the calf had probably been attacked by coyotes.

On June 4, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a sheep on private land on Hunter Creek. WS captured and killed a sub-adult, gray, female wolf about a half mile from the depredation site.

On June 5, a WS fixed-wing aircrew was able to shoot and kill two wolves (one sub-adult gray female and one adult gray male) on the same private ranch where we confirmed two bucks and had 13 more that were probable wolf kills a week earlier.

On June 6, WS confirmed that wolves killed a 700 pound calf on the same private ranch where we had multiple confirmed wolf depredations last year. On June 11, WS confirmed that a wolf killed another calf on the same ranch. The only wolf in the area appears to be B-327.

On June 6, WS captured and killed an adult, gray male wolf near the depredation site where WS confirmed 33 sheep killed a week earlier near Alexander Flats in the Boise National Forest.

On June 7, WS investigated a report that wolves had killed a calf on private land along the Weiser River near Midvale. WS could not determine a cause of death.

On June 8, WS investigated a report that wolves killed several sheep on private land near Carey. WS determined that a bear was responsible for the depredation.

On June 10, WS confirmed that wolves killed two calves on private land north of Carey. While it is not the same property, it is the same general area where WS has confirmed two different depredations on sheep and has removed two wolves earlier this spring.

On June 12, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a ewe on state land in Fourth of July Creek just north of Obsidian. This is in the Galena Pack's territory. Traps are being set today.

On June 13, WS confirmed that a wolf killed a lamb on BLM land at the upper end of the Pahsimeroi River. A WS aircrew found five animals from the Double Springs pack approximately two miles from the depredation site that morning.

### **Management**

No word yet about the injunction hearing on wolf delisting May 28 in federal court in Missoula.

### **Information and Education**

June 6, Michael Lucid gave a presentation on wolf ecology and local packs to 50 people at a Community Update meeting sponsored by the USFS Lowman Ranger District in Lowman.

June 10, Lucid gave a presentation on wolf ecology to 20 members of a Current Issues in Agriculture class at the Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Ore.

We also would like to remind people that when wolves are in the area, please be aware that they may attack or injure dogs. It often helps to keep dogs in kennels or inside buildings at night and to not let them roam freely when humans are not around. When fresh wolf sign is found, place dogs on restraints and keep supervised. The state law allows individuals to harass or kill a wolf attacking or molesting their domestic animals including pets. If you are having concerns or problems with wolves close to your residence, please inform the Fish and Game Office nearest you.

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/)

Wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains (NRM) were delisted on March 28, 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service successfully recovered and delisted the population with the help of state, federal, tribal and non government partners. Management of these wolves now resides with the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. The 2002 legislatively approved Wolf Conservation and Management Plan along with the March 2008 Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Population Management Plan, as well as the laws and policies of the state now govern wolf management in Idaho. Wolves are now listed as a big game animal in Idaho and protected under the laws and policies of the State of Idaho.

Once wolves were delisted, the USFWS decided to discontinue the publication of the NRM wolf weekly. Instead, for the time being, Idaho will continue publishing the Idaho specific wolf weekly. It is not possible to publish a weekly every Friday, therefore at times we will be publishing a biweekly that will be posted on the website. Along with the USFWS, contributors to the weekly historically have included Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the states of Idaho and Montana. 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/>