

## Idaho Wolf Management Update September, 2011

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### Harvest Seasons

Wolf hunting seasons opened on August 30 throughout the state. Seasons are scheduled to close on December 31 in the Island Park and Beaverhead wolf management zones (unless harvest limits are met first), and on June 30, 2012 in the Lolo and Selway zones. Seasons in the other nine zones close on March 31, 2012 (unless harvest limits are met first). Harvest limits have been established for five of the 13 wolf management zones (Salmon, Sawtooth, Southern Mountains, Beaverhead and Island Park). In these zones, the season will close when either the harvest limit has been met, or the season closing date is reached, whichever comes first.

Hunters may purchase two wolf tags per calendar year. See the wolf seasons brochure for more information. <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/rules/wolfRules.pdf>.

Wolf trapping seasons were set for November 15 – March 31 in the Lolo, Selway and Middle Fork wolf management zones and portions of the Panhandle and Dworshak-Elk City wolf management zones. Individuals interested in trapping wolves must first attend a wolf trapper education class before buying wolf trapping tags. Certified trappers may purchase up to three wolf trapping tags per calendar year. See details on our website:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/hunt/?getPage=266>.

Wolf trapper education classes are being held throughout the state <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/hunt/wolfTrapperClasses.pdf>.

Hunters killed three wolves in August during the first two days of the season, and 30 wolves during September. More than 20,400 2011 wolf tags have been sold as of close of business on October 4.

### Monitoring

The 2010 annual report on Wolf Conservation and Management in Idaho was prepared by the Nez Perce Tribe wolf program staff and is available through our website at:

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/docs/wolves/reportAnnual10.pdf>.

Nez Perce Tribe and Idaho Fish and Game staff has been working in the field throughout the state to confirm reproduction and breeding pair status (at least two pups produced and still alive) and capture and radio-collar additional wolves to aid in monitoring and completing year-end counts. Telemetry flights are conducted about monthly. Through September 30, Nez Perce Tribe and Fish and Game staff had documented successful reproduction, including of a minimum of 154 pups in 53 packs, including 38 packs that tentatively qualify for “breeding pair” status (at least two pups produced and surviving). USDA Wildlife Services captured and released two previously radio-collared wolves, during a control action. One other previously radio-marked wolf was captured and released with a new collar, and three new wolves were captured and released with radio collars.

### Management and Control Actions

During September, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed 4 calves, 2 cows, 10 sheep, 1 horse and 1 guard dog, injured 3 calves and a herding dog, and probably killed 4 calves and a sheep. In response to these and previous depredations, Wildlife Services killed 3 wolves and captured and released 2 radio-collared wolves. Also in September 2011, Wildlife Services confirmed that 1 sheep was killed by a black bear. In September 2010, Wildlife Services confirmed that wolves killed 7 calves, 1 cow and 8 sheep.

From January 1 – September 30, USDA Wildlife Services personnel confirmed wolves killed or injured 66 cattle, 75 sheep, and 6 dogs. During the same period in 2010, Wildlife Services confirmed wolves killed or injured 65 cattle, 121 sheep and 1 dog. During January 1 – September 30, 2009, Wildlife Services confirmed wolves killed or injured 70 cattle, 285 sheep, and 14 dogs. Confirmed wolf depredations and mortalities from 2003–2011 are reported in Table 2.

For comparison, from January 1 – September 30, 2011, Wildlife Services confirmed mountain lions have killed 1 cow, 2 calves, 18 sheep, 1 goat, and 2 chickens, and confirmed bears killed 5 sheep, 1 goat, and 3 chickens. In addition, Wildlife Services investigated a pile-up of 140 sheep in July that they determined to be a probable bear depredation.

### Information and Education

Additional information and updates can be viewed at:

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

**Table 1. Total known wolf mortality by cause, Jan. 1, 2011 – Sep. 30, 2011.**

Wolf Mgt Zone	WS Control	IDFG Control Action	Harvest	Illegal	Legal (protection of livestock or pets)	Other	Unk	Total
Dworshak-Elk City	1	7	4			1	1	14
Lolo		6						6
McCall-Weiser	6		3		5	2	1	17
Middle Fork			2				1	3
Palouse-Hells Canyon			1				1	2
Panhandle			7			1		8
Salmon	3		1	1	2		5	12
Sawtooth	14		7	1	3	3	1	29
Selway								0
Southern Idaho					1			1
Southern Mountains	6		3		2			11
Island Park	2		5			1		8
Unknown				2		1		3
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>114</b>

**Table 2. Confirmed wolf depredations and mortalities in Idaho, 2003 to Sep. 30, 2011.**

YEAR	Depredations <sup>1</sup>				Wolf Mortality					
	Cattle	Sheep	Dogs	Total	WS <sup>2</sup>	IDFG Control Action <sup>3</sup>	10j / 36-1107 <sup>4</sup>	Other <sup>5</sup>	Hunter Harvest	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		14	45		153
2009	76	295	14	385	87		6	45	135	273
2010	75	148	0	223	67		13	18	46	144
2011 (1/1 – 9/30)	66	75	6	147	31	13	13	24	33	114

<sup>1</sup> Includes only confirmed wolf depredations of cattle, sheep, and dogs that resulted in death or injury.

<sup>2</sup> Wolves taken by USDA Wildlife Services in response to depredation on livestock.

<sup>3</sup> Wolves taken as authorized by IDFG to address unacceptable predation on ungulates.

<sup>3</sup> Authorized take under 10j, or legal take under state law for protection of stock and dogs (Idaho Code 36-1107) while wolves were delisted, or authorized by kill permit while wolves were delisted..

<sup>4</sup> Other includes of mortalities of unknown cause, documented natural mortality, collisions with automobiles, and illegal take.