

MEXICAN WOLF ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORK GROUP
 INTERAGENCY FIELD TEAM UPDATE FOR JULY 30-OCTOBER 27, 2008
 FINAL: OCTOBER 29, 2008

Vacancies and Hirings:

Paula Capece - NMDGF Field Team Leader (joined project on October 20), James Waddell - NMDGF Technician (temporary position with the Project will be expiring October 31), Ryan Gordon - USFWS Detailed Biologist (returned to his position with Ecological Services in August).

Depredations and Nuisance Responses Third Quarter 2008:

<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Determination</u>
07-30-08	East Sand Flat, NM	Injured Cow	Confirmed wolf attack, calf survived, depredation incident not assigned
07-31-08	Greens Peak, AZ	Dead Cow	Cause of death unknown
07-31-08	Big Lake road, AZ	Dead Cow	Vehicle collision
08-04-08	East Sand Flat, NM	Injured Calf	Confirmed wolf attack, calf survived, depredation incident not assigned
08-07-08	Snow Lake, NM	Dead Yearling Cow	Confirmed wolf depredation, depredation incident assigned to F1118 and one uncollared wolf
08-12-08	CC Flat, AZ	Dead Calf	Confirmed wolf depredation, depredation incident assigned to an uncollared wolf or wolves
08-13-08	Big Lake road, AZ	Dead Cow	Vehicle collision
08-15-08	East Sand Flat, NM	Injured Calf	Confirmed wolf attack, calf survived, depredation incident not assigned
08-18-08	Pat Knoll, AZ	Dead Cow	Cause of death unknown
08-19-08	Canyon del Buey, NM	Three Dead Cows	Lightning strike
08-22-08	Cruzville, NM	Dead Chicken	Probable wolf depredation
08-24-08	Snow Lake, NM	Dead Yearling Cow	Cause of death unknown
08-27-08	Luna Lake, AZ	Dead Cow	Cause of death unknown
09-06-08	Rudd Knoll, AZ	Dead Calf	Vehicle collision

<u>Report Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type of Incident</u>	<u>Determination</u>
09-08-08	FS Roads 93 and 13, NM	Dead Calf	Confirmed wolf depredation, depredation incident assigned to AM1114
09-08-08	Indio Canyon Tank, NM	Dead Calf	Confirmed wolf depredation, depredation incident assigned to AM1114
09-11-08	Campbell Blue River, AZ	Dead Cow	Confirmed wolf depredation, depredation incident assigned to entire Bluestem Pack
09-11-08	T Bar Grasslands, NM	Dead Cow	Confirmed wolf depredation, depredation incident assigned to an uncollared wolf or wolves
10-08-08	Greens Peak, AZ	One Dead Sheep	Unknown and natural causes
10-10-08	Big Lake Road, AZ	Dead Cow	Vehicle collision
10-18-08	Cox Canyon, NM	Dead Cow, Dead Calf	Cause of death unknown

Mortalities in the Second Quarter 2008:

AM1008 of the Laredo Pack was discovered dead on 08-06-08 in New Mexico. Necropsy results revealed that this wolf died as the result of at least one gunshot. This case is under investigation.

MP1159 (pup of the year from the Rim Pack) was found dead on 10-13-08 in Arizona. The initial investigation suggests that this wolf died as the result of at least one gunshot. This case is under investigation.

Trapping Activities Second Quarter 2008:

The IFT captured a pup of the year, fp1154 in the Bacho Pack territory on 08-21-08 on the FAIR.

The IFT captured a pup of the year, mp1155, in the Hawks Nest Pack territory on 09-07-08.

The IFT captured an adult male wolf, M1156, in the Luna Pack territory on 09-15-08. Additionally, F1118 was recaptured immediately adjacent to M1156 on the same day. The IFT now considers these animals as members of the Luna Pack.

The IFT captured two pups of the year in the Fox Mountain Pack territory in September: mp1157 was captured on 09-18-08 and mp1158 was captured on 09-20-08.

The IFT captured a pup of the year, mp1159, in the Rim Pack territory on 09-22-08. Other information obtained during capture activities indicates at least two other pups of the year are associated with the Rim Pack.

The IFT captured a pup of the year, mp1160, in the Dark Canyon Pack territory on 10-05-08.

Outreach Activities Second Quarter 2008:

July 30 AMWG meeting in Morenci AZ; approximately 29 non-agency attendees.

On August 1, Jeff Dolphin presented an overview of Project activities to 11 members of the public at the Big Lake visitor center on the Apache Sitgreaves National Forest (ASNF).

On August 13, Chris Bagnoli, Jeff Dolphin, and Beth Orning-Tschampl presented Project information to a member of the Arizona State Legislature and a member of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, who were visiting the area to learn more about Mexican wolf issues. Terry Johnson from AMOC also provided an overview of project issues and activities to the participants. A local livestock permittee also presented information regarding Project efforts to address potential wolf impacts to his livestock grazing operations on the ASNF and deeded property.

On September 4, John Oakleaf and Jeff Dolphin presented an overview of Project objectives and activities to 12 students and two instructors from Prescott College who were visiting the area to learn more about Mexican wolf issues.

On September 9, Chris Bagnoli, Cathy Taylor, and John Oakleaf from the IFT, as well as several other Agency personnel including Mike Godwin, Field Supervisor, AGFD; Donna Reed, District Range Staff, USFS; Aaron Baldrige, District Range Staff, USFS and Deb Bumpis, ASNF Range, Watershed and Wildlife Staff, USFS met with two grazing permittees, Chase Caldwell and Twig Winkle, from the Eagle Creek Watershed Users group. This meeting was jointly coordinated between the IFT and Chase Caldwell to discuss the potential release of wolves at the Engineer Springs release site in 2009 on the Clifton Ranger District on the ASNF in Arizona. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the potential to develop a cooperative management plan of livestock in the vicinity of the release site to minimize potential wolf related impacts from the proposed wolf release to affected grazing permittees.

On September 13, Chris Bagnoli presented an overview of Project objectives and activities, including wolf identification, to 57 members of the TRACKS hiking club based in Pinetop-Lakeside at Woodland Lake in Pinetop, AZ.

On September 15, the IFT presented a summary of proposed initial releases and translocations of Mexican wolves into the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA) in 2008 and 2009 to 19 members of the public at the Alpine Community Center in Alpine, AZ.

On October 4, John Oakleaf presented an overview of Mexican wolf Reintroduction project goals, objectives and issues to 8 students and two instructors from the University of Arizona's

wildlife management program. This activity was part of the university's annual field trip to the Pinetop Region of the AGFD to provide training for prospective wildlife professionals on current wildlife management techniques and issues.

On October 10, Cathy Taylor participated in an outreach effort sponsored by the Alpine Ranger District of the ASNF at the elementary school in St. John's Arizona. Information was presented to approximately 60 first and second graders regarding wolf identification, basic life history, and what the students should do if they see a wolf in the while in the forest.

On October 16 and 17, Cathy Taylor attended the Gila Natural Resources Symposium in Silver City New Mexico. Cathy participated on a panel discussion at the symposium titled "Resources for Landowners". This panel discussed both the recent efforts by, and future opportunities for, Agencies and non governmental organizations to provide assistance to stakeholders who are impacted by Project activities.

On October 16, 17, and 18, Ellen Heilhecker conducted radio telemetry in the BRWRA with 7 people as part of the NMDGF GAIN (Gaining Access Into Nature) tours.

On October 22, Chris Bagnoli and Terry Johnson presented an overview of the Project to 20 members of the Payson Habitat Partnership Committee in Payson, AZ.

2007 End of Year Count:

- 35 wolves observed during survey
- Ten wolves captured (six new collars; four replaced)
- Population estimate ≥ 52 wolves of which 46 were wild born wolves.
- 12 packs (ten of which consist of at least one wild-born member)
- Four breeding pairs**
- ≥ 27 pups born, ≥ 9 survived through December 31st
- 11 pairs formed on their own in the wild in 2007
- Two packs produced second generation wild-born pups. As many as ten could do so in 2008.

**Defined as an adult male and an adult female with at least two pups produced during the previous breeding season that survived until December 31 of the year of their birth

2008 Population Information:

Pups have been confirmed in the following packs during 2008: Bacho, Paradise, Hawk's Nest, Rim, Fox Mountain, Middle Fork and Dark Canyon. San Mateo, Bluestem, Luna and Lofer packs' status is unknown relative to the production of pups. Currently there are 27 collared wolves in the (BRWRA). The packs are evenly distributed between Arizona and New Mexico, with six in each state.

Other IFT Activities:

The IFT is preparing for the recently-approved slate of initial releases and translocations of wolves scheduled to begin in November 2008. The first initial release will be at the Middle Mountain site south of Alpine, Arizona in mid-November. Activities to date include the notification of the following individuals and entities: permittees within 10 miles of the release site, the District Ranger for the Alpine Ranger District of the ASNF, a voluntary livestock industry contact, and County officials for both Greenlee and Apache Counties. Similar contacts will be conducted before the planned translocations of up to nine wolves to potentially pair up with various existing wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. Additionally, the IFT is developing the required news releases for all of the approved initial wolf releases and translocations to ensure that the outreach requirements outlined in SOP's 5 and 6 are being fulfilled.

The IFT has coordinated with the Clifton Ranger District (ASNF) to repair the Engineer Springs release pen south of Hannagan Meadow in Arizona in preparation for a planned initial release of a pack of wolves in July 2009. The actual holding pen was burned over during the Hot Air fire in June 2008. One of the chain link fence panels suffered minor damage from a tree fall. Activities include replacing the fence panel and removing potential hazard trees adjacent to the pen to reduce the threat to the pen over the winter months.