

Gray Wolf Management Monthly Update for December 2012

Note: Information in this update is intended to highlight the month's major wolf management actions and is not intended to be a comprehensive detailing of all management activities. Information in this update is draft and subject to change as new details from the field become available. Finalized annual reporting of this information will be published in the annual wolf report available in the spring of 2013 on the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's website.

Verified Wolf Killed Livestock

- No wolf killed livestock were documented during December.

Research and Monitoring

- With wolf delisting occurring on September 30, 2012, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department assumed all responsibility for wolf monitoring activities in Wyoming. The Department will conduct wolf monitoring and management in accordance with Wyoming State Statutes, the Wyoming Gray Wolf Management Plan and Addendum, and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Gray Wolf Management Regulations (Chapters 21 and 47). For more information, visit the links below:

Wyoming State Statutes are available at the following link:

<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/statutes/compress/title23.doc>

Department wolf management documents are available at the following link:

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000380.aspx>

- Two wolves were captured, radio-collared, and released in the Jackson region for population monitoring purposes.

Wolf Conflict Management (Captures, Relocations, and Removals)

- No wolf conflict management actions were conducted during December.

Law Enforcement and Related Activities

- Wyoming Game and Fish Department game wardens are looking for information about the illegal killing of two gray wolves in the Gros Ventre area near Jackson. These killings were not associated with an open hunt area. The department requests the public's help with this investigation. Anyone with information about this incident should call Wyoming's Stop Poaching hotline at 1-877-WGFD-TIP, report online at wgfd.wyo.gov, or call Game Warden Bill Long at 307-733-2321. Those with information can remain anonymous and may be eligible for a reward. Help protect Wyoming's wildlife: "Stop Poaching – Help Us Stand Watch."

For more information please go to the following link: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/news-1001243.aspx>

Outreach and Education

- The Wyoming Game and Fish Department in cooperation with the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board produced a brochure titled "Wolves in Wyoming: A guide for livestock producers" to provide guidance for livestock producers who experience damage to livestock caused by wolves. The brochure is available at Wyoming Game and Fish Department regional offices, or by download at the following link:

http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/WOLF_LIVESTOCK_BROCHURE0003179.pdf

Harvest Update

- Wolf Hunt Areas 1 and 2 closed during December because the mortality quota was reached. All remaining open Wolf Hunt Areas closed at the end of the hunting season on December 31, 2012. Forty-one wolves were lawfully killed under trophy game status in hunt areas 1-12, one additional wolf was killed illegally and was subtracted from the quota while the hunt area was open, therefore, 42 wolves counted towards open season hunt area quotas. Two additional illegal mortalities not associated with legal wolf hunting occurred in Hunt Area 8 after the hunt area was closed (see Law Enforcement and Related Activities). All mortalities will be factored into the 2012 minimum population estimate and considered during the 2013 season setting process. Forty-two legal (n=41) and illegal (n=1) hunting season mortalities occurred out of a combined hunt area quota of 52 wolves. Five of 12 hunt areas met the harvest quota established for the area. One hunt area (HA 8) legally exceeded the quota by one wolf after two hunters filled the quota at approximately the same time. Harvest in six hunt areas did not meet the quota.

- Wolves may be hunted in areas when and where they are designated as predatory animals at any time of the year, without a wolf hunting license. A total of 26 wolves have been taken in these areas since wolves were delisted on September 30, 2012.

- Wardens report that hunters acted ethically and legally with few exceptions. They valued the opportunity to experience a wolf hunt. Wolves were taken in fair chase and hunters were very cooperative in reporting kills, providing inspection and samples, and cooperating with agency personnel.