

1915 - 1980s

- **1915** - Congress appropriates \$125,000 to remove wolves, coyotes and other predators from public land throughout the West. In Idaho, the last wolf is believed to have been killed in the 1930s.
- **1967** - Gray wolves listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, which is repealed in 1973 and replaced by the Endangered Species Act.
- **1974** - Four subspecies of Gray Wolves (*Canis lupus*) are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act - the gray wolf in the Northern Rocky Mountains, the eastern timber wolf in the northern Great Lakes region, the Mexican wolf in Mexico and the southwestern United States, and the Texas gray wolf of Texas and Mexico.
 - [Endangered Species Act Listing](#) - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, pdf File
- **1978** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service relists the gray wolf as endangered at the species level throughout the conterminous 48 States and Mexico, except for Minnesota where it is reclassified as threatened.
 - [Gray Wolf Relisting](#) - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, pdf File
- **1980** - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northern Rocky Mountain Wolf Recovery Plan is signed. It recommends reintroducing wolves in central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park. Its goal is 30 breeding pairs for three successive years in three designated areas of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming before delisting wolves and turning management over to the states.
- **1980s** - Numerous field surveys conducted in Idaho to document the presence of wolves.
- **1987** - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf Recovery Plan of 1980 is updated.
- **1988** - State Legislature authorizes an Idaho Fish and Game representative to participate on the Northern Rocky Mountain Recovery Team, it restricts Fish and Game's authority to receive funds or transfer assets or enter agreements with any agency regarding wolf recovery activities unless expressly authorized by state statute, §36-715.

1990

- **May 1990** - U.S. Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, introduces legislation mandating the return of the gray wolf to Yellowstone National Park and creating protected recovery areas in Glacier National Park and in wilderness areas of central Idaho, where limited numbers of wolves would be reintroduced. Outside the recovery areas, wolves would be removed from the endangered species list and could be considered pests or game animals. The bill did not pass.
- **November 1990** - Congress established a national Wolf Management Committee, directing the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a 10-member

committee to develop a gray wolf reintroduction and management plan for Yellowstone National Park and the Central Idaho wilderness area. Fish and Game Director Jerry Conley is appointed a member of the committee.

1991

- **1991** - The Wolf Management Committee submits its plan to Congress.
- **November 1991** - Congress directs U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to prepare an environmental impact statement on the plan to reintroduce wolves into central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park.
- **April 1992** - Legislature amends Idaho Code §36-715 to allow Fish and Game "to enter into cooperative agreements with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service" to prepare the environmental impact statement.

1992

- **1992** - The Legislature establishes a seven member Wolf Oversight Committee "to guide and advise the department in all aspects of their involvement in the EIS process." The committee would oversee the participation of Fish and Game in development of the EIS on wolf reintroduction to Yellowstone and Central Idaho. The wolf oversight committee includes the chairmen of the Legislature's Senate and House Resource Committees, a member appointed by the Idaho State Animal Damage Control Board, two citizens appointed by the state Department of Agriculture, and two citizens appointed by Fish and Game.

1993

- **July 1993** - Draft EIS released and results in 160,284 comments from public, agencies, and interest groups. It contains a Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to reintroduce gray wolves into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho if two naturally occurring wolf packs are not found in either area before October 1994.

1994

- **April 7, 1994** - Legislature amends Idaho Code §36-715 to allow Fish and Game to work with the Wolf Oversight Committee to develop and implement an Idaho Wolf Management Plan to provide an opportunity for the state to take a lead role in wolf management, in anticipation that the EIS would recommend reintroduction of wolves into Idaho under a "nonessential, experimental" status.

The change rescinds authority for Fish and Game to enter into agreements with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but it allows Fish and Game to receive funds

from Fish and Wildlife in the development and implementation of the wolf management plan in conjunction with the Wolf Oversight Committee.

- **May 4, 1994** - EIS is completed. The Fish and Wildlife Service proposes to reintroduce wolves into central Idaho and Yellowstone National Park as a nonessential experimental population. If states and tribes develop acceptable wolf management plans, they could enter into a cooperative agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service to take lead in managing wolves.
 - Environmental Impact Statement - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, pdf File
- **June 15, 1994** - Secretary of Interior signs the EIS Record of Decision supporting the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed action and directed that it be implemented as soon as possible.
- **July 13, 1994** - Secretary of Agriculture signs a letter concurring with the Record of Decision. This assures the full cooperation of the U.S. Forest Service.
- **August 10, 1994** - Record of Decision is published in Federal Register.
- **August 16, 1994** - Proposed Experimental Population Rules for Yellowstone and central Idaho published in the Federal Register, and 60-day comment period begins.
 - States and Tribe can enter cooperative agreements with the Fish and Wildlife Service to take lead if they develop suitable wolf management plans. State and tribal wolf management activities would be funded by the Fish and Wildlife Service until wolves are removed from the Endangered Species List.
 - Experimental population areas would be established for the central Idaho and Yellowstone areas. In northern Idaho, north of I-90, wolves will retain full protection of the Endangered Species Act.
 - 15 wolves to be reintroduced in central Idaho and 15 in Yellowstone National Park for three to five years or until at least two packs establish and reproduce successfully in two consecutive years.
 - Wolves are expected to reach the recovery level of at least 10 breeding pairs that breed successfully for three consecutive years by 2002.
- **September 27-29, 1994** - Public hearings on Proposed Experimental Rule held in Boise, Helena, Cheyenne, Seattle, Salt Lake City, and Washington D.C.
- **September 27, 1994** - Fish and Game Director Jerry Conley submits a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressing support for proposed experimental, nonessential population rules, which would give Idaho more management flexibility than if endangered gray wolves return naturally or are reintroduced in Idaho under the full protection of the Endangered Species Act. The letter says Fish and Game will work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, only to the extent allowed by Idaho law, to reintroduce wolves in Idaho under the experimental population rules.

Wildlife manager Tom Reinecker issues a special permit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service setting specific conditions under which wolves would be brought into Idaho as an experimental nonessential population. The permit is a courtesy by Idaho Fish and Game in accordance with state law, and with the

Idaho wolf management plan currently being drafted by Idaho Fish and Game and the Legislative Wolf Oversight Committee.

- Letter - pdf, 312 kb
- Special Permit - pdf, 406 kb
- **October 6, 1994** - Wolf biologist Jon Rachael updates the Idaho Fish and Game Commission on wolf recovery activities, including the current reintroduction timeline.
- **October 14, 1994** - Interagency meeting to develop and prioritize a list of potential release sites.
- **October 17, 1994** - Public comment period on proposed Experimental Population Rules closes. Some members of the Idaho Wolf Oversight Committee submit comments on the final experimental population rules, noting that if the Fish and Wildlife Service does not change the final experimental rules to further reduce protection of wolves and increase protection of livestock interests, they would push the Legislature to ban all state involvement in wolf recovery and management.
- **October 1994** - The Idaho wolf management plan nears completion.
- **November 1994** - Final Experimental Population Rules issued and published in the Federal Register.
 - Litigation filed by Sierra Club Legal Defense Fund, Farm Bureau, and others regarding the release of wolves and the use of the Experimental Population designation.
 - Negotiations over Fish and Wildlife Service policy decision regarding involvement of Nez Perce Tribe.
 - Six public meetings around the state on state wolf management plan between November 7 and December 9; 62 written comments are received.
 - Experimental Population Rules - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, pdf File
- **December 2, 1994** - The Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopts a policy in support of wolf reintroduction in central Idaho as an experimental, nonessential population. The commission adopted the position to allow state control of wolf management.

1995

- **January 14, 1995** - Four wolves released at Corn Creek on the edge of the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness.
- **January 17, 1995** - The Idaho Legislature rejects a Wolf Recovery and Management Plan produced by the Legislative Wolf Oversight Committee, which would have allowed Fish and Game to assume the lead role in wolf recovery in Idaho. Nez Perce Tribe eventually takes recovery effort lead.
- **January 20, 1995** - Eleven wolves released at Indian Creek and Thomas Creek along the Middle Fork Salmon River in central Idaho.

1996

- **January 1996** - An additional 20 wolves released near Dagger Falls at the edge of the Frank Church River of No Return Wilderness in central Idaho.
- **1996** - First pups produced in Idaho; 3 known packs identified.
- **1996** - Governor Phil Batt recommends the State become more involved in the wolf recovery process.

1997

- **March 1997** - Legislature amends 36-715 to cut Fish and Game's authority to receive and use money from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Fish and Game's nongame management fund. It limits Fish and Game's authority to working with the Wolf Oversight Committee to develop and coordinate wolf management plans with state officials of Wyoming and Montana. It extends the life of its wolf oversight committee through December 1999 so that the committee can develop a management plan to enable the state to take over management of wolves upon delisting.

1998

- **1998** - State Sen. Stan Hawkins ear-marks Fish and Game funds to study predator impacts on big game animals, focusing on wolves in the Salmon region.
- **November 1998** - Idaho Wolf Oversight Committee begins working on a new Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.
- **December 1998** - Twenty-four of the original 35 wolves are known to be alive and are still being monitored. The estimated population in Idaho is 115 wolves. This is the first year that one component of recovery (10 breeding pairs) is attained.

2000

- **December 2000** - The Northwest Natural Resource Group submits a summary of the comments on the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to the governor's Office of Species Conservation and the Legislative Wolf Oversight Committee.
- **2000** - Idaho Legislature approves state statute §67-818, creating in the office of the governor, the "Office of Species Conservation" to coordinate all state related activities involving federally listed threatened and endangered species.

2001

- **March 30, 2001** - The Idaho Legislature adopts HJM5, a memorial addressed to the president and Congress stating the intent of the Legislature, but without the force of law, calling on the federal government to immediately discontinue

wolf recovery efforts in Idaho, and remove wolves by whatever means necessary.

- House Joint Memorial No. 5
- **August 2001** - Draft of the management plan was sent out for professional review.
- **September 2001** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documents 30 pairs of wolves in the three-state area of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, triggering the three-year countdown to delisting.
- **October 2001** - Gov. Dirk Kempthorne directs the Office of Species Conservation to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish and Game, Nez Perce Tribe and others in the delisting of wolves in Idaho.

2002

- **March 2002** - Idaho Legislature passes a joint resolution to accept the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan as written; identifies Fish and Game as the primary entity responsible for wolf management following delisting; identifies the Nez Perce Tribe as having a significant role following delisting.
 - Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan 2002 - pdf, 663 kb
- **April 2002** - Fish and Game begins working with the Office of Species Conservation in developing a memorandum of understanding with the Nez Perce Tribe, identifying the tribe's future involvement with wolves and developing a wolf harvest agreement following delisting.
- **2002** - Fish and Game works with the Office of Species Conservation, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana and Wyoming to develop a wolf delisting package that would turn over wolf management authority to the states following delisting.
 - Increase efforts to record statewide wolf observation records and develop a procedure to document and monitor wolf recovery in conjunction with the Fish and Wildlife Service and Nez Perce Tribe.

2003

- **April 2003** - Legislature amends law 36-715 to allow Fish and Game to fully implement the Idaho Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and work with the Office of Species Conservation prior to delisting in wolf management.
 - House Bill No. 294 - Effective July 1, 2003. pdf, 32 kb
- **April 1, 2003** - The Fish and Wildlife Service reclassified, or down-listed wolves from endangered to threatened in Idaho north of I-90, and northern Montana, and everywhere within the western Distinct Population Segment.
 - Down-listing Rule - pdf, 470 kb
- **July 11, 2003** - The Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopts a wolf policy.
 - Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Policy - pdf, 22 kb

- **November 2003** - The Fish and Wildlife Service requests 11 wolf experts to review the state plans of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming and determine whether they are adequate for preservation of wolves once delisted.

2004

- **January 2004** - The Fish and Wildlife Service deems Montana and Idaho plans are adequate, but the Wyoming plan is inadequate for delisting.
- **February 2004** - Wyoming sues the Fish and Wildlife Service to accept their plan. Fish and Wildlife delays delisting until Wyoming plan is accepted.
- **March 9, 2004** - The Fish and Wildlife Service publishes in the Federal Register its proposal to revise wolf management rules under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. The proposed rules would allow more flexibility in managing wolves and would allow states with accepted wolf management plans to take over much of the wolf management roles and responsibilities. Fish and Wildlife to make a decision on the rule amendment following a 60-day public comment period.
- **March 2004** - Wolf management training of Idaho Fish and Game staff members across Idaho conducted with assistance of cooperating agency wolf specialists. About 300 staff members are trained to understand their roles and responsibilities in monitoring and management of wolves, coordination protocol and outreach, and other management responsibilities.
- **Summer 2004** - Fish and Game works with cooperators to transition into wolf management duties statewide.
- **December 23, 2004** - Wolf 10(j) Final Rule - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Q&A - pdf, 27 kb

2005

- **January 3, 2005** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unveiled a new regulation that expands the authority of States and Native American Tribes with Service-approved wolf management plans to manage gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains population.
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Regulation Allows Maximum Management of Gray Wolves for Montana, Idaho - pdf, 21 kb
- **January 6, 2005** - The Fish and Wildlife Service publishes the final revised 10(j) rules in the Federal Register easing wolf management, and giving states a role in wolf management under agreements to be negotiated with the Fish and Wildlife Service.
 - 10(j) Rule - pdf, 297 kb
- **January 31, 2005** - Federal court judge remanded the down-listing rule, and therefore wolves would be reclassified as endangered again within the Distinct Population Segment outside of the experimental population areas.
 - Down-listing Rule Remanded - pdf, 76 kb
- **March 2005** - 2004 Nez Perce Tribal Wolf Progress Report - pdf, 814 kb

- **May 2005** - Memorandum of Agreement between Idaho and the Nez Perce Tribe signed, giving the tribe a significant role in wolf conservation. Tribal officials will monitor wolves within the McCall Subregion and the Clearwater Region and participate with Idaho Fish and Game in other wolf conservation measures.
 - Nez Perce Tribal MOA (Memorandum of Agreement) With State of Idaho - pdf, 1.3 mb
- **December 4, 2005** - Helicopter use in wilderness request.
 - Motorized Use Authorization to Support Idaho Fish and Game Wolf Collaring - pdf, 75 kb
- **2005** - 2005 Wolf Conservation and Management Progress Report - pdf, 3.6 mb
 - Wolf Activity Map - pdf, 914 kb

2006

- **2006** - 2006 Wolf Conservation and Management Progress Report - pdf, 3.3 mb
 - Wolf Activity Map - pdf, 484 kb
- **December 19, 2006** - U.S. Fish and Wildlife states they will publish a notice in the Federal Register by the end of January 2007 to begin the process that will remove federal protection for wolves in Idaho under the Endangered Species Act.
 - Federal Officials Promise Wolf Delisting - pdf, 13 kb
- **November, 2006** - Gray Wolf Biology / Questions and Answers - U.S. Fish and Wildlife pdf, 13 kb.
- **January 5, 2006** - Memorandum of Agreement between Idaho and the U.S. Department of Interior signed by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, transferring authority for day-to-day wolf management to the state as agent for the Fish and Wildlife Service under the revised 10(j) rule.
 - Memorandum Of Agreement Between USFWS and Idaho - pdf, 145 kb

2007

- **January 25, 2007** - The Commission will ask the Legislature to change state statutes to allow and authorize wolf hunts.
 - Planning For Wolf Hunts - IDFG News Release, pdf, 16 kb
- **January 29, 2007** - Fish and Wildlife Service announces intention of starting the process to remove gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains from the endangered species list. Public hearings set and 60-day public comment period launched.
 - Wolf Delisting Process Announced - IDFG News Release - pdf, 16 kb
- **November 8, 2007** - Population Management Plan Letter from Governor Otter - pdf, 230 kb
- **2007** - 2007 Wolf Conservation and Management Progress Report - pdf, 1.4 mb
 - Wolf Activity Map - pdf, 671 kb

2008

- **March 6, 2008** - Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopts Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan, which includes a framework for future wolf hunting seasons.
 - Idaho Wolf Population Management Plan - [pdf, 887 kb] Adopted March 6, 2008 - **Suspended: 12/8/2010**. See News Release - pdf, 13 kb
- **March 28, 2008** - Delisting rule becomes final and Idaho assumes full responsibility for wolves, which will be managed as a big game animal. Fish and Wildlife would continue to monitor wolf recovery for five years.
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Delisting of Wolves - pdf, 18 kb
- **April 28, 2008** - Twelve conservation and animal rights groups file a lawsuit in federal court challenging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to remove the gray wolf in Idaho and the Northern Rocky Mountains from the endangered species list, and request a preliminary injunction staying the delisting until the lawsuit is settled.
 - Animal Rights Group's Lawsuit - pdf, 153 kb
- **May 22, 2008** - Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopts proposed wolf hunting seasons and rules for fall 2008.
- **July 18, 2008** - Federal district judge issues a preliminary injunction that returns wolves in Idaho to endangered species protection and puts hunting seasons on hold.
 - Wolf Delisting Court Case
- **October 14, 2008** - U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy grants the United States' motion to remand the delisting rule to the Fish and Wildlife Service. He also dismisses the lawsuit that challenged the delisting.
 - Remand Order - pdf, 78 kb
- **October 24, 2008** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reopens the public comment period on its proposal to delist the gray wolf in the northern Rocky Mountains. In a notice published in the Federal Register October 28, Fish and Wildlife asks the public to comment and provide any additional information on the February 2007 proposal to delist wolves by November 28.
 - Federal Register Notice - pdf, 421 kb
- **November 6, 2008** - Wolf Management Directives - Adopted by the Idaho Fish & Game Commission November 6, 2008. - pdf, 17 kb
- **November 24, 2008** - Letter From Governor Otter - Support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delisting rule. - pdf, 348 kb | Comments by Idaho Fish & Game & the Idaho Office of Species Conservation - Support of removal of the Northern Rocky Mountain Gray Wolf from the Endangered Species Act. - pdf, 954 kb
- **2008** - 2008 Wolf Conservation and Management Progress Report - pdf, 1.8 mb
 - Wolf Activity Map - pdf, 1.5 mb

2009

2009 Monthly Management Updates

Wolf Management Progress Reports - January-December, 2009 - pdf, 353 kb

- **January 12, 2009** - U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service submits to the Federal Register the text of the final rule to identify the northern rocky mountain population of gray wolf as a distinct population segment and to revise the list of endangered and threatened wildlife.
 - Text of the Final Rule - pdf, 666 kb
- **January 14, 2009** - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announces the pending publication of a delisting rule for gray wolves in the Northern Rocky Mountains and Western Great Lakes. The Northern Rockies rule, however, does not include Wyoming, where wolves will remain on the endangered species list.
 - USFWS Removes Wolves from Endangered Species List - pdf, 35 kb
- **January 20, 2009** - Proposed delisting rule covering Idaho and Montana suspended pending review by the new Obama administration.
- **January 23, 2009** - Nez Perce Tribe supports delisting of the gray wolf in Idaho.
 - Nez Perce Tribe Letter - pdf, 218 kb
- **January 28, 2009** - Idaho Attorney General requests proceeding with delisting of the gray wolf in Idaho.
 - Attorney General Letter - pdf, 100 kb
- **February 2, 2009** - Idaho Congressional Delegation requests timely reievow of the delisting rule.
 - Idaho Congressional Delegation Letter - pdf, 614 kb
- **February 9, 2009** - Various groups support delisting of the gray wolf in Idaho.
 - Various Groups Letter - pdf, 67 kb
- **February 27, 2009** - Idaho Sportsmen's Caucus Advisory Council urges Interior Secretary to proceed with delisting of the gray wolf in Idaho.
 - Sportsmen's Caucus Letter - pdf, 34 kb
- **March 6, 2009** - Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announces that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will send the delisting rule to the Federal Register for publication. The rule would take effect days after publication, and includes wolves in Idaho and Montana; wolves in Wyoming would remain on the endangered species list.
 - Interior Secretary Announces Delisting - pdf, 38 kb
 - Wolf Delisting Rule Announced - IDFG News Release - pdf, 14 kb
- **April 2, 2009** - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule delisting gray wolves in the Northern Rockies and Western Great Lakes published in the Federal Register. Rule would take effect May 4.
 - Final Wolf Delisting Rule - Federal Register, April 2, 2009 - pdf, 485 kb
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delisting Q&A - pdf, 29 kb
- **April 6, 2009** - Idaho Fish and Game Commission sets wolf season dates for 2009. The Commission is scheduled to set numbers of wolves that can be taken by hunters in 2009 at its August, 2009 meeting.

- Wolf Delisting Rule Published In The Federal Register - IDFG News Release (contains wolf season dates information) - pdf, 14 kb
- **May 2009** - Wolves Delisted: Idaho Perspective - pdf, 318 kb
- **May 4, 2009** - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rule delisting gray wolves in the Northern Rockies and Western Great Lakes becomes official.
 - Wolf Delisting Rule Becomes Final - IDFG News Release - pdf, 23 kb
- **June 2009** - Legal challenge filed to wolf delisting.
- **August 17, 2009** - Fish and Game Commission sets harvest limit of 220 wolves statewide and individual harvest limits for each of 12 wolf management zones.
 - Idaho Fish & Game Commission Sets Wolf Hunt Limits - IDFG News Release - pdf, 15 kb
 - Commission Resolution on Wolves - pdf, 28 kb
- **September 1, 2009** - First regulated wolf hunt in Idaho opens.
- **September 8, 2009** - Motion for a preliminary injunction to block wolf hunts in Idaho and Montana denied.
 - Court Ruling - pdf, 169 kb
- **November 2009** - Fish and Game Commission extends wolf season in zones not already closed to March 31, 2010.
- **2009** - 2009 Wolf Conservation and Management Progress Report - pdf, 4.1 mb

2010

2010 Monthly Management Updates

Wolf Management Progress Reports - January-October, 2010 - pdf, 164 kb

- **March 31, 2010** - Idaho wolf hunt closes; hunters harvest 188 wolves.
- **April 5, 2010** - Idaho's First Wolf Hunt Is Over - IDFG News Release - pdf, 16 kb
- **May 14, 2010** - Predation Management Plan For the Lolo and Selway Elk Zones - May 14, 2010 - pdf, 590 kb
- **August 5, 2010** - Gray wolves in Idaho, and the Northern Rocky Mountains are returned to endangered species status. U.S. District Court Judge Donald Molloy ruled that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's delisting rule does not comply with the Endangered Species Act.
 - US Court Ruling Relisting Wolves - pdf, 1.4 mb
- **August 16, 2010** - Resolution of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopted August 16, 2010, for the purpose of providing direction for the management of wolves in Idaho with their relisting by federal court order on August 5, 2010.
 - Wolf Management Resolution - pdf, 74 kb
- **September 24, 2010** - The Idaho Department of Fish and Game has submitted a proposal to reduce the wolf population in part of the Clearwater drainage. The proposal calls for reducing the population of wolves in two big game management units that make up the Lolo elk management zone to address unacceptable impacts of wolf predation.
 - 10(j) Proposal Cover Letter - pdf, 41 kb
 - Lolo 10(j) Wolf Reduction Proposal - pdf, 74 kb

- **October 18, 2010** - Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter returned responsibility for managing wolves in Idaho to the federal government, ending Idaho Fish and Game's role in managing wolves.
 - Governor's Letter to Interior Secretary Salazar - pdf, 193 kb
- **Winter, 2010** - What's All the Howling About - Managing Wolves and Elk in Idaho - Fair Chase Magazine - Winter 2010, pdf, 1.7 mb
- **December 8, 2010** - The Idaho Fish and Game Commission, in a telephone conference call, December 8, suspended Idaho's 2008-2012 species management plan for wolves.
 - Commission Suspends Wolf Species Management Plan - IDFG News Release - pdf, 13 kb
- **2010** - 2010 Wolf Conservation and Management Progress Report - Compiled by the Nez Perce Tribe - pdf, 3 mb

2011

2011 Monthly Management Updates

[November](#) - pdf, 26 kb | [October](#) - pdf, 26 kb | [September](#) - pdf, 25 kb | [August](#) - pdf, 28 kb | [July](#) - pdf, 27 kb | [June](#) - pdf, 27 kb | [May](#) - pdf, 29 kb

- **April 15, 2011** - Congress passed the federal budget, which included a rider sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Sen. Mike Simpson (R-Idaho) requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to republish the 2009 delisting rule within 60 days and remove wolves in Montana, Idaho, eastern Washington, eastern Oregon, and north-central Utah from the endangered species list and turn wolf management over to the states.
- **May 5, 2011** - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published rule that removed wolves in Idaho from the endangered species list. Idaho Fish and Game has taken over management under state law and the 2002 wolf management plan. Wolf tags went on sale.
- **May 19, 2011** - Commission Lays Out Framework For Idaho Wolf Management - IDFG News Release - pdf, 13 kb
- **June 2011** - Idaho Wolves Are Back Under State Management - Idaho Fish and Game News, Vol. 23, Number 6 - pdf, 764 kb
- **December 2011** - Potential Wolf Control Actions in Lolo Zone - pdf, 84 kb
- **2011** - [2011 Wolf Monitoring Progress Report](#) - pdf, 6.3 mb

2012

- **2012** - 2012 Wolf Monitoring Progress Report - pdf, 9.5 mb

2013

- **January 2013** - Wolf Management Update - pdf, 800 kb
- **January 18, 2013** - Commission Approves Fund Transfer For Wolf Control - IDFG News Release - pdf, 13 kb

2014

- **March 2014** - The State of Idaho and Nez Perce Tribe monitored wolves cooperatively in 2013 through a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2005. Biologists documented 107 packs within the state at the end of 2013. In addition, there were 28 documented border packs counted by Montana, Wyoming, and Washington that had established territories overlapping the Idaho state boundary. Additional packs are presumed but not included due to lack of documentation. Reproduction was confirmed for 49 of the 107 documented Idaho packs. Of these, 20 qualified as breeding pairs at the end of the year. Known reproductive packs produced a minimum of 166 pups. The year-end population for documented packs, other documented groups not qualifying as packs, and lone wolves was estimated at 659 wolves (Appendix A).

We documented the mortalities of 473 wolves in Idaho during 2013. Human-caused mortality comprised 466 of 473 (99%) documented wolf mortalities (harvest = 356; control [agency removal, and legal take] = 94; other human causes = 16). The remaining 7 mortalities were attributed to unknown causes.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services agents classified 39 cattle, 404 sheep, 4 dogs, and 1 horse as confirmed wolf depredations in 2013. Seven cattle, 9 sheep, and 1 dog were classified as probable wolf depredations.

2015

- **March 2015** - Biologists documented 104 packs within the state at the end of 2014. In addition, there were 23 documented border packs counted by Montana, Wyoming, and Washington that had established territories overlapping the Idaho state boundary. Additional packs are suspected but not included due to lack of documentation.

Determination of breeding pair status was made for 43 packs. Of these, 26 packs met breeding pair criteria at the end of 2014, and 17 packs did not (Table 1). No determination of breeding pair status was made for the remaining 61 packs. Reproduction (production of at least 1 pup) was documented in a minimum 55 packs.

The year-end population for documented packs, other documented groups not qualifying as packs, and lone wolves was estimated at 770 wolves.

Mortalities of 360 wolves were documented in Idaho in 2014, 113 wolves (24%) less than in 2013. Human-caused mortality accounted for 342 of 344 (99%) wolf mortalities during 2014 where cause of death could be determined. Legal harvest was 256 wolves, agency removal and legal take was 67 wolves, and mortality from other human causes was 19 wolves. Sixteen wolf mortalities were attributed to unknown causes and two were attributed to natural causes.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services agents classified 43 cattle, 100 sheep, 3 dogs, and 1 horse as confirmed wolf depredations in 2014. Ten cattle, 7 sheep, and 1 dog were classified as probable wolf depredations.

2016

- **March 2016** - The year-end population for documented packs, other documented groups not qualifying as packs and lone wolves was estimated at 786 wolves.

Biologists documented 108 packs within the state at the end of 2015. In addition, there were 20 documented border packs counted by Montana, Wyoming, and Washington that had established territories overlapping the Idaho state boundary. Additional packs are suspected but not included due to lack of documentation. Mean pack size was 6.4 wolves, nearly identical to the 2014 average of 6.5.

Reproduction (production of at least 1 pup) was documented in 69 packs, representing the minimum number of reproductive packs extant in the state.

Determination of breeding pair status was made for 53 packs at year's end. Of these, 33 packs (62%) met breeding pair criteria, and 20 packs did not. No determination of breeding pair status was made for the remaining 55 packs.

Mortalities of 358 wolves were documented in Idaho in 2015, and remained essentially unchanged from 2014 ($n = 360$). Human-caused mortality accounted for 352 of 354 (99%) wolf mortalities during 2015 where cause of death could be determined. Legal harvest was 256, identical to that for 2014.

Seventy-five wolves were lethally controlled in 2015, identical to the previous 5-year average. Fifty-four of 75 wolves lethally controlled were removed in response to livestock depredations, or were killed by livestock producers/landowners in defense of property. The remaining 21 wolves lethally controlled were taken in a portion of northern Idaho to mitigate impacts of wolf predation on ungulate populations.

Four wolf mortalities were attributed to unknown causes and two were attributed to natural causes.

USDA APHIS Wildlife Services agents classified 35 cattle, 125 sheep, 3 dogs, and 1 horse as confirmed wolf depredations in 2015. Nine cattle and 9 sheep were classified as probable wolf depredations.

2017

- **January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017** -Wolves are typically born in a single annual birth pulse during late April and early May. To better allow interpretation of management on Idaho's wolf population, harvest data will now be reported on a biological year (BY) basis (nominally set May through April of the following year) rather than a calendar year (CY). For example, BY2016 includes data from May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017.

Most wolves taken by hunting are taken incidental to the fall deer and elk hunting seasons, while wolves taken by trapping are spread relatively evenly throughout the trapping season. The majority of successful hunters and trappers take only a single wolf despite a multiple-wolf bag limit. During BY2016, 226 wolves were harvested in Idaho, 16% below the BY2015 harvest and the lowest since both hunting and trapping were authorized in 2011. Based on genotyping of harvested wolves, reproduction was detected in 53 packs during BY2016.

Two major issues surrounding wolf management are depredations on livestock, and impact of predation on elk, moose, and other ungulates.

Wolf-caused livestock depredations are summarized by CY. Seventy wolves were killed to alleviate depredations on domestic animals in CY2016, nearly identical to the previous 5-year average. Twenty wolves were killed during February 2016 to address wolf predation on elk in the Lolo Elk Zone.

Statewide, instantaneous annual survival of cow elk was 88.9% during 2014-2016. Of the 11.1% mortality, hunting-related elk mortality was 4.2%, predation 3.6%, and other or unknown causes 3.2%. In those elk zones identified in the IDFG Elk Management Plan as having the highest intensity of predation impacts, survival was 91.0%. Of the 9% mortality, 1.6% was hunter harvest, 4.8% was predation, and 2.7% mortality by other or unknown causes. Predation of cow elk by wolves was second to that of cougars.

Six-month survival of calf elk collared during winter was 59.0% statewide during 2014-2017, with 0.3% taken by hunters, 23.3% by predation, 10.5% malnutrition, and 7.2% from other or unknown causes. In those units identified in the elk plan as having the highest intensity of predation impacts, six-month calf elk survival was 52.7%, with 31.0% taken by predation, 8.5% malnutrition, and 7.8% by other and unknown causes. Predation of calf elk by wolves was second to that of cougars during this period. Considering prior research on

fates of radio-collared neonate elk, calf predation by wolves is likely exceeded by that of both cougars and black bears on an annual basis.

Works Cited

“Wolf Management / Status Timeline: Idaho Fish and Game.” *Idaho Department of Fish and Game*, Idaho Official Government Website, 2018,
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