

Oregon Wolf Program
November 25, 2009 through January 31, 2010 Update

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Reports of Wolf Activity: 38 wolf reports were received by ODFW during the reporting period as follows; east wolf management zone (25) and west wolf management zone (13). [*Note: The boundary between the two zones is Hwy 97/20/395.*] Types of wolf reports are categorized as; sighting reports (21), track reports (15), and howling reports (2).

Field Investigations/Monitoring:

Note: In these monthly updates wolves are reported in Oregon by Wildlife Management Units. This is done to maintain consistency with other wildlife species whose populations are monitored by the same unit boundaries. The Oregon Wildlife Management Unit map can be viewed online at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/bunting/big_game/units/index.asp

B300/Imnaha Unit: The female wolf (B300) was located several times over the period and all locations were within the Imnaha Unit. No additional visual observations have been made since the November 12, 2009 video of B300's pack was taken. The number of pups in the pack remained unconfirmed during the reporting period.

Livestock Damage Reports/Concerns: No reports of depredation were received by ODFW during the period.

Aerial Monitoring: Seven aerial flights were conducted by ODFW during the period. All were for monitoring the locations of B300 and her pack.

Media and Presentations:

- Three media interviews were given this reporting period. Two newspaper interviews and one magazine.
- A wolf update presentation was given to the Snake Basin Soil Water Conservation District on December 1.
- Attended Oregon Cattlemen's Association annual meeting in Bend on December 4 and gave a brief update on recent wolf activity.
- A wolf presentation was given at Enterprise High School on December 7.
- Attended panel discussion of Oregon wolf management in Portland on January 13.

Miscellaneous:

- Nine days were spent making initial preparations for the planned upcoming aerial wolf-capture. We intend to dart wolves from the Imnaha pack for the purpose of installing additional radio collars on individual members. If successful, one GPS collar and up to three additional conventional radio collars will be installed. Preparations include helicopter contracting, equipment, logistics, permits and capture crew planning. Radio collars are an important component of Oregon wolf management as they allow biologists to gather important information on pack size, breeding success, dispersal of young, prey selection, and daily and seasonal movements.
- Attended USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) annual meeting on Jan. 27. Gave a brief wolf update and discussed incidental take precautions for WS employees. ODFW continues to work with WS in the development of an Incidental Take Permit.

Wolf Plan Evaluation: 2010 marks the fifth year of implementation of the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. The plan calls for Commission evaluation every five years, similar to other conservation plans, with the first review in 2010. This schedule also meets the requirement by ORS 496.176(8) for reviewing the status of listed gray wolves under Oregon ESA. The plan acknowledges that any formal evaluation of the plan could result in a decision by the Commission to enter into rulemaking and amend the plan.

A preliminary evaluation of the plan is being developed during the reporting period and will be presented to the ODFW Commission in March. This will serve as a starting point for the evaluation process. At the March Commission meeting, staff will seek Commission guidance on how to proceed with the plan evaluation and a timeline for completion.

