

# Oregon Wolf Program Update

## July, 2011

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**Reports of Wolf Activity:** Ten wolf reports were received by ODFW during July. One wolf report was from the west wolf management zone (a sighting report), and nine were from the east zone (1 track report, 7 sighting reports, 1 photograph).

### **Field Investigations/Monitoring:**

**Imnaha Pack:** The pack continues to use their normal summer range area, primarily on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Of the 570 location data points collected during the month, 551 (97%) were on public land and 19 (3%) were on private lands. Field observations and data collected from remote cameras in the area of the pack revealed four adult wolves (three radio collared wolves, one un-collared wolf). In addition to the four adult wolves, there is now confirmation of reproduction this year in the Imnaha pack. Photographs and visual observations indicate that there may be only one pup, but it is possible with further monitoring that more pups will be found.

The two-year-old radio-collared wolf OR-9 dispersed from the Imnaha pack. On July 18<sup>th</sup> he moved south into Idaho. He swam across Brownlee Reservoir and by the end of the month he was 60 miles away from his birthplace. Idaho Fish and Game and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service were contacted. ODFW will report on him again if he returns to Oregon.

The three-year-old radio-collared wolf OR-3 was located in July in the Fossil Unit. He was last observed on May 10<sup>th</sup> in the Sled Springs Unit shortly after he left the Imnaha pack area. After a trail camera picture was reported to ODFW from the west Blue Mountain area, three attempts were made to locate him. He was located by aerial telemetry on July 30<sup>th</sup> southeast of Fossil, OR. There was no visual confirmation so it is unknown if he is alone or has found other wolves. It is also unknown if he will stay in this area or continue to travel. This area is about 140 miles from his birthplace. ODFW contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as this wolf is federally listed as endangered in his current location (west of boundary Hwys 395-78-95).

**Wenaha Pack:** ODFW conducted wolf surveys in the Wenaha Unit on 22 days during the month. Wolf tracks and scat were observed on 18 of those days. More time was spent on this pack this month due to a student intern that was hired through OSU. ODFW attempted to trap and radio-collar a wolf from the pack in July but was unsuccessful. In addition, we continued with the use of remote cameras and captured photographs of three adult wolves on several days. Reproduction has not yet been confirmed in the Wenaha pack this year.

**Snake River Unit:** A 3-day 30-mile pack trip yielded one possible wolf scat. It was sent off for laboratory analysis.

**Starkey Unit:** One day was spent surveying 22 miles in the southwest part of the unit. There were no wolf pictures on the trail camera that was active all winter.

**Walla Walla Unit:** Two days were spent surveying for wolf sign, none was found. This area will be a focus in August.

**Aerial Monitoring:** Two aerial flights were conducted in July to monitor OR-3.

**Livestock Depredation, Investigations, and Livestock Producer Assistance:**

No wolf depredation was confirmed during July. ODFW performed three wolf depredation investigations during the month in Wallowa County. Two investigations were conducted in Umatilla County. A summary of each investigation can be viewed at the following link [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/livestock\\_loss\\_investigations.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/livestock_loss_investigations.asp).

In [early June](#), ODFW planned to kill an additional wolf in response to livestock depredation. But with no evidence of wolf activity in the target area where previous depredations had occurred, ODFW has not killed any additional wolves.

**Non lethal/preventative actions:** The range rider program was continued in July through a direct agreement between an area livestock producer and Defenders of Wildlife. The range rider actively monitors wolves, patrols livestock and hazes wolves from livestock where necessary. For the second year, one livestock producer with cows on a Forest Service allotment put bells on some of his adult cows in an experimental attempt to prevent depredation of livestock. ODFW continued to send text messages on 30 days in the month of July to livestock producers with livestock in the area of the Imnaha pack. During the month a total of 359 text messages were sent. In addition to text messaging, ODFW made 25 personal contacts with area livestock producers regarding wolf management.

#### **Media and Presentations:**

Two wolf presentations regarding Oregon wolf management activities were given during the month; one to the La Grande Rotary and one field presentation to Oregon Wild.