



## Oregon Wolf Program December, 2008 Update

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**Wolf reports:** A total of 30 wolf reports were received by ODFW during December as follows: Eastern Oregon (26) and Western Oregon (4). The online wolf reporting system (see ODFW wolf web page) is being used by the public and 6 reports were made via the online system. Oregon’s hunters continue to play an important role in the reporting of wolf observations and 12 (46%) of the eastern Oregon reports were generated by hunters who were in the field during fall hunting seasons. It is also notable that increasing numbers of observations are of paired or multiple wolves. In eastern Oregon, 13 (50%) of the 26 reports were of more than one animal. It is recognized that not all wolf reports are actually wild wolves. However, increases in paired wolf sightings may be related to the time of year and the onset of breeding season. Types of wolf reports received are categorized as follows: tracks (7), sightings (21), howling (1), and scat (1).

**Field Investigations/Confirmations:** A total of 16 days were spent investigating wolf activity during December; field tracking (15 days), aerial telemetry (1 day). Field tracking consists of snow transect surveys by vehicle (pick-up or snow machine) after fresh snowfall.

Wildlife Management Unit *	Days	Transect Miles	Evidence Collected
Pine Creek	2	67.3	pair of tracks located
Murderers Creek	2	56	
Imnaha	1	25	pair of tracks located
Wenaha	3	110	pair of tracks located
Mt. Emily	1	22.6	
Catherine Creek	4	98.6	
Starkey	2	27.4	single track located
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>406.9</b>	

\* The Oregon Wildlife Management Unit map can be viewed online at:  
[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big\\_game/units/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/big_game/units/index.asp)

### Discussion of findings:

The tracks located in the Pine Creek and Imnaha Units were in relatively close proximity (<10 mi) to each other and may have been made by the same wolves. Their locations are consistent with a number of wolf reports from that area over the fall season. In addition, it is the same area that B300 (the radio-collared wolf discovered a year ago) has frequented throughout the summer.

The Wenaha Unit tracks were in the same general area that breeding was documented during the past summer. The tracks were both of adult wolves and the fate of last summer’s pups is uncertain at this time. This area will continue to be monitored throughout the winter to determine the fate of last year’s breeding attempt.





The single track in the Starkey Unit was located after receiving a public wolf sighting report. Immediate investigation revealed a single set of wolf tracks. This is also an area of several wolf reports over the past 6 months, and will be a focus of track surveys throughout the winter.

The wolf scat finding was made by an ODFW wildlife research team while conducting cougar research in the north Mt. Emily Unit. The research will continue throughout the winter and the likelihood of finding more wolf sign, if present, is expected to be high.

**Aerial Monitoring:** A 3.25 hour flight was conducted in December to aerially monitor the radio-collared female wolf (B300) in the Imnaha Unit and again her signal was not detected. This wolf was last located in September, 2008 and the status of the wolf (or the collar) is uncertain. Efforts will continue to monitor this wolf. The remainder of the flight was spent scanning for B300 and other 'missing' Idaho wolves in south Baker County – no detections were made.

**Livestock Damage Reports/Concerns:** None

**Meetings and Presentations:** None

**Miscellaneous Coordination Activities:**

- Worked with I&E staff to update the ODFW wolf web page.
- Developed wolf tracking survey forms and protocol, and distributed to NE Oregon wildlife districts. Forms were developed as an aid to recording necessary information when tracks are found.
- Coordinated tracking survey protocol with Umatilla National Forest staff so that they can be more involved with wolf survey efforts.