

Summary of Proactive Management Activities conducted in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in 2010

The Interagency Field Team (IFT), working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and livestock producers implemented proactive management activities to assist in eliminating or reducing wolf livestock conflicts in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). The Blue Range Wolf Reintroduction Project (Project) and NGOs spent approximately \$100,000 on proactive management activities affecting an estimated 7100 livestock. This represented approximately 15% of the permitted livestock grazing in the BRWRA. The IFT, agency contract employees, and NGO contract employees spent approximately 5750 hours implementing proactive management activities.

The IFT installed and maintained turbo fladry around one large pasture for one livestock producer in Arizona to protect livestock on both public land and private property. No livestock depredation incidences occurred within the enclosed areas following the installation of the turbo fladry. Additional fladry was installed in smaller areas for night enclosures.

The IFT intensively monitored and hazed the Hawks Nest pack in response to the close proximity of livestock to this pack during the summer grazing season on public lands in Arizona. No livestock depredation was documented in the area where these wolves were present.

The Project and NGOs purchased hay during the calving season for one livestock producer in Arizona, and supplements for two additional livestock producers. One livestock depredation incident occurred on grazing lands associated with these ranches.

The Project coordinated with the Reserve Ranger District and a livestock producer in New Mexico to address potential conflicts between livestock and wolves. Livestock were scheduled to graze in the pasture where wolves had denned. The District and the livestock producer changed the pasture rotation and moved livestock into an alternate pasture for the denning season. Previous analyses and a decision by the District identified the need for two dirt water tanks in order for the alternate pasture to accommodate livestock. The District funded and pushed up the construction of the two tanks to allow the alternate pasture to be grazed during the denning season. No known depredations occurred on the allotment during 2010.

Project personnel met with District Rangers, biologists and range staffs, to discuss livestock management during the wolf denning season. In several cases, Districts in both states changed Annual Operating Plans and pasture rotations to potentially reduce interactions between livestock and denning wolves.

The Project and NGOs contracted eight range riders to assist eight livestock producers (six in Arizona, two in New Mexico) in monitoring wolves in relation to cattle. Range riders monitored approximately 6200 livestock within six wolf pack home ranges, and provided additional oversight of livestock and light hazing of wolves when they were among the livestock. No depredations are known to have occurred on the allotments during the periods when range riders were under contract.

The IFT coordinated with two NGOs, NMDGF, and the USFS who contracted to build a fence to split a pasture in order to keep livestock out of a traditional wolf denning area during the denning season. Unfortunately, the contractor was unable to complete the fence during 2010 due to extenuating circumstances. The fence is slated for completion in 2011.

The IFT issued radio telemetry equipment to livestock producers in areas where wolf-livestock conflicts were prevalent. Two sets of telemetry equipment were issued to livestock producers in Arizona and five sets were issued in New Mexico. Two of these loans were in response to depredations by wolves on specific allotments. The IFT trained livestock producers to use the telemetry equipment to monitor wolves in the vicinity of cattle or residences. The IFT instructed livestock producers on non-injurious hazing techniques. Livestock producers were encouraged to contact the IFT for assistance and were required to report any wolf-livestock conflicts requiring intensive hazing efforts. These measures resulted in livestock

producers increasing their vigilance over livestock when wolves were in the vicinity and livestock producers felt the equipment helped them to reduce the potential for livestock depredations.

Diversionsary or supplemental food caches were utilized for three packs in 2010. Diversionsary food caches were utilized in order to reduce potential conflicts between wolves and livestock. Supplemental food caches were utilized to assist a pack or remnant of a pack in feeding young of the year when extenuating circumstances reduced their own ability to do so. Supplemental food caches also served to reduce potential conflicts between wolves and livestock. The alpha male of the San Mateo pack died in June, while the alpha male and a yearling male of the Hawks Nest pack died in July. Both of these packs were denning and assumed to have young pups when the adults died. The IFT established supplemental food caches within a reasonable distance of the two dens in order to help the remaining adults feed the young of the year and to reduce the likelihood of livestock depredations. In both situations, two or more pups survived until the end of the year. In a third situation, a diversionsary food cache was established for the Middle Fork pack during the denning season to reduce depredation potential. The IFT determined the Middle Fork pack to have been involved in ten confirmed livestock depredations in 2009. Following the implementation of proactive management activities, the Middle Fork pack had no known livestock depredations in 2010.

One livestock producer moved livestock out of their winter range pastures and grazed them on leased land outside of the BRWRA. This change in management allowed the winter range to be rested from livestock grazing. The potential for winter depredations was greatly reduced in the area. An NGO paid for the costs associated with shipping the livestock to the leased land.

Cracker shells were allocated to two livestock producers for use in hazing wolves that entered private land. IFT personnel hazed wolves on a number of occasions when wolves were creating nuisances to private landowners or were in close proximity to livestock on private and public land. In many cases, the wolves moved away though a few were persistent in returning.

Proactive management activities conducted in Arizona and New Mexico during 2010.

Proactive Management Activity	Purpose	Date	Location	Wolf ID	Management Result
Fladry – 3 miles	Reduce the probability of livestock depredation within a small area.	May to October	Sheep Springs, AZ	Paradise, uncollared?	No known livestock depredations
Fladry – variable	Reduce the probability of livestock depredation on sheep at night.	May to September	Sheep Springs, AZ	Paradise, uncollared?	No known livestock depredations
Transport	Move livestock out of area in winter.	December	Greer, AZ	Paradise, Hawks Nest, Uncollared	No livestock depredation
Hay and Supplements	Reduce the probability of livestock depredation during calving season.	January to March	Blue River, AZ	Uncollared Wolves	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	June through September	Crosby Crossing, AZ	Hawks Nest	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	July through November	Mangas, NM	San Mateo	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	July to October	Greens Peak, AZ	Paradise, Uncollared Wolves	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	July through October	Beaverhead NM	Morgart, Middle Fork	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	August to November	Black River, AZ	Bluestem	No additional livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	December	Strayhorse, AZ	Uncollared wolves	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	May through August	Pole Knoll, AZ	Paradise, Uncollared Wolves	No known livestock depredations
Range Rider	Reduce the probability of predator depredation on free-ranging livestock.	September	Greer, AZ	Uncollared	No additional livestock depredations
Built 2 Water Dirt Tanks	Allow use of alternate pasture to reduce wolf depredation.	May	Elk Mountain, NM	Middle Fork	No known livestock depredations