

Summary of Proactive Management Activities conducted in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area in 2013

The IFT, working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), used proactive management to assist in reducing wolf-livestock conflicts in the BRWRA (Table 10). The Reintroduction Project and NGOs spent approximately \$114,650 on proactive management activities affecting an estimated 4,820 livestock (2910 in Arizona, 1910 in New Mexico). The IFT, agency contract employees, and NGO contract employees spent approximately 10,800 hours implementing proactive management activities during 2013.

The agencies and NGOs purchased hay and supplements during the calving season for four stakeholders in Arizona and New Mexico. No known depredations occurred on the four ranches. The project assisted another rancher in the purchase of water, which allowed livestock grazing in an allotment away from an active wolf den in New Mexico. No depredations are known to have occurred on the allotment during 2013. Project personnel met with Forest District Rangers, biologists and range staffs, to discuss livestock management during the wolf denning season. The IFT coordinated with the Alpine, Clifton, Springerville, Black Range, Glenwood, Quemado, and Reserve Ranger Districts and stakeholders in Arizona and New Mexico to address potential conflicts between livestock and wolves. In several of these cases, livestock were scheduled to graze in or near pastures where wolves were denning. In pursuing efforts to reduce interactions between livestock and denning wolves, the Districts and ranchers changed pasture rotations and moved livestock into alternate pastures during the denning season, where possible.

During 2013, the Reintroduction Project and NGOs contracted 13 range riders (six in Arizona, seven in New Mexico) to assist 16 stakeholders (eight in Arizona, eight in New Mexico) in monitoring wolves in proximity to cattle. Range riders monitored approximately 4,310 livestock within eight wolf pack home ranges, and provided additional oversight of livestock and light hazing of wolves when they were among livestock. Nine depredations occurred on allotments (five in Arizona, four in New Mexico) while ranger riders were under contract in 2013.

The IFT issued radio telemetry equipment to stakeholders (six in Arizona, seven in New Mexico) in areas where wolf-livestock conflicts were prevalent. Most of these equipment loans were in association with range riders. The IFT trained stakeholders to use the telemetry equipment to monitor wolves in the vicinity of cattle or residences, and instructed them on non-injurious hazing techniques. Stakeholders were encouraged to contact the IFT for assistance and were required to report any wolf-livestock conflicts requiring hazing efforts. These measures resulted in stakeholders increasing their vigilance over livestock when wolves were in the vicinity and likely helped reduce the potential for livestock depredations.

Supplemental food caches were utilized to assist a pack or remnant of a pack in feeding young of the year when extenuating circumstances (such as a death of one of the

adults) reduce their own ability to do so. Supplemental food caches also served to reduce potential conflicts between wolves and livestock. Supplemental food caches were utilized for the Bluestem pack in 2013. The IFT had not verified an alpha male in the pack when the alpha female denned. They established a supplemental food cache within a reasonable distance of the den and rendezvous sites to help the female feed the young of the year and to reduce the likelihood of livestock depredations. One livestock depredation involving the Bluestem pack occurred in 2013, and six pups survived to year-end.

Diversionsary food caches are utilized to reduce potential conflicts between wolves and livestock, primarily in areas where depredations have occurred in the past. Diversionsary food caches were established for three packs during the 2013 denning season (April-July): the Prieto pack, Willow Springs pack, and Fox Mountain pack. Two depredations were assigned to the Prieto pack prior to the establishment of a food cache. No depredations were reported once the food cache was in place. Between May and September, no depredations were assigned to the Willow Springs pack. Prior to establishment of a diversionsary food cache in April, members of the Fox Mountain pack were involved in two depredations. A range rider was employed after the third, and a second food cache was established after the fourth depredation. Following a fifth depredation assigned to members of the Fox Mountain pack, a removal order for M1276, m1274, or an uncollared male wolf of the Fox Mountain pack was issued by the USFWS. Yearling m1274 was removed in November, 2013 to fulfill this removal order.