

Proactive Management Activities

The IFT, working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), used proactive management to assist in reducing wolf-livestock conflicts in the BRWRA. The Reintroduction Project and NGOs spent approximately \$120,000 on proactive management activities affecting an estimated 10 Allotments in Arizona and 8 in New Mexico. The IFT, agency contract employees, and NGO contract employees spent approximately 11,800 hours implementing proactive management activities during 2014.

The agencies and NGOs purchased hay and supplements during the calving season for three stakeholders in Arizona and none in New Mexico. No known depredations occurred on the eight allotments. 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, Quemado, Wilderness, 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. The movements were voluntary for the ranchers.

During 2014, the Reintroduction Project and NGOs contracted 15 range riders (8 in Arizona, and 7 in New Mexico) to assist 21 stakeholders (10 in Arizona, 11 in New Mexico) in monitoring wolves in proximity to cattle. Range riders monitored approximately 20 allotments within 10 wolf pack home ranges, one single wolf home range and one uncollared group of wolves, and provided additional oversight of livestock and light hazing of wolves when they were among livestock. Twelve confirmed depredation incidents occurred on monitored allotments while ranger riders were under contract.

The IFT issued radio telemetry equipment to stakeholders (9 in Arizona, 13 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.

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 were utilized for five packs (3 in Arizona, 2 in New Mexico) in 2014. Following the death of AM1287 of the Elk Horn Pack, a supplemental food cache was established to assist AF1294 feed at least three pups; two pups survived to year-end. The IFT cross-fostered two pups into the Dark Canyon den and thus, established a supplemental food cache within a reasonable distance to the den and rendezvous sties to assist in the success of the effort. The Mangas pack exhibited denning behavior in 2014; following the death of F1327, a supplemental food cache was established to help M1296 feed potential young. However, the effort was stopped in October when M1296 starting making large movements outside its territory, suggesting there were no surviving pups. Both the Coronado

pack and Hoodoo pack were released or translocated prior to denning. In both instances the packs did not remain together. Supplemental food caches were established for both females to help them feed potential pups following whelping. F1218 of the Hoodoo pack did not produce pups and was subsequently located dead from an illegal gun shot. AF1126 of the Coronado pack produced six pups. AF1126 was subsequently captured and transported to captivity with four of its pups for pairing with another male wolf and future translocation. The remaining two pups were cross-fostered into the Dark Canyon pack

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 six packs during 2014. Following the confirmed injury of two horses by members of the Bluestem pack in July, a diversionsary food cache was established. In November, one additional depredation by the Bluestem pack was documented. After one confirmed and one probable depredation involving uncollared wolves loosely associated with the Luna pack a diversionsary food cache was established. No further depredations involving these uncollared wolves were reported after the food cache was in place. After two depredations involving collared members of the Willow Springs pack a diversionsary food cache was established. No depredations were reported after the food cache was in place. A diversionsary food cache was proactively established for the Prieto pack, due to denning in proximity to grazing livestock and prior depredation history during 2013. AM1387 was involved in the injury of two horses in July; but, no other depredations involving the Prieto pack occurred in 2014. The IFT attempted to proactively establish a diversionsary food cache for the Fox Mountain pack due to denning in close proximity to grazing livestock in conjunction with their past depredation history. However, a depredation involving the Fox Mountain pack occurred prior to the pack locating and utilizing the food cache. The diversionsary food cache was moved and the pack located and began utilizing it; no confirmed depredations involving the Fox Mountain pack occurred during the remainder of 2014.