

Proactive Management Activities

The IFT, working with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), used proactive management to assist in reducing wolf-livestock conflicts in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Area. The Reintroduction Project and NGOs spent approximately \$164,500 on proactive management activities affecting an estimated 10 Allotments in Arizona and 12 in New Mexico. The IFT, agency contract employees, and NGO contract employees spent approximately 11,800 hours implementing proactive management activities during 2015.

The agencies and NGOs purchased hay and supplements during the calving season for two ranchers in Arizona and New Mexico to help prevent depredation of livestock. Project personnel met with Forest District Rangers, biologists and range staffs to discuss wolf avoidance livestock management options 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 livestock producers changed pasture rotations and moved livestock into alternate pastures during the denning season, where possible. The suggested livestock movements were voluntary for the livestock producers.

During 2015, the Reintroduction Project and NGOs contracted 17 range riders (8 in Arizona, and 9 in New Mexico; to assist 20 livestock producers (12 in Arizona, 8 in New Mexico) in monitoring wolves in proximity to cattle. Range riders monitored approximately 30 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. Twenty-four confirmed depredation incidents occurred on monitored allotments while range riders were under contract.

The IFT issued radio telemetry equipment to livestock producers (9 in Arizona, 14 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 livestock producers 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 are 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. In 2015 no supplemental feeding was required.

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 2015. In New Mexico a total of 7 diversionsary food caches were established to reduce depredations within the territories of Luna, Lava, Prieto, and Willow Springs packs. In Arizona a total of two diversionsary food caches were established within the Bluestem and Panther Creek pack territories.