



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## NEWS RELEASE

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### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE REPORTS LETHAL CONTROL OF DEPREDATING WOLVES NEAR STANLEY, IDAHO

Two adult male wolves were shot and killed on Friday, June 29, by federal wildlife specialists, after USDA Wildlife Services confirmed that they had killed 8 sheep the previous evening. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service authorized the control action following earlier depredations that killed 8 sheep and 1 guard dog on June 9 and a calf on June 13. Attempts to trap and relocate the depredating wolves were unsuccessful after those events.

Both wolves, B-40M and B-101M, were part of the Whitehawk pack. Recent monitoring of radio signals from both collared animals revealed that they were involved in earlier depredation events and attempts. Regulations developed for managing the gray wolves introduced into Idaho in 1995 provide for control of wolves that prey on livestock. Control actions can include trapping and relocating or killing animals involved. "Killing depredating wolves is an action of last resort, but appropriate in this case," according to Carter Niemeyer, Wolf Recovery Coordinator. "Their involvement in multiple and continuing depredation events and unsuccessful attempts to trap and relocate them led to the lethal action."

Wolves in Idaho are making progress toward recovery. Monitoring by the Nez Perce tribe led to an estimate of 191 wolves in Idaho before this year's breeding season. Nine pups were produced by the Whitehawk pack this year, and preliminary indications are that other packs have reproduced successfully also.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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