



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

1387 S. Vinnell Way, Room 368 • Boise, Idaho 83709

(208) 378-5243 • FAX (208) 378-5262

Contact: Carter Niemeyer or Meggan Laxalt - (208) 378-5243

#01-04

March 21, 2001

GRAY WOLF KILLED IN ACT OF LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION

A gray wolf was shot and killed by a livestock producer in the early morning hours of March 19, 2001. The radio-collared wolf was in the act of killing a calf on the rancher's private property in the East Fork of the Salmon River. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officials confirmed the death of a two-year-old subadult male member of the White Hawk Pack.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officer Paul Weyland stated that although several other wolves were involved in the depredation incident, the livestock producer chose to shoot only one of the animals. Wildlife specialists and law enforcement officers were informed immediately of the event, and an investigation and necropsy followed later that day.

The Service's Idaho Wolf Recovery Coordinator, Carter Niemeyer, noted that the experimental rule allows for livestock producers to "take" (injure or kill) a wolf on their private land if the animal is in the act of killing, wounding or biting livestock. Niemeyer said, "Evidence revealed that this was a classic wolf depredation incident, and that the property owner had every legal right to act as he did."

Radio signals continue to be received in the drainage. Nez Perce Tribe, USDA Wildlife Services and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wolf recovery officials will continue to monitor the situation in the East Fork.

###

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 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 531 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 66 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.