



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOLF FOUND DEAD NEAR YELLOW PINE, IDAHO

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement agents have confirmed the death of a gray wolf in Valley County, about 13 miles east of Yellow Pine, Idaho. An initial investigation indicates the wolf died from a gunshot wound.

The wolf has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensics lab in Ashland, Oregon, for necropsy to confirm the cause of death and determine other specifics about the wolf's death. Service special agents are pursuing several possible leads about the case. Anyone with information about the killing or suspicious behavior between March 16 and March 19, 2002, should contact the Service's Boise Law Enforcement Division. Paul Weyland, lead special agent on the case, said, "We encourage citizens with information about this case to contact us as soon as possible. Substantial rewards are offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this illegal act."

The Yellow Pine case is the second illegal killing of a gray wolf in Idaho this year. An uncollared adult gray wolf was found shot to death near Glenns Ferry, Idaho, in January, 2002.

The killing of an animal protected under the Endangered Species Act is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. The Service is requesting that anyone who may have information regarding this case, or any other illegal wolf killing, to please contact law enforcement agents at (208) 378-5333.

FWS

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 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 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.