Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

March 5, 2010

WOLF FUNDING

The following information was obtained from the USFWS and is based on information from the DRAFT USFWS Interagency Annual Report for 2009: Wolf recovery has been almost entirely funded by federal appropriations and some private donations. Wolf recovery and management in the northern Rocky Mountains (Idaho, Wyoming, Montana) from 1974 (when wolves first became listed) through federal fiscal year 2009 has cost approximately $35,724,000.

A condition of Montana assuming wolf management responsibilities from USFWS in 2004 was that federal funds would be provided under the contractual terms of a Cooperative Agreement signed by FWP and USFWS. Since then, all of FWP's core wolf program has been funded through federal sources. Since FY2000, FWP has spent $2,381,806 in federal dollars. An additional $44,770 of state dollars have been spent by FWP since FY2000. The annual amount of federal dollars spent by FWP for wolf management in the past 5 years is as follows:

- FY 2006 - $401,464
- FY 2007 - $473,546
- FY 2008 - $485,968
- FY 2009 - $609,261
- FY 2010 - $721,177 (includes carry-over from previous year)
- FY 2011 - $626,000 (in USFWS FFY10 budget)

Most of this funding has been spent for recovery coordination and on-the-ground implementation of Montana's wolf program including population monitoring, collaring, data management, depredation response, research, outreach, and reporting.

Other FWP staff make significant contributions to the program above and beyond the work done by staff whose primary responsibilities are wolf-related. Examples include administration, incidental biologist / field technician activities, law enforcement, public outreach, and legal support. Exact figures have not been quantified.

Beginning with FY2008, the FWP and USDA Wildlife Services agreed that $110,000/year that FWP had provided Wildlife Services for predator control for wildlife management purposes would instead be used for wolf management and control (thus enabling Wildlife Services to utilize $110,000 of federal money that they had been spending on wolves to be used for coyote control elsewhere). Total FWP license funding provided to Wildlife Services for wolf management from FY2008 forward is $110,000/year.

Wildlife Services is funded through the regular Congressional budgeting process as a federal agency in additional to special Congressional directives, particularly with respect to wolf-related work. WS also receives money from other sources in Montana for other agency activities, including the state per capita fee and county livestock assessments. Wildlife Services the appropriate agency to speak to agency funding sources, amount of special Congressional directives routed to Montana, and actual expenditures. Information from Wildlife Services regarding expenditures (as described in the Annual Wolf Report) through 2008 indicates the following:

In FFY 2007, WS spent an estimated $183,924 responding to wolf complaints and assisting MFWP with depredation management responses such as radio collaring or killing problem wolves. This is an increase above the estimated $152,000 spent in federal fiscal year 2006. In FFY 2008, Montana WS expended approximately $227,437. This is an increase of about $43,500 over the previous year. The increase is due in part to increases in fixed costs (e.g. fuel or personnel) and working in new areas. Administrative time is not reflected in the total.