

MEETING REPORT
UTAH WOLF WORKING GROUP (WWG)
Meeting #8
27 July 2004
DNR Room 1050; Salt Lake City, UT

PARTICIPANTS:

Trey Simmons, Sterling Brown (alternate), Charles Kay (alternate), Bill Fenimore (alternate for Debbie Goodman), Mike Wolfe (alternate for Robert Schmidt - part), Clark Willis, Bill Burbidge, Bill Christensen, Allison Jones, Don Peay (part)

Missing: Mark Walsh, Karen Corts

Technical Advisors: Alan Clark, Mike Bodenchuk, Laura Romin

Others: Debbie Goodman, Byron Bateman (alternate), Doug Smith, Larry Dalton (part),

Public (AM only): Mark Nixon, Lori Nixon, JoAnne Bean, Jack R. Bean, Marlene Foard, Karen Byington, Emroy Byington

Facilitator: Walt Gasson - Dynamic Solutions Group, LLC

Recorder: Dana Dolsen, UDWR

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS

Walt will get final June meeting record out by July 30, for posting on the web site.

**Walt will get the draft meeting record from today out for review by July 31.
Comments on the draft are due to him by August 17.**

**Bill Burbidge will send the preliminary report to the legislature to Alan Clark.
Alan will send it to the interim committee.**

The Wolf/Human Interaction and Information/Education subgroups will present their bullet points at the August meeting for final approval by the WWG.

The Monitoring Wolf Numbers and Distribution/Wolf Management and Research subgroup and the Funding subgroup will present the first draft of their bullet points at the August meeting, with final approval scheduled for the September meeting.

Walt will develop draft thank-you letters to be sent to Idaho Fish and Game and National Park Service – YNP to thank them for Steve Nadeau's and Doug Smith's excellent presentations.

Alan will notify Mark Walsh and Karen Corts about the concerns of the WWG regarding their absence at meetings.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF 6/29 MEETING RECORD

The group approved the June 29 meeting record, with minor changes. Walt will make these changes, and the final version will be posted to the website.

PRELIMINARY REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE

Bill Burbridge sent the report as approved by the WWG to Alan, but Alan never received it. Bill will re-send it to Alan, and Alan will provide it to the interim committee.

PRESENTATION – DOUG SMITH

Doug Smith from the National Park Service discussed the status of wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Notes taken by Alan Clark are attached, as a part of this meeting record.

DRAFT OUTLINE FOR THE PLAN

Alan Clark presented the draft outline for the plan. He noted that the material assembled by Craig McLaughlin formed the basis for this outline, and that he developed the purpose, goal and objectives to be in agreement with HJR12. No changes will be made in the purpose, goal or objectives today, but they will be finalized and approved at the August 31 meeting. A discussion on the draft outline ensued, and the following points were captured:

- What kind of plan is this? It is an interim plan or contingency plan for a 10 year period.
- Objectives 1a, 1b, and 1c came directly from HJR12.
- Most of the issues that must be addressed will be addressed as strategies, since strategies must be acted on and resolved.
- The wording of the objectives troubled some people, particularly the phrase “Prevent wolves from becoming established...”
- We should deal with conflicts as they arise through the use of adaptive management by identifying potential solutions to conflicts.
- Define what is an acceptable level of conflict with livestock or wildlife and have an array of strategies to address different scenarios.
- Suggested changes in Objectives 1a-c: “Manage wolves as established by the plan as conflict situations arise” in the three categories noted.
- Suggested change: “Prevent livestock depredation through...”
- Suggested change: “To the greatest extent possible, prevent livestock depredation through...”
- Clarify the starting point in the purpose statement (e.g., 10 years from the time legal status of wolves changes).
- Reformulate wording in #2 to reflect action being dependent on the change in legal status of wolves.
- There is a concern about the inclusion of the use of the term “adaptive” in the purpose and/or goal.

SUBGROUPS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Subgroups with representation from a variety of interests were formed to deal with strategies from the outline. Technical advisors were assigned to each. The subgroups will develop bullet points for each strategy. These bullet points will be reviewed and approved by the WWG on the dates noted. All bullet points should be approved by the WWG by the end of the October meeting, in order to provide UDWR with the major points of the plan by the third week of November. Walt will then develop narrative for the plan based on those bullet points. The subgroups, with associated technical advisors and deadlines, as approved by the WWG, appear below:

Monitoring Wolf Numbers and Distribution/Wolf Management and Research

Trey S.

Byron B.

Sterling B.

Bill B.

Technical Advisors: Laura Romin (when available), Alan Clark and new Mammals Coordinator (Craig's replacement)

Due Dates: First draft – Aug. 31 meeting; Final Approval – Sept. 28 meeting

Livestock Depredation

Robert S.

Jim B.

Clark W.

Bill C.

Wes Q.

Allison J.

Technical Advisor: Mike Bodenchuk

Due Dates: First draft – Sept. 28 meeting; Final Approval – October meeting

Wolf/Wildlife Interactions (Big game and other wildlife)

Mike W.

Trey S.

Bill F.

Bill C.

Bill B.

Don P.

Randy S.

Wes Q.

Technical Advisor: Jim Karpowitz

Due Dates: First draft – Sept. 28 meeting; Final Approval – October meeting

Wolf/Human Interactions (Human safety, pet depredation, recreation land closures)

Byron B.

Debbie G.

Trey S.

Technical Advisor: Mike Bodenchuk

Due Date: Final Approval – Aug. 31 meeting

Information and Education

Robert S.

Bill F.

Byron B.

Bill B.

Sterling B.

Technical Advisor: Larry Dalton

Due Date: Final Approval – Aug. 31 meeting

Funding

Clark W.

Sterling B.

Randy S.

Don P.

Debbie G.

Kirk R. (or alternates)

Technical Advisor: Greg Sheehan (UDWR)

Due Dates: First draft – Aug. 31 meeting; Final Approval – Sept. 28 meeting

OTHER CONCERNS IN DEVELOPING THE PLAN

Two additional concerns about the development of the plan were voiced, and are listed below:

- Veracity of information: We should keep in mind the idea that we will not include unreliable information in this plan. We should also note that no references are necessary, and strategies need have no literature cited.
- Attendance and participation by some WWG members: The county representative has not yet attended a WWG meeting. The Ute Indian Tribe representative attends infrequently. The WWG formally requested that UDWR contact these two WWG members and ask them to participate fully in this process.