

DATE: March 31, 2005 FILE REF: [Click [here](#) and type file ref.]

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SUBJECT: 2005 Central Wisconsin Wolf - 1st Quarterly Report: Dec 2004-Feb 2005

Telemetry Monitoring: At the beginning of this quarter, we were monitoring 5 radioed wolves: Rat-tail pack's 4-year-old 338 male (Kirby); Wildcat pack's young-adult male 480 (Madison); and Bear Bluff pack's 5-year-old female 311 (Severina), male pup 484 and male pup 502. On 22 December, pup 502's collar was recovered. It had either been chewed or slipped off the wolf. On 25 February, wolf 480 was recovered dead. A week earlier he had left his territory and began dispersing to the northwest, crossing I-94 and entering coulee country. At the end of the period we were left monitoring 3 radioed wolves in 2 packs: Bear Bluff (311; 484) and Rat-tail (338).

Pack territory sizes were small again this winter period with radioed members of Bear Bluff pack occupying 15 m²; Rat-tail pack occupying 12 m²; and wolf 480 occupying only 5 m². When captured in August 2004, wolf 480 (Madison) was healing from a massive injury that resulted in the loss of the lower portion of his front left paw. This injury may have limited his mobility, restricting his movements to such a small area. However, he did cover 19.6 miles in 10 days during his short-lived dispersal.

Dead Wolves:

Only one wolf was recovered dead during this quarter. Wolf 480 (Madison) was shot to the northwest of Hixton in late February. He weighed 94.5 pounds, having gained approximately 14 pounds since capture in August. His injured front left foot was still in the process of healing at the time of his death. Law enforcement is investigating the case.

Winter Census:

Survey work was not completed in time to be included in this quarterly report. We will report on this in the next quarter.