

2004 Central Wisconsin Wolf - 3rd Quarterly Report: June-August, 2004

Note: In keeping with budget reductions, a few weeks ago Sandhill reduced its inventory of computers. My computer was among them and I have not yet worked the bugs out of my replacement. The map program is not running. Consequently no maps will accompany this report.

Telemetry Monitoring: Wolves 338M (Rat-tail pack), 311F (Bear Bluff pack), 426F (Caves Creek pack) and 465F (Ft. McCoy) were monitored throughout the period. Wolf 465F and 338M do not appear to have reproduced. Wolf 465F made some movements to the NE of her "usual" territory, moving as far as I-94 near Warrens. Monitoring her movements has been difficult: T. Wilder has obtained few ground locations, and pilot Paul Anderson hasn't been able to fly inside the restricted area over Ft. McCoy. Wolf 426F may have produced pups: her May locations were restricted enough to suggest that she may have bred. She hangs out in an hour-glass shaped territory in extreme NW Marquette County just west of Westfield. Wolf 338M continues to range the area S and E of the Bombing Range near Babcock.

Summer Trapping / Howling Activities: Ellen Heilhecker captured 4 Bear Bluff pack pups, radioing the 2 largest, 484M and 502M with conventional collars lined with foam. Hopefully these will stay in place as growth continues into fall and winter. She also captured an adult male in the Wildcat Territory, 480M, missing its entire left front paw at the juncture of the phalanges and metacarpals. This injury was recent, healing was in progress and no signs of infection, etc., were observed. It was in otherwise excellent shape. We suspect this was the animal reported walking along Hwy 54 with a trap on its foot during the month of April. It lost the trap between 1-3 May. It may be one of the especially bold wolves reported this winter along Hwy 54 (see 1st quarterly Rept, 2003-04, April 2, 2004).

Ellen may return in mid September in an attempt to trap members of the Dead Creek pack.

Howling surveys are not yet complete. However, pups were detected in 9 of 10 packs where surveys were conducted so far this summer (Wildcat, Bear Bluff, South Bluff, Dead Creek, 2-Korner, Iron Run, Eau Claire River, Colburn, Silo vs. Ft. McCoy). Bear Bluff pack pups were slightly mangy. We have no information on the condition of other packs' pups. Although the data are preliminary, it suggests excellent productivity this year among Central Forest wolf packs.

Dead Wolves: No wolves were reported killed or found dead during this period.