



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PO Box 168
Yellowstone National Park
Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A7221(YELL)

VIA EMAIL – NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW

May 28, 2021

Ms. Wendy Keefover
Senior Strategist, Carnivore Protection
The Humane Society of the United States
1255 23rd Street, Northwest, Suite 450
Washington, D.C. 20037
wkeefover@humanesociety.org

Dear Ms. Keefover:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received April 16, 2021, in which you requested:

“All records related the killing of a Yellowstone National Park wolf, Wolf 1155:

The GPS location of 1155 at the time of his death from telemetry data relative to the wolf’s radio collar.

Any records relating to the National Park Service or the Yellowstone Wolf Project relative to law enforcement investigations by any governmental body surrounding the death of Yellowstone park Wolf 1155.

Any emails or other communications (both internal and with parties outside of NPS) regarding the death of 1155 and any investigation into the same.”

Your request has been assigned FOIA control number DOI-NPS-2021-003846.

It is the policy of the National Park Service (NPS) to: (1) make records of the NPS available to the public to the greatest extent possible in keeping with the spirit of the FOIA; and (2) make documents requested under the FOIA available at the earliest possible date while, at the same time, protecting the rights of the individuals involved and the administrative processes surrounding such rights. For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Your request is being processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (5 United States Code 552); United States Department of the Interior (“Department”) implementing regulations found at 43 Code of Federal Regulations Part 2, Subparts A through E, beginning at 2.1; and the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 United States Code 552a). Please be advised that additional FOIA and/or Privacy Act guidance/regulations may also be found at either the Department’s web site, www.doi.gov/foia, or the United States Department of Justice web site, www.usdoj.gov.

Some of the material is exempt from release under 5 U.S.C. (b)(3) as it pertains to records specifically exempt from disclosure by other Federal statutes. In this instance, the Federal statute that exempts this information from release is the National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998 (54 U.S.C. 100701), Section 207, Confidentiality of Information, which states "Information concerning the nature and specific location of a National Park System resource which is endangered, threatened, rare, or commercially valuable, of mineral or paleontological objects within units of the National Park System, or of objects of cultural patrimony within units of the National Park System, may be withheld from the public in response to a request under section 552 of Title 5 USC, unless the Secretary determines that (1) Disclosure of the information would further the purposes of the unit of the National Park System in which the resource or object is located and would not create an unreasonable risk of harm, theft, or destruction of the resource or object, including individual organic or inorganic specimens; and (2) Disclosure is consistent with other applicable laws protecting the resource or object." The items withheld under Exemption (b)(3) consist of wolf UTM locations and radio collar frequencies. We are withholding 2 pages in part under Exemption 3.

Pursuant to the Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579), certain items of personal information will have been redacted. Even though this personal information may be available to you through other sources, we are prohibited from providing it to you as a matter of United States Law.

Exemption 6 allows an agency to withhold "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). We are withholding 2 pages in part under Exemption 6.

The phrase "similar files" covers any agency records containing information about a particular individual that can be identified as applying to that individual. To determine whether releasing records containing information about a particular individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, we are required to balance the privacy interest that would be affected by disclosure against any public interest in the information.

Under the FOIA, the only relevant public interest to consider under the exemption is the extent to which the information sought would shed light on an agency's performance of its statutory duties or otherwise let citizens 'know what their government is up to.' The burden is on the requester to establish that disclosure would serve the public interest. When the privacy interest at stake and the public interest in disclosure have been determined, the two competing interests must be weighed against one another to determine which is the greater result of disclosure: the harm to personal privacy or the benefit to the public. The purposes for which the request for information is made do not impact this balancing test, as a release of information requested under the FOIA constitutes a release to the general public.

The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of personal information consisting of the names of individuals, home addresses, and other personally identifiable information, and we have determined that the individuals to whom this information pertains have a substantial privacy interest in withholding it. Additionally, you have not provided information that explains a relevant public interest under the FOIA in the disclosure of this personal information, and we have determined that the disclosure of this information would shed little or no light on the performance of the agency's statutory duties. Because the harm to personal privacy is greater than whatever public interest may be served by disclosure, release of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of these individuals and we are withholding it under Exemption 6.

Though the information may be known to you through other sources or available to you through other proceedings, this release is consistent with the FOIA. The deletion of this information does not otherwise affect the basic integrity of the material found in these files.

Nine (9) documents totaling 18 pages have been released in their entirety:

February 22, 2021 – email from Erin Stahler to Mike Ross, Subject: Wolf with SN 699499 (1 page)

March 23, 2021 – email from Helena Dore to Morgan Warthin, Subject: Re: Wolf 1155 (2 pp.)

March 23, 2021 – email from Morgan Warthin to Matt Brown, Subject: Re: RE: AP query-Gianforte/wolf (3 pp.)

March 24, 2021 – email from Tami Blackford to Morgan Warthin, Subject: Fw: Facts about the wolf (1 page)

March 24, 2021 – email from Morgan Warthin to Doug Smith, Subject: Re: Re: FWD: Collar info on 1155 (3 pp.)

March 25, 2021 – email from Morgan Warthin to G. Lemon, Subject: Yellowstone Talking Points (1 page)

April 1, 2021 – email from Doug Smith to Morgan Warthin, Subject: Re: 2 calls about 1155 (2 pp.)

April 1, 2021 – email from Morgan Warthin to Nicky Ouellet, Subject: Re: Wolf 1155M (4 pp.)

April 13, 2021 – Yellowstone Wolf Office information for FOIA (1 page)

One (1) document totaling 2 pages has been released with redactions made under Exemption (b)(3) as cited above:

April 19, 2021 – Wolf Mortality Form, Wolf 1155M (2 pp.)

One (1) document totaling 2 pages has been released with redactions made under Exemption (b)(6) as cited above:

February 22, 2021 – email from Erin Stahler to Sam Legler, Subject: Re: RE: Look up a Serial # for me? (2 pp.)

One (1) document totaling 2 pages has been released with redactions made under Exemptions (b)(3) and (b)(6) as cited above:

March 16, 2021 – email from Jeremy SunderRaj to Erin Stahler, Subject: Re: 1155M Info (2 pp.)

In accordance with Department regulations found at 43 C.F.R. 2.24(d), the following individuals are responsible for the partial denial of your request:

Mike Reynolds, Director, Regions 6, 7 & 8, National Park Service, Denver, Colorado

Charis Wilson, Freedom of Information Act Officer, National Park Service, Denver, Colorado

The National Park Service consulted with Kristen Guerriero, Office of the Solicitor, Rocky Mountain Region, United States Department of the Interior, Lakewood, Colorado, in connection with this FOIA response.

You may appeal this response to the Department's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the National Park Service's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and Yellowstone National Park concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the Bureau's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the Bureau will result in the Department's rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal.

DOI FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (202) 208-5339
Fax: (202) 208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

As part of the 2007 FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. If you are requesting access to your own records (which is considered a Privacy Act request), you should know that OGIS does not have the authority to handle requests made under the Privacy Act of 1974. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
(OGIS) 8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Facsimile: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Fee waivers are determined on a case-by-case basis. We have waived all fees associated with responding to this request. This letter completes Yellowstone National Park's response to you for this request. If you have questions concerning this FOIA response, please contact me at (307) 344-2002.

Sincerely,

Kerrie Evans
Freedom of Information Act Coordinator

Enclosures

FOIA

4/13/2021

Yellowstone Wolf Office

1. We do not have tracking data for 1155M from the last month of his life (February 2021). Our last known location for 1155M was an approximate location near Soldier Creek in Tom Miner basin on 1/26/2021 from a tracking flight (radio signal only, no visual).
2. We do not have life sign data or information about when life signs terminated.
3. 1155M was born in the Mollie's pack in April 2014. In July 2016 he joined the Wapiti Lake pack and was collared in December 2018 as a member of the Wapiti Lake pack. By January 2019, 1155M left the Wapiti Lake pack and joined the 8 Mile pack. During the 2019 breeding season (late February/early March), 1155M dispersed from the 8 Mile pack and was often north of Yellowstone's north entrance. He was near the 8 Mile pack during this period, but mostly by himself north of the park until his date of death in February 2021.
4. The radio collar on 1155M was a Telonics Iridium collar (TGW-4577-4). The GPS battery was not functional because of damage to the plastic casing that protects the GPS. It stopped working in June 2019. The Iridium battery was functional, but the service was terminated when the GPS component stopped working in June 2019. The VHF battery remained functional until 1155M's date of death in February 2021.

Data entered (initials)
into database: ES 4/19/21

WOLF MORTALITY FORM

path: O:\admin\data_forms\wolf_mortality_form.doc
updated: 6/3/2015

Wolf No.: 1155M Collared?: Yes No If Yes, Freq. #: (b)3 NPOMA

Sex: Male Female Unknown Pelt Color: Black Gray Unknown

Pack at Time of Death: Loner / Dispersing

Age Class: pup yearling adult old adult (≥ 7 yrs) unknown Age in Years: 6.8

Date of Birth: 4/15/2014

Social Status: alpha possible alpha possible breeder subordinate unknown

Date Last Alive: 2/15/2021 Date of First Mort Signal: 1/1/21 - outside YNP.

Date of Death (DOD): 2/15/2021 DOD Estimated?: Yes No NPS didn't detect mort.

Time of Death (if known): — Date of Field Exam: 1/1/21 unkn.

General Location of Death: Tom Miner Basin (MT WMU 390)

Ecological System: Northern Range Non-Northern Range

UTM Easting: (b)3 NPOMA UTM Northing: (b)3 NPOMA NAD 83 (approximate estimate)

Cause of Death: Interspecific Disease Malnutrition Mange

Intraspecific: What pack killed wolf? Def — Prob — Poss — Unk

Natural-Other (specify): — Natural-Unknown Unknown

Vehicle Illegal Control Action Harvest Human-Other (specify): —

Scavengers: Present? Yes No Unknown

Grizzly Bear # — Black Bear # — Coyote # — Fox # — Mtn Lion # —
Raven # — Magpie # — Bald Eagle # — Golden Eagle # — Eagle Unk # —
Wolf # — Pack: — Other(specify): — # —

Carcass:

Utilization (circle one): 0-25% utilized 26-50% 51-75% 76-100%

Bones found: ALL BONES OR Skull Pelvis Mandibles Scapulae Femur
Tibia Metatarsus Humerus Radius & Ulna
Metacarpus Vertebra out of 30

Samples Collected: none skull tissue hair scat whisker(s)

post-cranial (specify): —

femur: %fat content: — (after drying)

disease swabs: —

other (collect and note any abnormalities—e.g. arthritis, abscessed tooth, etc): —

Skull & post-cranial only: How many bags are in freezer? (Try to fit in one bag) 0

MORPHOMETRICS / MEASUREMENTS

Specify units (i.e., - cm preferred, but note if inches), and specify which side (right or left) of wolf is being measured.

General body condition (circle): poor fair good very good excellent

Mange?: Yes No Unk (If yes, please fill out mange data form for more detail)

Old injuries? Yes No (describe in comments)

Weight _____ lbs _____ kgs On Kill: yes no unk

Body Length _____ cm Tail Length _____ cm Total Length _____ cm

Front foot length _____ cm Front foot width _____ cm Foot Measured: left right

Neck girth _____ cm Shoulder height¹ _____ cm Chest Girth _____ cm

Pelt color/Other significant markings _____

TEETH General condition (note broken or chipped teeth, staining, and wear):

Canines: UL _____ mm UR _____ mm LL _____ mm LR _____ mm

Circle Any Broken Canines: UL UR LL LR NONE UNK

Incisor Wear (circle): None Light Moderate Severe

Upper Carnassial Wear (circle): None Capped Cusps Pitted Cusps Pitted Cusps + Valleys Heavy Wear

All Dentition Wear (circle): None Light Moderate Severe

Other dentition wear + staining: _____ Deciduous teeth present?: Yes No

Results of physical exam of the animal - attach lab reports as necessary (e.g., punctures, lacerations, blood, exam of wolf--including old injuries, etc.), results of exam of site where animal died (include evidence of struggle, disturbed veg., tracks, etc), and scavenger/carcass utilization:

Not many details, date and general location provided by MTFWP.
Coordinates are approximate due to FWP using Township Range
to track harvest locations.

Killed by Governor Greg Gianforte. Trapped near
Rock Creek, Paradise Valley, MT

Data tables to complete: ☐ Mortality, ☐ Skulls & Post-Cranials, ☐ Wolf IDs, ☐ Collar Inventory, ☐ Collar Details 166-168, ☐ Wolf Harvest (if applicable)
Scan form. Digital copy to O:/Scanned data forms/Capture and Mortality/(individual wolf folder); Hard copy to Doug's office

Examined by: MTFWP (First & last names)

¹Measure shoulder height from top of scapula to leading edge of middle toe pad with leg straight.

Range of Body Measurements for Females: 112-145 cm body length, 38-57 cm tail length, 157-196 cm total body length, 8-13 cm foot length, 6-9.5 cm foot width, 39-51 cm neck girth, 61-85 cm shoulder height, 66-84 cm chest girth

Range of Body Measurement for Males: 95-151 cm body length, 41-60 cm tail length, 164-206 cm total body length, 8-14 cm foot length, 6.5-10 cm foot width, 42-62 cm neck girth, 65-92 cm shoulder height, 69-92 cm chest girth

Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: Look up a Serial # for me?

Stahler, Erin E <erin_stahler@nps.gov>

Mon 2/22/2021 9:56 AM

To: Sam Legler <sam.legler@telonics.com>

Thanks for the help Sam. I'll connect with Mike to get the collar back.

Erin Stahler

Biological Science Technician | Helicopter Manager - Resource

Yellowstone Wolf Project

Yellowstone Center for Resources

P.O. Box 168

104 Barracks St

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

~~307-344-2243~~ Please call my cell during the pandemic: 763-458-4709

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolves.htm>

From: Sam Legler <sam.legler@telonics.com>

Sent: Friday, February 19, 2021 10:10 AM

To: Stahler, Erin E <erin_stahler@nps.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Look up a Serial # for me?

<p>This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.</p>
--

Hi Erin,

Strangely enough we received a call from a Mike Ross with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks that had a wolf collar with SN 699499 and wanted to know who's it was and the frequency for it. I looked it up and it looks like it was from one of your orders. We don't give out ownership info or frequencies to people who don't own the collars, but if you wanted to connect with him on this, his email is mikeros@mt.gov and his phone number is 406-581-3664. Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Sam Legler

Telemetry Systems Coordinator

Telonics, Inc.

932 E Impala Ave.

Mesa, AZ 85204

Sam.legler@Telonics.com

480-892-4444 x-103

From: Stahler, Erin E <erin_stahler@nps.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 3:44 PM

To: Sam Legler <sam.legler@telonics.com>

Subject: Re: Look up a Serial # for me?

Nevermind! We found out it belongs to (b)(6), Privacy Act or WY. No need to look it up 😊

Erin Stahler
Biological Science Technician | Helicopter Manager - Resource
Yellowstone Wolf Project
Yellowstone Center for Resources
P.O. Box 168
104 Barracks St
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307 344 2243 Please call my cell during the pandemic 763 458 4709
<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolves.htm>

From: Stahler, Erin E
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 3:00 PM
To: Sam Legler <sam.legler@telonics.com>
Subject: Look up a Serial # for me?

Hi Sam,

I have a local game warden for Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks that checked in a wolf with a collar that has a SN of 693414, could you look this up for me to see who the collar belongs to? It's not one of ours and it also doesn't belong to Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks so it must be a dispersing wolf from somewhere else.

Thanks,

Erin Stahler
Biological Science Technician | Helicopter Manager - Resource
Yellowstone Wolf Project
Yellowstone Center for Resources
P.O. Box 168
104 Barracks St
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
307.344.2243 Please call my cell during the pandemic: 763-458-4709
<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolves.htm>

Wolf with SN 699499

Stahler, Erin E <erin_stahler@nps.gov>

Mon 2/22/2021 10:09 AM

To: Mike Ross <mikeros@mt.gov>

Hi Mike,

Sam at Telonics notified me that you have one of our radio collars. I'm assuming it was a harvest? All I need for our records is a date and general location or UTM. If there is any other additional info you can pass on we would appreciate that as well. You can send or shuttle the collar to us, either way you prefer.

Via FedEx or UPS:

22 Stable Street

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Via USPS:

PO Box 168

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Erin Stahler

Biological Science Technician | Helicopter Manager - Resource

Yellowstone Wolf Project

Yellowstone Center for Resources

P.O. Box 168

104 Barracks St

Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

~~307.344.2243~~ Please call my cell during the pandemic: 763-458-4709

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolves.htm>

[EXTERNAL] Re: 1155M Info

Jeremy SunderRaj (b)6, Privacy Act

Tue 3/16/2021 10:10 PM

To: Stahler, Erin E <erin_stahler@nps.gov>

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

I think I figured it out. It's a section of land, so I just took a UTM from the middle. (b)3 NPOMA which is near Rock Creek by Tom Miner Basin. Tyler also said a warden said he had already dropped the collar off in the park, so it seems like the collar is a little lost, but hopefully will show up soon.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 16, 2021, at 3:55 PM, Jeremy SunderRaj (b)6, Privacy Act wrote:

Kind of. I'm trying to figure out how to convert township to UTM but haven't had much luck. The general area he was harvested was Rock Creek I guess.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 16, 2021, at 1:50 PM, Stahler, Erin E <erin_stahler@nps.gov> wrote:

Unfortunately, this is all we got:

Looks like 1155M was harvested on 2/15/21 near 7S 7E Section18.

Do you know where this is?

Erin Stahler
Biological Science Technician | Helicopter Manager - Resource
Yellowstone Wolf Project
Yellowstone Center for Resources
P.O. Box 168
104 Barracks St
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190
~~307.344.2243~~ Please call my cell during the pandemic: 763-458-4709

<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolves.htm>

Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: AP query-Gianforte/wolf

Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Tue 3/23/2021 1:47 PM

To: mbrown_contact <mbrown@ap.org>

You bet Matt.

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Brown, Matthew <MBrown@ap.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:45 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: AP query-Gianforte/wolf

Thanks, Morgan.
Much appreciated.
Matt Brown



Matthew Brown

Associated Press Correspondent

PO Box 36300

Billings, MT 59107

mbrown@ap.org

phone-406 896 1528

mobile-406 696 4213

fax-406 896 8117

Want to send news tips, documents, etc. securely and confidentially to AP? <https://securedrop.ap.org/>

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:43 PM

To: Brown, Matthew <MBrown@ap.org>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: AP query-Gianforte/wolf

[EXTERNAL]

Hi Matt,

Here are the facts:

- The wolf (1155) was born in Yellowstone.
- Initially it was a member of the Wapiti Lake Pack, then the 8 Mile Pack and then dispersed.
- Estimated 6-7 yrs. of age.
- The wolf was collared by the park biologists in 2018.
- Once the wolf left the park, it no longer was considered a Yellowstone wolf.

Thanks,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Brown, Matthew <MBrown@ap.org>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:13 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: AP query-Gianforte/wolf

<p>This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.</p>
--

Resending this one in case Morgan's out of pocket this afternoon....

From: Brown, Matthew

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:51 PM

To: morgan_warthin@nps.gov

Subject: AP query-Gianforte/wolf

Hi Morgan-We're picking up the story about Gianforte's hunting violation and I wanted to confirm the details about the wolf that he killed (6yo male 1155M that was born to park's Wapiti pack but later dispersed). Can you please let me know? Also left you a voicemail. Thanks-Matt Brown

AP

Matthew Brown

Associated Press Correspondent

PO Box 36300

Billings, MT 59107

mbrown@ap.org

phone-406 896 1528

mobile-406 696 4213

fax-406 896 8117

Want to send news tips, documents, etc. securely and confidentially to AP? <https://securedrop.ap.org/>

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

Re: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155

Helena Dore <hdore@dailychronicle.com>

Tue 3/23/2021 2:29 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Wonderful, thanks for confirming!

Take care,

Helena Dore

General News and Environmental Reporter

Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Office: 406-582-2628, Cell: 406-599-7905

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 to 5:00

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:13 PM

To: Helena Dore <hdore@dailychronicle.com>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155

!!! CAUTION !!! This email originated from outside the organization. **Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Helena,

Thanks for reaching out. The information you wrote about the wolf is correct. A few other details are 1) this wolf was a "dispersed wolf" and 2) once the wolf left the park, it no longer was considered a Yellowstone wolf.

Best,

Morgan Warthin

Public Affairs Specialist

Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent

Yellowstone National Park

(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Helena Dore <hdore@dailychronicle.com>

Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:19 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155

<p>This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.</p>
--

Hey Morgan,

Hope things are well with you. I just wanted to reach out about a news story I'm following related to Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff told me today that they issued a warning to the governor after he trapped a wolf without completing a mandatory trapper certification course. They said the wolf had an NPS radio collar and was trapped close to the park's border. I just wanted to confirm the animal's identity with you.

Boise State Public Radio wrote in a story on the incident that the wolf was Wolf 1155M. They wrote Wolf 1155M was born in Yellowstone National Park and was once a member of the Wapiti Lake pack.

Are you able to confirm/negate whether this is the correct wolf? If you'd prefer to chat by phone about this, feel free to give me a call at 406-599-7905. My deadline is at 4:30 today.

Thanks,

Helena Dore

General News and Environmental Reporter

Bozeman Daily Chronicle

Office: 406-582-2628, Cell: 406-599-7905

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 9:30 to 5:00

Fw: Facts about the wolf

Blackford, Tami S <Tami_Blackford@nps.gov>

Wed 3/24/2021 10:56 AM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Morgan,

Can you please always include me when sharing talking points? We are not yet settled on where visitor calls are answered, and I am trying to keep various staff in the loop.

Thank you!

Tami Blackford

Deputy Chief, Resource Education and Youth Programs

PO Box 168, Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

307-344-2204 (w) 307-578-7051 (c)

From: Wilson, Mary M <Mary_Wilson@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 10:06 AM

To: Blackford, Tami S <Tami_Blackford@nps.gov>

Subject: Fw: Facts about the wolf

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 9:21 AM

To: Wilson, Mary M <Mary_Wilson@nps.gov>

Subject: Facts about the wolf

Nate Hegyi, reporter with Mountain West News Bureau, broke this story on 3/23/21:
Boise State Public Radio: [Montana Governor Given Written Warning After Trapping, Killing Of Yellowstone Wolf](#)

Facts about the wolf (can be shared with the public)

- The wolf (1155) was born in Yellowstone.
- Initially it was a member of the Wapiti Lake Pack, then the 8 Mile Pack and then dispersed (it wandered away from the pack to find a mate elsewhere).
- It was an estimated 6-7 yrs. of age.
- The wolf was collared by park biologists in 2018.
- Once the wolf left the park, it no longer was considered a Yellowstone wolf.

All other question about the incident can be redirected to MT Fish Wildlife and Parks.

Thank you for staying in your lane!

Morgan Warthin

Public Affairs Specialist

Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent

Yellowstone National Park

(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [FWD: Collar info on 1155]

Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Wed 3/24/2021 4:24 PM

To: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>

Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>; Finley, Nancy J <Nancy_Finley@nps.gov>

Thanks for this.

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:00 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>; Finley, Nancy J <Nancy_Finley@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: [FWD: Collar info on 1155]

1155M had a GPS collar. That function on his collar went out (broke) in early January, so we lost fine-grained info on his movements. The VHF portion of his collar - kept working, so if we flew for him we could manually track his movements. We did not do this much either as the wolf left the park so our tracking of him became sporadic and dependent on the pilot flying and just picking him up by chance - which he did on several occasions. We normally fly with him but during Covid we have not so these come from the pilot flying for us and doing other tracking missions.

But in December we have two locations on 1155 just north of Yellowstone near Reese Creek and Mul Heron. Then in January he moved to Tom Minor area and we only have one location on him - a general one - prior to him being harvested.

He was traveling with another collared wolf - a female 1154F - so likely they were starting a new pack as February is the wolf breeding season. She has returned to the park.

From: Amanda Eggert <aeggert@montanafreepress.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:10 PM

To: nathan_contact <nathan@wolftracker.com>

Cc: Stahler, Daniel <Dan_Stahler@nps.gov>; Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: [FWD: Collar info on 1155]

<p>This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.</p>
--

Hi Nathan,

Thank you for getting back to me. I think many people are asking questions about the 48-hour trap-checking requirement and who set the trap, though so far nothing beyond the speculative has developed.

Thanks also for making the connection with Dan and Doug. Dan and Doug - happy to provide more info about the kind of information I'm seeking if that's helpful. Feel free to shoot me a note or give me a call at 406-370-4936. In a nutshell: I'm looking for the most efficient means of tracking down location and vital signs info on 155 in the couple of days before he was killed (2-15-21).

Cheers,

Amanda

On Wed, Mar 24, 2021 at 3:03 PM <nathan@wolftracker.com> wrote:

Hello Amanda,

Thank you for reaching out.

Yes, I happen to know Wolf 1155M was a young dispersing male from the park's Wapiti Lake Pack.

I am going to CC 2 biologists that probably collared this animal and who work for the national park service to reply further on your request.

I would just add another thought coming out of our community that know wildlife and hunting, trapping, etc. I believe it is unlikely the governor runs a trap line 3 hours away that he checks every 48 hours while also running state government. I doubt he even set the trap that caught that wolf. It is very likely someone else trapped that wolf and called the governor to come and dispatch it. That may well be against regulations also, and if not, pretty shady from a sportsman's point of view. Happy to talk more on that.

Best, N

Dr. Nathan Varley
Yellowstone Wolf Tracker, www.wolftracker.com
404 Water Street, box 769, Gardiner, Montana 59030
(406) 223 2152

Check out wolf updates at www.yellowstonereports.com

From: guide@wolftracker.com <guide@wolftracker.com>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 2:46 PM

To: Nathan Varley <nathan@wolftracker.com>

Subject: [FWD: Collar info on 1155]

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Collar info on 1155

From: Amanda Eggert < >

Date: Wed, March 24, 2021 1:25 pm

To: guide@wolftracker.com

Hi there,

Amanda Eggert from Montana Free Press here. I'm trying to track down radio collar info on Wolf 1155, the Yellowstone wolf that Gov. Gianforte collared in February. I've been told that the collar data is public info. Might Wolf Tracker have information on how I can find that information? Any leads you can offer would be helpful.

Cheers,

Amanda

Yellowstone Talking Points

Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Thu 3/25/2021 3:14 PM

To: glemon@mt.gov <glemon@mt.gov>

MT FWP

- MT FWP PIO: Greg Lemon 406.370.0077
- Questions about incident, warning and incident location: redirect to FWP

Facts about the wolf

- The wolf (1155) was born in Yellowstone.
- Initially it was a member of the Wapiti Lake Pack, then the 8 Mile Pack and then dispersed (it wandered away from the pack to find a mate elsewhere).
- It was an estimated 6-7 yrs. of age.
- The wolf was collared by park biologists in 2018.
- Once the wolf left the park, it no longer was considered a Yellowstone wolf.

Information to share if asked about the collar

- The GPS function on the wolf's (1155) collar failed and stopped working a few months ago.

Best,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

Re: 2 calls about 1155

Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>

Thu 4/1/2021 3:29 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>; Finley, Nancy J <Nancy_Finley@nps.gov>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

OK thanks.

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:03 PM

To: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>

Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>; Finley, Nancy J <Nancy_Finley@nps.gov>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: 2 calls about 1155

Doug,

Closing the loop...

We reached out to both callers. One was a reporter for the Daily Montanan and almost all of his questions you previously answered in Q&A videos posted here: [Q & A: Wolves, Doug Smith - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). I encouraged him to visit that page and the wolf reports posted online. The second caller from the Humane Society asked about data from the collar and like with others, we let her know that the collar had failed a few months prior.

Q & A: Wolves, Doug Smith -
Yellowstone National Park (U.S. National
Park Service)

Doug Smith

www.nps.gov

Let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:39 PM
To: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>
Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>; Finley, Nancy J <Nancy_Finley@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: 2 calls about 1155

Thanks for letting me know Doug. Will you forward the calls to me? I will close the loop with you in the next few days re: reporter asks. I'll also contact the reporters tomorrow.

Morgan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:50:57 PM
To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>
Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>; Finley, Nancy J <Nancy_Finley@nps.gov>
Subject: 2 calls about 1155

Morgan

I received 2 calls from people wanting to talk about 1155:

- 1) Wendy Keefover from the United States Humane Society 303-819-5229
- 2) Arron Kimball (could not make out last name) - local MT reporter 602-510-6276

I saved both if you want them.

Please let me know what you would like me to do.

Doug

Re: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Thu 4/1/2021 3:14 PM

To: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Hi Nicky,

Thanks for your patience.

Here is a link to a great article about collars written by Kira that I am hopeful will answer your question.

[2018 Wolf Report - Yellowstone National Park \(nps.gov\)](#)

We have a wealth of wolf information posted online. Here are some other links that you might find useful.

- [Yellowstone Wolf Project Reports - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)
- [Q & A: Wolves, Doug Smith - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#) (includes audio)
- Yellowstone's Sound Library: [Sound Library - Wolves - Yellowstone National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)



[Sound Library - Wolves - NPS.gov Homepage \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

More Information. Yellowstone Wolves; Wolf Restoration in Yellowstone: Missing for decades from Yellowstone until 1995, learn the details about their restoration to Yellowstone.; Wolf Management: Learn about wolf management in

www.nps.gov

Best,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 6:16 PM

To: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

That's plenty of time. Thanks.

Facts about the wolf

- The wolf (1155) was born in Yellowstone.
- Initially it was a member of the Wapiti Lake Pack, then the 8 Mile Pack and then dispersed (it wandered away from the pack to find a mate elsewhere).
- It was an estimated 6-7 yrs. of age.
- The wolf was collared by park biologists in 2018.
- Once the wolf left the park, it no longer was considered a Yellowstone wolf.

Best,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

Visit us online: [Official Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Periscope](#)

From: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 6:00 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

Thank you. End of this week? Middle of next? I'm publishing as I go, so I'm flexible.

I should have lumped this in my first email – is the park able to confirm that wolf 1155M is the one Gov. Gianforte harvested?

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 5:58 PM

To: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of your organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or respond unless you were expecting this message and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Give me a little time to get back to you. That said, what's your deadline?

Have a nice night,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

From: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 5:44 PM

To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

Hi Morgan,

Apologies, I got ahead of myself. Thanks for this information.

Would Doug or Kira be willing to speak with me about how collaring fits into understanding wolves' role in the GYE?

Thanks,
Nicky

From: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 5:29 PM

To: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>; YELL Public Affairs, NPS <yell_public_affairs@nps.gov>

Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

NOTICE: This email originated from outside of your organization. Do not click links, open attachments, or respond unless you were expecting this message and know the content is safe.

Hi Nicky,

Please do contact Yellowstone National Park Public Affairs first when you have an inquiry. Please do not contact the specialist.

To your question:

The GPS function on the wolf's (1155) collar failed and stopped working a few months ago.

Facts about the wolf:

- The wolf (1155) was born in Yellowstone.
- Initially it was a member of the Wapiti Lake Pack, then the 8 Mile Pack and then dispersed (it wandered away from the pack to find a mate elsewhere).
- It was an estimated 6-7 yrs. of age.
- The wolf was collared by park biologists in 2018.
- Once the wolf left the park, it no longer was considered a Yellowstone wolf.

For more details about this incident, contact MT FWP PIO Greg Lemon at 406.370.0077.

Thanks,

Morgan Warthin
Public Affairs Specialist
Strategic Communications, Office of the Superintendent
Yellowstone National Park
(w) 307.344.2010 (c) 406.404.5096

From: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Warthin, Morgan E <Morgan_Warthin@nps.gov>
Cc: White, P J <pj_white@nps.gov>
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

Another inquiry

From: Ouellet, Nicky <nicky@ypradio.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 24, 2021 4:39 PM
To: Smith, Doug W <Doug_Smith@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf 1155M

<p>This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.</p>
--

Hi Doug,

I'm a reporter with Yellowstone Public Radio based in Billings, Montana. I'm reaching out because I'm trying to follow up on a story that broke this week about [Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte trapping and shooting a collared wolf](#), who I believe was part of your ongoing research.

I'm trying to track down the collar data from wolf 1155M, reportedly the wolf killed by Gianforte. Specifically, I'm hoping to learn when 1155M stopped moving around, and how long he stayed in his final location before his collar was returned.

Is this something you can share, or do I need to request through the park's public information officer? Would you be interested speaking with me about this wolf in particular and/or more broadly about how collaring fits understanding wolves' role in the GYE?

Thanks for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Nicky Ouellet
News Director, Yellowstone Public Radio
406.657.2972