

## West Fork of Monumental Creek Lambing Area Survey

7-17-04

- Jim Akenson, Cody McKee, Greg Hansen flew from Taylor Ranch to Big Creek Ranger Station, backpacked up Lick Creek to Lick Lake and Bear Lake, camped at Bear Lake.
- Counted 23-25 wolf scats (within last month) along the trail, from ½ mile up Lick Trail to the Snowslide Creek Divide. Some scat was fresh (<48 hours) along the pass at the top of Cougar Basin and at the headwaters of Snowslide Creek.

7-18-04

- JA, CM, GH hiked to Catherine, "Penny", "Commitment", and "Fish" Lakes (unnamed lakes south of Catherine Lake, named north to south).
- Wet weather made for poor sheep viewing. Only possible activity was rock sliding heard on west side of Fish Lake, no sheep seen. JA observed beds and running sheep tracks in same area the following day.
- 5-6 older wolf scats on trail north of Catherine Lake.
- 1 Bald Eagle observed over Commitment Lake.

7-19-04

- Observed two ewes from Bear Lake camp on high knob to the east.
- JA hiked from Bear Lake south along old outfitter trail, up to a saddle south of the high knob, and hiked south along the ridge that runs on the south side of the lake chain.
- CM and GH took the West Fork trail to Catherine Lake. Confirmed earlier observations, counted 4 ewes and 2 lambs on northwest slope of high knob (10:30 am). UTM 063586 E, 498958 N -Group 1. Then continued on to Commitment and Fish Lake.
- JA observed 1 ewe and 1 lamb in bedded in green patch three-fourths up the slope above Commitment Lake. 11:00 am. They jumped beds at 11:30. UTM 063542 E, 49870 N -Group 2.
- JA observed 2 ewes and 1 lamb in hidden basin between Commitment and Fish Lake. UTM 063542 E, 498540 N -Group 3.
- GH and CM hiked up old outfitter trail from Fish Lake to the ridge, met up with JA. Hiked along ridge as a group to "Bearhead" Lake, and on to the prominent overlook of the West Fork of Monumental Creek.
- No more sheep were observed, however, there were two different sites along the ridge top on the timbered side above Bearhead Lake that showed tracks and beds of between 8-12 sheep. Lamb tracks were visible.
- 1 Bald Eagle observed above Bearhead Lake.
- Returned to camp. At 7:30 pm observed 6 ewes and 4 lambs on west side of high knob. UTM 063572 N, 498946 E- Group 4.

Group 1: 4 ewes, 2 lambs

Group 2: 2 ewes, 1 lamb

Group 3: 1 ewe, 1 lamb

Group 4: 6 ewes, 4 lambs

Total Count: 13 ewes, 8 lambs