

Idaho hunters bag 30 wolves

Four have been taken in this region

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By ERIC BARKER of the Tribune The Lewiston Tribune |

Through Wednesday morning, Idaho hunters killed 30 wolves, including four in the state's Clearwater Region.

Five each have been harvested in the Panhandle and Island Park wolf-hunting zones at opposite ends of the state and seven in central Idaho's Sawtooth Zone. In the Clearwater, one wolf has been shot in the Palouse-Hells Canyon Zone and three in the Dworshak-Elk City Zone.

Rene Anderson of Headquarters shot a male wolf with a .44 caliber handgun while bow hunting near her home Sunday. Anderson said she didn't set out to kill a wolf but felt compelled to when the animal made her uncomfortable. She had done a little cow calling about a half-hour before and was working to get to one of her favorite spots. Her eye caught some movement and she thought it was a wolf.

"I kind of ran over the hill," she said. "He apparently seen me and I stopped and he was coming directly at me and kept going so I just laid down my bow and picked up my pistol and I shot him in the head about 10 feet away."

The wolf was close enough and seemingly determined enough that the experience spooked her. She said it clearly saw her and should have known she was human.

"The reason it bothered me so bad is the wind was at my back. I was sweating and the wind was blowing right at him."

She normally doesn't carry her .44 but her husband convinced her to take it. Anderson said she would have preferred to shoot a wolf later in the year when the weather is cold and the animals have their winter coats.

"This is the warm season. The hair is falling out. You got to wait for the cold season when it is long and pretty. I wouldn't have done it except that it was a scary situation."

The wolf season in Idaho opened in late August and runs through March 31 in much of the state but lasts until June 30 in the Lolo and Selway zones. Hunters can kill up to two wolves per calendar year and trappers can take up to five. There is no quota on the number of wolves that can be killed in the state. However, some hunting zones have individual quotas. Updated wolf harvest totals are posted on the Idaho Fish and Game website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/hunt/?getpage=121>.

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