

Coyote Survey Summary 2006

The coyote survey was completed in Sand Run, Deep Lock Quarry and Gorge Metro Parks in concurrence with the comprehensive park inventories. Approximately one site per 100 acres was surveyed in each park. Six sites were surveyed in Sand Run and two each in Deep Lock Quarry and Gorge Metro Parks.

Sites were surveyed once a week from mid-September through October. Calls of coyote vocalizations were played with five minutes of silence afterwards. If coyotes were heard, the survey was discontinued. If no coyotes were heard, the taped calls were played again, with another listening period of five minutes. This procedure was conducted at each site.

Long-term monitoring sites are surveyed for coyotes every three years. Hawk, owl and coyotes surveys are on a three year rotation. Owls were surveyed for in 2006. Long-term monitoring sites will be surveyed for coyotes in 2008 (see Table 2).

Table 1 illustrates the maximum number of coyotes heard at each site surveyed as well as the estimated population size. No coyotes were heard at Deep Lock Quarry. However, wildlife cameras at the northwest corner of the park documented coyote activity this winter. A coyote was also seen by park staff during the 2006 owl surveys. Coyotes have large territories and Deep Lock Quarry is surrounded by national park. Coyotes were likely not on park property at the time of the survey, but utilizing other property nearby.

No coyotes were heard at Gorge Metro Park. This park is very urbanized, but has an adequate riparian corridor. It is also connected to Cascade Valley Metro Park where coyotes are frequently reported. While no coyotes were recorded during the survey, they may use the park occasionally.

Coyotes were recorded at three sites in Sand Run Metro Park. Two individuals were heard at the Nature Realm and at Treaty Line Parking Area. One individual was documented on two occasions in the Big Bend Area. Estimated population size for Sand Run Metro Park based on these results is 7-8 individuals.

Coyote surveys will be conducted in Cascade Valley and Goodyear Heights Metro Parks in conjunction with the 2007 comprehensive park inventories. The protocol will remain the same (see Appendix 1). Long term monitoring sites will be surveyed for coyotes in 2008.

Table 1. Maximum number of coyotes heard and estimated populations size in Metro Parks, Serving Summit County 2006.

Site	Maximum # Heard	Estimated Population Size
Sand Run 1	1	1.53
Sand Run 2	2	3.06
Sand Run 3	0	0
Sand Run 4	0	0
Sand Run 5	0	0
Sand Run 6	2	3.06
Deep Lock 1	0	0
Deep Lock 2	0	0
Gorge 1	0	0
Gorge 2	0	0

Table 2. Owl, Hawk and Coyote Survey Schedule 2007-2009.

Survey	2007 LTM	2007 COMP	2008 LTM	2008 COMP	2009 LTM	2009 COMP
Owl		X		X	X	X
Hawk	X	X		X		X
Coyote		X	X	X		X

Appendix 1

Coyote Howling Survey Protocol

Procedures for Howling Survey

1. Survey period is September 15-October 31 for 6 weeks; carried out not more than once per week (avoid rain, high winds, and other severe weather conditions).
2. Begin survey at 8:00 pm.
3. Approximately one site per 100 acres of park land is surveyed.
4. At each site repeat the following sequence:
 - a. Spread out and let the area quiet down for 5 minutes; no talking; do not slam vehicle doors; lights off.
 - b. Play tape for 30 seconds, turning the speaker 360 degrees during the 30 seconds.
 - c. Listen for 5 minutes.
 - d. Replay tape if no response, listen again for 5 minutes.
 - e. Do not replay tape if you get a response on first play.
 - f. Count individuals (including direction and distance) that call back, completing the data form.