

**STATUS OF SWIFT FOX (*VULPES VELOX*) SURVEYS
AND STUDIES IN NORTH CENTRAL MONTANA^{TWS}**

Amy L. Zimmerman and Lynn Irby
Fisheries and Wildlife Management
Department of Biology
Montana State University - Bozeman 59717

Brian Giddings
Wildlife Division, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1420 E. Sixth Ave.
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Canadian wildlife agencies began a swift fox reintroduction program in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, Canada in 1983. Over the next decade, these reintroduction efforts led to a strong possibility of individuals dispersing into north-

central Montana and creating a resident population. This study began in the fall of 1996 in northern Blaine County, Montana to confirm the presence of a resident swift fox population. The study involved systematic block live-trapping by township and radio collaring any swift foxes captured. In the spring of 1997, radio collared swift fox were used to locate possible natal den sites and to confirm a resident population. A total of 16 swift foxes were trapped in the fall of 1996 and late summer of 1997. Five captures were juveniles and 11 were adults. Three litters were monitored in the summer of 1997. A study of home range, food habits, and survival is also incorporated into the study.