

Swift Fox Script

The swift fox, like other foxes, is really a member of the dog family. This prairie dwelling little mammal is completely adapted to grassland living so the eastern plains are their stronghold in Colorado. One of North America's smallest foxes, a full grown adult weighs only about four pounds. Like many wild creatures swift fox have a very short life span only two to three years.

Recently division of wildlife biologists made an effort to find out more about them. To do this the animals were live trapped and marked. Unlike marking efforts of the past, ear tags, radio collars and the like, the foxes received what are known as pit tags. These small electronic markers are put just under the skin and require an electronic scanner to read. These tags are very similar to how some people ID pets today.

Like all native wildlife species the Division likes to know their habits, where they prefer to live and get an idea about population trends.

"We've been real interested in the foxes because there has been questions about how many foxes we have and whether there is an increase, steady or declining trends in fox numbers. So its been a species of special interest or special concern in Colorado. We plan to not trap fox every year and do this study but about every five years repeated just to monitor the populations of the fox." Said biologist Janet George.

Overall numbers for swift fox are stable, at least for the short term. However, it appears that Colorado has the highest population of any state. As a result, some twenty eight were recently trapped and sent to Bad Lands National Park in North Dakota earlier this year.