

MINUTES
Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board
February 14, 2017

Ed Schriever, Idaho Fish and Game, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. Those in attendance were: Celia Gould, ISDA; Carl Rey, Board member; Richard Savage, Board member; Todd Grimm, Wildlife Services; Kirk Gustad, Wildlife Services; Brad Compton, Idaho Fish and Game; Katrine Franks, Governor's Office; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA; Brian Oakey, ISDA; Dallas Burkhalter, ISDA; and Janis Perry, ISDA. Attending by phone was Board member Tony McDermott.

After introductions, Ed Schriever asked for approval of the minutes. Tony McDermott moved that the minutes of the November 28, 2016, meeting be approved as distributed. Richard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

No one asked the board to give public comments.

Carl Rey began by asking a few questions of the staff regarding the Key Points provided him:

3) Board requires frequent reporting from Wildlife Services and Idaho Fish and Game and attendance at meetings to ensure accountability.

5) When prices are low producers don't sell much wool.

6) Wolves typically conflict with livestock during the months of the year when they are at higher elevations and out on pasture.

Tony McDermott asked how many wolf packs exist in the Frank Church wilderness. Ed Schriever indicated that Fish and Game really does not know. There are 750 wolves in the state and the trend is consistent, but there are holes in the state. Brad Compton stated that no one has argued over wolf numbers.

Brian Oakey encouraged Carl Rey to begin his presentation since Kelly Nielsen and Celia Gould would not be able to stay for the entire meeting.

Carl Rey presented his introduction followed by Kelly Nielsen presenting what Ray Houston will present from his analysis regarding the three subaccounts.

Kelly Nielsen then presented the LSO FY 2017 Enhancement Review. Carl Rey presented the Board's response with a description of the contracts with Wildlife Services and Idaho Fish and Game that it manages.

Next Kelly Nielsen presented the FY 2018 Enhancement Request. Carl Rey presented stated that the Board's enhancement request is for \$400,000 in general fund dollars to match the livestock and sportsmen fees it will also collect.

Questions/issues that were discussed include:

- Wilderness area – air is not wilderness; Wildlife Services can go into wilderness but have to abide by wilderness rules
- Helicopter decision – no comment on legal issues
- Management strategy since 2011 seems to be working
- Trapping in Regions 1 and 2 this winter has resulted in 290 dead wolves paid by private foundation
- Depredation is expensive but includes the cost of investigation, collaring
- Value of big game industry in Idaho and livestock affected
- Compensation for producers
- Non-lethal actions
- Fund balance
- All goes back to honoring original agreement that sunsets in 2019

Under other business Brian Oakey mentioned to Katrine Franks that in past years there had been media interest in the Wolf Board. She suggested that questions should be deferred to Jon Hanian. Brian Oakey indicated that a press release from the Lewiston Tribune Wildlife Services lawsuit was included in the documents for today's meeting.

Ed Schriever recommended that we add the Sunset clause to the agenda for the next Board meeting. Brian Oakey added that we need to involve the Governor's office in that discussion.

Ed Schriever shared the results of a Lolo elk herd survey in unit 10. The count in 2010 was 1473 elk; in 2016 there were 1461. However, he stated that the age structure of the animals had changed from 144 calves to 280 calves and from 14 to 103 spike bulls. Only one active wolf kill was spotted. He indicated that they still need to survey unit 12.

Carl Rey asked Brad Compton about the special project that Fish and Game is proposing. Brad stated that the details are still being worked out but it involves collaring Judas wolves as a pass through contract. Fish and Game will come to the Board when they have a proposal to present, hopefully this spring.

Ed Schriever adjourned the meeting at 3.35 pm.