

**MINUTES**  
**Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board**  
**December 5, 2017**

Celia Gould, ISDA, called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Those in attendance were: Carl Rey, Board member; Todd Grimm, Wildlife Services; Toby Boudreau, Idaho Fish and Game; Katrine Franks, Governor's Office; Amber Christofferson, Department of Financial Management; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA; Brian Oakey, ISDA; Dallas Burkhalter, ISDA; Owen Moroney, ISDA; and Janis Perry, ISDA. Attending by phone was Board member Richard Savage.

Guests attending were Larry Fry, Idaho Sportsmens Alliance; Talasi Brooks, Advocates of the West; Kristin Ruether, Western Watersheds; and Pam Williams, concerned citizen

Celia Gould asked for public comments. Pam Williams indicated that she appreciated knowing about the meeting but would like to see it livestreamed on the website.

Larry Fry, as President of Idaho Sportsmens Alliance recognized the Board for its ongoing work regarding wolf control and commended the Board for utilizing funds efficiently and maintaining neutrality in its management of funds.

Talasi Brooks asked how to get meeting notices. Celia Gould informed her that she could be added to an email list for meeting notification. She asked if the wolf plan was finished in November as was noted in the minutes of the last meeting. Toby Boudreau responded that it was not and that Fish and Game would be editing their 2002 plan. She also asked if work in the Lolo zone would be occurring during the winter of 2017-2018. Toby Boudreau stated that Fish and Game is evaluating that work.

Celia Gould asked for approval of the minutes. Todd Grimm corrected the minutes to indicate that 20 control actions (not investigations) are open in the state. Richard Savage moved that the minutes of the June 5, 2017 meeting be approved as corrected. Carl Rey seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brian explained that the Performance Measurement Report in the packet was submitted to the Governor's office in August. No action is required.

Kelly Nielsen then presented the FY2018 Fiscal Report. As it always does, the report includes three sub-sections. The beginning balance shows the carry-over from the prior year. Kelly reminded the Board that the expenses paid so far in FY2018 were for work done in the last quarter of FY2017.

Todd Grimm presented the Wildlife Services report. As he had anticipated, Wildlife Services has been busy. Since July 1, they have conducted 140 investigation compared to 120 in all of last year. He felt that outreach meetings caused increased reporting. They removed 37 wolves plus another two since he completed his report to the Board. He also showed historical figures of wolf depredations from FY2004 to FY2017.

Carl Rey asked if all of this is related to last year's severe winter. Todd Grimm said definitely. Harsh winter let the wolves feed on winter-kill wildlife which led to healthy and more wolves. More wolves led

to more exposure for livestock. Carl also asked about the trouble in the McCall area. Todd stated that they had more trouble there, but were able to get a radio collar on one of the wolves in that region. He noted that seven control actions are still open.

Toby Boudreau reported on the Fish and Game activities related to the use of Wolf Board funds. He explained that the Fish and Game wardens visited 143 wolf rendezvous sites and collected 600 wolf DNA samples. They also set remote cameras to observe wolf activity. They discovered two new packs and were able to collar one animal in one of the new packs. He stated that they are learning a lot about the wolves in the Lolo. In response to a question by Carl Rey, he estimates that there are well over 100 wolf packs in Idaho.

Brian Oakey explained that this year in addition to the budget presentation to the JFAC Committee, the Board will be presenting the proposed legislation to the committee for approval. Brian asked who would represent the Board for these presentations. Carl Rey volunteered to present the budget and Richard Savage agreed to present the legislation. The JFAC presentation is scheduled for January 26 at the end of the morning.

Carl Rey asked how we would handle the budget since the legislation would still not be decided. Brian responded that this will be the fifth and final year of the current budget request. Then the Board will need to go back to those groups that have helped to fund the Wolf Board for the last five years to see if they are willing to continue their support.

Katrine Franks from the Governor's Office indicated that she was willing to help in any way possible with the legislation.

Celia Gould asked if there was any other business. Carl Rey asked about the process for producers to be compensated for sheep and cattle losses after a confirmed wolf depredation. Todd Grimm indicated that he was aware that Josh Uriarte in the Governor's Office (208-334-2189) was administering funds. Richard Savage commented that education at the cattle association meeting proved to be helpful in this regard and that Mr. Uriarte was good to work with. Carl suggested that we provide answers to producers and find out how long the funding lasts. Celia Gould suggested we might engage the Office of Species Conservation. Brian Oakey will follow up.

Brian Oakey asked if Richard Savage would agree to be added as a contact on the legislation Statement of Purpose. Richard agreed.

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on the afternoon of January 25, the day before the JFAC meeting. The Board will invite Rob Sepeich to attend the meeting.

Celia Gould adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.