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Idaho State
Office

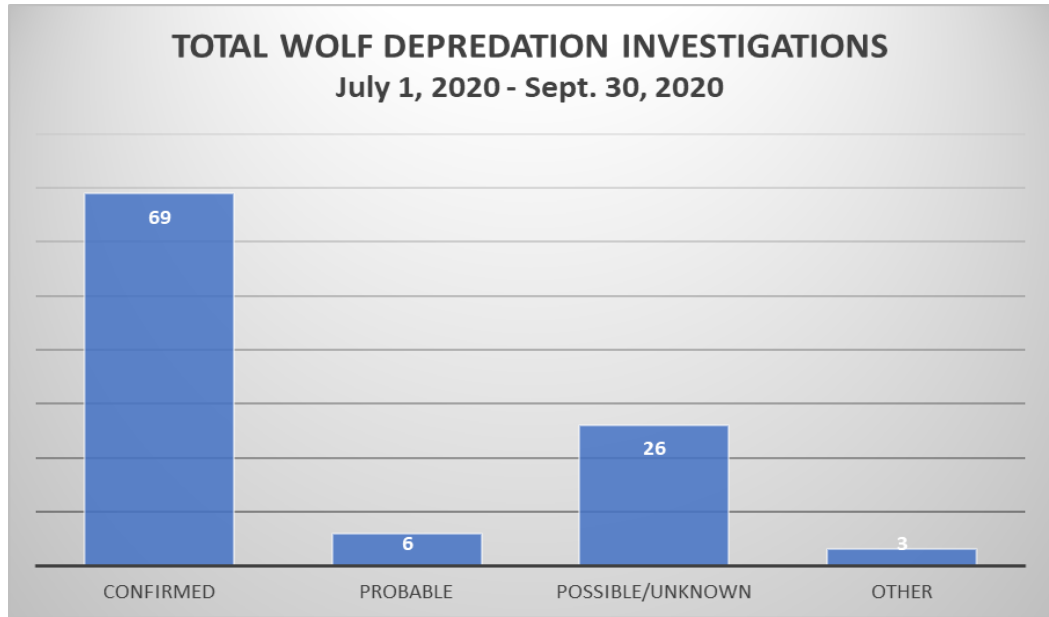
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Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) July 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2020

On Aug 7, 2014, the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board (Board) entered into a Cooperative Service Agreement (Agreement) with USDA-APHIS-WS to respond to, and investigate, wolf depredation complaints in Idaho and conduct wolf control actions as directed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). The information listed below shows WS-Idaho’s activities the Board has funded from July 1, 2020 through Sept. 30, 2020.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 104 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 55 livestock producers in 13 counties (Adams, Blaine, Boise, Butte, Camas, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Teton, & Valley) during this reporting period.

Of those 104 investigations, 69 (~66%) involved confirmed depredations, 6 (~6%) involved probable depredations, 26 (~25%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 3 (~3%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

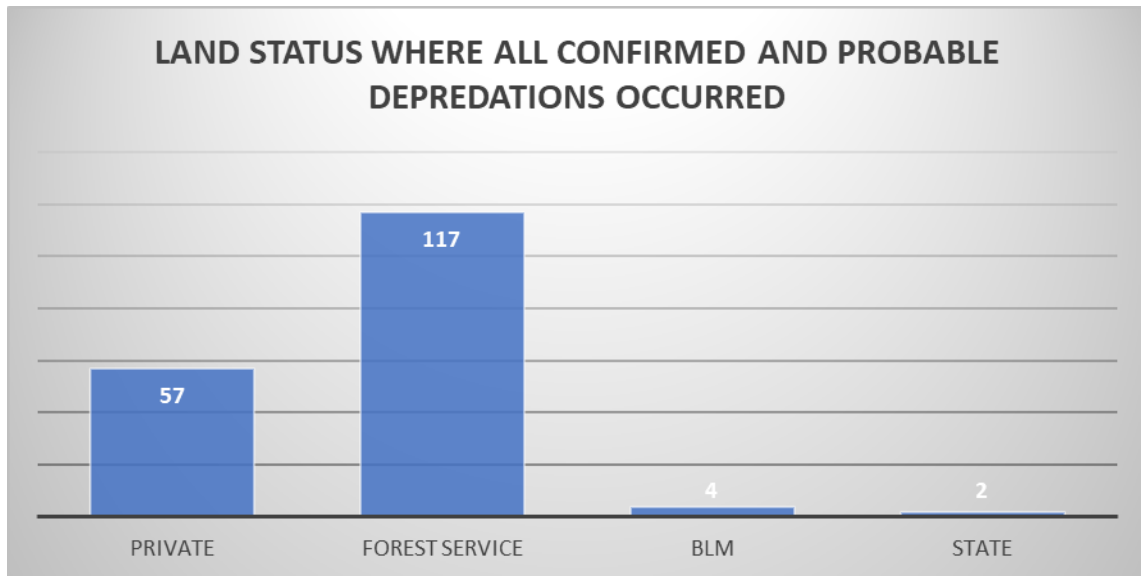
During the same period in FY 2020, WS-Idaho conducted 138 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 69 (~50%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 34 less depredation investigations this quarter than during this same time period last year.

Based on WS-Idaho’s investigations, the minimum number of confirmed and probable livestock depredations due to wolves during the reporting period is provided below (Table 1).

Confirmed	Probable
15 cows (killed) 1 cow (injured) 35 calves (killed) 5 calves (injured) 3 guard dogs (killed) 1 horse (killed) 1 horse (injured) 60 sheep (killed)	1 cow (killed) 5 calves (killed) 2 sheep (killed)

Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 104 potential wolf depredations between July 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2020. Investigations that turned out to be either confirmed or probable depredations took place over four different land statuses, private, Forest Service, BLM, and State lands (Graph 2).



Graph 2. Land status where confirmed and probable depredations occurred

Wolf Depredations and Removals:

In response to confirmed wolf depredations on livestock in Game Management Units (GMU) 13, 15, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30A, 32, 32A, 33, 39, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 60, and 65, the IDFG established, or extended, 69 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between July 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2020.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 13 wolves for the protection of livestock. Wolves were removed from GMU’s 8A(6), 10A(1), 13(1), 28(4), and 50(1). During the same quarter in 2019, WS-Idaho removed 19 wolves for the protection of livestock. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates

during this reporting period. Additionally, one wolf was captured, radio-collared, and released by WS-Idaho in GMU 28.

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 8 flights (3 fixed wing and 5 helicopter) totaling 29.7 hours flown. Three fixed wing flights totaled 7.8 hours and five helicopter flights totaled 21.9 hours. During this quarter, no wolves were removed via aerial control efforts.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020, 17 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 3554.75 hours worked. During this same time frame, 12 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, which totaled 533 hours. This equates to approximately 15% of total hours worked on wolf related activities this quarter. The dollar amount associated with only the depredation investigations during this time was \$18,691.83. Additionally, all these depredation investigations were in response to livestock protection.