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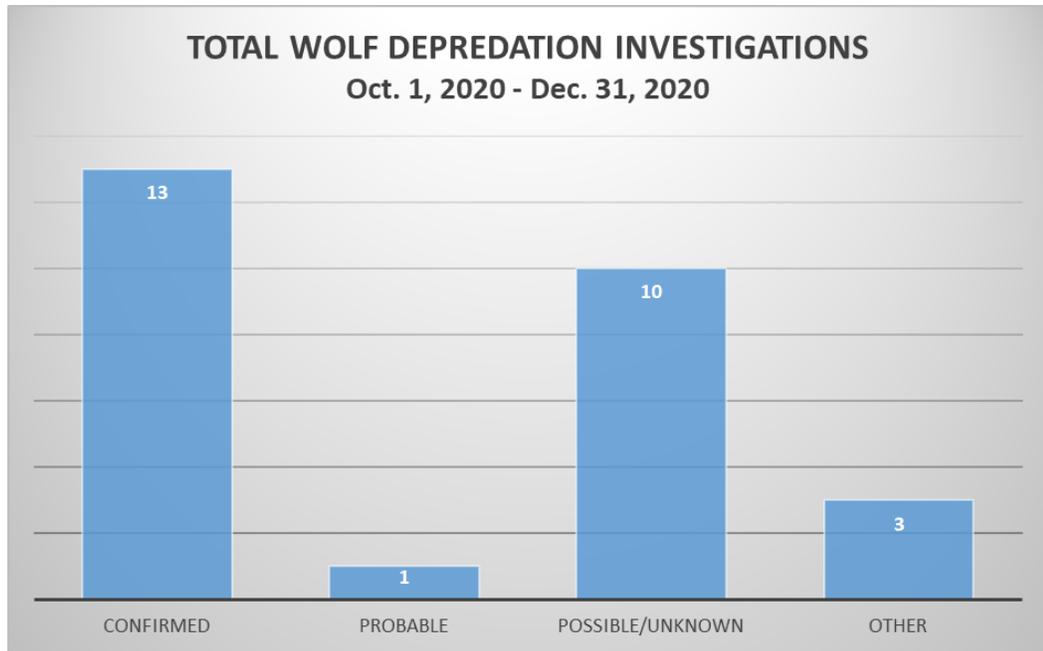
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## Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) Oct. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2020

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 Oct. 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 27 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 55 livestock producers in 11 counties (Adams, Boundary, Camas, Custer, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Lewis, Valley, and Washington) during this reporting period.

Of those 27 investigations, 13 (~48%) involved confirmed depredations, 1 (~.03%) involved probable depredations, 10 (~37%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 3 (~1%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



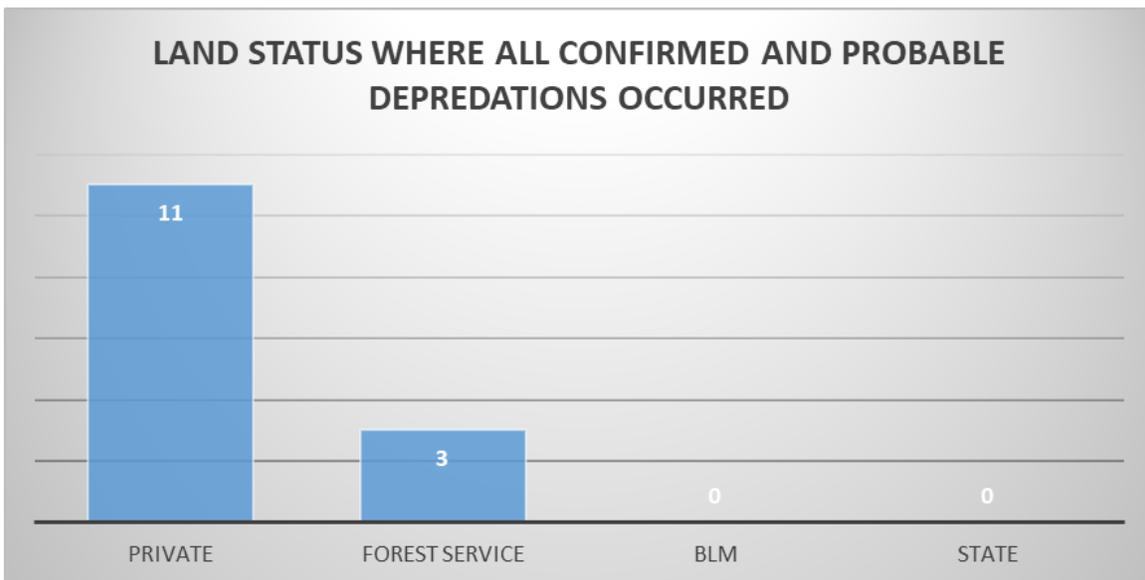
Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

During the same period in FY 2019, WS-Idaho conducted 35 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 13 (~37%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 8 less depredation investigations this quarter than during this same 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).

| <b>Confirmed</b>   | <b>Probable</b> |
|--|-----------------|
| 7 cows (killed)<br>2 cows (injured)<br>3 calves (killed)<br>3 sheep (killed) | 1 cow (killed)  |
| Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations                             |                 |

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 27 potential wolf depredations between Oct. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020. Investigations that turned out to be either confirmed or probable depredations took place over two different land statuses, private and Forest Service (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) 1, 13, 15, 18, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30A, 32, 32A, 36B, 39, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 62, and 67, the IDFG established, or extended, 57 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between Oct 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 1 wolf for the protection of livestock. This wolf was removed from GMU 43. During the same quarter in 2019, WS-Idaho removed 9 wolves for the protection of livestock. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during this reporting period.

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 9 flights (3 fixed wing and 6 helicopter) totaling 17.6 hours flown. Three fixed wing flights totaled 4.5 hours and six helicopter flights totaled 13.1 hours. During this quarter, no wolves were removed via aerial control efforts.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period Oct. 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2020, 17 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 3095.25 hours worked. During this same time frame, 9 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, which totaled 94.5 hours. This equates to approximately 3% of total hours worked on wolf related activities this quarter. Additionally, all these depredation investigations were in response to livestock protection.