



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

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Wildlife Services

Idaho State Office

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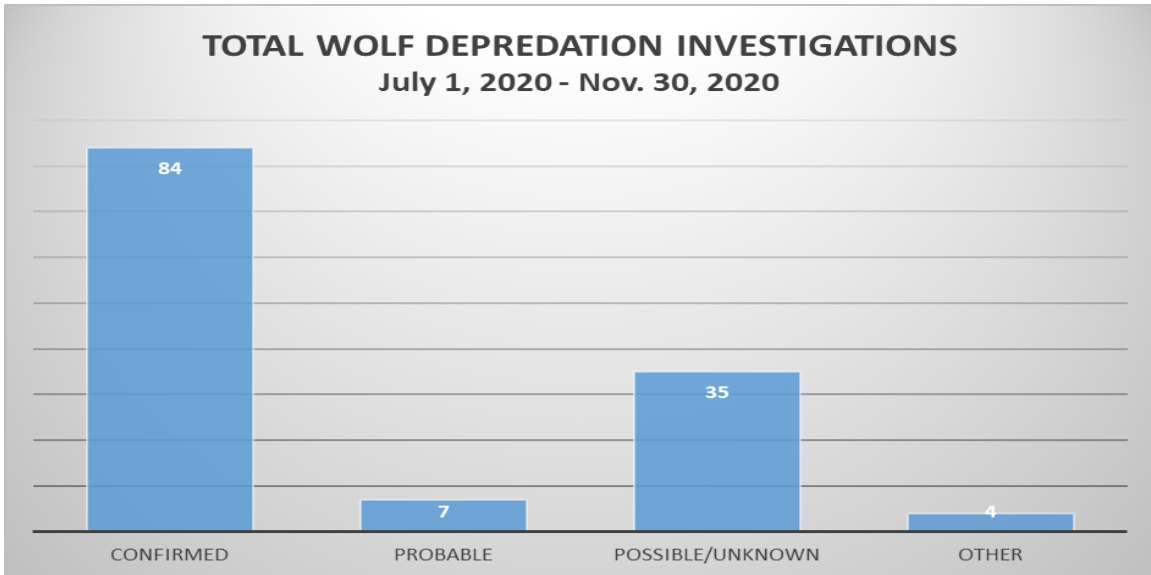
### Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) July 1, 2020 – Nov. 30, 2020

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 semi-annual activities the Board has funded from July 1, 2020 through Nov. 30, 2020.

\*Disclaimer – This semi-annual report only represents 5 months of activities as indicated in the Agreement WS-Idaho has with the Board.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 130 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 66 livestock producers in 14 counties (Adams, Blaine, Boise, Boundary, Butte, Camas, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Teton, & Valley) during this reporting period.

Of those 130 investigations, 84 (~65%) involved confirmed depredations, 7 (~5%) involved probable depredations, 35 (~27%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 4 (~3%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

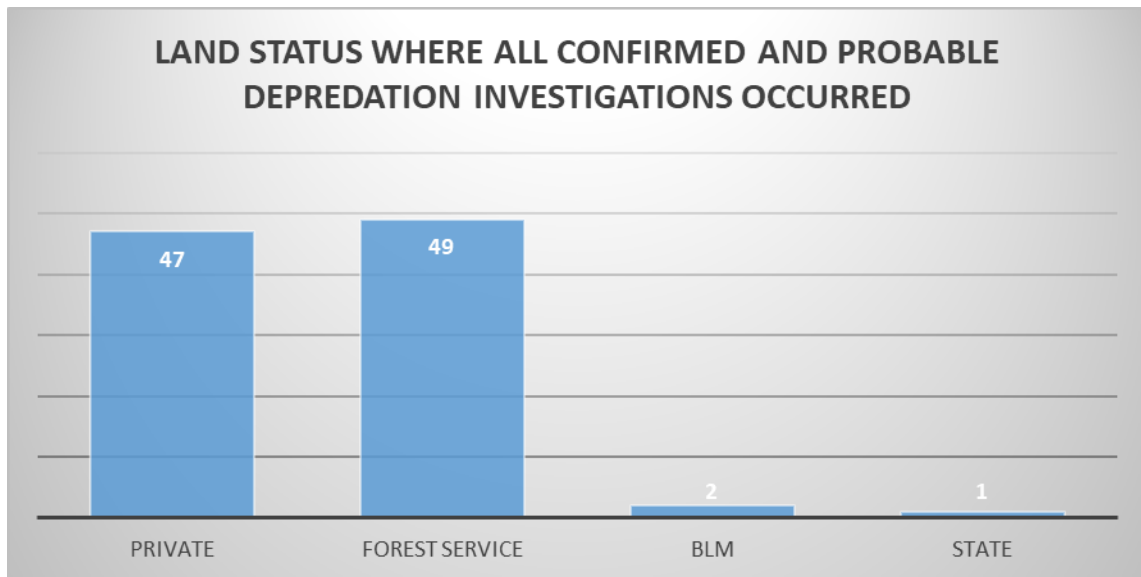
During the same period in 2019, WS-Idaho conducted 171 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 80 (~47%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 41 less depredation investigations this reporting period than during this time frame 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>
22 cows (killed)	2 cows (killed)
3 cows (injured)	5 calves (killed)
40 calves (killed)	2 sheep (killed)
5 calves (injured)	
3 guard dogs (killed)	
1 horse (killed)	
1 horse (injured)	
63 sheep (killed)	

Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 130 potential wolf depredations between July 1, 2020 and Nov. 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 depredation investigations 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, 33, 36A 39, 43, 44, 48, 50, 51, 60, 62 and 65, the IDFG established, or extended, 81 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between July 1, 2020 and Nov. 30, 2020.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 14 wolves for the protection of livestock. Wolves were removed from GMU’s 8A(6), 10A(1), 13(1), 28(4), 43(1) and 50(1). WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during

this reporting period. Additionally, two wolves were captured, radio-collared, and released by WS-Idaho in GMU 28(1) and 39(1).

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 11 flights (3 fixed wing and 8 helicopter) totaling 35.3 hours flown. Three fixed wing flights totaled 8.3 hours and eight helicopter flights totaled 27 hours. During this quarter, no wolves were removed via aerial control efforts.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period July 1, 2020 through November 30, 2020, 17 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 6390.5 hours worked. During this same time frame, 14 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, which totaled 622 hours. This equates to approximately 9.7% of total hours worked on wolf related activities during this time frame. Additionally, all depredation investigations and control actions were in response to livestock protection.