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Wildlife Services

Idaho State Office

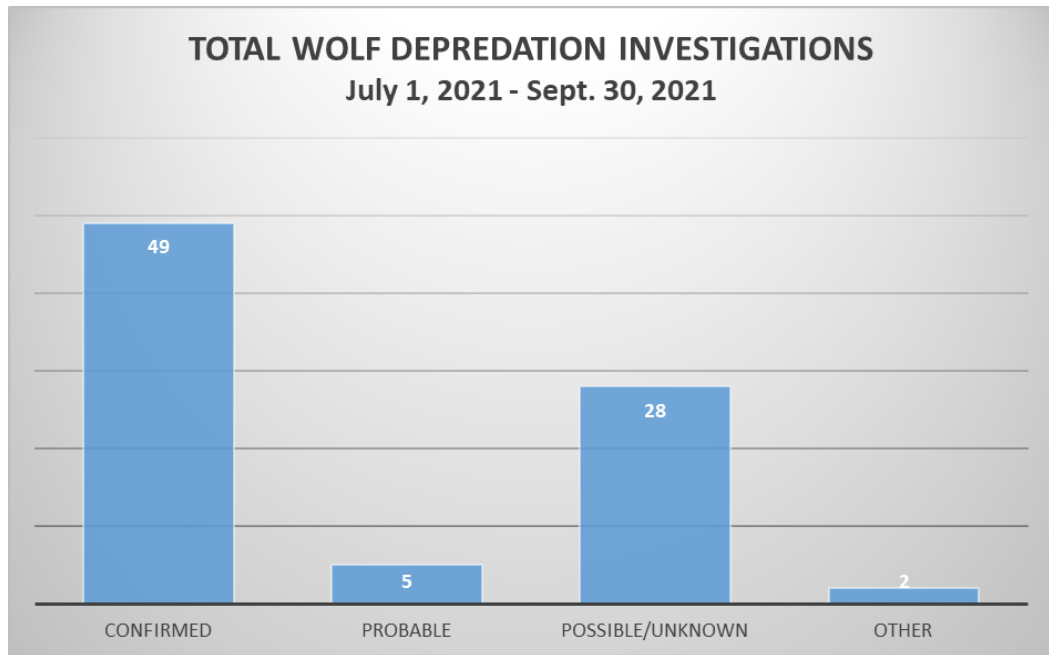
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Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) July 1, 2021 – Sept. 30, 2021

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, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2021.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 84 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 46 livestock producers in 13 counties (Adams, Blaine, Boise, Boundary, Butte, Camas, Clark, Clearwater, Custer, Fremont, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Teton, and Valley) during this reporting period.

Of those 84 investigations, 49 (~58%) involved confirmed depredations, 5 (~6%) involved probable depredations, 28 (~33%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 2 (~2%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

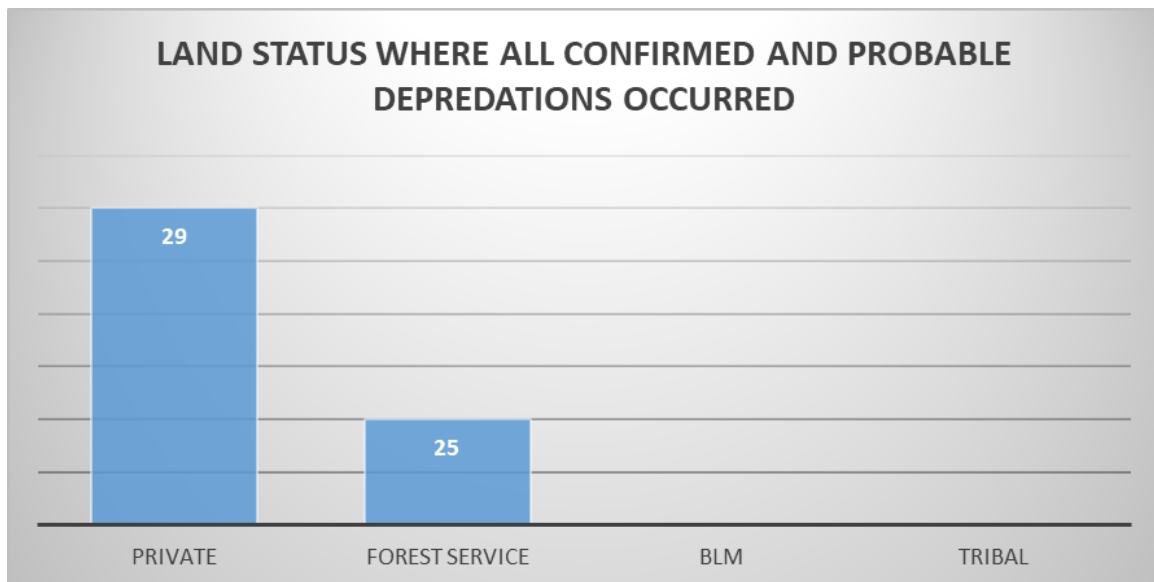
During the same period in FY 2020, WS-Idaho conducted 106 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 71 (~67%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 22 less investigations, and 22 less confirmed investigations this quarter than 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 this reporting period is provided below (Table 1).

Confirmed	Probable
12 cows (killed)	2 cows (killed)
27 calves (killed)	5 calves (killed)
2 calves (injured)	2 sheep (killed)
36 sheep (killed)	
1 sheep (injured)	
1 herding dog (killed)	

Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 84 potential wolf depredations between July 1, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2021. Investigations that turned out to be either confirmed or probable depredations took place on two different land classes (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, 15, 23, 24, 28, 32A, 36B, 37A, 44, 48, 49, 50, 51, 59, 62, and 64, the IDFG established, or extended, 53 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between July 1, 2021 and Sept. 30, 2021.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 21 wolves for the protection of livestock. Wolves were removed in GMUs 23(1), 28(1), 44(1), 48(1), 49(8), 50(8), and 60(1). Additionally, 1 wolf was radio collared in GMU 39. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during this reporting period.

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 10 flights (8 fixed wing and 2 helicopter) totaling 30.4 hours flown. Eight fixed wing flights totaling 25.6 hours and two helicopter flights totaling 4.8 hours. During this quarter, 14 wolves were removed by the helicopter.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period July 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2021, 16 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 3100.5 hours worked. During this same time frame, 15 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, totaling 365.75 hours. This equates to approximately 8% of total hours worked on wolf related activities this quarter. Additionally, all depredation investigations were in response to livestock protection.

Expenditures processed between July 1 through Sept. 30, 2021 are categorized below.

- Personal compensation \$91,961.28
- Travel \$6,422.54
- Supply and Materials \$3,296.60
- Aviation Flat rate \$1,750
- Program support \$16,504.01
- Other services \$511.69

Total \$120,446.12

For additional information related to these expenditures, please refer to the Supporting Documentation provided to the Board.