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Wildlife
Services

Idaho State
Office

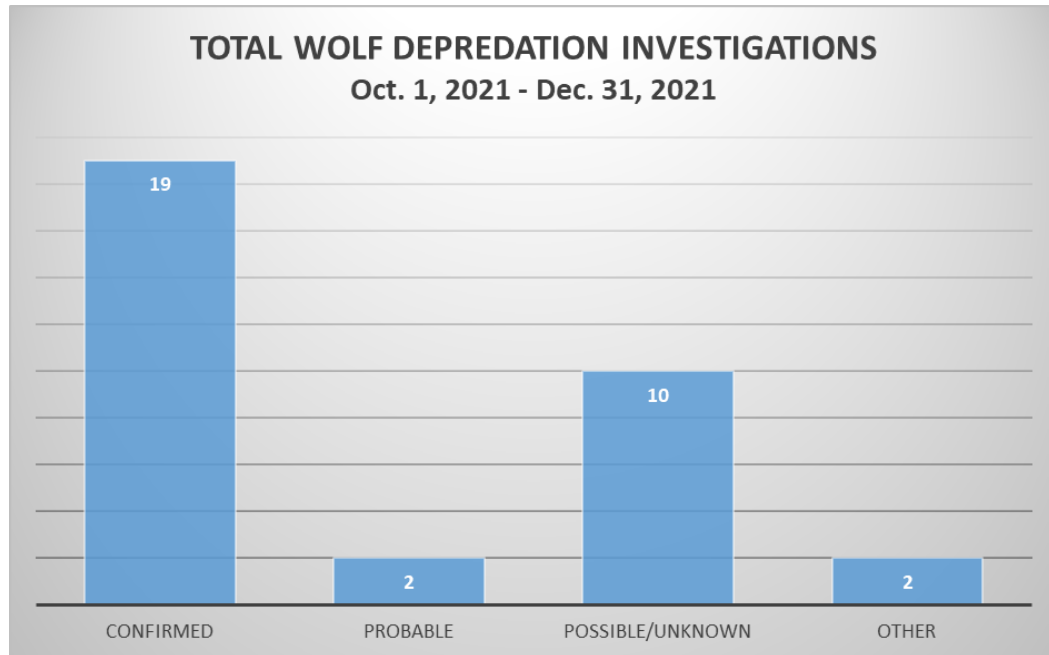
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Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) Oct 1, 2021 – Dec. 31, 2021

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 Oct. 1, 2021, thru Dec. 31, 2021.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 33 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 19 livestock producers in 11 counties (Ada, Adams, Blaine, Boundary, Custer, Elmore, Idaho, Lemhi, Teton, Valley, and Washington) during this reporting period.

Of those 33 investigations, 19 (~57%) involved confirmed depredations, 2 (~6%) involved probable depredations, 10 (~30%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 2 (~6%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

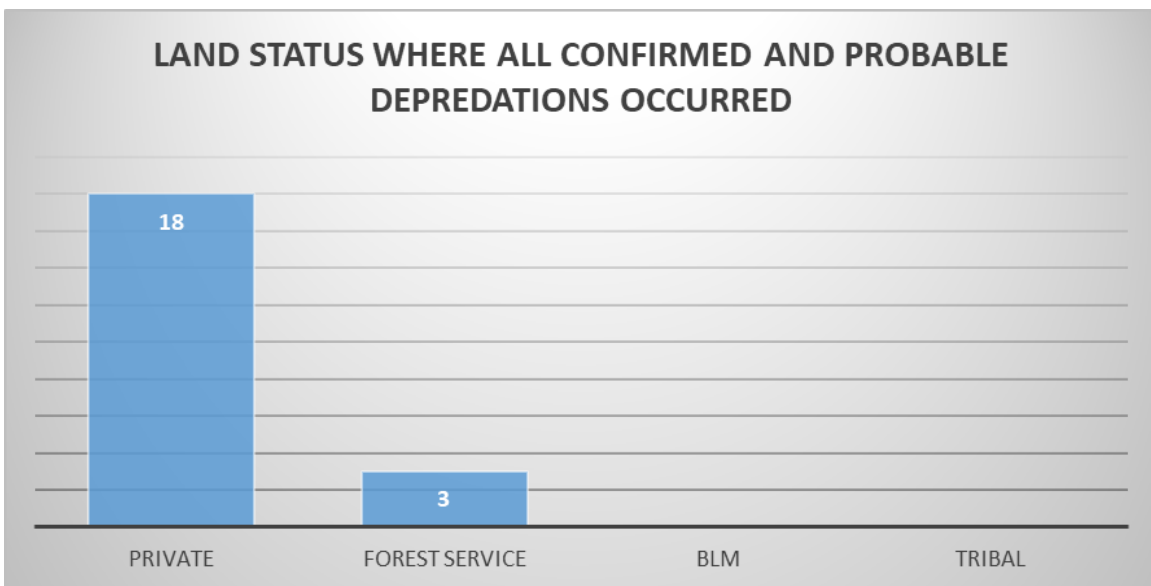
During the same period in FY 2020, WS-Idaho conducted 27 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 13 (~48%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 6 more investigations this quarter than during this same period last year.

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
11 cows (killed)	1 cow (killed)
2 cows (injured)	1 calf (killed)
3 calves (killed)	
4 calves (injured)	

Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 33 potential wolf depredations between Oct. 1, 2021, thru Dec. 31, 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, 13, 15, 24, 28, 32, 32A, 36A, 36B, 44, 51, 59, 62, and 64, the IDFG established, or extended, 14 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between Oct. 1, 2021, thru Dec. 31, 2021.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 2 wolves for the protection of livestock. Both wolves were removed in GMU 13(2). Additionally, 1 wolf was radio collared in GMU 13. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during this reporting period.

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 3 flights (2 fixed-wing and 1 helicopter) totaling 10.9 hours flown. Two fixed-wing flights totaling 5.4 hours and one helicopter flight totaling 2.3 hours. During this quarter, one wolf was removed with the fixed-wing.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period Oct. 1, 2021, thru Dec. 31, 2021, 16 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 1813.75 hours worked. During this same time frame, 13 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, totaling 118 hours. This equates to approximately 6% of total hours worked on wolf related activities this quarter. Additionally, all depredation investigations were in response to livestock protection.

Expenditures processed between Oct. 1 thru Dec. 31, 2021, are categorized below.

• Personnel compensation	\$47,602.72
• Travel	\$2,407.50
• Supplies and Materials	\$253.62
• Aviation Flat rate	\$1,378
• Program support	\$8,117.59
• Other services	\$0
Total	\$59,759.43

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