

**IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
2270 Old Penitentiary Road
PO Box 7249
Boise, ID 83707**

**IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD
Minutes of June 21, 2022, Meeting**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chanel Tewalt, ISDA (Co-chair)
Ed Schriever, Idaho Fish and Game (Co-chair)
Richard Savage
Butch Suor

DEPARTMENT STAFF: Dallas Burkhalter, Office of Attorney General – ISDA
Kelly Nielsen, ISDA

OTHERS PRESENT: Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office
Brad Carlson – Capital Press
Trevor Walch – Predator Control Corp
Joshua Uriarte – OSC
Emily Merrigan – Animal Damage Control Board
Phil Davis – Rancher ADC District 2
Katie Oelrich – Idaho Fish and Game
Patxi Larrocea-Phillips – Idaho Wool Growers Association
Julie Luchetta – Boise State Public Radio
Talasi Brooks – Western Watershed Project

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Tewalt at 10:01 a.m. MT.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board members, staff members, and others present introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Co-chair Schriever made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021, meeting. It was seconded by Richard Savage. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (2-minutes per person)

Phil Davis spoke, stating he is disappointed in this board. He is disappointed there are not more farmers and ranchers present at the meeting. He said every sportsman should be here. He said he asked for a helicopter, but that fell on deaf ears. He wants to see Wildlife Services gone and that a representative should be funded by the state, but that fell on deaf ears. There should be a \$100,000.00 limit. Who is going to make decisions? All this board does is approve the bills. He stated that wolf control should have been left with the feds.

Trevor Walch spoke, stating that wildlife services accomplished nothing and still got paid, evident in the billing. He stated that there was no bidding process done for private contractors.

REVIEW OF REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT

Kelly Nielsen gave an overview of the Financial Report. The Wolf Depredation Control Board receives funding from several different entities. Kelly stated that a few more deposits had come in this morning.

Jared Hedelius gave an overview of the Wildlife Services Report. Jared stated this is their slowest quarter. Wildlife Services has completed seven investigations related to wolf complaints. Jared discussed expenditures and those supporting documents had been sent to the board. Jared discussed fixed wing assists with helicopter in locating wolves and a summary of employee hours worked. See attached report.

Co-chair Schriever brought up the point that the Wolf Depredation Control Board has no responsibility to manage wolf population in Idaho, that is the responsibility of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission. This board manages funds to manage conflicts.

Katie Oelrich discussed the Idaho Department of Fish and Game staff reports stating that the Lolo control management areas are difficult to access and numbers of wolves that have been radio collared, tracked, removed, and/or unknown (removed by hunters, poachers, or unknown).

APPROVAL OF INVOICES (ACTION ITEMS)

Co-chair Schriever made a motion to approve invoices for Q3 & Q4 for Wildlife Services for payment as written. It was seconded by Richard Savage. Motion carried.

Richard Savage made a motion to approve the Idaho Fish and Game contract invoices for payment as written. It was seconded by co-chair Schriever. Motion carried.

Richard Savage made a motion to approve the ISDA fiscal/administrative service invoice as written. It was seconded by co-chair Schriever. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FY23 CONTRACTS (ACTION ITEMS)

Butch Suor made a motion to approve the FY23 Wildlife Services contract as written. It was seconded by Richard Savage. Motion carried.

Co-chair Schriever stated that the Idaho Department of Fish and Game FY23 contract is not ready yet and will have to be voted on during another meeting.

IWDCB STRATEGIC PLAN & PERFORMANCE MEASURES (ACTION ITEM)

Butch Suor made a motion to approve the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board Strategic Plan & Performance measures as written. It was seconded by co-chair Schriever. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

IWDCB reimbursement forms were collected from board members.

The next quarter meeting to be held on August 11, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

12:22 p.m.



United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Washington, DC 20250

Wildlife Services

Idaho State Office

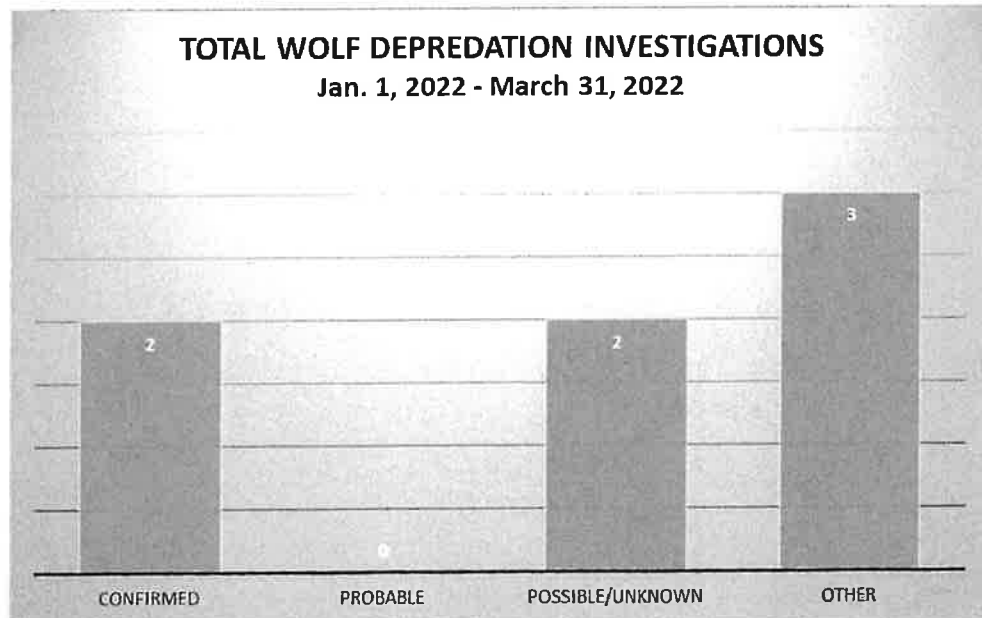
9134 W. Blackeagle Dr. Boise, ID 83709 (208) 373-1630

Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) Jan. 1, 2022 – March 31, 2022

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 Jan. 1, 2022, thru March 31, 2022.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 7 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 7 livestock producers in 6 counties (Boise, Custer, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, and Valley) during this reporting period.

Of those 7 investigations, 2 (~28%) involved confirmed depredations, (0%) involved probable depredations, 2 (~28%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 3 (~43%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



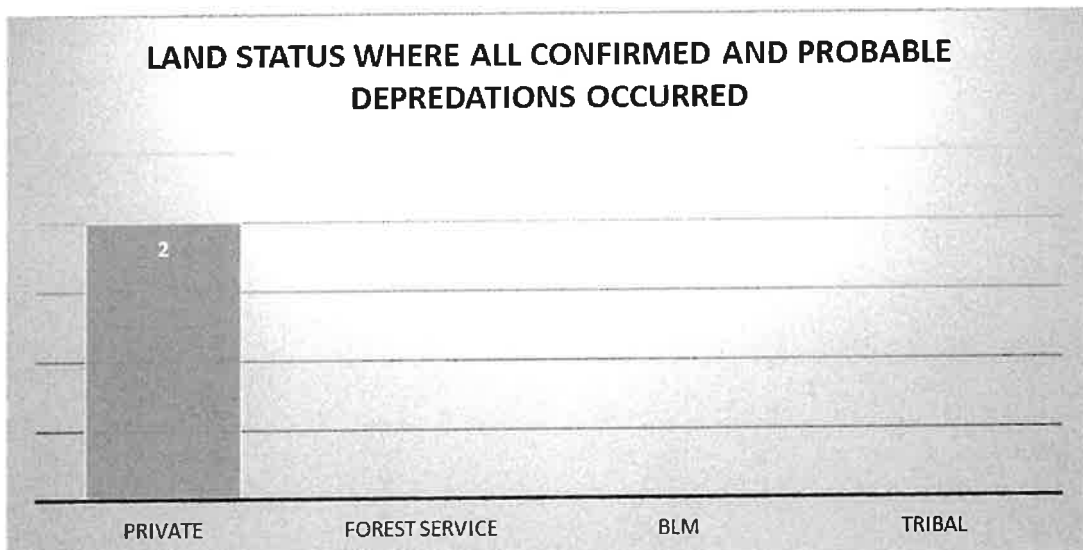
Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

During the same period in FY 2021, WS-Idaho conducted 12 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 8 (~67%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 6 more confirmed investigations during this same period last year, than this 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
1 cow (killed) 1 horse (killed)	
Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations	

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 7 potential wolf depredations between Jan. 1, 2022, thru March 31, 2022. Investigations that turned out to be either confirmed or probable depredations took place on one different land class (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) 11, 23, 24, 29, 30, 30A, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 36A, 37, 37A, 43, 44, 50, 51, and 58, the IDFG established, or extended, 18 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between Jan. 1, 2022, thru March 31, 2022.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 14 wolves for the protection of livestock. Both wolves were removed in GMU 13(6), 24(2), 44(4), and 58(2). WS did not radio collared any wolves in this quarter. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during this reporting period.

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 10 flights (2 fixed-wing and 8 helicopter) totaling 32 hours flown. Two fixed-wing flights totaling 2.9 hours and eight helicopter flight totaling 29.1 hours. During this quarter, two wolves were removed with the fixed-wing and twelve wolves were removed with the helicopter.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period Jan. 1, 2022, thru March 31, 2022, 14 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 410 hours worked. During this same time frame, 13 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, totaling 40.5 hours. This equates to approximately 9% of total hours worked on wolf related activities this quarter. Additionally, all depredation investigations were in response to livestock protection.

Expenditures processed between Jan. 1 thru March 31, 2022, are categorized below.

- Personnel compensation \$14,014.84
- Travel \$ 294.34
- Supplies and Materials \$ 1,032.96
- Aviation Flat rate \$ 6,804.00 (Separate Invoice)
- Program support \$ 2,477.75

Total \$24,623.89

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