

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

**IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD**  
**Minutes of September 12, 2022, Meeting**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Celia Gould, ISDA (Co-chair)  
Ed Schriever, Idaho Fish and Game (Co-chair)  
Chanel Tewalt, ISDA  
Richard Savage  
Jerry Cloninger

**DEPARTMENT STAFF:** Kelly Nielsen, ISDA  
Denise Lauerman, ISDA  
Dallas Burkhalter, Office of Attorney General – ISDA  
Tricia Hebdon, Idaho Fish and Game

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office  
Donna Ralston – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office  
Justin Webb – Foundation for Wildlife Management  
Patxi Larrocea-Phillips – Idaho Wool Growers Association  
Trevor Walch – Predator Control Corp  
Butch Suor – Self  
Suzanne Stone – IWCN – International Wildlife Coexistence Network  
Michel Liao – Timberline High school – TREE  
Brad Carlson – Capital Press

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

**INTRODUCTIONS**

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

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)**

Co-chair Gould made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2022, meeting. It was seconded by Jerry Cloninger. Motion carried.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT (3-minutes per person)**

Justin Webb spoke and handed out a proposal to meeting attendees for the Foundation for Wildlife Management – F4WM. Justin stated that F4WM would like to propose an additional cost share agreement with the WDCB, to reimburse sportsmen wolf harvest expenses, strictly within Chronic Livestock Depredation units, at up to \$2,000 per wolf, through a 3:1 cost share plan (WDCB/F4WM). He also stated that if accepted by the WDCB, the proposal will maximize the potential of carrying the increased reimbursement amount through the entirety of the trapping season within Chronic Livestock Depredation Units, while maximizing increased wolf harvest promotion throughout predation management zones through implementation of the current F4WM/IDFG cost share agreement.

Butch Suor, spoke, stating that if the goal of the board is to lessen the wolf population, they should give more money to private contractors to achieve this since the board's methods are not working and they have spent a lot of money.

Suzanne Stone, with International Wildlife Coexistence Network – IWCN, encouraged others to expand the non-lethal wolf control methods which are results-driven and cost effective. She offered an open invitation to see the efforts, the sheep super-highway, the loss of two wolves in 15-years, to compare loss rate versus other areas, and encouraged everyone to work with the Legislature to expand the law.

Michel Liao, Timberline High School student member of the Environmental Club TREE, shared the story of the Timberline Pack, named for the school's mascot. The students were sad to hear that the pack was killed by government officials. He spoke of the Wood River Wolf Project which promotes the coexistence of livestock and wolves and the importance of working with the legislature to expand the law for non-lethal control methods. He stated how important it is to send the correct message to the young people.

## **REVIEW OF REPORTS**

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Kelly Nielsen gave an overview of the Financial Report, including the total budget, total expenses to date, total revenue to date, and beginning cash balance for FY2023. The Wolf Depredation Control Board receives funding from several different entities.

### **WILDLIFE SERVICES REPORT**

Jared Hedelius gave an overview of the quarterly and yearly Wildlife Services Report for FY2022. Wildlife Services has completed a total of 33 investigations for the last quarter with 15 investigations that involved confirmed depredations, one probable involved depredation, and 14 possible/unknown wolf depredations. Jared stated that for FY2022, Wildlife Services completed 157 investigations in which 85 involved confirmed depredations, eight involved probable depredations, and 55 were possible/unknown wolf depredations. Jared discussed fixed wing flights, removing four wolves, and helicopter flights, removing 26 wolves. He also discussed the summary of employee hours worked, which was 4,000 hours

less than the year previous. Jared stated that the trend for conflicts seems to be coming down and for the new fiscal year, continues to go down so far. See attached report.

#### **APPROVAL OF INVOICES (ACTION ITEMS)**

Co-chair Gould made a motion to approve the three invoices for Wildlife Services for payment as written. It was seconded by Richard Savage. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Co-chair Schriever stated that Wildlife Services needs to have an agreement for any unforeseen circumstances. He stated that Idaho Department of Fish and Game has done some other things. IDFG repaid \$200,000 for legal harvest of wolves. Overall, harvest of wolves has been similar to the last five years, however, more removals occurred in areas with chronic losses. Justin Webb proposed a sportsman harvest in areas of long-term chronic conflict.

Co-chair Schriever stated that the Wolf Depredation Control Board needs to weigh in, take all these things into account, and then think about others doing wolf collaring. Put the information out there for future meetings.

Jerry Cloninger inquired about the \$300,000 surplus for Wildlife Services, co-chair Schriever stated that the board shouldn't sign a work-order for the same amount as last year, that some margin of safety is needed, but not as much as the current surplus. Discussion to be continued in future meetings.

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.

The next meeting to be held on October 17, 2022, at 10 a.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

11:08 p.m.