

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

**IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD  
Minutes of May 4, 2023, Meeting  
Meeting was live streamed via Teams**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chanel Tewalt, ISDA (Co-chair)  
Jim Fredricks, Idaho Fish and Game (Co-chair)  
Richard Savage (telephone)  
Jerry Cloninger

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office  
Donna Ralston – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office  
Suzanne Stone – IWCN  
Talasi Brooks – WWP  
Cameron Mulroney, Idaho Cattle Association  
Brad Carlson, Capital Press  
Trevor Walch – PCC  
Phil Davis  
Bailey Woolf – Idaho Sportsman  
Liz Wilder – IWGA  
Pamela Williams  
Terra Jackson  
Patxi Larrocea-Phillips – ICA/IWGA  
Garrick Dutcher  
Butch Suor  
Stevie Harris – ISDA

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Tewalt at 9:02 a.m. MT.

## **INTRODUCTIONS**

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

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

Jerry Cloninger made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Jim Fredricks. Motion carried.

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

Cameron Mulrone spoke about his time in Washington D. C. learning of the research being done on Muscle Myopathy. Cameroon stated that the Wolf Board has talked about it, may see confirmations going down. Cameron stated that he is excited about the research.

Phil Davis stated he agreed with Cameron Mulrone, that depredations are not down, confirmations are down. Elk behavior has changed, seen more chase which is where the Myopathy comes in. Phil discussed feedlot tags that track animals at all hours including nighttime hours; notifications are received in real time at any hour and the animal can be tracked to see if it is dead, and the offending wolves can be killed.

## **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 the current 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.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter – this reporting period – included 9 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 9 livestock producers in 8 counties (Custer, Elmore, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Payette, Valley, and Washington during this reporting period.

Of those 9 investigations, 1 (~16%) involved confirmed depredations, 1 (~16%) involved probable depredations, 6 (~66%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 1 (~16%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves.

He explained that the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter is generally the busiest, the 2<sup>nd</sup> is the slowest. October is when most livestock exit the forests and general hunting season is in full swing. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter begins in January and ramps up into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is generally the slowest time for depredations.

During the same period in FY22, WS-Idaho conducted 7 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 2 (~28%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 1 less confirmed investigations this quarter than last year during the same time frame.

Jared stated that not all collaring bills have been received yet. Jared answered questions of the board regarding expenses. Jared also stated that any new training related to the research being done in

Washington D. C. previously mentioned would be done out of the Wildlife Services office located in Fort Collins, CO, anything beyond that would take place in clinical/lab settings.

In response to a question, Jared explained that with hotter weather upon us, it is critical to find an animal that has been dead for less than 24-hours and that it is found within that same 24-hour period. This critical timeline changes for cold weather, which means finding an animal that has been dead for less than 48-hours and is found within 48-hours. Jared went on to state that in pastures, which are a controlled setting, these timeframes are probably achievable.

#### **IDAHO FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME REPORT**

Jim Fredricks reported that the IDFG grey wolf management 6-year plan goes before the commission next week Wednesday. IDFG has received 2,551 comments regarding the plan and staff has been working to compile all the comments prior to the commission meeting.

Tricia Hebdon stated that there have been 379 mortalities, which includes all causes, since May 1, 2023. There has been no new collaring in the Lolo area because of weather. Between March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup> there were 14 wolves removed, which left three, 2–3-year-old wolves collared in this area. Tricia stated that the June topic is how to further spend money for wolf collaring.

Jared reported that last year 12 collars were placed in four different wolf packs. This year no more than two collars will be placed per wolf pack. He stated that the goal going forward is to have two working collars per wolf pack. Tricia showed a visual map of the area that was flown for collaring. Tricia reported that collaring was happening at the same time that removal of wolves was taking place. She said they have approximately 25 collars and looking to see if more need to be ordered.

Tricia stated that they are planning to get the Montana crew again and the same spotter planes that Montana uses. Jared said they would have two new helicopters available to do high mountain collaring in two months. The cost of these new helicopters will be the same as the others.

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

Co-Chair Tewalt asked for an overview of the invoices before the Board. Kelly Nielsen reviewed the charges and supporting documents. All charges tied out to appropriate documentations.

Jerry Cloninger made a motion to approve the invoices from Wildlife Services and Idaho Department of Fish and Game for payment as written. It was seconded by Richard Savage. Motion carried.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Co-Chair Tewalt stated that the General fund is the first to be used by the Board. Tricia Hebdon stated that if IDFG has money that is not spent in the current year, it is available to use the following year.

Kelly Nielsen reported that the Wolf Board is currently in a 3-year Audit Cycle, and he will have a report out prior to the June Wolf Depredation Control Board meeting.

The Board identified June 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. for the next meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

10:03 a.m.