

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

**IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD  
Minutes of June 20, 2023, Meeting  
Meeting was live streamed via Teams**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chanel Tewalt, ISDA (Co-chair)  
Jim Fredericks, Idaho Fish and Game (Co-chair)  
Richard Savage  
Jerry Cloninger  
Jon Goode (via livestream)

**DEPARTMENT STAFF:** Lloyd Knight, ISDA  
Katie Oelrich, Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG)  
Dallas Burkhalter, Office of Attorney General – ISDA  
Kelly Nielsen, ISDA  
Denise Lauerman, ISDA  
Thadd Strom, ISDA  
Taylor Trudeau, ISDA  
Alyvia Moffis, ISDA  
Liz Shaw, ISDA

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office  
Lane Justus, WLA  
Doug Hansen, USDA WS  
Brad Carlson, Capital Press  
Trevor Walch, Predator Control Corp  
Annie Birch Wright, Timberline High School  
Bailey Woolf, Idaho Sportsman  
Patxi Larrocea-Phillips, ICA/IWGA  
Derek Goldman – livestream  
Garrick Dutcher – livestream  
Justin Webb (F4WM) – livestream  
Pamela Williams – livestream  
Kathleen Trever (IDFG) – livestream  
Levi Scott - livestream

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Tewalt at 1:02 p.m. MT.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

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

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

Co-chair Jim Fredericks indicated a misspelling of his last name in the minutes to be approved. Jon Goode made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023, meeting with the spelling correction to be made. Seconded by Richard Savage. Motion carried.

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

Annie Birch Wright spoke about leaving Idaho to further her education in Environmental Science at Willamette, Oregon. She stated she doesn't see a future in Idaho; tax dollars are being used to eradicate wolves to extinction. Annie said that this is scaring future residents of Idaho, but she will continue to fight for others.

## **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 stated that the report isn't complete yet, as the full quarter has not occurred at this time.

The information available at this time – included 15 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints in 8 counties during this reporting period of April and May.

Of those 15 investigations, 7 involved confirmed depredations, 6 were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 2 of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves.

During the same period in FY22, WS-Idaho conducted 18 wolf depredation investigations. These numbers indicate there was 1 less confirmed investigation this quarter than last year during the same time frame.

Jared stated that the cost of work since July 1, 2022, includes collaring. Current and extended control actions include 17 control actions and the removal of two wolves connected to sheep kill.

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

Co-chair Jim Fredericks reported that the IDFG wolf population objective is approximately 500 wolves, which is a significant decrease from 2019 – 2021. The IDFG has a plan that identifies strategies to get to that number.

Katie Oelrich gave an overview of the Harvest Season 2022 Wolf Update Management and monitoring, which tracks harvest over time. She discussed the Cooperative Agreement and the shift in harvest, and the shift in where harvest is taking place.

Katie discussed the Idaho Gray Wolf Management Plan 2023-2028, including maps of the IDFG Wolf Management Direction, indicating camera base, genetic monitoring, and the occupancy survey. Katie stated that currently there are approximately 1200 wolves, with the intention of decreasing the wolf population to 500 at the end of the year 2028.

## **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.

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

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

## **DISCUSSION – CONTRACTS with ACTION ITEMS**

Co-Chair Tewalt started the discussion regarding contracts using revenue and budget flow charts. If the board is supportive, action could be taken today, or the board could prioritize or weigh parameters as to how projects might be constructed. Whatever is set today, then the board would have a chance to get data from that and then start to build the picture to define future action. Katie Oelrich stated that the board has gone over broad concepts in the past, this would be another tool to give livestock producers a way to address wolf concepts with the support of the board. She said that typically, when it comes to wolf control, it's been the work of the IDFG or WS. We don't have the data to support that right now.

Four different contract options were discussed, each having different dollar amounts for collaring, wildlife services, producer proposals, ISDA administration costs, and travel and state costs. The proposals allow for movement of categories.

Jon Goode, board member, suggested the concept of \$25-\$50K for a starter, knowing the board has flexibility. Jerry Cloninger, board member added that he likes option #1 and would like to continue collaring, likes the producer control, and would likely be the best value. He stated that he would like to pay out on the first wolf. Jim Fredericks, co-chair, like a smaller amount for the producer piece, he would like to continue collaring. Jim stated that they have had creative discussions with F4WM regarding the "first wolf" conversation. Richard Savage, board member, wondered how long it would take to get this up and running. He thought that people may want to see this available this summer. He stated that feedback will be important, some may fail while some may be very successful. Chanel responded that if the board votes "yes," with a dollar amount, then the board could move forward as quickly as possible. Could come up with a strawman structure, Kelly Nielsen, ISDA, said this will end up as a contract.

Jerry responded that the board wouldn't want to double-dip between this and the F4WM. Richard responded that there is some conversation about whether the board wants to expand the confirmation workload beyond Wildlife Services. Jared Hedelius, with Wildlife Services, responded that this is necropsy, not lab work. Chanel stated that this is a topic for the Office of Species Conservation (OSC), and they are aware of the question. Jared stated that 90 percent of their responses for investigations happen within 24-hours, in the field and not within a controlled lab, they must identify "killed" vs. "just died." Decomposition happens rapidly, especially throughout the hotter months of the year.

Jerry stated bringing a proposal of \$400,000 to the board which includes collaring. Chanel responded if that wasn't enough, the board could add more dollars. Jared responded that an agreement can be amended. Kelly stated that revenue would come from funds, and any dollar amount above the fund would dip into the savings. He said that in past years we have seen high proposals and low expenses. Richard stated that the board should spend dollars on collaring and producers, and not give the money back. Chanel responded for the board to set some contracts.

Action Item 1 – Wildlife Services FY24: \$400,000 (\$275,000 for control and \$125,000 for collaring). Jon made a motion to approve the Wildlife Services FY24 contract for \$400,000 total. It was seconded by Jerry Cloninger. Motion carried.

Action Item 2 – IDFG: \$300,000 plus \$100,000 (\$200,000 to F4WM) (LY was \$200,000 from this board, and then more from Commission Challenge Grant. Jerry made a motion to approve action item #2. It was seconded by Jon Goode. Motion carried.

Action Item 3 – Producer Proposal: Jim proposes \$50,000 to start; the proposal can be modified if it turns out to be productive. ISDA draft proposal; ISDA staff direction – parameters; weight towards projects with more than one producer, chronic depredation units, and the given constraints on land ownership (no federal). Jim made a motion to approve the producer proposal for \$50,000 to start. It was seconded by Jon Goode. Motion carried.

Co-chair Tewalt stated then, to clarify, staff direction:

1. IDFG
2. F4WM
3. Wildlife Services collaring and other
4. Producer.

Co-Chair Tewalt had the board review one last invoice with Kelly. Richard made a motion to approve the invoice from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for payment as written. It was seconded by Jerry Cloninger. Motion carried.

#### **IWDCB STRATEGIC PLAN & PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

Co-Chair Tewalt discussed the strategic plan and performance measures for the Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board. She stated that the strategic plan can be taken up in the future.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Reimbursements can be settled with Denise.

The Board identified August 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. for the next meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

2:56 p.m.