

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

**IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD
Minutes of April 9, 2026, Meeting
Meeting was live streamed via Teams**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chanel Tewalt, ISDA (Co-chair)
Jim Fredericks, Idaho Fish and Game – IDFG (Co-chair)
Jerry Cloniger
Richard Savage
Jon Goode

DEPARTMENT STAFF: Lloyd Knight – ISDA
Cory Mosby – IDFG
Tricia Hebdon - IDFG
Kelly Nielsen – ISDA
Dallas Burkhalter, Office of Attorney General – ISDA
Michele Costello – ISDA
Tonya March – ISDA
Marshall Toryanski, Office of Attorney General – ISDA
Jon Rachael - IDFG

OTHERS PRESENT: Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office
Justin Webb - F4WM
Butch Suor
Greg LeDonne
Teresa Stevens – F4WM
Pat Kelly – Environmental Action
Jeff Abrams - ICL
Pamela Williams
Megan Smith
Lane Justus – WLA
Sydney Steel
Garrick Dutcher
Alma Sanchez

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Tewalt at 10:03 a.m. MT.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board members and support staff introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

Public comment attachment needed on June 27, 2025 meeting minutes. Jon Goode, board member, motioned for meeting minutes to be approved. Co-chair Jim Fredericks seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Pamela Williams – citizen advocate, minutes are over a year old

Jeff Abrams (ICL) – lots of sampling on the west side, can anyone characterize the nature of the depredations around Davis (Valley County)? Is he just a squeaky wheel getting the grease?

Pamela Williams – If the purpose of the board is to provide transparency make documents available, etc.

REPORTS

Kelly Nielsen gave a verbal update on the financial report. GF holdbacks 4% ongoing for FY26, 5% for FY27 ongoing. From the original appropriation of \$380,000, we have \$253,970 remaining for FY26. (GF) Kelly Nielsen also provided balances for the Livestock and FG Funds.

Jared Hedelius gave a verbal update on 3rd Quarter report. One possible in Nez Pierce County, one unknown in Bear Lake County, and one confirmed in Adams County. 32 control actions across the state, where 100% of time and efforts are concentrated. Removed 11 wolves, wolf collar put on one in GMU 1/23. They have 15 different employees that include trappers, pilots, and gunners.

Question from Jon Goode – Myopathy and DNA. Answer -Since July 1 we have taken DNA samples from 13 different cases (depredations). All of those were taken after instructions from the lab on how to collect and preserve the DNA, and then sent to the Wildlife Forensic Lab in Florida. 12 of the 13 came back showing no wolf DNA detected, while 1 came back “possible” but results were leaning more towards coyote than wolf DNA. \$6500 in expenses that will be sent to the board for reimbursement.

Question from Jon Goode- Where were those 13 spread geographically? Answer- they were fairly localized in Western Idaho. They came from a handful of different GMUs, probably 8-9 different livestock producers. We took more than one sample from a couple of different livestock producers.

There were 5 different cases of Myopathy. These samples were submitted following the instructions from Washington State Lab. Some samples will not be good after a certain amount of time; most samples were taken within the 24–36-hour period. In all cases there was no myopathy was detected. No bill was generated for these, most likely no funds will be expended. As far as locations for these samples 100% of them were taken in western Idaho.

Question from Richard Savage – Is there a process for deciding where the samples are taken from? Are all of them from western Idaho? Answer- more an issue of where there was a potential of disagreement on the field investigation, where the producer is not confident in the investigations. Time and weather degrade samples and the carcass quickly and samples can't be taken if time and weather are a factor in getting good samples.

Jim Fredericks – It is fair to say that these studies were initiated to address the concerns of producers in a particular area. These studies weren't intended to be a statewide study, not to say that we couldn't but they were pushed in a certain area by producers.

Chanel Tewalt – As we look forward to the likely scenarios where samples might be sent on, we should think about how and where we look for good myopathy data. Something to think about before the next meeting.

Richard Savage – What kind of DNA does the wolf leave on a carcass? What are they leaving that we are looking for? Answer – the primary source of DNA left on a carcass is saliva from the wolf. We are looking for bite marks on areas to pull the hide back and look for evidence and potential samples.

Tricia Hebdon – If you are swabbing for saliva and it was after it had been scavenged on, the testing can pick up different species as well as the original predator, such as coyotes.

Richard Savage – Does DNA degrade? Answer – DNA lasts a long time, but it can be “washed off” from weather that also degrades the carcass.

Cory Mosby gave update on 2025 harvest season. For harvest season 2025 to date, we are at a total of 265 wolf mortalities. Of the 265 mortalities approximately 50% were by hunting, 40% by trapping, and 10% from depredation work conducted by Wildlife Services or IDFG for Selective Removal. Approximately 84% of these harvests occurred on public land, the rest on private land. The current harvest of 2025 is tracking very closely to the 2024 season, but these years are down significantly from previous seasons before the federal injunction on wolf trapping, which would have been around 380 at this time.

APPLICATIONS

Davis application – Jon Rachael had a conversation with Davis about wolves and the proximity to private land.

AGREEMENT ACTIVITY UPDATES

Jared Hedelius (WS)- It took a bit longer to work through the signing process, so billing purposes were delayed. We have had to go back and do some work to clean things up and catch up for Quarter 1 and Quarter 2.

Justin Webb (F4WM)- In Feb/March there were 24 wolves removed under the WDCB contract.

ACTION ITEMS

No action items discussed

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussed possible end of May or beginning of June dates for Fiscal Year End meeting.

CONCLUSION

Co-chair Tewalt thanked the public for their attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

11:02 a.m. by Co-chair Tewalt – No definitive next meeting set.