Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board

Regular Meeting
Virtual (Teams)
April 9, 2026
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. MT

Agenda

10:00 a.m.	Convene meeting
	Introductions
	Approval of minutes from prior meeting (Action Item)
	Public Comment (15 minutes)
	Reports • Financial overview – Kelly Nielsen • Wildlife Services – Jared Hedelius • IDFG – IDFG Staff
	Discussion Items • Funding Application for Davis, Walkin D, and CC&T
	Agreement Activity Update • Wildlife Services • F4WM • Valley County
	Action Items • None
	Other Business • Schedule next meeting date
	Wrap-up and Adjourn

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

IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD
Minutes of June 27, 2025, Meeting
Meeting was live streamed via Teams

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chanel Tewalt, ISDA (Co-chair)
Tricia Hebdon, Idaho Fish and Game – IDFG (Acting Co-Chair for Jim Fredericks)
Richard Savage (via phone)
Jon Goode (via livestream)

DEPARTMENT STAFF: Lloyd Knight – ISDA
Cory Mosby - IDFG
Kelly Nielsen – ISDA
Dallas Burkhalter, Office of Attorney General – ISDA
Jason Meyers – ISDA

OTHERS PRESENT: Jared Hedelius – USDA Wildlife Services, Idaho Office
Rosanne Noble, IWCN
Lane Justus, WLA
Megan Smith, LWW
Dr. Krista Lyons, IWCN
Pamela Williams (via livestream)
Suzanne Asha Stone (via livestream)
Garrick Dutcher (via livestream)
Patxi Larrocea-Phillips (via livestream)
Pat Kelly-Fischer (via livestream)
Julie Tumblety (via livestream)

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Tewalt at 1:03 p.m. MT.

INTRODUCTIONS

Board members and support staff introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (ACTION ITEM)

No corrections requested on the January 31, 2025 meeting minutes. No corrections requested on the February 21, 2025 meeting minutes. Jon Goode, board member, motioned for both meeting minutes to be approved. Acting Co-chair Tricia Hebdon seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Rosanne Noble – See attached public comment document for complete statement

Dr. Krista Lyons – Spoke on the positive impact of predators on environmental health. Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is on the rise and is a big problem for the environment. States like Idaho are at a higher risk for spill over. Peer reviewed studies show wolves and other predators can help with lowering populations of wildlife with CWD. Dr. Lyons ended by asking the board to consider CWD's impact on the state when considering this year's wolf harvest numbers.

REPORTS

Jared Hedelius gave a verbal report on fiscal year-to-date numbers. Wildlife Services has removed 17 wolves and collared 3 wolves. Wildlife Services has conducted around 80 investigations, with most of them being sheep. Most investigations are conducted in July and August, so this is just before the busy part of the year. Jon Goode, board member, asked about the myopathy and DNA sampling. Jared stated that so far, 3 DNA samples have been sent to the University of Florida, and they are expecting results back at any time. No myopathy samples have been collected yet.

Jared also stated that next year's contract needs to be signed if the board is going to continue with Wildlife Services. There are two different contracts, one for collaring and one for lethal efforts, and the contract amounts will not change from this year's.

Kelly Nielsen reviewed the fund and how the different sub-accounts interact with the process. He reviewed numbers for the fiscal year and reported on the fund balance.

Cory Mosby reviewed current year to date numbers on the IDFG handout, and next year's action plan for IDFG.

ACTION ITEMS

Co-chair Tewalt reviewed a budget framework for FY2026 that included the FY26 Wildlife Services contract, F4WM contract, and ISDA administrative costs.

The board reviewed the budget. Co-Chair Tewalt recommended increasing the DNA sampling being performed by Wildlife Services from the current number to twenty samples. This would add an additional $12,000 cost not listed on the budget framework.

Jon Goode, board member, recommended a change on the second page of the Foundation for Wildlife Management contract to properly align with the board's fiscal year instead of May 2025 – June 2026.

Jon Goode, board member, motioned to make the FY2026 budget framework handout with the additional $12,000 for DNA sampling and the change in dates to the F4WM contract the budget for FY2026. This would include approving all contracts listed in the budget framework. Richard Savage, board member, seconded the motion. None opposed. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

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CONCLUSION

Co-chair Tewalt thanked the public for their attendance.

ADJOURNMENT

1:52 p.m. by Co-chair Tewalt – No definitive next meeting set

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United States Department of Agriculture

United States Department of Agriculture

Marketing and Regulatory Programs

Washington, DC 20250

Wildlife Services

Idaho State Office

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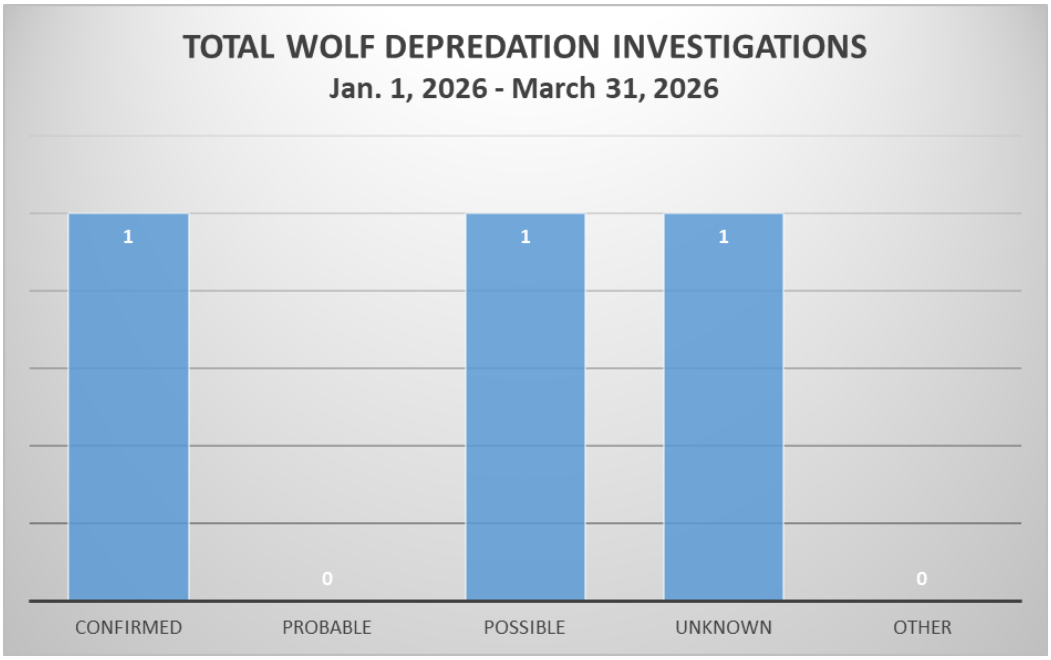
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 373-1630

Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions
Idaho Wildlife Services (WS)
Jan. 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

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, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 3 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 3 livestock producers in 3 counties (Adams, Bear Lake, and Nez Perce) during this reporting period.

Of those 3 investigations, 1 involved a confirmed depredation, 0 involved probable depredations, 1 possible depredation, 1 unknown depredation, and no complaints were identified to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

During the same period in FY 2025, WS-Idaho conducted 2 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers.

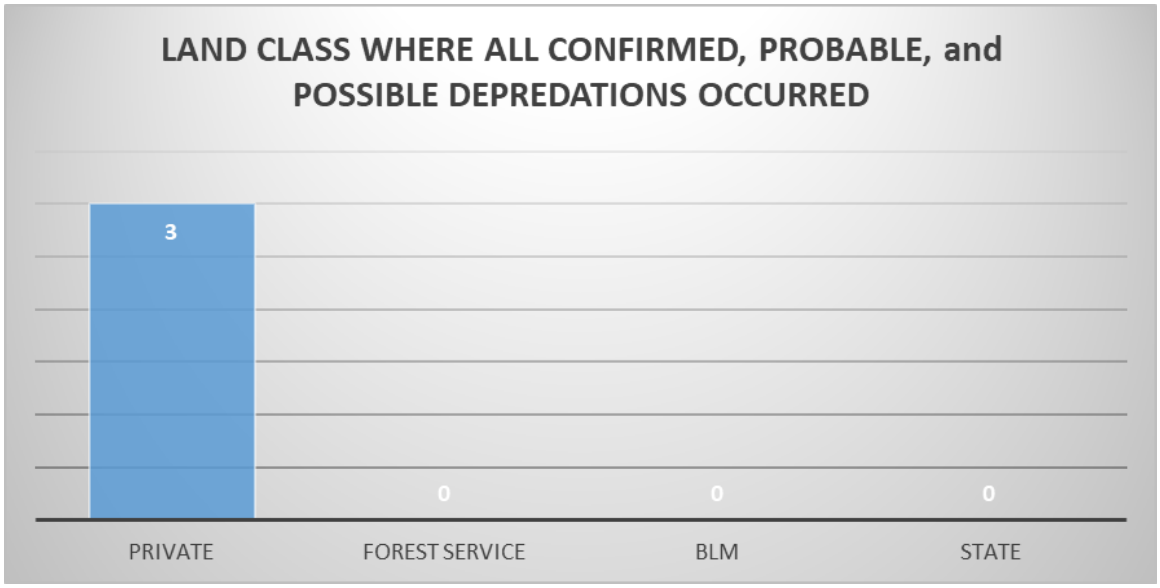
Based on WS-Idaho's investigations, the minimum number of confirmed, probable, and possible livestock depredations due to wolves during this reporting period is provided below (Table 1). These are all eligible for compensation.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

GMU	Investigations	Determination	Livestock Quantity Lost	Livestock Type	Livestock Class	Type of Loss	Land Class
11	1	Possible	1	Cattle	Calves	Killed/Possible	Private
22	1	Confirmed	1	Cattle	Calves	Killed/Confirmed	Private

Table 1. All confirmed, probable, and possible depredations.

As mentioned, WS-Idaho responded to 3 potential wolf depredations between Jan. 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026 (Graph 3).



Graph 3. Land status where confirmed, probable, and possible depredations occurred.

Wolf Depredations and Removals:

In response to confirmed and chronic wolf depredations on livestock, the IDFG established or extended 32 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf depredation control activities between Jan. 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho removed 11 wolves within GMU's 22, 23, 35, 36A, 39, 43, and 45. WS additionally collared 1 wolf in GMU 23.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period Jan. 1, through March 31, 2026, 15 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions to some degree for a total of 794 hours worked. During this same time frame, 3 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, totaling 24.5 hours. This equates to approximately .030% of total hours worked on wolf-related activities this quarter.

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

Wolf Depredation Control Board

Producer Application for Grant Funding

The applicant is applying for funding to retain an individual or entity involved in the lethal and nonlethal control of wolves in their geographic area.

1. **Requested Date of Wolf Depredation Control Board Funds:** When receipts have been submitted.

2. **Estimated Length Project:** March 31, 2026 – December 31, 2026

3. **Applicant Names:**
    i. Davis Cattle Company

4. **Applicant Addresses:**
    i. 125 Warm Lake HWY, Cascade, ID 83611-5102

5. **County:** Valley

6. **Wolf Trapping/Hunting Zone(s)**: 22, 23, 24, 25, 32, 32A, 33, 34

7. **Have one of the entities/individuals had confirmed livestock depredations in previous years?**

    (x)YES or ( )NO

8. **Have one or more of the entities/individuals had confirmed livestock depredations in the current year?**

    ( )YES or (x)NO

    a. **If the answer is NO to the previous question has there been any investigations conducted of animals killed or evidence of the presence of wolves in the area?**
        i. There have not been any confirmed depredations on applicants' property this calendar year.

9. **Describe how much funding you are requesting; your plan on how you will use the Wolf Depredation Control Board funds (hiring a contractor to prevent further wolf-livestock incidences by lethal control, potential costs to be incurred) and include what has caused the need for the funds (depredations/wolf sightings near livestock, tracks etc.):**

The producer listed in this application would like to retain a contractor to assist with the lethal and nonlethal control of wolves in Valley County. Wolves have traditionally travelled through the area at various times of the year. On many years wolves have caused confirmed livestock depredations in the area for the applicant and surrounding ranchers.

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The applicant Davis Cattle Company operates a cattle ranch outside of Cascade, Idaho in Valley County where they graze livestock from spring through the late fall. Most of the property is privately owned, but the contractor use lethal or nonlethal measures on public land at times. The contractor would be responsible for all legal lethal and nonlethal forms of take and will need to have the adequate knowledge of the hunting/trapping seasons and the proper license and permits. The contractor would use all approved methods to pursue harvesting wolves in the geographic area. This would include trapping, hunting and any other legal means of take within the State of Idaho.

The applicant is seeking reimbursement up to $25,000.00 from the Wolf Depredation Control Board through this producer grant to compensate trappers that trap a live wolf and are able to have that wolf collared by Idaho Fish and Game. The applicant will reimburse the trapper when invoices are submitted requesting payment for the trapped wolf and it meets the specifications of collaring.

Applicant would also request the ability to compensate trappers on other livestock owners' property if those livestock owners consent to having a wolf trapped on their property and collared. Applicant will need to submit proper invoices.

It will be incumbent upon the applicant to monitor the amount that has been paid to the contractor and stay within the limits of the funded grant. Additionally, when requesting reimbursement producers will attempt to file to the best of their knowledge any pertinent information that they receive from a contractor including the number of wolves harvested or trapped for collaring purposes.

Applicant would request that the grant is approved by the Wolf Depredation Control Board to engage a contractor's services.

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