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Wildlife
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Idaho State
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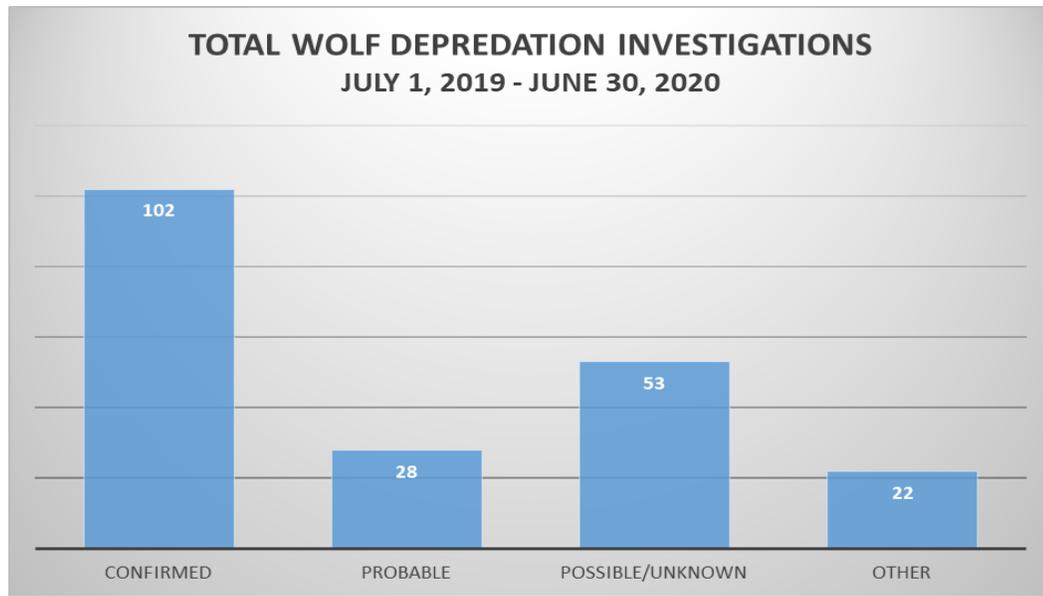
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Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

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 that the Board has funded from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 205 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 111 livestock producers in 16 counties (Adams, Blaine, Boise, Bonneville, Camas, Clark, Clearwater, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gem, Idaho, Lemhi, Teton, Valley & Washington) during this reporting period.

Of those 205 investigations, 102 (~50%) involved confirmed depredations, 28 (~14%) involved probable depredations, 53 (~29%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 22 (~11%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho.

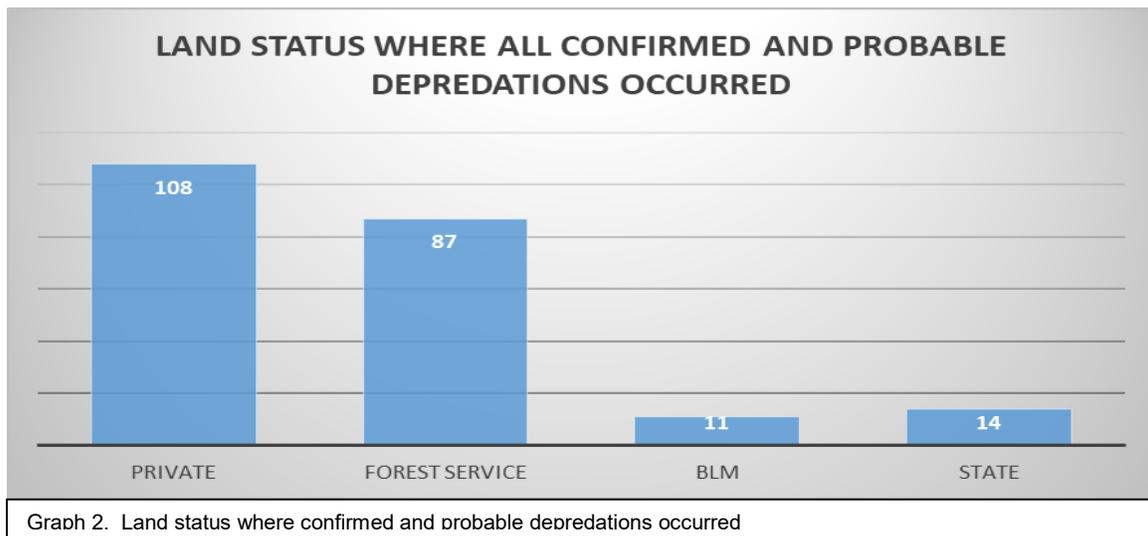
During the same period in FY 2019, WS-Idaho conducted 264 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 175 (~66%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. FY 2020 had 73 less confirmed depredations than FY 2019.

Based on WS-Idaho’s investigations, the minimum number of confirmed and probable livestock depredations due to wolves during the reporting period is provided below (Table 1).

Confirmed	Probable
27 cows (killed), 1 cow (injured) 43 calves (killed), 10 calves (injured) 59 sheep (killed), 8 sheep (injured) 2 dogs (killed), 5 dogs (injured) 1 domestic bison (killed)	10 cows (killed) 5 calves (killed), 1 calf (injured) 5 sheep (killed) 3 dogs (killed)

Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 205 potential wolf depredations between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020. Investigations that turned out to be either confirmed or probable depredations took place over four different land statuses, private, Forest Service, BLM, and State lands (Graph 2).



Wolf Depredations and Removals:

In response to confirmed wolf depredations on livestock in Game Management Units (GMU) 10A, 13, 15, 18, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30A, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 39, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, 59, 62, and 65, the IDFG established, or extended, 92 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 93 wolves for the protection of livestock. Wolves were removed from GMU’s 10A(2), 13(1), 14(1), 15(4), 22(2), (23(12), 24(4), 29(7), 30A(1), 31(1), 32A(5), 33(1), 36A(6), 36B(2), 39(12), 44(7), 45(3), 49(10), 50(1), 61(1), and 64(5). During the same period of time in 2019, WS-Idaho removed 66 wolves for the protection of livestock. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during this reporting period. Currently, there are 41 active control actions in the State.

Additionally, eight wolves were captured, radio-collared, and released by WS-Idaho in GMU's 15(1), 22(1), 29(1), 49(1), 50(1) and 51(3).

Aircraft:

Forty wolves were removed via aerial control efforts during this reporting period. WS-Idaho conducted 60 flights (8f/w and 52 helicopter) that lasted a total of 187.9 hours (17.8 hours f/w/170.1 hours' helicopter).

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, 21 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions associated with this Agreement for a total of 11,645.25 hours worked.