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Wildlife
Services

Idaho State
Office

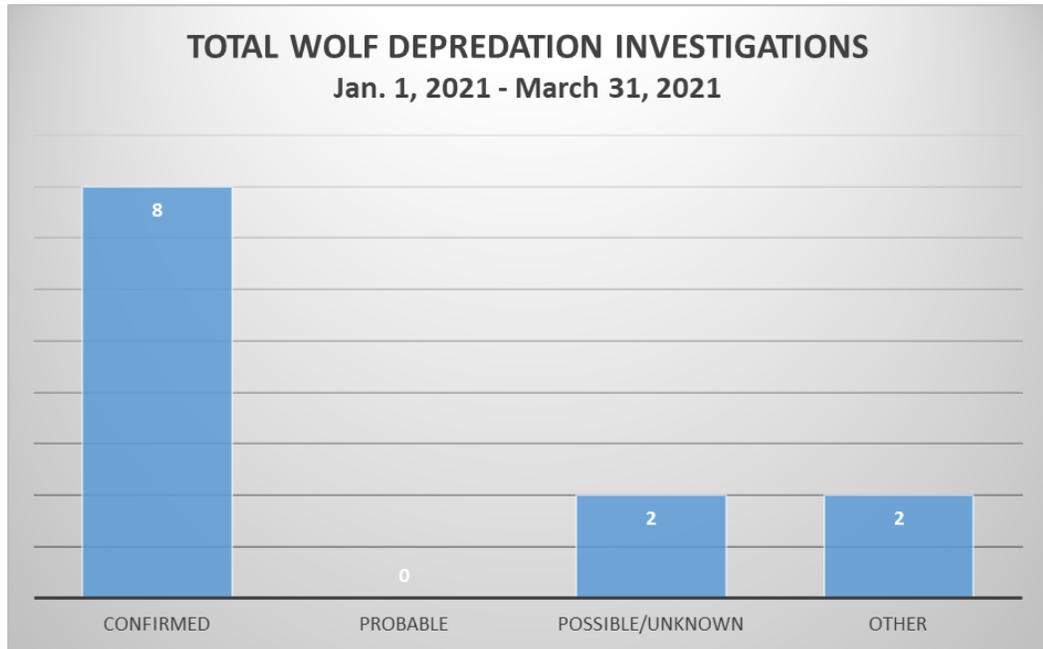
9134 W.
Blackeagle Dr.
Boise, ID 83709
(208) 373-1630

Wolf Depredation Investigations and Control Actions Idaho Wildlife Services (WS) Jan. 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021

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, 2021 through March 31, 2021.

Investigations Summary: WS-Idaho conducted 12 depredation investigations related to wolf complaints, for 7 livestock producers in 3 counties (Custer, Gem, and Lemhi) during this reporting period.

Of those 12 investigations, 8 (~67%) involved confirmed depredations, 0 involved probable depredations, 2 (~16%) were possible/unknown wolf depredations, and 2 (~16%) of the complaints were determined to be causes other than wolves (Graph 1).



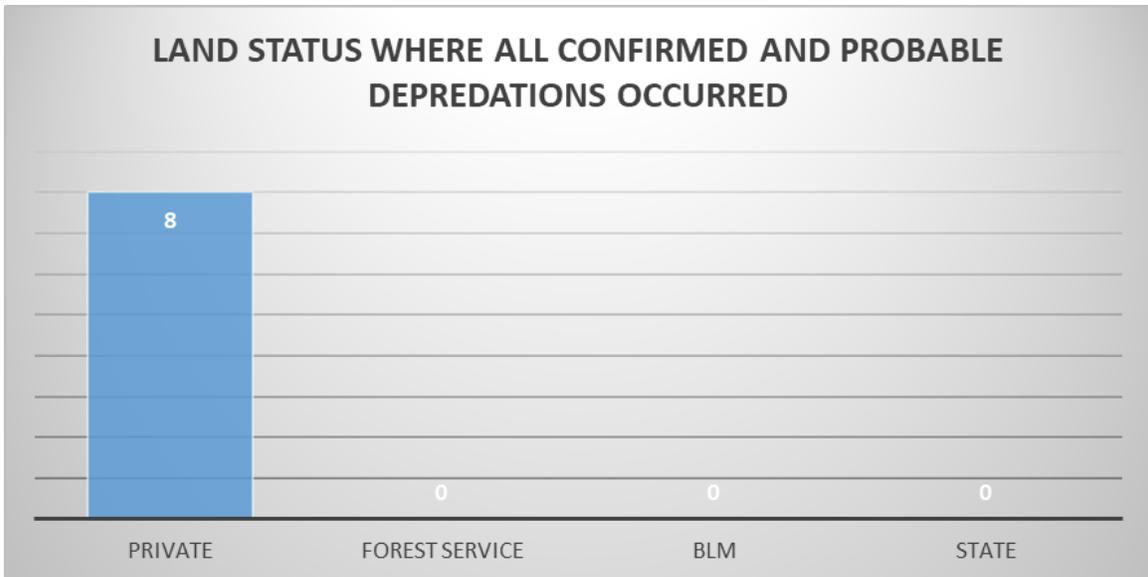
Graph 1. Total investigations responded to by WS-Idaho

During the same period in FY 2020, WS-Idaho conducted 7 wolf depredation investigations for Idaho livestock producers, of which 3 (~43%) were determined to be confirmed wolf depredations. These numbers indicate there were 5 more depredation investigations this quarter than during this same period last year.

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
4 cows (killed) 1 cow (injured) 2 calves (killed) 1 domestic bison calf (killed)	
Table 1. All confirmed and probable depredations	

As mentioned above, WS-Idaho responded to 12 potential wolf depredations between Jan. 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021. Investigations that turned out to be either confirmed or probable depredations took place on private property only (Graph 2).



Graph 2. Land status where confirmed and probable depredations occurred

Wolf Depredations and Removals:

In response to confirmed wolf depredations on livestock in Game Management Units (GMU) 13, 18, 22, 24, 29, 30, 30A, 31, 32, 32A, 33, 36A, 37, 37A, 50, 51, 58, and 59A, the IDFG established, or extended, 71 control actions for WS-Idaho to conduct wolf control activities between Jan. 1, 2021 and March 31, 2021.

During this time frame, WS-Idaho successfully removed 4 wolves for the protection of livestock. Two wolves were removed in GMU 50 and two were removed in GMU 51. Additionally, 4 wolves were radio collared – one in each of the following GMUs; 22, 23, 51, and 63. WS-Idaho did not remove any wolves for the protection of wild ungulates during this reporting period.

Aircraft:

WS-Idaho conducted 15 flights (6 fixed wing and 9 helicopter) totaling 22.1 hours flown. Six fixed wing flights totaled 9.1 hours and nine helicopter flights totaled 13

hours. During this quarter, the 4 wolves removed were by the fixed wing. Additionally, 3 of the 4 wolves collared were by the helicopter.

Summary of employee hours worked:

For the period Jan. 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021, 14 WS-Idaho employees performed wolf control actions in some degree for a total of 1122.50 hours worked. During this same time frame, 2 WS-Idaho employees spent time responding to depredation investigations, which totaled 43 hours. This equates to approximately 4% of total hours worked on wolf related activities this quarter. Additionally, all these depredation investigations were in response to livestock protection.