

# **Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board**

## **2020 Annual Report**



Compiled by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture





# ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Governor Gordon  
Joint Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Committee  
Joint Appropriations Committee  
Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee

**FROM:** Doug Miyamoto, ADMB Co-Chair  
Brian Nesvik, ADMB Co-Chair

**DATE:** November 23, 2020

**SUBJECT:** 2020 Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board Annual Report

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Please find enclosed the required annual progress report due on or before November 30 of each year regarding the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding this report.

cc: ADMB Members  
Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
Wyoming Game & Fish Commission



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**WYOMING  
ANIMAL DAMAGE  
MANAGEMENT  
BOARD**

**Directory**

6607 Campstool Road  
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The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Program was created by the 1999 Legislature and is administered by a 15 member board (12 voting, 3 ex-officio, non-voting members), commonly known as the Animal Damage Management Board, or simply the “ADMB”.

The ADMB was established for the purposes of mitigating damage caused to livestock, wildlife, and crops by predatory animals, predacious birds, and depredating animals, or for the protection of human health and safety. The program is authorized to investigate, test, and refine the concept of integrated predator management.

**Co-Chairs (2)**

Doug Miyamoto, Director  
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2219 Carey Avenue  
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307-777-6569 Fax 307-777-6593  
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**Domestic Sheep Producer Representative**

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Term - To 8/2021

**Cattle Producer Representative**

Garret Falkenburg  
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Term: To 8/2023

**State Director, USDA/Wildlife Services**

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**Sportsmen/Outfitters/Hunters (2)**

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Casper, WY 82601  
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Robert (Bob) Phillips  
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Sheridan, WY 82801  
307-751-2114  
bgphillips@vcn.com  
Term: To 8/2023

**President, Predatory Animal Advisory Board**

Jeff Boner  
PO Box 15  
Douglas, WY 82633  
307-358-5330  
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Term: Indefinite

**Urban Representative**

Ron Cunningham  
110 Wendy Street  
Lander, WY 82520  
307-332-5401  
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Term: To 8/2023

**WY Game & Fish Commissioner**

Gay Lynn Bird  
Douglas, WY 82633  
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Term: To 3/2021

**WY Board of Agriculture**

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**Non-consumptive User of Wildlife Representative**

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**Ex-officio Nonvoting Members****United States Forest Service Representative**

Sandy Underhill  
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Term: Indefinite

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service Representative**

Tyler Abbott  
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**United States Bureau of Land Management Representative**

Brad Jost  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
307-775-6106  
bjost@blm.gov  
Term: Indefinite

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## **2020 Major Issue Overview**

### **Predator Management District Funding**

The \$6.26 million that was originally budgeted for Predator Management Districts was cut by 10% during the budget funding cuts. The ADMB Board during its May allocation meeting was proactive to the Governor's budget cuts and decided to adjust the allocation amount and approved a funding cut and distributed \$2,727,000 to the 19 predator districts that applied to the program for the current year.

The ADMB and local predator management districts have been working together to manage this reduction in funding. Districts have used nearly all the reserve cash they have and have reduced personnel dedicated to reducing predator depredation in the state. In the last three years, 19 contracted personnel positions were eliminated and will not be replaced. Several County districts have worked together to keep a valuable trapper by reducing his contract to half time and sharing his contract costs between the two districts. Additionally several county boards have chosen to use private contractors to reduce costs, these trappers have not had raises for several years due to the cuts to the ADMB budget. The cost of predator control continues to rise and the Districts struggle to maintain predator control at current funding levels.

### **Gray Wolf Management in the Predator Zone**

With the gray wolf returning to state management in 2017, wolf management in the "predator" area of the state falls back to predator districts to provide management to Wyoming ranchers. Returning gray wolves to state management has certainly helped Wyoming ranchers in the "predator" area, allowing them to protect their livestock. For the period between October 2018 and September 2019 11 wolves were removed having caused verified livestock damage as follows: 29 lambs, 6 ewes, 22 calves, 1 cow, and 1 calf injured. They still need help with depredating, chronic problems that they do not have the resources to handle on their own. The 2020 Wyoming legislature had increased the district funding by \$1.1 million but with this increase they only provided \$100,000 for wolf control. They also provided a line item

increase of \$45,000 to the predator control budget for a gray wolf depredation compensation program. As of today, the funding for the compensation program has been cut to \$36,000. The ADMB has promulgated rules for this program to be implemented over the budget fiscal year 2021 and 2022. The comment period for this program has just ended and the one comment that was received was mainly concerned with the amount of funding available for this program.

## **2020 Overview**

1. **Meetings:** The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) will have met six (6) times over the course of the calendar year; January 8<sup>th</sup>, May 12th-13th, June 11th, September 10th, November 5<sup>th</sup>, and December 1st. Due to budget cuts and the corona virus regulations the ADMB met virtually VIA Zoom meeting. Agendas and meeting minutes are included in this report.

2. **Predator District Funding:** The ADMB received applications from 19 qualifying Predator Management Districts from across the state. These requests totaled approximately \$3.4 million. On May 13<sup>th</sup>, the ADMB granted \$2.72 million for those districts.

3. **Projects:** Eighteen different research/special project proposals were evaluated by the ADMB, which totaled \$428,214, at their June 13th meeting and the ADMB approved \$274,000 in funding for 13 projects (4 new, 9 renewing multiple years,). Project synopses are included with this report. Complete project reports are available upon request.

4. **Rabies Management:** Renewed the state-wide wildlife rabies management plan with a modified budget. Maintain a Wyoming rabies website at [www.wyorabies.org](http://www.wyorabies.org).

Continued a state-wide rabies surveillance program, with laboratory validation of rabies prevalence.

Three on the ground management programs are in operation and were funded for \$45,000

5. **Program Partnerships:** The ADMB and Wyoming Ag in the Classroom have joined forces in developing and distributing predator management related curriculum to classrooms across Wyoming through the Teacher Rendezvous and the Stewardship project curriculum development. Jerry Johnson has continued the use of the education trailer for various events across the state.

6. **Promotion & Funding:** Legislation moved forward for the funding of the Wildlife damage stamp but the Legislature has tied the funding to the Game and Fish license process and will be a voluntary donation similar to the Search and Rescue donation. The funding of stamp addresses both research and predator damage to wildlife.

7. **Public Relations:** Staff also worked with the local Predator Management Boards for continued board training.

8. **Legislative:** Over the past year, The Joint Ag Committee has worked with the Department of Agriculture and the Wyoming Game and Fish to address the funding issue for the voluntary Wildlife

Damage Management Stamp. The ADMB will now receive \$200,000 from the Game and Fish for the Research and predator control projects for wildlife protection.

9. **Information Dissemination:** The ADMB website at <http://www.wyadmb.com> continues to be maintained and provides available information regarding the current activities and programs for the ADMB.

**In Progress:**

1. The next regular meeting of the ADMB will be January 19, 2020.
2. ADMB meetings will continue to be offered as Zoom meetings with the May allocation meeting being offered both in person with the board, or via Zoom meeting.
3. Project applications for the June 2020 meeting will be accepted from March 15 to May15, 2020.

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**WYOMING**

# **ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

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## **MEMO**

**TO:** Wyoming Game & Fish Commission

**FROM:** Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board  
Brian Nesvik, Co-Chair  
Doug Miyamoto, Co-Chair

**DATE:** June 24, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Request for Funds

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In accordance with Wyoming Statute 11-6-307, the ADMB is requesting \$100,000.00 (one-hundred thousand dollars) from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. The Game and Fish Commission has committed \$200,000 toward these projects for this year's projects. A synopsis of the projects selected for funding by the ADMB at the June 11, 2020 board meeting is listed below.

**11-6-307. Board to request funding from game and fish commission.** The board shall annually request one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) from the Wyoming game and fish commission. These funds shall be expended for wildlife priorities. The game and fish commission may provide recommendations to the board regarding expenditure of these funds.

## **FY '20-21 ADMB Projects**

### **Project 1: Summary**

**Project Title: Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control**

**Brief Description of Project:** Request for the ADMB to fund up to a maximum of \$25,000.00 with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to contract with Wildlife Services to alleviate grizzly bear, black bear, wolf (where designated as a trophy game animal or in accordance with WS 23-1-901(g) and (h)), and mountain lion depredation to livestock and honey, bees and beehives in all counties in the State.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Scott Edberg, Deputy Chief, Wildlife Division, Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

**Funding \$25,000**

### **Project 2: Summary**

**Project Title: Coyote Control targeted on mule deer fawning grounds to protect S.W. Bighorn mule deer**

**Brief Description of Project:** With the Game and Fish support this will provide a 5th year of coyote removal when it is most beneficial to protect mule deer fawns in deer units 35,39 and 40.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Rolly Redland Washakie County Predator Management Board

**Funding \$12,000**

### **Project 3: Summary**

**Project Title: Natrona County Raven Removal**

**Brief Description of Project:** Remove ravens in Natrona County to decrease raven densities to enhance sage-grouse nest success and chick survival.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Robert Harlan and Mary Owens (Natrona County Predator Board) and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD).

**Funding \$4,000**

### **Project 4: Summary**

**Project Title: Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival**

**Brief Description of Project:** Remove coyotes in the Bates Hole area via aerial gunning and ground removal to decrease coyote densities and thereby improving mule deer fawn survival.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Mary Owens and Bob Harlan (Natrona County Predator Board) and Brian Olsen (Wyoming Game and Fish Department).

**Funding \$25,000**

### **Project: 5 Summary**

**Project Title: Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch & Big Sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival**

**Brief Description of Project:** Remove coyotes in the Stove Gulch/Big Sulfur areas via aerial gunning and ground removal to decrease coyote densities and thereby improving mule deer fawn survival.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Bob Harlan and Mary Owens (Natrona County Predator Management Board) and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

**Funding \$25,000**

### **Project: 6 Summary**

**Project Title Summer Nutrition, Disease, or Predation? Quantifying Causes of Poor Lamb Survival in Northwest Wyoming**

**Brief Description of Project:** Respiratory disease has afflicted populations of bighorn sheep for the past century and, despite substantial research on the topic, pneumonia continues to be one of the most poorly understood diseases that afflict wildlife in North America. Although we have learned much in recent years, most research has been myopically focused on identifying the primary infectious agent associated with pneumonia. Nevertheless, evidence continues to support multiple primary and perhaps secondary infectious agents, and in most instances, we now manage herds that are chronically infected as opposed to those subject to new exposure. Moreover, fundamental components underlying any large ungulate population including, habitat quality and quantity, and predation remain operational and yet, are often neglected when considering disease dynamics. Indeed, performance of bighorn sheep in northwest WY is mostly asynchronous, despite 3 herds possessing a similar suite of pathogens. Of great concern in particular, is the abysmal lamb recruitment in what historically was one of the largest and most robust populations of bighorn sheep in the West: the Whiskey Mountain bighorn sheep herd. Following an all-age pneumonia die off in 1991, the herd has exhibited consistently low lamb recruitment, and more recently in the past 3 years has been near or below 10 lambs per 100 ewes. Finally, in the past year the presence of wolves on their winter range and the apparent redistribution of some animals has highlighted the question associated with the potential interactive role of predation on this highly cherished bighorn sheep herd. Our aim is to take a multi-pronged approach to address multiple causal factors contributing to population dynamics of bighorn sheep in northwest Wyoming, and how that broadly will aid in future management of chronically infected sheep herds. Specifically, we will quantify the relative contributions of nutrition, disease, and predation on population performance, and assess the current state of forage on summer ranges. Our approach is to continue our longitudinal monitoring of adult females from each of the 3 herds, which will yield valuable information on nutritional status and deaths resulting from predation. We will link data on nutrition and reproduction to patterns of pathogen presence over time. With this next phase of the work, we will apply increased efforts to understand contributions of summer nutrition, disease, and predation to lamb survival by monitoring summer diet, forage quality, and survival, and cause specific mortality of lambs in the Dubois and Jackson herds.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Greg Anderson, Daryl Lutz, Aly Courtemanch, Gary Fralick, Tony Mong, Hank Edwards, Doug McWhirter, and Corey Class / Wyoming Game & Fish Department; Kevin Monteith / University of WY

**Funding \$45,000**

## **Project: 7 Summary**

**Project Title: Effects of predation on mule deer in the Wyoming Range following the devastating 2016-17 winter**

**Brief Description of Project:** This project continues to build on previous research in the Wyoming Range and enters into the next phase of the work which will quantify and separate the roles of predation, habitat, nutrition, and disease on survival of neonatal mule deer, and in particular, if the role of predation changes following the dramatic reduction in density after the severe 2016-2017 winter. During this winter, the entire surviving cohort of collared fawns perished, and mortality rates of collared adult females exceeded 30%. Moreover, nutritional condition of adult females in March was lowest on record, and fetal growth was clearly suppressed. With this perhaps once in a lifetime winter, the question remains as to how quickly the population will recover, to what level will it recover, and what factors will limit its recovery. One primary concern that continues to be voiced is the potential effects of predation on limiting growth of this mule deer herd. During the first two summers of our work, disease was the leading cause of mortality in 2015 for neonates, but that switched to predation during 2016. Nevertheless, dynamics may well change following the marked reduction in deer density, and with increased food available per female, the relative role of predation in limiting this herd may be altered. Nevertheless, directly measuring the effects of predation on young ungulates is exceedingly difficult and costly. Given the severity of the '16-17 winter and the questions surrounding performance of this cherished herd, and what factors will limit its recovery, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department deemed continuation of the Wyoming Range Project one of its highest priorities. Indeed, the marked decline of the Wyoming Range deer population following the 1992-93 winter, and the near absence of

any substantial recovery thereafter, also begs the question to what extent recovery will occur given historic patterns. Regardless, the overwhelming management desire is for recovery, and our aim is to document recovery and the mechanisms that underpin it. The overall goal of our continued work in the Wyoming Range will be to build on our understanding of the nutritional and population ecology of this herd to document the carryover effects of the severe winter of 2016-17, and how and to what extent the population will rebound from the dramatic reduction in abundance, and what factors limit recovery. Our approach will allow us to continue to elucidate the relative roles of habitat, nutrition, predation, and disease on the regulation of deer in western WY, and fully grasp the magnitude and extent of the effects of the transient, but clearly regulatory role of winter. This project will quantify the effects of predation on survival of young mule deer, which will 1) identify key regions where predation is a main limiting factor and thus, would benefit from targeted predator control, 2) directly evaluate the effectiveness of targeted coyote control implemented during spring 2017, and 3) understand the role that predators have played in reducing population performance of Wyoming Range mule deer.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Gary Fralick / Wyoming Game & Fish Department; Kevin Monteith / UW; Tayler LaSharr/ UW

**Funding \$30,000**

## **Project: 8 Summary**

**Project Title: Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project, Phase 2**

**Brief Description of Project:** This project builds on work previously supported by the Animal Damage Management Board to evaluate interactions between elk and wolves in the Gros Ventre River drainage in Jackson Hole. For this phase of the project, we will expand the scope of the study to directly evaluate wolf predation on elk and other wildlife in the Gros Ventre and surrounding areas. In investigating patterns of wolf predation and wolf-elk interactions, we will also evaluate whether and how human activity might influence those interactions and patterns – for example by inadvertently creating some areas where elk may be safer from the risk of wolf predation within the study area. To do this, we are requesting additional funding from ADMB in 2019 to support additional elk collaring and winter field crews to visit wolf kill sites.

**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Alyson Courtemanch, North Jackson Wildlife Biologist, Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

**Funding \$18,000**

### **Project: 9 Summary**

#### **Project Title: Absaroka Carnivore-Livestock Interaction Study**

**Brief Description of Project:** This research project aims to improve our understanding of the key factors that influence the incidence of cattle depredation by large carnivores, providing information that can be used by wildlife managers, land managers, and livestock producers as they work to mitigate these conflicts. Some examples of key factors we will evaluate include: environmental factors (e.g. vegetative cover, terrain ruggedness), availability of important carnivore food sources (e.g. native ungulate prey, whitebark pine, and army cutworm moths), carnivore localization (i.e. for reproduction, denning, and feeding/aggregation sites), and individual cattle characteristics (e.g. age, sex, and breed). We will also work with livestock producers to incorporate factors relating to livestock management practices (e.g. synchrony and timing of calving, husbandry, and range riding).

**Submitted By/Affiliation:** Dr. Arthur Middleton, Research Associate, Draper Museum of Natural History/Bufalo Bill center of the West; Clint Atkinson/WYG&F

**Funding \$40,000**

### **Project: 10 Summary**

#### **Project Title: Evaluating Best Practices for Relocating Golden Eagles.**

**Brief Description of Project:** Identify best methods for relocating trapped Golden Eagles on sheep ranches. We will track eagles using GSM telemetry, and evaluate effectiveness of relocation as a management option to reduce eagle predation on sheep.

**Submitted By/Affiliation:** Dr. Nate Bickford/CSU-Pueblo; Amy Hendrickson/Wyoming Association of County Predator Districts; Nicolle Sheldon/NAFA; Mike Barker/IEAA

**Funding \$25,000**

### **Project: 11 Summary**

#### **Project Title: Wyoming Stewardship Project, Development and Presentation of Educator Workshops.**

**Brief Description of Project:** The Wyoming Stewardship Project is a curriculum composed of project-based units for grades 2-5. These units provide an understanding of Wyoming's vast resources to students and empower them to become citizens capable of serving as stewards for Wyoming's future. The educator workshops are the first step for educators to implement the lessons in their classrooms.

**Submitted By/Affiliation:** Jessie DaFoe/ Wyoming Ag in the Classroom

**Funding \$6,000**

**Project: 12 Summary****Project Title: Sweetwater County Enhanced Predator Control for Migratory sheep and Wildlife****Brief Description of Project:** Program of targeted predator protection to the GLMA wildlife herds and the migratory sheep bands. There have been some efforts in the past to study and control coyotes in this area. The SWPMD feels that continued predator control in this project area would provide a great benefit to the wildlife population.**Submitted By/Affiliation:** Jim Burnett/Sweetwater County Predator Management Board**Funding \$20,000****Project: 13 Summary****Project Title: Predator Attack Training Equipment****Brief Description of Project:** Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) would like to purchase four (4) Cadaver Mannequins and ten (10) training shotguns to train personnel for Predator Attack Investigations areas.**Submitted By / Affiliation:** Brian DeBolt, WGFD Large Carnivore Conflict Coordinator**Funding \$2,750**

*Note:* These approved projects total \$274,000. If Commission funds are approved, projects will be funded from the \$200,000 provided, in addition to funds from the regular ADMB account.

**The ADMB recommends the listed projects for Commission Funds.**

- 1) Large Carnivore-Livestock project - \$25,000
- 2) Absaroka Carnivore-Livestock Interaction study - \$40,000
- 3) Effects of depredation on mule deer in the Wyoming range \$30,000
- 4) Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project, Phase 2 \$18,000
- 5) Summer Nutrition, Disease, or Predation? Quantifying Causes of Poor Lamb Survival in Northwest Wyoming \$45,000
- 6) Coyote Control targeted on mule deer fawning grounds to protect S.W. Bighorn mule deer \$12,000
- 7) Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch & Big Sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival \$25,000
- 8) Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival \$5000 with the balance to be funded by the ADMB funds.

*Note:* These approved projects total \$274,000. The Commission approved funding of \$200,000 and the balance was funded from the regular ADMB account.

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# ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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**ADMB Meeting**  
**State Game and Fish Headquarters**  
**Sage Grouse Meeting Room**  
**Video Conference**

Email invite link <https://meet.google.com/iis-gxhu-ibq>  
Call in Number – 1-929-256-1402 PIN Number 893292#

## Agenda

### Wednesday, January 08, 2020

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – Co-Chairs Doug Miyamoto – Brian Nesvik
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
  - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of November 1, 2019 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. - Jerry Johnson update on ADMB website– Agendas, Minutes, Special Projects.  
wolf funding budget, M-44 new restrictions.
- 9:30 a.m. - Falconers' update on Eagle trapping during 2019 lambing season – Mike Barker,  
Chairman, International Eagle Austringers Association
- 10:00 a.m. - Update on USDA/Wildlife Services – Mike Foster
- 10:10 a.m. - Tyler Abbot Fish and Wildlife Service Update
- 11:00 a.m. - Public Comment
- Noon Adjournment

*Times are tentative. Please arrive early if agenda items move quicker than anticipated.*

**ADMB Meeting Minutes**  
**Wyoming Game & Fish Headquarters Sage-Grouse Room**  
**Cheyenne, Wyoming**  
**Wednesday, January 8, 2020**  
**Videoconference**

**Board Members Present:**

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto  
Ron Cunningham  
Kevin Kisicki  
Bob Harlan  
Shaun Sims  
Tyler Abbott  
Sy Gilliland

Co-chair John Kennedy (for Brian Nesvik)  
Mike Foster  
Bob Phillips  
Gay Lynn Byrd  
Jeff Boner  
Brad Jost

**Board Members Absent:** Garret Falkenburg, Sandy Underhill

**WDA Staff:** Jerry Johnson, Stacia Berry

**Public in attendance:** Mike Barker, Jean Harshbarger, Erik Molvar, Lisa Robertson, Jen Hicks.

Meeting called to order by Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto 9:00 a.m.

Mike Foster moved to accept the agenda and Sy Gilliland seconded. Motion carried.

Doug asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 1st minutes. Kevin Kisicki moved to accept the minutes as written and Mike Foster seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Johnson gave the following updates: The ADMB website has been updated and the current minutes and agenda can be found on the main page as well as the next meeting date. All other minutes will be archived. All the website links have been updated and a link to purchase the wildlife damage management stamp has been added. The resource page for special projects cannot hold any more years on the page and therefore only the last 3-4 years projects will be kept and all earlier years will be on an archive page.

The funds spent in 2018-19 for wolf management conducted by USDA- Wildlife Services was \$61,098 and the funds spent in 2019-20 conducted by USDA-Wildlife Services, to date, is \$41,701 with some flying done in December not being billed yet. Lincoln County PMD was reimbursed for \$3,385 spent on wolf management and there is roughly \$100,000 left for wolf management until the end of the fiscal year.

The EPA sent out their interim decision in December with changes to the M-44 label restrictions. These changes will be sent out to all licensed applicators and also be presented at the annual training on January 22 in Casper.

Mike Barker, International Eagle Austringers Association, gave a presentation on the eagle work that the falconers and twenty "volunteer scientists" did across the state to document eagle depredation and how they assisted ranchers with completing the proper forms to receive removal and harassment permits. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided four falconry permits and two eagles were captured for falconers in Wyoming and one in Utah. There was discussion on ways to streamline the permits, depredation documentation and trapping processes.

Mike Foster, USDA-Wildlife Services, gave his update on wolf management in the Pinedale area and the number of wolves taken statewide was down significantly from previous years. The number of wolves removed by USDA-Wildlife Services in the predator zone was 17, and 23 statewide. Mike stated that USDA-Wildlife Services had completed their wolf environmental assessment and were under way on the predator environmental assessment which is out for agency comment and due back by early February.

Tyler Abbott, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reminded everyone that Steve Small is the assistant regional director for Ecological Services. He also mentioned that Scott Becker the large carnivore biologist in Lander was working on the national wolf delisting and this is an ongoing process. Brian Smith has been very responsive to the eagle depredation issues and will continue to work with the various groups.

Stacia Berry asked for public comment.

Jean Harshbarger stated that prairie dogs in their area had been very bad in previous years, and asked if the ADMB had any money to help keep them down. The board suggested that Jean contact her local weed and pest board.

Being no further comments the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

## ADMB May 12-13, 2020

**May 12: Call to Order 9:00 a.m., Welcome, Approval of last minutes, wolf funding available, wolf depredation compensation rules, Rabies allocation and contract, interview process**

Start Time	End Time	Interview	Request
9:30	10:00	Goshen	\$53,735
10:00	10:30	Carbon	\$203,000
10:30	11:00	Weston	\$120,000
11:00	11:30	Albany	\$154,500
11:30	noon	Campbell	\$204,505 rabies \$50,000
noon	1:30	Lunch	
1:30	2:00	Uinta	\$220,190
2:00	2:30	Big Horn	\$183,853
2:30	3:00	Park	\$179,000
3:00	3:30	Crook	\$175,000
3:30	4:00	Sheridan	\$150,210 rabies \$20,000
4:00	4:30	Fremont	\$233,625
4:30	5:00	Public Comment	
Wednesday	May 13		
8:00 a.m.	8:30	Natrona	\$200,000
8:30	9:00	Converse	\$252,064
9:00	9:30	Johnson	\$150,000 rabies \$20,000
9:30	10:00	Hot Springs	\$199,000
10:00	10:30	Niobrara	\$150,000
10:30	11:00	Washakie	\$197,259
11:00	11:30	Sweetwater	\$145,000
11:30	noon	Lincoln	\$200,000
Noon	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	3:00	Discussion	
3:00	3:30	Public Comment and Adjournment	

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting  
Tuesday May 12, 2020 & Wednesday May 13, 2020  
Zoom Teleconference**

Meeting called to order at 9:00 am by Doug Miyamoto.

**Board Members Present:**

Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair)	Shaun Sims	Kevin Kisicki
Brian Nesvik (Co-Chair)	Tyler Abbott	Sandy Underhill
Mike Foster	Ron Cunningham	Garret Falkenburg
Bob Harlan	Jeff Boner	Robin Naeve (for Brad Jost)
Bob Phillips	Gay Lynn Byrd	

**WDA Support Staff Present:** Jerry Johnson, Kent Drake, Ryleigh Vaughn, JD Sater, Stacia Berry

**Public Attendees:** Mark Davis, Kristin Combs, Lisa Robertson, Brady Smith, Amy Hendrickson, Diana Holcomb, Valerie Bjorhus, Kelon Smith, Rene LaBare

Shaun Sims moves to approve current agenda, GayLynn seconds. Motion carries.

Doug Miyamoto entertains a motion to approve January 8, 2020 minutes. Jeff Boner moves; Shaun Sims seconds. Motion carries.

**Current Funding Statuses—Jerry Johnson**

*Wolf Funding Status:* There is currently \$100,000 of additional funds in the allocation amount for wolf work. Emergency rules are being drafted for this program, but will wait until the next legislative session is finished to finalize. Jerry suggested it would be good idea to take an additional \$100,000 from the budget allocation to make sure there is sufficient funding.

*ADMB General Funding Status:* There is currently \$6.061 million budgeted for the biennium – \$3.03 million per year. Due to likely upcoming budget cuts in response to COVID-19 shortages, Jerry recommends that 10% of funds be set aside, leaving \$2.727 million to allocate to each district this year.

*Rabies Funding Status:* After \$20k is deducted for the state vet lab contract and \$10k is deducted for emergencies, the biennial budget is \$90,000—\$45,000 per year. Campbell, Sheridan, and Johnson Counties are applying for use of these funds.

Doug Miyamoto once again noted the impending budget cuts he has been asked to prepare for and advised for 10% of funds held-back, in agreement with Jerry's earlier suggestion. He also stated that, by current order of the governor, any funding amounts over \$100,000 will require special approval. Shaun Sims questioned if these funds were held back, would these funds be reverted if not used, or could the board use them in subsequent years. It was determined by Doug and Jerry that the source of the funds will determine reversion status; however, any funds not utilized in the first year of the biennial fiscal budget may be reused in the second year. Doug or Jerry will clarify with Julie.

Shaun Sims motions to set aside \$100,000 for wolf work. Kevin Kisicki seconds. Motion carries.

**Presentations:**

*Goshen County: Stan Smith and Jim Angle*

*Requested: \$53,735*

Last year there was 480,000 acres worked on 61 different properties. There was \$4,999 of reported (unconfirmed) losses last season. There has also been a resurgence of rabies and distemper in the county. Coyote numbers have been trending slightly downward due to concentrated efforts during the calving and denning seasons. This county's large amount of reserve funds would help them stay afloat if budget cuts were mandatory. Underutilization of aerial programs has led to a slight increase in their reserves.

*Carbon County: Josh Peterson, Luke Spanbauer, Charlene Abbott, and Dan Braig*

*Requested: \$203,000*

This county has a large black bear population and an "exploding" mountain lion population. There have been several incidences of mountain lions threatening personal safety and quick response time has minimized any black bear losses. There have been several wolf pack sightings—it is assumed that it is only a matter of time until they will appear on ranch lands. Coyote damage has increased by approximately 65%; however, the wildlife populations are flourishing with a very high doe-fawn survival rate. Raven, magpie, and crow populations have all been managed effectively by baiting and poisoning. No current rabies issues. Budget increases are due to adding a part-time/apprentice trapper to replace their valuable retiree. Other budget increases would allow for exploring new aerial areas with newfound helicopter access.

*Weston County: Carson Keeline, Kassie Swartz, Brad Troftgruben, and Allen Slagle* *Requested: \$203,000*

Their primary focus is on coyote predation due to higher reported losses last year. Coyote litter counts are high this year. This, in conjunction with an increase in sheep populations, will lead to trappers being spread much thinner. There was a verified wolf sighting in Newcastle last year with more reported. There were no other noticeable increases in other predator counts. The primary increase in their funding request was to hire an additional trapper for the denning season. Otherwise, they would like to continue their current program as producers are happy with the work. They have demonstrated exceptional reserve-fund management in past years.

*Albany County: Joel Modey*

*Requested: \$154,500*

They are looking to continue their current program. Coyote numbers are remaining steady with a slight increase in losses compared to previous years, possibly caused by the increase in reporting from cooperators. They would like to budget for 20 additional hours of helicopter time. Albany County runs a fairly frugal program and is looking to continue maximizing efficiency while meeting demands.

*Campbell County: Kevin Geis, Calvin Taylor, and Kenda Ford*

*Requested: \$204,505/ \$50,000 rabies*

There has been a slight increase in predator populations but they are remaining steady for the most part. The lower prey base this year led to increased predation on livestock. They are able to realize a low cost per coyote as a landowner/aerial operator offers discounted prices. Their program is working well but the public demand is increasing. Increase in budgeted requests are due to adjustments in flying and trappers' expenses—it has been 8 years since there were any adjustments made.

*Uinta County: Steve Sims and Wade Larson*

*Requested: \$220,190*

They have stopped using government aerial contracts and have started working strictly with a private contractor—so far it has been cheaper than any other chopper applicators. They are also utilizing a trapper/denning specialist through this company. Thus far, they have been effective. There are no other large changes besides broadening their treatment focus to the entire county instead of lambing ranges only. Their large reserve balances are from historical assessment funds that were placed in CD's.

*Big Horn County: Mike Burrell, Randall Jones, and Kay Neeves*

*Requested: \$183,853*

They currently employ 1.5 trappers, but their budget request would allot for an increase to 2 full time trappers. They will need approximately \$146,000 minimum to keep program going. Cash reserves will be approximately \$200,000 at the end of the fiscal year. Coyote numbers are stable, possibly due to the preventive work being done.

*Park County: Mike Burrell, Monte Nicholson, Rori Renner, Shane Smith, Jacob Jarrett, Reagan Smith*

*Requested: \$179,000*

They are anticipating more wolf activity this year. Their budget request is similar to previous years', but they have increased their admin costs and would like to build a non-lethal trailer system. This trailer would have lights/noises on a timer that could control coyotes. They are passionate that this trailer would be effective. Sheep deaths were slightly higher last year from coyotes—there has also been some predation from ravens.

*Crook County: Andrew Litzel and Nick Smith*

*Requested: \$175,000*

Their budget has increased from last year as the Wildlife Service pilot they were utilizing has retired and will be hired as a contract pilot. They have also increased their budget to allow for 3 ground trappers (one more than last year) and would like to increase their chopper hours. The coyote population is growing and leading to more losses, but they are controlling as well as possible. Black bear numbers have increased every year. There have also been issues with wolves and smaller predators. These increased predation numbers have come from areas with large amounts of tree cover that prevents effective aerial application. 14 confirmed sheep losses from bears with other property losses, 11 sheep losses from lions, and an additional calf loss.

*Sheridan County: John Auzqui, Kellan Little, Justin Lewis, and Bob Strausser*

*Requested: \$150,210/ \$20,000 rabies*

Not a lot of changes in this program. As of January 1, they are attempting to mark predator GPS waypoints GPS with On-X maps. This will help identify flow and trends for better resource utilization in the future. They received commissioner's tag funds last year that allowed them to take 257 coyotes along the Montana border. This has largely increased their winter survival rates. Because this has been very beneficial to their program, they would like to continue this aerial treatment and have thus requested a subsequent increase in their funding. There have also been issues with eagles in this area. Two new men have been hired to help mitigate rabies—42 tested with 3 positive cases.

*Fremont County: Beth Evans, Gloria Philp, and Tracy Frye*

*Requested: \$233,625*

Fremont County has one of the largest land masses in the state with the most diverse types of predators. Last year they purchased two pickups for trappers, which significantly reduced their reserve funds. Without significant funding they would have to do some major cuts to their program. In previous years there were significant wolf problems—they have been able manage effectively. Mostly coyote predation currently. They have asked for more helicopter hours that would be a great advantage to their program and add safety benefits. Their raven and crow work stays relatively steady.

**Public Comment:**

Kristin Combs commented on the negative view of predators—she questioned if the board would be willing to learn about non-lethal predator control methods and how might that information be disseminated. The board concluded that more information is always welcome and Mike Foster stated that there will be an expert dedicated solely to non-lethal methods.

Meeting will reconvene at 8:00 on Wednesday—dismissed at 4:00 pm.

**Wednesday May, 13, 2020:** Meeting called to order at 8:00 am by Doug Miyamoto

**Presentations Continued:**

*Natrona County: Mary Owens*

*Requested: \$200,000*

Last year provided prime conditions for coyotes and thus they utilized a large portion of their fly hours. This resulted in over 1550 coyotes killed, which is increased from previous years by about 200. Deer numbers have also increased which illustrates the effectiveness of their efforts. The increase in their budget request is to fund more flying hours. They had raven issues last year, although work is spotty.

*Converse County: Tim Pexton and Casey Tillard*

*Requested: \$252,064*

The operation of this program is dependent on receiving state funds. Funds will be used for 2.5 trappers and a private pilot, which has been effective in keeping coyote numbers controlled. The increase in budget request includes funding for an additional trapper to cover the South part of the county as well as they do the North and/or to cover denning season where the most losses were realized. There has been a slight upward trend in number of losses. Last year, they started a small Raven program but it is undetermined as to whether or not it will be continued.

*Johnson County: John Camino, TJ Tavegie, and Dave Hall*

*Requested: \$150,000/\$20,000 rabies*

They employ 2 trappers that split the county as well as 2 seasonal skunk trappers for rabies control. The bulk of their revenue is from ADMB grants. Johnson County, the City of Buffalo, and the Town of Kaycee all contribute matching funds. Their budget increases consists mostly of contract changes. Over 95% of budgeted expenses are for "boots on the ground". They have taken roughly 1,000 coyotes which is on track to be the highest number in 10 years. There has been a large influx of bears and lions as well as wolf sightings. Coyote and raven losses have both increased. Livestock losses amounted to over \$100,000. Rabies incidents are trending down, with 1 positive rabies test last year.

*Hot Springs County: Mike Burrell and Brett Belden*

*Requested: \$199,000*

Changes to their budget for this year show a cut in aerial and operating hours, which they planned to use to replace their side-by-side. A minimum of \$185,000 is needed to run the program with no changes. This county is geographically small but has a very complex predator system. Predations have included coyote, fox, raven and eagle. Coyote predation has been low due to work by the county predator management board. There were 3 wolves removed since April of this year. Annual kills show 0-5 from wolves, 5-15 from coyotes, and a large number of losses (no exact estimate) from grizzly bears.

*Niobrara County: Barb Kilmer and Kitson Boldon*

*Requested: \$150,000*

This county takes roughly 1300 coyotes annually, with an average cost of \$182 each. Their 2 trappers cover their own expenses. There seems to be an endless supply of predator seed stock coming from South Dakota and Nebraska. They choose not to utilize helicopters because of the high associated costs. This program is efficient and is known for their low-cost operation. Funds in their reserve were obtained before this state program was established. Ravens, crows, and eagles are not a large problem because sheep numbers have decreased. Mountain lions have been a large problem.

*Washakie County: Mike Burrell, Rolly Redland, and Mark Dooley*

*Requested: \$215,000*

1.5 trappers have been managing numbers in this county well. Coyote numbers are stable with a slight increase from previous years. Overall predation rates were average this year—8 verified cases. Mountain lion and black bear predations have increased in the summer. Last year, they decreased their budgeted aerial hours but would like to increase again as their aerial program has proven very effective. If they are to face budget cuts, they would like the priority to remain on increasing aerial hours. \$143,000 would be needed to cover aerial hours increase.

*Sweetwater: Jim Burnett, Dick Thoman, and Gary Zakotnik*

*Requested: \$145,000*

Sweetwater PMD has reworked their program and they are now using a private contractor for predator work; the budget surplus shown was due to underutilization of fly hours by WS over the last two years. They are largely dependent on state funding and have been working very hard to get caught up on predator requests. There have been wolf activity reports although none were confirmed. They would like to start earlier next year to focus on killing female coyotes that are still pregnant. Ravens are dealt with by producers alone as WS is the only entity allowed to do the work. Other birds have not been an issue.

*Lincoln County: Steve Moyle and Jon Child*

*Requested: \$200,000*

They took 342 coyotes this year, 190 of which were taken by air. Employees were reduced from 3 down to 1 which has spread them pretty thin. Their wolf situation is ongoing and is time consuming/expensive to control. Verified losses this year from wolves: 24 lambs and 2 ewes. Verified losses from coyotes: 4 calves and 95 lambs to coyotes. There have been additional eagle and raven losses. Their raven problem is ongoing, especially on calving and lambing grounds. 127 ravens removed last year helped considerably with predation. The supply of predators is seemingly endless and their current budget request would cause them to dip into their reserve funds by approximately \$7,000.

**Public Comment:**

Amy Hendrickson questioned the review needed for amounts over \$100,000 and what that might mean. Doug and Brian explained that under this review, the approved amounts may be changed. Amy noted that this brings a large amount of uncertainty for these predator management boards.

Gary Zakotnik raised concerned because Sweetwater was one of the only counties that had a decrease in funding because they had a cash carryover, but noticed today that other counties have larger reserves. Shaun Sims commented that cash carryover is a simple screenshot and is not an accurate depiction of trends, and that many other items go into consideration when deciding on allocations.

**Allocation Discussion:**

Bob Harlan moved that 10% be reduced from the total allocation amounts in light of likely budget cuts. Shaun Sims seconds. Motion carries.

After the 10% reduction, \$2,727,000 is available to allocate this fiscal year, with an additional \$45,000 in rabies funds.

Bob Harlan moves to allocate funds according to 2019 amounts and adjust additional funds individually thereafter. Gay Lynn Byrd seconds. The motion carries with 6 votes in favor and 5 against.

Brian Nesvik motions that they allocate additional funds to Big Horn County to raise approved amount to \$146,000. Bob Harlan seconds. Motion carries.

Bob Harlan suggested his adjusted amounts for each county which included increases to Carbon County (by \$12,000 to \$150,000 total), Hot Springs County (by \$10,000 to \$190,000 total), and Washakie County (by \$27,000 to \$157,000 total). Ron Cunningham would like to move the leftover funds to Fremont County which would raise their final amount to \$190,000. Shaun motioned that he would like to see Sweetwater get more funding due to lack of predator fees, however final amounts were never agreed upon and the motion was withdrawn. Reference final allocation spreadsheet for exact amounts.

Bob Harlan made a motion to approve final amounts as presented. Gay Lynn seconds. Motion carries.

**Rabies Allocation Discussion:**

Rabies requests exceeded funding totals by approximately 50%. Doug Miyamoto questioned the need in each county. Jerry Johnson stated that all counties have significant need. Shaun Sims made a motion to fund Campbell and Johnson counties for \$17,500 each and Sheridan county for \$10,000. Brian Nesvik seconds. Motion carries.

**Other Business:**

Next meeting will be on June 11<sup>th</sup> via Zoom, specific times to be determined.

Doug Miyamoto entertained a motion to adjourn. Garret Falkenburg moved. Shaun Sims seconds. Motion carries—meeting adjourned at 12:33 pm.



# ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

6607 Campstool Road, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

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## ADMB Meeting

Wyoming Department of Agriculture is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Jun 11, 2020 08:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89345141974?pwd=UFJpaDNjVDIxWINGb0o3MIZCOFQrUT09>

Meeting ID: 893 4514 1974

Password: 108315

Phone call in list

+1 408 638 0968 US

+1 669 900 6833 US

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 646 876 9923 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 893 4514 1974

Password: 108315

## Agenda

### Thursday, June 11, 2020

- 8:00 am. - Call to Order – (Miyamoto, Nesvik)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
  - Approval of Agenda
  - Approval of May 12-13th, 2020 Minutes
  - Amend Wildlife service contract: due to budget cuts
- 8:15 am. - **Project Proposals-Renewals w/Updates** (20 minutes each)
- \* Wyoming Stewardship Project, Educator Workshops 20-21 – J. Dafoe
  - \* Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer – R. Redland
  - \* Natrona County Raven Removal – B. Harlan and M. Owen
- 9:15 am. \* Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole mule deer fawn survival – M. Owen and B. Harlan

- \* Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch & Big Sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival – B. Harlan and M. Owen
- \* Bighorn Sheep lamb survival study – G. Anderson, A. Courtemanch, G. Fralick, T. Mong, H. Edwards, D. McWhirter and C. Class, K. Monteith
- 10:15 am. \* Effects of predation on mule deer in the Wyoming Range 2019 – G. Fralick and K. Monteith, T. LaSharr
- \* Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project – A. Courtemanch
- \* Absaroka Carnivore- Livestock interaction study – Dr. A. Middleton – C. Atkinson
- 11:15 am. \* Evaluating best practices for relocating Golden Eagles - N.Bickford
- \* Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – S. Edberg, B. DeBolt
- Noon Break for Lunch
- 1:00 pm. - **Project Proposals – New (20 min. each)**
- \* Sweetwater enhanced predator control sheep and wildlife control – J. Burnett
- \* Dart Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control - B. DeBolt
- \* Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control - B. DeBolt
- 2:00 pm. \* Cadaver Mannequins and simulated shotguns for Predator Attack Training – B. DeBolt
- \* Laramie Region New bear trap – T. Cufaude
- \* Laramie Region Pennock Mtn. Bear Resistant Food Storage - T. Cufaude
- \* Mapping Bobcat Habitat Suitability across Wyoming – T. woolley, J. Holbrook
- 3:20 pm - Break
- 3:35 pm - Public Comment / Board Comment
- 4:30 pm - Discussion and determination of grant awards
- 4:45 pm- Adjourn

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 11, 2020**  
**Zoom Meeting**

Call to order 8:00a.m. – Co-Chair, Brian Nesvik

*Introductions*

**Board Members Present:**

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto	Ron Cunningham
Co-Chair Brian Nesvik	Kevin Kisicki
Bob Phillips	Bob Harlan
Gay Lynn Byrd	Mike Foster
Garret Falkenburg	Jeff Boner
Tyler Abbott	Robin Naeve
Sandy Underhill	

**Board Members Absent:** Sy Gilliland

**WDA Support Staff:** Jerry Johnson, Stacia Berry

**Public in attendance:** Mark Davis, Amy Hendrickson, Lisa Robertson

Co-chair Brian Nesvik had ADMB members introduce themselves and the agenda was approved.

Tyler Abbott moved to approve the May 12-13, 2020 minutes Shaun Simms seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Johnson gave a breakdown of the funding for the projects; there will be \$274, 000 available for special projects as the Game and Fish has committed to \$200,000 per year and the balance will be ADMB funds. He also informed the board that the Wildlife Services contract needed to be amended due to the budget cuts from \$100,000 to \$80,000.

Shaun Sims moved to amend the Wildlife Services contract to \$80,000, Kevin Kisicki second, motion passed.

**Project presentations**

- Wyoming Stewardship Project, Educator Workshops – Jessie Dafoe and Rindy West
- Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer – Mike Burrell
- Natrona County Raven Removal – Mary Owens, Heather Obrien
- Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole mule deer fawn survival – Mary Owens, Heather Obrien
- Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival - Heather Obrien, Mary Owens
- Bighorn Sheep lamb survival study – Kevin Monteith
- Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range – Kevin Monteith
- Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project – Allison Courtemanch
- Absaroka Carnivore- Livestock interaction study – Clint Atkinson
- Evaluating best practices for relocating Golden Eagles – Nate Bickford, Sheldon Nichols, Mike Barker
- Large Carnivore - Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – Brian DeBolt

- Dart Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control - Brian DeBolt
- Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control - Brian DeBolt
- Cadaver Mannequins and simulated shotguns for Predator Attack Training – Brian DeBolt

**The board broke for lunch at noon and reconvened at 12:55 p.m. to hear more project proposals.**

- Sweetwater enhanced predator control sheep and wildlife control – Gary Zakotnik, Jim Burnett
- Laramie Region New bear trap – Teal Cufaude
- Laramie Region Pennock Mtn. Bear Resistant Food Storage - Teal Cufaude
- Mapping Bobcat Habitat Suitability across Wyoming – Tim Woolley, Joe Holbrook

**Public comment**

Brian Nesvik asked for Public comments. -- Mark Davis asked if the funding decision of the meeting would be open to the public and Brian Nesvik let him know that the entire meeting was open to the public.

Amy Hendrickson thanked everyone for their input and reminded the board the focus of the ADMB was for predator control. There were no more comments from the public.

***Allocation & committee discussion:***

Brian Nesvick led discussion to go through the projects individually.

During discussion Shaun Sims moved Bob Harlan 2<sup>nd</sup> that the Wyoming Stewardship Project be funded for \$6000 - \$2,250 with ADMB funds and \$3750 900 series funds. Motion Passed

With further discussion Shaun Sims moved with Gay Lynn Byrd 2<sup>nd</sup> to fund the projects with Jerry Johnson to follow up on the Eagle project Federal Banding permit before the Eagle project could be funded with the following amounts:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$25,000	Large Carnivore - Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control
\$12,000	Coyote Control on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer
\$4,000	Natrona County Raven Removal
\$25,000	Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole mule deer fawn survival
\$25,000	Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival
\$45,000	Bighorn Sheep lamb survival study
\$30,000	Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range
\$18,000	Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project
\$40,000	Absaroka Carnivore- Livestock interaction study
\$25,000	Evaluating best practices for relocating Golden Eagles
\$22,750	Sweetwater enhanced predator control sheep and wildlife control
\$0	Dart Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control
\$0	Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control
\$0	Cadaver Mannequins and simulated shotguns for Predator Attack Training
\$0	Laramie Region New bear trap
\$0	Laramie Region Pennock Mtn. Bear Resistant Food Storage
\$0	Mapping Bobcat Habitat Suitability across Wyoming

Brian Nesvick called for further discussion a motion was made by Garrett 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Phillips to move \$2,750 from the Sweetwater county project to the Cadaver mannequin project. With no other changes Brian called for question on the amendment and the amendment was passed.

Brian then called for question on the funding as amended motion passed. The projects were funded as amended below:

<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
\$25,000	Large Carnivore - Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control
\$12,000	Coyote Control on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer
\$4,000	Natrona County Raven Removal
\$25,000	Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole mule deer fawn survival
\$25,000	Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival
\$45,000	Bighorn Sheep lamb survival study
\$30,000	Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range
\$18,000	Gros Ventre Elk and Wolf Interaction Project
\$40,000	Absaroka Carnivore- Livestock interaction study
\$25,000	Evaluating best practices for relocating Golden Eagles
\$20,000	Sweetwater enhanced predator control sheep and wildlife control
\$0	Dart Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control
\$0	Rifles for Large Carnivore (Trophy Game Animals) Control
\$2,750	Cadaver Mannequins and simulated shotguns for Predator Attack Training
\$0	Laramie Region New bear trap
\$0	Laramie Region Pennock Mtn. Bear Resistant Food Storage
\$0	Mapping Bobcat Habitat Suitability across Wyoming

The board changed the date of the November meeting to November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9am to avoid conflict with the election date.

With no further comments the meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.



# ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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## ADMB Meeting

Wyoming Department of Agriculture is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: September 10, 2020 11:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85134671523?pwd=NlpDbDFVWFBKcTQydWNJMUpCeXhZQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 3467 1523

Password: 446560

### Phone call in list

+1 408 638 0968 US

+1 669 900 6833 US

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 346 248 7799 US

+1 646 876 9923 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

+1 312 626 6799 US

Meeting ID: 851 3467 1523

Password: 440560

## Agenda

### Thursday, September 10, 2020

- 11:00 am. - Call to Order – (Miyamoto, Nesvik)
  - Introductions of board, guests, & public
- 11:10 am     **Gray Wolf Depredation Compensation Program Regulations and budget**
  - Approval of program budget cut from \$45,000 to \$36,000.
  - Review LSO documents for Emergency and regular rules.
- 11:20 am     Vote to adopt Emergency rules and Regular rules
- 11:30 am -   Discussion for the Fremont county ADMB Mule deer project due to aircraft Availability. 1 Year extension.
- 11:45 am -   Public Comment / Board Comment
- 11:50 am-   Adjourn

**ADMB Meeting  
September 10, 2020  
Zoom Teleconference**

**Members Present:** Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Brain Nesvik (Co-Chair), Bob Phillips, Jeff Boner, Kevin Kisicki, Mike Foster, Ron Cunningham, Sandy Underhill, Tyler Abbott, Bob Harlan

**Board Members Absent:** Brad Jost, Garrett Falkenburg, Gay Lynn Byrd, Shaun Sims, Sy Gilliland

**WDA Staff:** Jerald Johnson, JD Sater, Kent Drake, Ryleigh Vaughn

**Public in Attendance:** Amy Hendrickson, Scott Becker, Diana Holcomb, Brain DeBolt, Lisa Robertson

Meeting called to order at 11:05 am by Doug Miyamoto

**Discussion on Gray Wolf Depredation Compensation Program Regulations and Budget**

Jerry Johnson explained the gray wolf depredation compensation program was added as a line item for the budget in the most recent legislature session. The original allotment for this program was \$45,000. In light of the Stage 2, 20% mandated budget reductions it is suggested that the amount of available funds be reduced to \$36,000 for the biennium.

Doug asked for a motion to accept the proposed budget cuts. Ron motioned to approve, Jeff seconded. Motion carries.

JD briefly explained the emergency rules for the project: it will only apply to areas where the gray wolf is designated as a predatory animal. The ADMB officer will receive and review applications for completeness. Funds will be allocated in two time periods: September 30, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Approved funds can be prorated or eliminated as a result of budget cuts, and leftover funds can roll over to the next year. These emergency rules have been prepared along with regular rules. Initially proceeding with the emergency rules will allow claims to be submitted and reviewed sooner, after which the regular rules can be adopted.

Doug added as clarification that the definition of "livestock" in these rules would allow the inclusion of guard animals in verified losses.

Mike stated that issues may arise in the timely verification of losses for the counties in which the US Wildlife Service does not have a presence. While this is not a major concern, Mike would like to address this possibility. Kent stated that Game and Fish had helped in the past. Brian

Nesvik stated that Game and Fish has taken a look for unknown losses, but once it was determined a predatory animal outside of the trophy game area was responsible it was immediately turned over to Wildlife Services. Doug suggested that those who might be affected by Wildlife Services' delay in response time take necessary measures to help while waiting for a response, such as taking detailed pictures.

Doug asked for a motion to approve the emergency rules as written. Mike Foster made the motion to approve the emergency rules. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Doug asked for motion to approve the regular rules. Mike made the motion to adopt the regular rules as written. Ron seconded. Motion carries.

### **Fremont County Mule Deer Project Extension**

Jerry explained that Fremont County was not able to find an aircraft in a timely manner to carry out their 2020 Mule Deer Project. They would like to seek an extension from the board to use these funds next year. Jerry explained that, after board approval, this would require an amendment to their grant signed by both the department and the county.

Brain Nesvik moves to allow for a one-year extension for Fremont County. Ron seconded the motion. Motion Carries

### **Public Comments**

Diana Holcomb inquired if training trappers to identify wolf kills was part of the emergency rules. Doug clarified that this was not included in the rules.

Amy thanked Doug for following up on her question about guard animals being included in the definition of "loss of livestock".

### **Board Comments**

Brian Nesvik provided an update on the process of the Game and Fish's potential changes in statutes and regulations for trapping.

No further business

Meeting Adjourned at 11:52 am.



# ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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## ADMB Meeting

Wyoming Department of Agriculture is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: ADMB November 5th meeting

Time: Nov 5, 2020 09:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88134102178?pwd=TTcxcmdtaFQ5Q1F1bkFyZWk3SnJ6dz09>

**Meeting ID: 881 3410 2178**

**Passcode: 173554**

Phone call in list

1-408-638-0968 US

1-669-900-6833 US

1-253-215-8782 US

1-346-248-7799 US

1-646-876-9923 US

1-301-715-8592 US

1-312-626-6799 US

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

## Agenda

- 9:00 am Call to order—(Miyamoto, Nesvik)  
Introduction of board, guests and public  
Approval of June and August Minutes
- 9:10 am Rabies testing update: Dr. Myrna Miller Wyoming State Vet Lab
- 9:20 am Wolf management update for year and update on Non-lethal summer program.  
Mike Foster
- 9:30 am Landowner coupon county designation discussion  
Jerry Johnson
- 9:50 am Program updates:  
Wolf Compensation Rules update  
HD Ranch project update:  
Jerry Johnson
- 10:00 am Adopt resolution to set dates for 2020-2021 meetings.  
Dec 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 Zoom  
Jan 19<sup>th</sup> 2021 Zoom  
May 18<sup>th</sup>-19th 2021 live and Zoom  
June 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 Zoom  
Nov 4<sup>th</sup> 2021 Zoom
- 10:05 am Adjourn

**ADMB Meeting  
November 5, 2020  
Zoom Teleconference**

**Members Present:** Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Angi Bruce for Brian Nesvik, Bob Phillips, Jeff Boner, Kevin Kisicki, Mike Foster, Ron Cunningham, Tyler Abbott, Bob Harlan, Gay Lynn Byrd

**Board Members Absent:** Brad Jost, Garrett Falkenburg, Shaun Sims, Sy Gilliland, Sandy Underhill

**WDA Staff:** Jerald Johnson, Ryleigh Vaughn, JD Sater, Stacia Berry

**Public in Attendance:** Scott Edberg, Myrna Miller, Josh Jackson, Amy Hendrickson, Trevor Walch, Scott Becker, Mark Davis, Rene LaBare Donal O'Toole, Lisa Robertson, John Kennedy, Meredith Wood

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am by Doug Miyamoto

Ron motioned to approve June and August 2020 minutes as presented. Kevin seconds. Motion carries

**Rabies Testing Update**

Dr. Myrna Miller shared the progress of recent rabies cases across the state for 2018, 2019, and 2020. Sheridan and Johnson are common occurrences; there was a positive case for a cow and horse in Laramie County in 2018. Rabies cases then increased in Goshen in 2019. For 2020, Campbell has had several positive cases which is an unusual occurrence. While only 3-5% of bats tested have a positive result, the only positive case of Human Rabies in 2015 was because of bat exposure. Testing funded by the ADMB allows peace of mind and can alert the public as needed.

**Wolf Management Update/Nonlethal Summer Program**

Mike Foster reported during fiscal year 2020, 31 wolves were caught--21 of which were caught in the "predator zone" (including 2 trapped, collared, and released) and 10 of which were trophy game animals. The bulk of their funds for 2020 was spent on Helicopter work in Sublette County. Wolf work is down this year compared to previous years (37, 51, 52, and 111, respectively). They are not sure about what has caused this decline.

With funds received from congress, they did a lot of preventative fencing (bee hives, livestock enclosures, etc) in order to prevent large predator conflicts. They also purchased two non-lethal trailers 1) to remove livestock carcasses that could attract predators and 2) to deter predators with lights, sirens, music run by motion sensors. These methods have been effective in preventing conflicts thus far.

## **Landowner Coupon County Designation Discussion**

Jerry Johnson shared that there was an issue with landowner coupons properly designating the 50% funds to be distributed back to the various counties. After researching, Jerry concluded that the ADMB had not received the proper affidavit from landowners designating their county. John Kennedy stated that, after some research they understand the process better and have a solution to get the funds allocated to the counties correctly. Meredith Wood shared some shortfalls in the documentation system in the past and shared their plan to increase documentation so that the ADMB has the paperwork necessary to proceed. Meredith will work with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture to find a process that works.

## **Program Updates**

Wolf Compensation Rules Update: Jerry Johnson shared that the emergency rules were accepted by the Governor's Office and shared that the 45 day comment period would end on November 9, 2020. There has only been one comment received so far in regards to the predation area, to which the ADMB will have to draft a response. The regular rules will be revisited at the next meeting in December.

HD Ranch Project Update: Jerry Johnson shared that \$5,000 was designated to run electric fencing around their property. They were not able to reach an agreement and this funding was never issued to them. This funding will revert to the program.

## **Possibility to Adopt Resolution to set dates for 2021 Meetings**

By accepting this resolution, it would allow the proposed dates (Dec 1, 2020; January 19, 2021; May 18&19, 2021; June 10, 2021 and November 4, 2021) to become regular meetings. This would allow greater flexibility in what topics can be discussed at each meeting. There was no interest by the board at this time, so special meetings will continue to be set up as needed.

## **Public Comments**

Donal O'Toole (State Vet Lab) inquired if the ADMB has considered vaccines for rabies in skunks and racoons. Doug and Jerry stated that they had not been made aware of any such efforts. Jerry asked if the Vet Lab would be able to put a presentation for the special project meeting in June. Doug asked that the appropriate entity send that proposal and the ADMB would not be opposed to looking more into it.

No further business

Meeting adjourned at 10:04 by Doug Miyamoto

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		BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
		FY 21 - 22	YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED	16.67%	
<b>ADMB - RABIES 0313</b>								
<hr/>								
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i> 200.00								
Equipment Rep & Mnc	202.00	0	0		0			
Utilities	203.00	0	0		0			
Freight & Postage	204.00	100	0		100	0.00%		
Supplies/Printing	231.00	0	0		0			
Equipment Rental	252.00	0	0		0			
<b>200 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$100</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100</b>	<b>0.00%</b>		
<hr/>								
<i>Grants and Aid Payments</i> 600.00								
Grants	626.00	109,299	43,750		65,549	40.03%	Proposed Step 2 reduction 12.156	
<b>0600 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$109,299</b>	<b>\$43,750</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$65,549</b>	<b>40.03%</b>		
<hr/>								
<i>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</i> 900.00								
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0		0			
<b>0900 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>			
<hr/>								
<b>ADMB - RABIES 03.13</b>		<b>\$109,399</b>	<b>\$43,750</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$65,649</b>	<b>39.99%</b>		
<hr/>								

		YTD Revenue	YTD %
General funds	109,399	43,750	40%
	0	0	
	<b>\$109,399</b>	<b>\$43,750</b>	<b>40%</b>

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Step 2 reductions proposed 6/30/2020  
awaiting further direction

		BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
		FY 21 - 22		YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED	
<b>RODENT &amp; PREDATOR 0315</b>								
<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>	100.00	\$0	\$0		\$0			
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i> 200.00								
Equipment Rep & Mtn	202.00	0	0		0			
Utilities	203.00	0	0		0			
Freight & Postage	204.00	100	11		89	11.35%		
Employee Develop & Training	207.00	0	0		0			
Miscellaneous	210.00	0	0		0			
Travel In State	221.00	0	0		0			
Travel Out of State	222.00	0	0		0			
Supplies/Printing	231.00	100	260		(160)	259.90%		
Medical/Lab Supplies	235.00	0	0		0			
Other Repair Supplies	239.00	0	0		0			
Equipment Rental	252.00	0	0		0			
<i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$200	\$271	\$0	(\$71)	135.63%		
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i> 400.00								
Telecommunications - A&I	420.00	0	0		0			
<i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
<i>GRANTS &amp; AID PYMTS</i> 600.00								
Grant Payments	626.00	0	0		0			
<i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
<i>NON-OPERATING EXP</i> 800.00								
Purchases for Resale	801.00	900	0		900	0.00%		
<i>800 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$900	\$0	\$0	\$900	0.00%		
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS.</i> 900.00								
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0		0			
<i>900 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
<b>RODENT &amp; PREDATOR 031: TOTAL</b>		<b>\$1,100</b>	<b>\$271</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$829</b>	<b>24.66%</b>		

135.63% excluding 600 and 800 series expenditures

		YTD Revenue	YTD %	
General Funds	0	0	0%	DISCUSSION ITEMS Reduced budget by 32,281 for sales funding
Other Funds				
Rodent Control - Sales 5421	1,100	248	23%	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,100</b>	<b>\$248</b>	<b>23%</b>	
	0			

	BUDGETED	EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		
<b>ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0317</b>	<b>FY 21 - 22</b>	<b>YTD</b>	<b>ENCUMBERED</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>EXPENDED 16.67%</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
<b>Fund 047</b>						
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES 200.00</i>						
Equipment Repairs & Munc	202.00	0	0	0		
Utilities	203.00	0	0	0		
Freight & Postage	204.00	600	0	600	0.00%	
Board Travel In State	228.00	4,725	357	4,368	7.55%	
Supplies/Printing	231.00	1,424	0	1,424	0.00%	
Equipment Rental	252.00	150	0	150	0.00%	
<b>200 SERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,899</b>	<b>\$357</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,542</b>	<b>5.17%</b>	
<i>RESTRICTIVE SERVICES 300.00</i>						
Cost Allocation	301.00	72	0	72	0.00%	
<b>300 SERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$72</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
<i>DATA PROCESSING 400.00</i>						
Telecommunications - A&I	420.00	0	0	0		
<b>400 SERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<i>GRANTS &amp; AID PYMTS 600.00</i>						
Grants	626.00	397,022	0	85,750	21.60%	
UW Grants & Aid Payments	667.00	0	0	0		
<b>600 SERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$397,022</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$85,750</b>	<b>\$311,272</b>	<b>21.60%</b>	
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS. 900.00</i>						
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	7,378	0	7,378	0.00%	Proposed Step 2 reduction 41,430
<b>900 SERIES TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,378</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$7,378</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	
<hr/>						
<b>ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$411,371</b>	<b>\$357</b>	<b>\$85,750</b>	<b>\$325,264</b>	<b>20.93%</b>	

		YTD Revenue	YTD %
General Funds	202,871	(1,371.24)	-1%
Other Funds			
Livestock Brand Fee-5353	1,000		0%
Wildlife Damage Stamp-2634	1,000		0%
Landowner Coupons-6204	6,500	1,728	27%
Predator Boards - 6301	0		0%
Game & Fish - 5040	200,000		0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$411,371</b>	<b>\$357</b>	<b>0%</b>

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Reduced by 288,948 to account for revenues not collected  
 Step 2 reductions proposed 6/30/2020  
 awaiting further direction

0  
 Cash Balance 750,203.33

<b>PREDATOR MANAGEMENT 1501</b>		<b>BUDGETED</b>	<b>EXPENDED</b>	<b>ENCUMBERED</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>PERCENT</b>	<b>OPTIMUM</b>	<b>NOTES</b>
		<b>FY 21 - 22</b>	<b>YTD</b>			<b>EXPENDED</b>	<b>16.67%</b>	
	<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>	100.00	\$202,116	\$31,924	\$170,192	15.79%		
	<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	200.00						
	Equipment Repairs & Mtn	202.00	749	0	749	0.00%		
	Utilities	203.00	840	20	820	2.38%		
	Freight and Postage	204.00	1,750	15	1,735	0.88%		
	Employee Development	207.00	1,750	0	1,750	0.00%		
	Advertising	208.00	0	0	0			
	Travel In State	221.00	3,500	0	3,500	0.00%		Proposed Step 2 reduction 4,000
	Travel Out of State	222.00	3,625	0	3,625	0.00%		Proposed Step 2 reduction 1,000
	Permanently Assigned Vehicles	223.00	19,500	863	18,637	4.43%		
	Office Supplies/Printing	231.00	8,000	26	7,974	0.32%		
	Vehicle Supplies	233.00	0	0				
	Educational Supplies	236.00	0	0	0			
	Other Repair Supplies	239.00	3,000	0	3,000	0.00%		
	Transportation Equipment	243.00	0	0	0			
	Equipment Rental	252.00	1,000	0	1,000	0.00%		
	Maintenance Contracts	292.00	0	416	(416)			
	<b>200 SERIES TOTAL</b>		\$43,714	\$1,340	\$0	\$42,374	3.07%	
	<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	400.00						
	Telecommunications A&I	420.00	926	83	843	8.98%		
	<b>400 SERIES TOTAL</b>		\$926	\$83	\$0	\$843	8.98%	
	<i>GRANTS &amp; AID PYMTS</i>	600.00						
	Grants	626.00	5,655,595	2,732,291	2,923,305	48.31%		\$100,000 - wolf management Proposed Step 2 reduction 606,122 PMD, 44,500 wolves
	<b>600 SERIES TOTAL</b>		\$5,655,595	\$2,732,291	\$0	\$2,923,305	48.31%	
<b>PREDATOR MANAGEMENT TOTAL</b>			<b>\$5,902,351</b>	<b>\$2,765,638</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$3,136,713</b>	<b>46.86%</b>	

		<u>YTD Transfers</u>	
General Funds	5,902,351	2,765,638	47%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,902,351</b>	<b>\$2,765,638</b>	<b>47%</b>

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Step 2 reductions proposed 6/30/2020  
awaiting further direction



# WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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**DIRECTOR**  
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GAY LYNN BYRD  
RICHARD LADWIG  
DAVID RAEI  
MIKE SCHMID

November 12, 2020

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

**FROM:** Meredith Wood, Chief Fiscal Officer

**COPY TO:** Brian Nesvik, Director; File

**SUBJECT:** Animal Damage Management Board Annual Report

In accordance with W.S. 11-6-305 (a) and 23-3-105(b), the following information regarding wildlife damage management stamp and landowner coupon designations to the ADMB for fiscal year (FY) 2020 is being provided.

Landowner coupons designated and transferred to ADMB	\$ 2,960.00
Wildlife damage management stamp	
Sales deposited 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2020	\$ 822.50
(License agent reports through 6/30/2020)	
Costs of program administration	
Management stamp:	
Printing	\$ 0.00
Administrative time	\$ 1,017.76 (24 hours)
Total administrative costs for FY 2020	<u>(\$ 1,017.76)</u>
FY20 collections over expenditures	(\$ 195.26)
Deficit collections previous years	(\$2,624.74)
Amount due to be transferred to ADMB for FY2020	= <u><u>\$ 0.00</u></u>

In accordance with statutory provisions and to insure federal aid compliance, the Department can transfer funds collected only after administrative costs have been deducted. Total deficit to date exceeds collections and therefore, no funds will be transferred this year.

If there are questions related to the above information please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you.

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## Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

### Regulations Governing the Granting of Predator Management Program Funds

**Section 1. Authority.** Pursuant to authority vested in the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) in W.S. § 11-6-304(d) the following emergency regulations are hereby promulgated and adopted.

**Section 2. Purpose of rules.** These rules govern the distribution of funding appropriated by the Wyoming state legislature through the ADMB to the county Predator Management Districts (PMD) created by W.S. § 11-6-201.

**Section 3. Definitions.** For the purpose of this regulation, definitions shall be set forth in Title 11, Wyoming Statutes and the board also adopts the following definitions:

(a) “Animal Damage Management Board or ADMB” means the statutorily created board under W.S. § 11-6-303.

(b) “Annual Report” means the final documentation the district must provide at the end of the state fiscal year (June 30).

(c) “Assess” means to fix or determine the amount and to impose a tax or other charge on.

(d) “Audit” means the unbiased examination and evaluation of the records, financial accounts, and financial statements of the district to verify their accuracy. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the State of Wyoming - Department of Audit, W.S. § 9-1-507(a)(iii) and Dept. of Audit Chapter 6 rules for special districts.

(e) “Budget” means an itemized summary of estimated or intended income and expenditures for a given period. For the purposes of this rule, the budget shall be compiled for the state fiscal year of July 1 – June 30.

(f) “Capital Equipment” means tangible equipment purchased for long term use by the district. For the purposes of these rules, capital equipment is a single piece of equipment and necessary attachments with a cost of more than \$1,000.00 (one thousand dollars).

(g) “Collect” means to receive or compel payment of.

(h) “Commercial Feedlot” means any place, establishment or facility commonly known as a feedlot conducted, operated or managed for profit or nonprofit for livestock

producers, feeders or market agencies, consisting of pens and their appurtenances, in which livestock are received, held, fed, cared for or kept for sale or shipment in commerce.

(i) “District” means a predator management district created under W.S. § 11-6-201(a).

(j) “District Board” means the board of directors of a district created under W.S. § 11-6-202.

(k) “Encumbered Funds” means those funds which have been obligated for use by contract or invoice.

(l) “Financial Statement” means a compilation of a district’s financial status. Such records shall include a balance sheet (statement of financial position), an income statement (income and expenditure statement), a cash flow statement, and supplementary notes and recorded significant financial management decisions.

(m) “Grant Application” means the form and documents with which a request is made for funding. The form will be prescribed and distributed by the ADMB.

(n) “Management Plan” means a proposed or tentative course of action, including programs or policies stipulating the proposed service and expected benefits.

(o) “Predacious Bird” means any predatory avian species that is permitted to be taken under either Wyoming law or federal law.

(p) “Predatory Animal” means coyote, jackrabbit, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, skunk or stray cat; and gray wolf as allowed by law.

(q) “Standard Budget” means an annual or biennial request for funding from a district that provides for a base level of funding for general operational needs of the district.

**Section 4. Applicability of rules.** These rules shall only apply to districts that solicit or receive grant funding from the ADMB under the program as outlined in these rules.

(a) No state funds awarded to a district by the ADMB shall be used to satisfy debt existing prior to the effective date of these rules.

**Section 5. Qualifications for funding.** To qualify for funding under these rules, the district shall:

(a) Submit the following to the ADMB:

(i) Proof of compliance with W.S. § 11-6-202(a)(v).

- (ii) Completed grant application on a form prescribed by the ADMB
- (iii) Budget
- (iv) Management Plan
- (v) Financial Statement
- (vi) Proof of having assessed and collected all available funds as required by W.S. § 11-6-210(o)

(A) Each district, in accordance with W.S. § 11-6-210(f) shall determine which facilities meet the definition of a commercial feedlot.

(vii) Report stating the accomplishments or actions relative to the prior year's management plan. The requirement shall only pertain to districts that have previously received state funds under these rules.

(b) In addition, the district shall assure that:

- (i) It is in compliance with applicable Wyoming statutes; and
- (ii) All agreements with the ADMB are current or satisfied.

**Section 6. Funding Distribution.** Funding shall be applied for and justified through the grant application process as follows:

- (a) An initial standard budget of \$50,000.00 shall be awarded by the ADMB to each qualified district whose application has been approved by the ADMB prior to May 1.
- (b) The application must be received by the ADMB prior to April 1.
- (c) Thereafter, the ADMB shall annually establish a standard budget amount that shall be provided to all qualified districts with an application submitted prior to April 1.
  - (i) Additional funds, including but not limited to operational expenses and capital purchases, may be applied for by the grant application and justified in the management plan and budget.

- (d) A maximum of ten percent (10%) of the standard budget may be used to purchase capital equipment.
- (i) Additional funds, including but not limited to operational expenses and capital purchases, may be applied for by the grant application and justified in the management plan and budget.

**Section 7. Grant Applications.** The grant application form shall be developed by the ADMB in accordance with the requirements of this regulation. The ADMB shall make a grant application form available to all districts.

- (a) A district requesting grant funds shall submit a new grant application, budget and management plan no later than the date specified on the initial grant application and not later than April 1 of future years.

**Section 8. Financial Records.** The district shall provide a budget with the grant application. A standardized form will be provided by ADMB.

- (a) The budget shall show all proposed income and expenses of the district.
- (b) The budget shall be accompanied by the district's current financial statement.
- (c) Audit Reports as required by W.S. § 9-1-507(a)(iii) and Chapter 6 rules for special districts shall be submitted to the state Department of Audit and a copy to the ADMB.

**Section 9. Management Plan.** The district shall include a management plan with the grant application. The management plan shall provide details of the proposed action and the expected results.

- (a) The management plan shall address the following, as applicable for the district or funding requested:
  - i. Wildlife issues and goals
  - ii. Livestock issues and goals
  - iii. Pre- and post-work monitoring
  - iv. Partnerships and cooperative agreements required to accomplish the management plan.

- v. The criteria shall include but not be limited to the cost of full-time and part-time trappers and the cost of fixed wing aircraft and helicopters, for predator management for livestock and wildlife.
- vi. Human health and safety issues.

**Section 10. Reporting.** The district shall submit an annual report, due to the ADMB, 2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002 by no later than July 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. This report should be relative to the current fiscal year.

- (a) The annual report shall contain the following:
  - i. Actions taken.
  - ii. Identifiable and measurable results.
  - iii. Grant monies expended.
  - iv. Current financial statement.
  - v. Most recent audit report.
  - vi. Supplemental reports may be requested by the ADMB on any identified and targeted management or site specific projects, at the time funding is provided to the district to carry out such projects.

**Section 11. Loss of eligibility.** Any district that does not comply with all provisions of these rules shall not be eligible for additional grant funding until they have documented correction of all compliance deficiencies to the satisfaction of the ADMB. Districts that demonstrate correction of all deficiencies may submit a grant application for funding consideration for the next fiscal year.

**Section 12. Authority to determine funding amounts.** In all cases, the ADMB retains the authority to allocate funding to qualified districts in the amount determined by the ADMB to carry out the intent of W.S. § 11-6-201.

**Section 13. Savings Clause.** If any provision of this regulation is held to be illegal or unconstitutional, such a ruling shall not affect the other provisions of this regulation which can be given effect without the illegal or unconstitutional provision; and, to this end, the provisions of this regulation are severable.



Adopted: January 14, 2016

**WYOMING ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD (WyADMB)  
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN  
2016-2021**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*The Governor appointed Animal Damage Management Board's (ADMB) mission is to coordinate and implement an integrated animal damage management program, based on best available science, for the benefit of human and natural resources throughout Wyoming.*

**GOALS:**

1. To implement a Wyoming Animal Damage Management Policy.
2. To implement a coordinated, accountable, animal damage management program.
3. Obtain and distribute funds for the implementation of animal damage management programs.
4. Develop a public education and involvement plan.
5. Obtain credible information to enhance the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Program.
6. Develop and implement legislative strategies.

**ACRONYMS USED IN STRATEGIC PLAN**

**ADMB** – Animal Damage Management Board

**ADM** – Animal Damage Management

**APHIS** – Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

**G&F** – Wyoming Game and Fish Department or Commission

**MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding

**PMB** – Predator Management Boards

**PMD** – Predator Management Districts

**WDA** – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

**WS** – USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

**WAIC** – Wyoming Ag in the Classroom

**WLB** – Wyoming Livestock Board

**GOAL 1: To implement a Wyoming animal damage management policy.**

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W.S. 11-6-304**

**OBJECTIVE 1.1**

**W.S. 11-6-304(a)**

**By and through an executed memorandum of understanding with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, manage crop, livestock and wildlife damage done by depredating animals; feral animals, predatory animals, rabid wildlife; predacious birds; and protect human health and safety.**

<b>STRATEGY 1.1.1: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage.</b>			
<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Review and update MOUs as needed.	1. WDA, G&F, ADMB, WLB, WS	1. As needed	
2. Review and amend project proposal guidelines and protocol.	2. ADMB	2. As needed	
3. Review and amend policy guidelines and application protocols.	3. ADMB	3. As needed	
<b>STRATEGY 1.1.2: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(ii): Specify programs designed to prevent damage by predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredating animals to livestock, agricultural crops, wildlife, property and human health and safety.</b>			
<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Governor</li> <li>➤ Agriculture, Appropriations, Travel, Recreation and Wildlife legislative committees</li> <li>➤ Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and Wyoming Board of Agriculture</li> </ul>	1. WDA staff	1. 11/30 each year	
2. Rabies Management Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Review the Rabies Management Plan (REFERENCE RABIES MANAGEMENT</li> </ul>	1. ADMB co-chairman 2. ADMB	1. Annually 2. Annually	

PLAN FOR ACTION ITEMS)			
3. Review programs effectiveness (1501 grant program; 317, and 313.	3. ADMB	3. Annually	
<b>STRATEGY 1.1.3: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(vi): Cooperate with Federal, State and County governments, educational institutions and private persons or organizations to effectuate agricultural and wildlife damage and rabid wildlife prevention policies.</b>			
<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Review as needed and implement the MOUs. 2. Coordinate programs in accordance with statutes.	1. ADMB 2. ADMB	1. As needed 2. As needed	

**GOAL 2:** Implement a coordinated, accountable animal damage management program.  
**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** W.S. 11-6-304; 11-6-308; 11-6-309 and 11-6-312

**OBJECTIVE 2.1**  
**W.S. 11-6-304(b)(iii)**

Provide various degrees of predatory animal, predacious bird and depredating animal damage management services to individual agricultural livestock and crop producers, landowners, lessors or administrators, and to urban, residential and industrial property owners. Damage management services shall also be provided and conducted for the benefit of wildlife populations and human health and safety.

<b>STRATEGY 2.1.1: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage.</b>			
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.2: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(iv): Specify methods for the prevention and management of damage and for the selective control of predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredating animals.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
1. Accept project proposals with measurable outcomes.	1. ADMB, staff	1. On - going	
2. Foster relationships between PMBs and ADMB.	2. ADMB	2. On-going	
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.3: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(viii): Consider recommendations received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for projects funded by respective agencies.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
1. Project proposals. ➤ Requests submitted annually ➤ Wildlife projects will be reviewed by G&F and approved by the Commission.	1. ADMB	1. Annually	
2. 1501 budget monies ➤ Requests submitted annually	2. ADMB	2. Annually	

**STRATEGY 2.1.4: W.S. 11-6-304(e): The ADMB may elect to provide various degrees of predator damage management services to any other person pursuant to a separately negotiated cooperative agreement.**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. ADMB will receive requests for assistance. Request will be submitted on form provided by ADMB. ADMB will work with the requester to develop a management plan that addresses the issue. ADMB will receive reports as required by contract.	1. ADMB	1. As required by contract.	

**STRATEGY 2.1.5: W.S. 11-6-312: The ADMB may enter into cooperative agreements with other governmental agencies, counties, associations, corporations or individuals for carrying out the purposes of W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313.**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. ADMB will receive requests for assistance. Request will be submitted on form provided by ADMB. ADMB will work with the requester to develop a management plan that addresses the issue. ADMB will receive reports as required by contract.	1. ADMB	1. As required by contract.	

**GOAL 3: Obtain and distribute funds for the implementation of animal damage management programs.**  
**STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W.S. 11-6-304; 11-6-305; 11-6-306; AND 11-6-307**

**OBJECTIVE 3.1:**  
**W.S. 11-6-304(b)(v)**

Maintain responsibility and appropriate funds for the purpose of providing damage prevention and management to agricultural livestock and crops, wildlife, property and human health and safety caused by predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredating animals.

<b>STRATEGY 3.1.1: W.S. 11-6-304(b)(vii): Develop memorandums of understanding between the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS) to accommodate funding sources and administrative guidelines for the program.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
1. Review and amend MOUs as needed. 2. Explore options for grants and/or pass through funds. 3. Complete projects and assure that they are measurable and accountable through the proposal and reporting process.	1. ADMB 2. ADMB  3. ADMB	1. As needed 2. On-going  3. On-going and as projects are submitted and being implemented	
<b>STRATEGY 3.1.2: W.S. 11-6-307: The Board will request one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to be expended for wildlife priorities.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
1. ADMB will maintain a relationship with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. 2. ADMB will submit a letter of request for funding to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. 3. ADMB will assure Game and Fish federal aid criteria are maintained through WGFD review of submitted projects.	1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. G&F	1. On-going  2. By 8/1 of year before funding is to be expended. 3. By 7/1 of year before funding is to be expended.	

**STRATEGY 3.1.3: W.S. 11-6-305: The Board will receive money from various sources to be expended for wildlife priorities. (Volunteer Funding).**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT STAMP Program	1. ADMB	1. Annually	
2. LANDOWNER COUPON Program ➤ Board will continue to work with landowners to gain support of program. (REFERENCE MARKETING STRATEGY 4.1.1.)	2. ADMB	2. Annually	
3. VOLUNTARY BRAND INSPECTION Program ➤ Board will continue to work to secure funding and generate revenue. (REFERENCE MARKETING STRATEGY 4.1.1.)	3. ADMB	3. Annually	
4. GRANTS ➤ Search for grants that are applicable to program and apply.	4. WDA	4. On-going and as available	
5. DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES	5. ADMB	5. On-going and as contributions are made	

**GOAL 4: Develop a public education and involvement plan.**  
**STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-312**

**OBJECTIVE 4.1**  
**W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-312**

**Establish broad based, comprehensive plan directed towards the public.**

<b>STRATEGY 4.1.1: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313: Determine needs and expectations of various audiences.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
1. Develop a marketing strategy for the ADM program. Strategy should include who to contact; method of contact; when to contact; and who will be contacted. 2. Timely updating of the ADMB web site 3. Promote successes of ADMB through news articles. 4. Continue to market the ADMB program and educate the public through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitating symposiums to share information about current issues</li> <li>➤ Sharing ADMB booth at appropriate events.</li> <li>➤ Coordinate education activities through groups such as WAIC</li> <li>➤ Encourage local predator districts to do public education/relations as appropriate.</li> </ul> 5. Hire a WDA intern to assist with marketing efforts and other duties associated with ADM program.	1. ADMB  2. WDA staff 3. ADMB  4. WDA staff and ADMB board  5. WDA	1. On-going  2. update as information changes  3. & 4. On-going and as opportunities arise.  5. Annually (as funds are available)	

**GOAL 5: Obtain credible information to enhance the Wyoming Animal Damage Management program.  
 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-312**

**OBJECTIVE 5.1  
 W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-312**

**Remain current with latest available research and emerging issues.**

<b>STRATEGY 5.1.1: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313: Focus on applied research rather than basic (theoretical) research.</b>			
<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Survey sources for specific research to stay abreast of new knowledge.	1. ADMB	1. As needed	
2. Apply limited dollars from available funds for applied research projects.	2. ADMB	2. As needed	
3. Critique project proposals to ensure credible information.	3. ADMB	3. As needed	

**GOAL 6: Develop and implement legislative strategies.**

**OBJECTIVE 6.1**

**Establish a plan to address the legislature to continue the Animal Damage Management Program.**

<b>STRATEGY 6.1.1: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313</b>			
<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Continue a strategy to ensure program continuation.	1. ADMB	1. On-going	
2. Continue to develop and utilize performance measures for program.	2. ADMB	2. On-going	
3. Identify and include citizen groups, county boards, predator districts, legislators and stakeholders to support the ADMB program.	3. ADMB	3. On-going	
4. Increase visibility efforts	4. ADMB	4. On-going	
5. Re-evaluate the statutes and programs to be included in legislation.	5. ADMB	5. On-going	
➤ Voluntary sources			
➤ Annual Report			
6. Maintain an open dialogue with the Governor	6. ADMB	6. On-going	
7. Develop economic benefits analysis of program to State of Wyoming	7. ADMB	7. Completed and will update when necessary.	



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### Overview of Activities to Date:

Funding for the statewide predator management program was approved by the Wyoming Legislature on March 23, 2006 and rules regulating the distribution of funds to the Predator Management Districts were filed with the Secretary of State on March 31, 2007.

To date, nineteen Predator Management Districts have qualified and applied for funding through the state program.

Through the work of the ADMB, \$2.727 million has been awarded to the nineteen qualified districts in the past year. In 2020, the ADMB received \$3.396 million in requests from these districts.

All districts have developed management plans that set annual livestock and wildlife goals, actions taken, and monitoring.

Livestock Goals center on keeping cattle, sheep, goat and other livestock losses to a minimum. The majority of the activity is preventive maintenance by doing work ahead of the busy lambing and calving season. In emergency loss situations, districts call in their professionals to take care of active problems.

Wildlife Goals center on a variety of big game and bird species that are deemed by the district and/or the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as below objective populations. Monitoring may be done by the district and most often, in conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

Depredation by eagles was a major concern in several areas of the state and Wildlife Services along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife worked with ranchers to help solve this problem. Harassment permits were issued in some areas. This year the Wyoming Association of County Predator Boards applied for a research grant with the ADMB to study the relocation of golden eagles to help ranchers with eagle depredation. This will be a combined effort with CSU Pueblo, the North American Falconers Association, the International Eagle Austringers Association, USFWS, and Wyoming Game & Fish to see if relocation can be an effective way to relocate eagles to minimize depredation on livestock. They will be banding Golden Eagles to see if the relocated eagles will stay in an area with sufficient wildlife as prey and not return to the rancher's livestock.

Western Wyoming Predator Management Districts are concerned with increasing livestock and wildlife predation from bears and wolves and are concerned with predation from ravens and other avian predators on sage grouse and their livestock. Five years of control measures on ravens has also lowered predation on livestock, along with other benefits to the citizens and businesses in Southwest Wyoming.

This funding has allowed the districts to continue developing proactive predator management programs for the benefit of both livestock and wildlife, strengthen infrastructure, and provide a valuable service the citizens of Wyoming.

Following is a listing of funded districts and the amount distributed to them for the current fiscal year.

**Predator Management Program Allocations**

<b>Grantees</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Board Approved</b>
Albany County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$105,000.00
Big Horn County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$146,000.00
Campbell County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$140,000.00
Carbon County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$150,000.00
Converse County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$180,000.00
Crook County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$135,000.00
Fremont County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$190,000.00
Goshen County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$50,000.00
Hot Springs County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$190,000.00
Johnson County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$150,000.00
Lincoln County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$171,000.00
Natrona County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$180,000.00
Niobrara County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$120,000.00
Park County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$172,932.00
Sheridan County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$95,000.00
Sweetwater County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$110,020.00
Uinta County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$185,000.00
Washakie County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$157,000.00
Weston County PMD	May 13, 2020	\$100,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,726,952.00</b>

On May 13, 2020 the Board also granted \$45,000 to fund rabies program in three Counties: Campbell Co. \$17,500.00, Johnson Co. \$17,500.00 and Sheridan Co. \$10,000.00.

By July 1, 2020, each district provided to the ADMB a Year-End Report, detailing actions taken and results, monies expended, and the most recent audit report. The following contains some statistics from across the state, and a brief overview of wildlife projects being conducted in conjunction with livestock and wildlife related management efforts.

ALBANY COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2020-2021 MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. **Mission Statement:** To protect the wildlife and livestock interest in Albany County from predation by the implementation of sound management practices executed by professionals in the field of predator management; thus benefiting the wildlife and livestock of Albany County and also the citizens of Albany County and the State of Wyoming.

II. **Wildlife:** Albany County PMD will work with local sportsmen, land owners, wildlife groups, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for the good of the wildlife in Albany County.

**Goals:** To protect the wildlife in Albany County from excessive predation thus increasing the survival rate of the offspring. This in turn will result in a healthier population of wildlife in the County. Less predation equals more wildlife for viewing and for hunting, and in the case of the sage grouse more numbers will help keep it off of the endangered species list. More wildlife also will equal more hunting licenses that can be issued. More licenses, more hunters will also increase the economic activity in Albany County.

**Methods and Actions:** Work with local sportsmen (using the three sportsmen board members), and wildlife groups to implement management areas in the County for the benefit of the wildlife. We will dedicate 300 hours +/- of aerial hunting to these areas and also our one full time trapper will coordinate the use of the aircraft and other resources (ground crew, dogs, traps/snares, calling/shooting, M-44's and all other equipment needed) to complete the job. Our trapper will also work these areas at optimum times on the ground. With the use of all available equipment to complete the job (4-wheelers, shooting/trapping/snaring, dogs, etc. and camping out when necessary).

III. **Livestock:** Albany County PMD will work with local agriculture producers and land owners to control predation against livestock in Albany County.

**Goals:** To protect the livestock in Albany County from excessive predation thus increasing the survival rate of the offspring. This in turn will result in more livestock being brought to market. More livestock brought to the market will result in more dollars that will be spent in the local economy of Albany County. Agriculture dollars are spent at home, if the ranches stay profitable, they stay in business; thus maintaining the habitat for wildlife and the wide open spaces of Albany County that we all desire.

**Methods and Actions:** Work with local agricultural producers and land owners to implement predator management practices for the benefit of the livestock industry in Albany County. We will dedicate 350 hours +/- of aerial hunting to these areas and also our one full time trapper will coordinate the use of the aircraft and other resources (ground crew, dogs, traps/snares, calling/shooting, M-44's and all other equipment needed) to complete the job. Our trapper will also work these areas at optimum times on the ground. With the use of all available equipment to complete the job (4-wheelers, shooting/trapping/snaring, dogs, etc. and camping out when necessary).

IV. **Human Health and safety issues:** Albany County PMD will work with local governments and the citizens of Albany County to promote the health and safety of the citizenry.

Goals: To help protect the citizens of Albany County from disease carrying animals such as pigeons, skunks, raccoons, etc.

Methods and Actions: Work with local governments and citizens to implement management practices to control and prevent the problems that these animals present. Our full time trapper will coordinate with local governments and other personnel if needed to put management practices into use (trapping, removing to other locations, shooting or any other method deemed necessary).

V. Pre and post work monitoring: Livestock numbers and monitoring will be easily attainable as we have been doing that in the past. We monitor the loss of livestock and also the numbers of predators taken. As for the monitoring of the wildlife numbers, Albany County PMD will work with the associations, departments, companies, etc. as to the times, methods and cost of the monitoring that needs to be done to measure the effects of the predator control on the wildlife population. We will work closely with the ADMB as to what the costs will be and seek their input on this matter also.

# Big Horn County Predator Management District

## 2019-20 Annual Report

PO Box 613  
Greybull,  
Wyoming  
82426



### Board Members

#### President

*Randall Jones, Otto, Wy.*

#### Vice President

*Terry Mueller, Shell, Wy.*

#### Secretary/Treasurer

*Kay Neves, Hyattville, Wy.*

*Raymond Jolley, Lovell, Wy.*

*Carl Nielsen, Hyattville, Wy.*

*Nancy Joyce, Manderson,  
Wy.*

*Keith Hamilton, Hyattville,  
Wy.*

*Albert Henderson, Burling-  
ton, Wy.*

*Dave Blakeman, Basin, Wy.*

#### WS Specialists

*Brandon O'Brien, Full-time*

*Josh Zimmerman, Half-time*

The Big Horn County Predator Management District contracts with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services (WS) to respond and resolve wildlife damage issues throughout Big Horn County.

Presently, there is one full-time and one half-time WS employee that covers Bighorn County. Bighorn County also received assistance from 5 other WS employees (pilots, additional trappers, and biologists). In the time frame from February 1st, 2019-January 31st, 2020 (the most recent 365 day period to generate activity data), the total hours worked in Big Horn County was 3843 man hours on 55 different properties totaling 2,120,705 acres.

In Big Horn County, 176 hours were flown by fixed-wing during the reporting period.



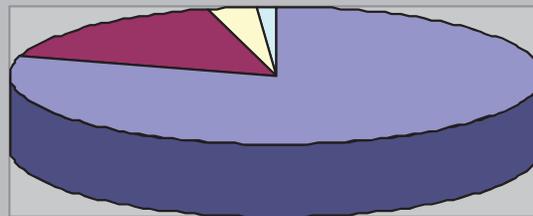
***The table below is a report of animals taken during the reporting period, in response to conflicts with livestock, wildlife, property, nuisance, or human health and safety.***

- **Beavers: 2**
- **Coyotes: 412**
- **Coyote Dens: 13**
- **Common Raven: 8**
- **Raccoons: 115**
- **Red Fox: 30**
- **Red Fox Dens: 10**

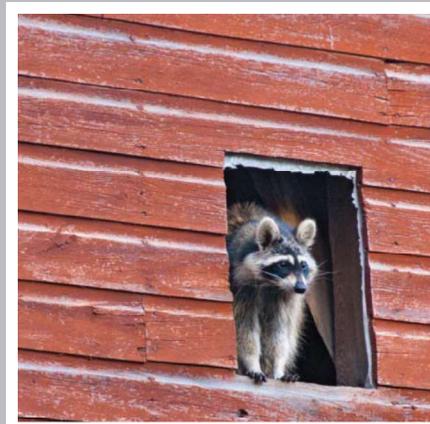


Big Horn County focuses on protecting 4 categories of resources from wildlife damage: 1) Livestock 2) Crop and Other Property 3) Wildlife, and 4) Human Health.

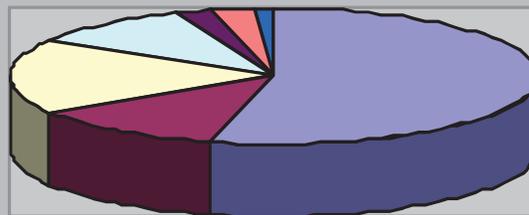
The Pie chart below depicts the percentage of site visits by WS per category for this reporting period:



- Livestock protection
- General Property
- Wildlife
- Human Health and Safety



The Pie chart below shows the percentage of site visits by WS per wildlife species for this reporting period:



- Coyotes
- Raccoons
- Fox
- Ravens
- Eagles
- Lions
- Others



## District Management Plan 2020-2021

Big Horn County Predator Management District's goal for 2019-2020 is to provide a professional wildlife damage management service through USDA's WS. It has been beneficial to bring in a half-time position to help the full-time employee. Ideally, this county needs two full-time employees for coverage.

1) **Livestock:** Coyote numbers are stable and take numbers reflect that. Even with stable coyote numbers, predation events have been minimal. Wolves are now considered predatory animals county-wide, and we will keep close tabs on wolf presence within the county. We anticipate black bear and mountain lion predation on the summer allotments. We would like to continue working on crow and raven infestations where they have caused damage to cattle and lamb mortalities.

2) **Crop and General Property:** The trend in the past five years has been a reduction in small mammal take county-wide but we saw an increase of take this year with additional help. Raccoon still tops the list as the most requested species for general property damage county-wide. Corvid (crow and raven) numbers continue to be a big problem in parts of the county. We plan on using a combination of DRC-1339, and shooting to alleviate bird problems. Corvid take increased Present staff levels still do not allow us to do much corvid work, unless it becomes a larger priority to our customers.

3) **Wildlife:** Important wildlife species that are valuable to the public inhabit the same areas where WS conducts predator removal. There is no doubt the amount of predator removal county-wide directly benefits these local wildlife populations and the public.

**Human Health and Safety:** We strive to continue learning the most effective, efficient way to resolve corvid and blackbird disease threats to livestock and humans in the county with today's most updated science.

We will sample any wildlife species that poses to be a potential carrier of a communicable disease and poses a risk to humans.





**Year End Report**  
**Campbell County Predatory Board**  
**May 31, 2020**

The Campbell County Predatory Board has been actively working to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations. Along with the predator control we are also very proactive in the control of skunks around the city of Gillette and surrounding rural areas.

We have attached our financial report for the fiscal year of July 2019 – May 2020. Since the reports are due June 30<sup>th</sup>, the financials do not include our June trapper expense, bookkeeper's expense or our aerial for the last quarter. Our three trappers which take turns now taking care of the skunk issues, have been very busy. For the last year, our three contract trappers have spent over 7393 hours in the field while covering 1,380,356 acres in Campbell County. Our trappers worked with 125 individual landowner agreements over the year as they provided predator control. We budgeted \$23,250.00 all for fixed wing aerial time with Wildlife Services and we budgeted \$15,500 for private aerial. With the retirement of Wildlife Services pilot, Mr. Huseby, we are using more private aerial than we are Wildlife Services. We have not received our final quarterly bill for aerial, but we are certain we remained within our budget for the combined aerial. The number of animals that were harvested using aerial hunting was 303 coyotes. Along with aerial we have had some helicopter time that was an in-kind donation from one of our livestock producers. We have flown 39 hours and have harvested 147 coyotes. Aerial hunting is very beneficial with predator control in our county.

All three of our predator control trappers continue to be very beneficial in Campbell County. Calvin Taylor mostly works with livestock producers in the Northern part of Campbell County while Duke Campbell and Kory Study work directly with livestock producers in the Southern part. The North and South areas of Campbell County are very different. The Northern part of the county is primarily cattle producers. Calvin has been very successful in getting new ranchers to sign agreements with us. One of the ranchers in the Northern part of Campbell County leased their land for 1500 head of sheep to graze for the summer. Calvin was very busy controlling the predators on this ranch. The Northern part is also a more rugged terrain so more aerial is needed in that area, wildlife population is affected more in this area as well. The southern part of the county is comprised mainly of sheep producers so Duke and Kory deal more with problem coyotes. The Southern part of the county is flatter and has better vehicle

access, yet aerial is best when getting problem coyotes in the area. All of our trappers are very good at responding to trouble calls from our ranchers. Our trappers responded to 111 livestock trouble calls where the calls were regarding problem coyotes that have confirmed livestock losses. 47 lambs, and 5 ewes are among the losses.

All of our trappers are very knowledgeable and are very precise when it comes to gathering information. The board has asked the trappers to continue recording GPS locations of traps, snares and actual harvest location of the coyotes. The board has split the county into 6 regions. The trappers document their harvest per region for control purposes. Docking numbers on sheep seem to be at the same percentage than last year. Per the sheep producers report, shipping numbers are good and profitable. Even though coyote numbers are still steady, trappers been working to keep the problem coyotes down. All three trappers have been very successful in obtaining mine access for predator control. The trappers also had to attend MSHA training to access mine property.

Our three trappers have harvested (as of May 31, 2020) 1162 coyotes, 73 fox, 1 bobcat, 15 raccoons, 2 badgers, and 1 bat.

Our Rabies program consists of all three of our trappers as they take turns with the position and answering calls from the public. They all deal with the skunk/human public safety issues and testing for rabies in “questionable” animals. Campbell County continues to deal with skunks coming into the city limits since there are so many small rural plots close to town. The trappers do an excellent job in the control of skunks for Campbell County. They have answered over 175 trouble call from the citizens. As of the end of May, they have harvested 288 skunks which is up more than a 100 skunks than last year at this time. The Board has been very successful in working with the County Commissioners, but the city of Gillette has not been funding our efforts in being proactive with the nuisance/rabies program position. In years past when we have not had the funding to continue our present control, the number of skunks has almost doubled and we are working hard to prevent this from happening. Board members and bookkeeper, Kenda Ford has attended many County Commissioners meeting and they are very pleased with our proactive Rabies program. The County Commissioners are able to continue funding us, yet the city continues to want the help from the board but not fund it. The Animal Control department does not want to handle the skunk control trouble calls, so they are trying to work with the board whenever they can so we can maintain our program. **We have tested quite a few questionable animals for rabies and unfortunately we have had 7 skunks and 1 raccoon test positive for rabies.** All of the rabid animals have come from south of town on ranches and they have not had any human contact. Our trappers are being very proactive in this area and trying to control the spread of the rabid animals getting closer to town.

The financial statement that is attached shows a net income of \$26,305.23 but again we have not paid any bills for June since they were not submitted prior to this report. Our monthly bills average around \$24,000 so we should be close in balancing our fiscal budget. We received \$140,000.00 from ADMB grant; we utilized that money to pay for trappers and part of the aerial which as of May 31, 2020 totaled \$201,650.99. The expenses for the Rabies program are \$34,712.59 so far. As you can see we are utilizing 100% of the \$20,000.00 Grant money/Rabies money that we are receiving. This year as of date we received \$48,232.03 from the County. The County money helps continue to pay for the remaining rabies control expenses and some predator control in the small acreage lots near the city limits. The remaining money needed for our operation comes from our Livestock Predatory fees and from our reserves when needed.

We are continuing as planned for the upcoming fiscal year. The Campbell County Predatory Board has been very diligent in trying to maintain a good faith effort to minimize our budget each and every year. We appreciate the opportunity to receive funding from the ADMB board, and with that help the Campbell County Predatory Board has a very strong effective predator control program.





*Photo by Dan Braig*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **CARBON COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

SECRETARIES: CHARLENE ABBOTT AND WHITNEY MERRELL

**CATTLEMEN**

JOSH PETERSON  
JOHN HANSEN  
J STRATTON  
WILL HUDSON

**SHEEPMEN**

SHARON O'TOOLE  
SCOTT KERBS

**SPORTSMEN**

JOHN ENGSTROM  
ROBERT O' CONNELL  
ROGER COX

**AT-LARGE**

JOHN STRAND



*Photo by Dan Braig*

This winter brought many extra challenges for everyone. Roads were closed for days at a time making it difficult to reach the necessary locations.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ACTION

The Carbon County Predator Management Board provides predator control services through a collaborative service agreement with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services and cooperate with other game management entities for the removal of predators who pose a detrimental risk to wildlife species throughout Carbon County. The use of basic operational damage control methods is used depending on local conditions and history of specific damage situations relating to livestock, wildlife, human health and safety, and disease and/or nuisance issues.

**Loss Reported:**  
**\$23,996**  
**Loss Verified: \$6,481**

### Species of animals addressed in varying degrees:

- Badgers
- Black Bear
- Beaver
- Bobcats
- Cats (feral)
- Coyotes
- Ducks
- Eagles
- Fox
- Geese
- Killdeer
- Mtn Lions
- Magpies
- Ospreys
- Owls
- Racoons
- Skunks
- Ravens
- Pelicans

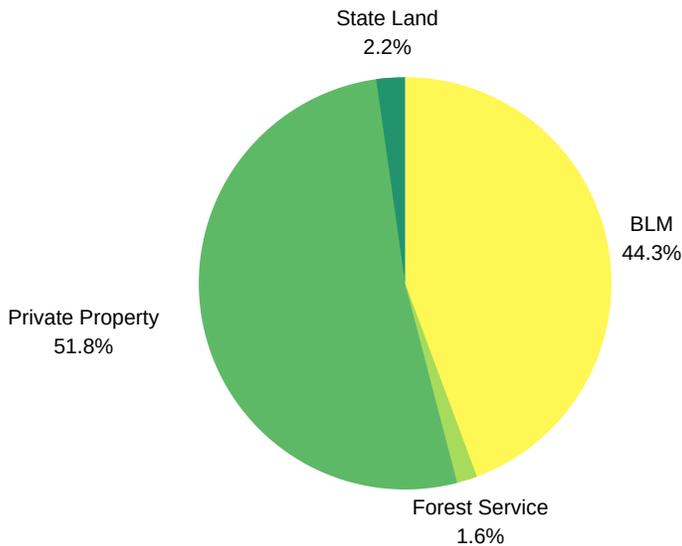
\*Some of these were consultations and technical advice was given.

### Wildlife Specialists

Rod Merrell, Supervisor    Tracy Villwok    Luke Spanbauer    Dan Braig- PT

# MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ACTION CONTINUED

## Land Summary in Acres (1,938,656 Total Acres Worked)



**60 Agreements Worked and 983  
Person-Day-Visits**

- Our Wildlife Specialists, pilots, and gunners easily go through 150 hours with the fixed wing airplane even with weather and wind complications. It is always a request from our Producers to increase our flying time as much as our budget will allow.
- Carbon County's two full time and one part time trappers have put in over 3,206.5 hours in the field.

WELL, IT'S TIME TO SAY GOODBYE!



**Charlene Abbott**

When I was introduced to the Carbon County Predator Animal Board in 1982 (later changed to the Carbon County Predator Management District), little did I know it would be 38 years before deciding to retire and pass my knowledge to my successor. Over the years I have done normal administrative things - balanced accounts, handled correspondence, wrote grant requests, organized meetings, attended trainings, etc., etc., etc. My favorite memories are the wonderful people that came into my life! I have enjoyed meeting and working for and with so many board members, ranchers, trappers, sportsmen, organizations, and many agency personnel. In some cases, I was awarded the pleasure of knowing 3 to 4 generations of the same family. I thank the Carbon County board for letting me serve them in this capacity for so long. Now, as I say goodbye, I hope you will welcome my successor, Whitney Merrell - whom I know will do an exceptionally good job - after all, she is my niece!! I will miss you all!

# NOTABLE EVENTS



Photo by Dan Braig

- Wolves continue to be a concern in Carbon County. We currently have a pack about 50 miles south of Baggs, WY. Wildlife Services, in collaboration with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, are keeping a close eye on their movement. Once the wolves enter Wyoming, they will be right in the middle of sheep and cattle country. There is also reliable information about a lone wolf by Ferris Mountain. This keeps our trappers busy on both the northern and southern borders of our county.



Photo by Colton Braig

- This year "Trapper Dan" was asked to talk about Wyoming Wildlife at The First United Methodist Preschool. The kids, ages 3-5, enjoyed the hands on activities and asked lots of questions. Ag in the classroom is always a well attended event. Every year in April, the Wildlife Specialists give a presentation to Carbon County's 4th graders to increase education about different areas in agriculture. Unfortunately, this year's event was cancelled due to COVID-19.



- Ravens are always a growing human health burden. As the population increases, the more calls the Wildlife Specialists receive. The fairgrounds have a constant battle with the messes they make. Cattle and Sheep producers struggle with ravens targeting the newborn sheep and calves as they like to pick at their eyes, umbilical cords, and fresh brands. The ravens lead to a lot of infection in both wildlife and livestock.

## CONVERSE COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

### 2020-2021 MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

The Converse County Predator Management District's (CCPMD) mission will be to manage all predators and nuisance animals that adversely affect our wildlife, livestock, and human health and safety, to the extent that funds allow.

Being the largest sheep producing county in the state our trappers are stretched very thin traveling more miles and working more hours to get their job done. We have continued our bounty system for coyotes and fox which we fund from predator assessment fees collected during brand inspections. Our bounty is a very modest amount accounting for a small percentage of our overall budget. A majority of our predator fees go to funding our aerial hunting program.

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year CCPMD will plan to employ three full time trappers. This is pending approval from ADMB for funding as we currently have two full time and one part time trapper. We will contract with WS for the use of their airplane, gunner, and pilot for up to 50 hours. With the increased use of our private pilots and reduction in state funding, we haven't had the funding to use the WS plane as much, but we do need to have it available for hunting on Federal lands and in the event of breakdowns. The WS plane along with our private trappers ground crewing are a very effective way to target problem coyotes. The CCPMD Board (the Board) will be asking the ADMB for funds for this expense as well as for the salaries of the trappers.

The trappers are contract workers and answer directly to the Board with detailed monthly reports. They account for every predator taken, where and methods used. The trappers are required to have landowner permission and do not work on that land without notification. Ears from the predators taken are presented and counted at CCPMD's monthly meetings.

Converse County is split by the North Platte River. The bulk of the county's area lies north of the river and is generally less steep and with little timber. The vast majority of the county's sheep herds are in this area as well as antelope and sage grouse habitat. For trappers, it is a huge area to cover effectively.

Our personnel, trapping and snaring as well as working with the airplanes are extremely effective and are taking care of problem coyotes that have become educated and are very difficult to find. They also address other problem animals like beaver, skunks, and raccoons that require ground time to target. Our trappers along with the private aircraft have been instrumental in the success we had in last three years. Their contracts are reviewed annually and will be renegotiated in June before the start of the fiscal year.

We have seen a severe decline in cattle prices over the last four years and a down trend in lamb prices. At a time like this, it is imperative to keep predation to a minimum. Losses to predation last year were higher than previous years. That combined with low

lambing percentages made for a very challenging year for our sheep producers. We are hoping to add a full time trapper to help slow these losses.

Livestock producers are not the only ones to reap the benefits of predator management. Hunters and outfitters have noticed a rise in the number of Mule Deer. With drought and disease taking its toll on Converse County's wildlife, we feel it is imperative to keep predation to a minimum.

With the increased use of aircraft, both from WS and private entities, many coyotes have become extremely "aircraft wary" and virtually impossible to take by aircraft alone. While we have always realized that ground crew working with the aircraft is absolutely essential, we have also concluded that a good trapper can get the coyotes that the aircraft cannot. Generally these coyotes are the ones doing the damage to sheep. Folks on the ground are also the only way to take care of dens.

The Board will continue to work with city and county officials to control skunks and raccoons. Crow and raven numbers continue to increase with reports of damages to baby calves and other nesting birds including Sage Grouse. Since poisoning these birds is only authorized for WS personnel, we will be monitoring the situation closely to further decide if and when to ask for their assistance.



# CONVERSE COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

# 2020-2021

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

## MISSION

TO MANAGE ALL PREDATORS AND NUISANCE ANIMALS THAT ADVERSELY AFFECT OUR WILDLIFE, LIVESTOCK AND HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY, TO THE EXTENT THAT FUNDS ALLOW.

Being the largest sheep producing county in the state our trappers are stretched very thin traveling more miles and working more hours to get their job done. We have continued our bounty system for coyotes and fox which we fund from predator assessment fees collected during brand inspections. Our bounty is a very modest amount accounting for a small percentage of our overall budget. A majority of our predator fees go to funding our aerial hunting program.

**For the 2020-2021** fiscal year CCPMD will plan to employ three full time and one part time trapper. We will contract with WS for the use of their airplane, gunner, and pilot for up to 50 hours. With the increased use of our private pilots and reduction in state funding, we haven't had the funding to use the WS plane as much, but we do need to have it available for

hunting on Federal lands and in the event of breakdowns. The WS plane along with our private trappers ground crewing are a very effective way to target problem coyotes. The CCPMD Board (the Board) will be asking the ADMB for funds for this expense as well as for the salaries of the trappers.

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# Converse County

Predator Management District

## BOARD MEMBERS

Jeff Boner – Chairman  
Casey Tillard – Vice Chairman  
Bob Hageman – Treasurer  
Tim Pexton – Budget Officer  
David Moore – Secretary  
Gene Hardy – Producer  
Erick Mares – Non-Producer  
John Wolfe – Wildlife  
Curtis Maxwell – Wildlife  
Bret Frye – Wildlife

Converse County is split by the North Platte River. The bulk of the county's area lies north of the river and is generally less steep and with little timber. The vast majority of the county's sheep herds are in this area as well as antelope and sage grouse habitat. For trappers, it is a huge area to cover effectively.

Our personnel, trapping and snaring as well as working with the airplanes are extremely effective and are taking care of problem coyotes that have become educated and are very difficult to find. They also address other problem animals like beaver, skunks, and raccoons that require ground time to target. Our trappers along with the private aircraft have been instrumental in the success we had in last three years. Their contracts are reviewed annually and will be renegotiated in June before the start of the fiscal year. In the event we do not receive the requested funding and the shortfall is too much to take from our savings we will need to make some hard decisions regarding salaries and/or number of employees.

We have seen a severe decline in cattle prices over the last two years and a down trend in lamb prices. At a time like this, it is imperative to keep predation to a minimum. The reduction in losses to predation last year was very impressive and we would like to keep the momentum going.

Livestock producers are not the only ones to reap the benefits of predator management. Hunters and outfitters have noticed a rise in the number of Mule Deer. With drought and disease taking its toll on Converse County's wildlife, we feel it is imperative to keep

Predation to a minimum. With the increased use of aircraft, both from WS and private entities, many coyotes have become extremely "aircraft wary" and virtually impossible to take by aircraft alone. While we have always realized that ground crew working with the aircraft is absolutely essential, we have also concluded that a good trapper can get the coyotes that the aircraft cannot. Generally these coyotes are the ones doing the damage to sheep. Folks on the ground are also the only way to take care of dens.

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# Crook County Predatory Animal District Annual Report



2020  
Box 1497  
Sundance, WY 82729

## Executive Summary

# Crook County Management Plan

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Mission of the Crook County Predator Management District (CC PMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Crook County.*

### **Summary:**

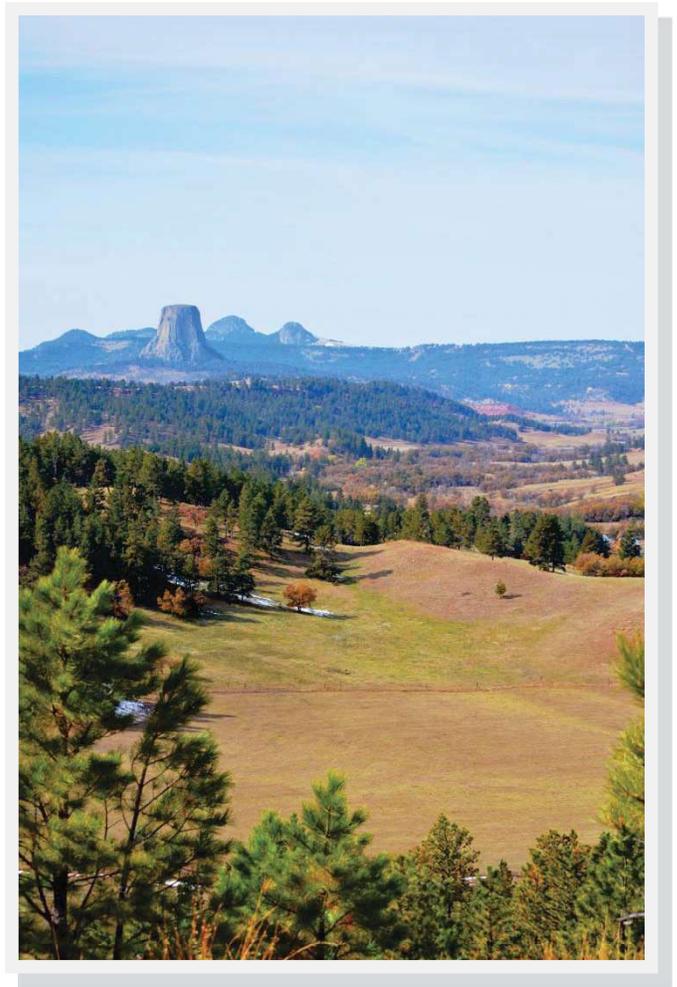
- **Contract Trappers:** Three contract trappers are used for hunting by air, and on-the-ground trappers. These trappers report directly to the Board.
- **Cooperator Agreements:** Our trappers work with cooperative agreements between land owner/operators.
- Crook County is located in the northeast corner of the state, bordered by South Dakota and Montana, with a land mass of just over 2800 square miles.

**Three issues continue to be targets for the CC PMD; wildlife issues, livestock issues; human health and safety issues. All three can be linked together when it comes to economic viability, our environment, and sustainability the communities in which we serve.**

Crook County has had a predatory management program since the mid 1940's. Since the inception of the granting process with Wyoming Department of Agriculture through Legislative action in 2006 the program has proven itself. Successes are determined by analyzing information gathered by Wildlife Service specialists as well as on-the ground information collected from sportsmen and agricultural producers.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department numbers are also tracked in order to assess goals & objectives against outcomes and identify future target areas.

The current contract/ grant system with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has allowed additional man hours; help with quantitative/ quality reports for identifying issues and measuring successes. The program has allowed testing for diseases to address health and human safety. Program benefits help the local board to meet their objectives and serve our communities.



**BOARD MEMBERS:**

President:  
**Carlisle “Fonzy” Haskell**  
307-689-2865

Vice President:  
**TJ Wesley**  
307-467-5396

Treasurer:  
**Andrew Litzel**  
307-399-7202

**Larry Fowlkes**  
467-5596

**Johnny Ridinger**  
307-878-4474

**Mike Dirks**  
307-467-5929

**Lloyd Jolley**  
307.281-0571

**Wade Dennis**  
307-680-3813

**Andrew Litzel**  
307.399-7202

**Roger Ballou**  

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The Predator Board is comprised of three representatives for sheep, three for cattle, three are appointed sportsmen by County Commissioners, and one representative is appointed as “at large. Terms are staggered and three year appointments.

The Board of Directors holds meetings five times annually. These meetings include, but are not limited to: Public Meeting for financials and approval of budget in July, prior to the third Thursday as is required by State Statute. The Board meets in December for their annual election of officers, usually the second week of the month.

The Board also meets in March to establish a budget for the next fiscal year, establish parameters for grant application should they deem necessary.

Other meetings are called periodically to handle special programs, any concerns that arrive and relative program administrative duties.

All meetings are open to the public. Minutes to the meetings are available for public view at the County Courthouse, Clerks Office.

Income to operate the predator management program in Crook County comes from fees assessed from every sale of cattle and sheep in our County. The Livestock Board collects these fees at a rate of \$1.00 per head. Crook County averages between \$50,000 to \$56,000 annually collected from the livestock producers in which the program serves.

The second source of income comes from a grant process through the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The 2019-2020 fiscal year brought \$135,000. The program, as is, would not be possible without these funds.

# Fremont County Predatory Animal Management District

## Annual Report 2020



**Fremont County has one of the most aggressive and ambitious wildlife enhancement programs of all county PAMB's. Extensive time and financial resources have been invested in their past and present programs.**

### Five Year Completed Programs

#### **Sage grouse/mule deer project hunt area 90**

- Identified which predators depredate sage grouse nests and determined that predator control greatly increased mule deer population

#### **Dubois Bighorn Sheep Project**

- The purpose of the project was to increase bighorn sheep numbers and ewe/lamb percentages in the Whiskey and Spring Mt. areas

### **PAMD Members:**

#### **Cattle:**

Beth Evans, President  
Rob Crofts, Vice President  
Justin Jamerman

#### **Sheep:**

Coleen Jennings  
Ivan Laird  
Rob Philp

#### **Sportsmen:**

Vic Mosbrucker  
Alan Sinner  
Albert Herbst

#### **Wildlife Specialists:**

Tracy Frye  
Dave Fowler

#### **Treasurer, Bookkeeper:**

Gloria Philp

#### **Secretary:**

Chance Marshall



## Continuing Projects

### Ocean Lake Pheasant Project

- This is in cooperation with Fremont County and the WY Game and Fish. Predator control is done just prior to the opening of bird season.

### Southern Bighorn Deer Project

- This is the second year of a three year project with ADMB providing \$15,000 per year. Coyote control is performed through trapping and aerial hunting at critical times of the year in hunt area 36.



## FAST FACTS

### Land

- Fremont County is Wyoming's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest county: Approximately 6,000,000 acres.
- Number of Signed Agreements to perform predator work: 60
- Diversity: Private land, city, county, state, BLM, Forest Service, Tribal

### AG Stats

- Number of Farms and Ranches: 1,152
- Average Size Farm and Ranch: 1,011 acres
- Cattle: 88,000; third ranking county in WY
- Sheep: 15,800; ninth ranking county in WY
- Hay and Alfalfa: ranks second in WY
- Total Ag Value: \$151,614,000
- Jobs in Ag: 2,045 producers



**Verified Losses 2019-2020 : \$53,209**

## Coyote Management

Coyotes are the number one predator of calves, sheep, lambs, goats, and fawns. However, the majority of their diets are rodents and small animals. Predation increases during spring months with pup rearing, so flying and other methods of control are imperative during that time of year. Aerial hunting is our primary and most successful method of control. With much of our terrain being 'rough' having a helicopter or airplane located in Fremont County would save significant funding.

**Table 1. Predator management in Fremont County**

<b>Predators Taken</b>	<b>Predators Released</b>	<b>Person-Day Visits - 624</b>	<b>Rabies Tests – Skunks (4)</b>
Wolves – 1	Badgers – 2		
Coyotes – 300	Bobcats – 1		
Crows – 955			
Ravens – 373			
Racoons – 7			
Skunks – 16			



## Goshen Co PMD

FY-2020-2021

### Management Plan

GCPMD plans to keep moving forward with assistance to our cooperators, enhancing wildlife populations, and working to ensure human health and safety. Although our mule deer project was concluded last year, predator control for livestock will continue to have a positive effect on mule deer populations in the area. We are continuing to pursue wildlife projects with the WGFD.

GCPMD is continuing to closely monitor the rabies situations in Goshen County. The skunk population has not come back as fast as we thought it might but has rebounded some. We have been actively trapping skunks and having them tested and will continue to do so as there have been several rabid skunks found in Laramie County. Cooperation will continue with the NWRC to help track virus genetics and geography. Wildlife services will continue to address all related issues and work closely with the state vet lab handling pet, human, and livestock exposures instances.

When the GCPMD went back to one trapper instead of two, we contracted with our retired trapper to help with predator control if needed in the 2017-2018 FY. Due to work issues, we did not renew his contract in 2018-19, but we decided to budget for contract work for next year in case extra help is required.

The coyote population is on the increase because of a decreasing incidence of mange. Old ranchers are selling their places and some of them are being split into smaller units. Some of these owners are calving in the fall, so our single trapper is getting calls through the summer and fall for assistance with coyotes whereas previously these calls came mostly in the spring.

Our trapper has signed up quite a few new cooperators all over the county and is spread quite thin trying to cover all the calls he gets. We have studied the geography of the county with our trapper and identified seven areas we would like to concentrate aerial hunting in. If we could fly each of these seven areas twice a year, we think we can control the coyote problem efficiently without a lot of ground time. It will take about seven plus hours of ferry time and hunting time to cover each of these areas each time, 49-50 hours. Therefore, we are requesting ten extra hours in our budget, so we have 110 hours of aerial time instead of 100 hours. We are planning to use our total 110-hour aerial budget this fiscal year, 2020-2021.

We will continue extensive trapping efforts for raccoons, skunks, and feral cats to limit crop and property damage and protect health and human safety. The coyote population will be

sampled throughout the year for various infectious diseases and parasites. GCPMD will continue with diverse efforts and projects to manage livestock depredation, protect wildlife populations, and handle human health and safety issues.

**Goshen County Predatory Management  
District**

**Annual Report**

**12/1/2018 – 11/30/2019**



**GCPMD Members**

**Brodie Mackey (Pres.) Torrington, WY.    Travis Grosz (V. Pres.) Torrington, WY.**  
**Stan Smith (Sec./Treas.) Torrington, WY.    Miles Daily, John Maier,**  
**Jason Norris, Gary Kirchhefer, Doyle Meyer, Jennifer Scheer, Dan Heilbrun**

**Goshen County PMD (GCPMD) responsibilities and mission:**

To provide services to individuals, corporations, state and federal agencies and municipalities located in Goshen County and surrounding areas with the following issues: Human Health & Safety Issues, Livestock Protection, and Wildlife Recruitment. This also involves partnering with USDA APHIS Wildlife Services (WS) as the lead agency to provide any actions/services needed.

**Identifiable and measureable actions:**

Lands worked by WS' in Goshen County:

BLM Lands	1,840 ac.
Private Lands	481,244 ac.
State Lands	15,420 ac.
Total Lands	498,504 ac. worked under WS' agreement.

10 individual WS' personnel worked in Goshen County during this period for an accumulated effort of 2,410:03 hours of field work covering 85 different cooperators.

Aerial hunting operations included 84.3 hrs. of flying to take 273 coyotes.

**Summary of damage/loss values:**

Losses reported: Livestock

Calves – 7 by coyotes for \$3,392

Grand Total of all losses - \$ 3,392

The current program administered by GCPMD primarily targets removing the offending predators from depredating on livestock, feed and wildlife.

The list of predators removed include:

Coyotes – 386            coyote dens – 6

Raccoons – 51

Skunks – 9

Badgers - 1

Opossums – 2

Red Fox – 1

Porcupine – 1

Turkey Vultures - 3

**Samples Summary:**

Eight (8) skunks were sent in to be tested for rabies this year, with all that I know of, tested positive. Also sent in to be tested for plague, tularemia, and canine distemper were 2 badgers, 16 coyotes, and 7 raccoons. The WS specialist will continue to perform rabies surveillance throughout Goshen County and the objective is for the specialist to send in at least 5 animals for testing every year (with more being better).



# HOT SPRINGS COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT



## Annual Report

February 2019-February 2020

There are 1,294,080 acres of land in Hot Springs County. These acres are split approximately 38% private land and 62% public land and are owned/controlled by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the State of Wyoming, local governments and private landowners.

This report will outline the '20-21 management plan which lists our County's wildlife issues and goals for the upcoming year. The report also includes the results for the '19-20 year ( the most current reporting period being Feb. 1, 2019-January 31, 2020).

## HOT SPRINGS COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2021

At present the HSCPMD provides animal damage control to 51 co-operators and the municipalities within Hot Springs County.

### I Mission Statement:

The Hot Springs County Predator Management District, (HSCPMD) by statutory authority, assumes the responsibility to the citizens of Hot Springs County to protect agriculture, game birds and animals, and human health and welfare.

### II. a) Wildlife Issues:

Several species with issues of concern or threatened are found in Hot Springs County. These species range from grizzly bears, wolves to sage grouse and other sage brush obligates.

## HSCPMD Board Members

President: Jack Baird

Vice Pres.: Tom Anderson

Secretary/Treasurer: Brett Belden

Shawn Smith

Chuck Bunch

Everett Jones

Josh Longwell

Rudy Kowlok

Mark Phipps

Leif Polson

## WS Employees

Steve Richins

Dusty Southworth



The wildlife populations in Hot Springs County are important to our western way of life and economy.

**b) Wildlife Goals:**

Hot Springs County wishes to provide both recreational and economic opportunities by maintaining the populations of big game, upland game, waterfowl and small game through predator management within the county.



Actions taken: The HSCPMD has 2 full time control agents. These agents are employed through USDA Wildlife Services. Their control efforts address all predators that directly impact our big and small game populations.

The HSCPMD is attempting to increase nesting success of pheasant, turkey, Hungarian partridge, chukar, sage grouse, ducks and geese. Most of these species are predated by canines, but some have additional pressure from raccoons, skunks, feral cats, crows and ravens. Methods of controlling these predators include shooting, trapping and using EPA registered chemicals. Raccoons and skunks have been removed by using the live traps purchased by the HSCPMD for use in populated areas.



**III. a) Livestock, Farming and Small Acreage Issues**

The recent increases in agricultural prices have allowed expansion in cattle herds and sheep flocks. Also there is an increase of farmed acres and improved acres (new land leveling, gated pipe, etc.) every year, which has resulted in more grain crops being raised. All commodities in the county need protection from large and small predators.

There are more small acreages and subdivisions every year. Many of these landowners keep chickens, goats, and other small types of livestock which attract predators.



Predacious birds are a problem in the county. Ravens and crows impact calf and lamb crops.

A large portion of Hot Springs County falls within the predator zone, where state compensation for wolf depredations is non-existent. We anticipate wolf depredations and rely on WS and their collaring efforts to help track these wolves throughout the year.

#### b) **Livestock, Farming and Small Acreage goals:**

Agriculture is a vital part of our area economy and HSCPMD strives to prevent and minimize losses to crops, livestock and pets due to predatory animals and birds.

Actions taken:

HSCPMD personnel use ground and aerial control methods. Ground control methods include trapping, snaring, shooting, and the use of M-44 and EPA registered chemicals. At certain times of the year aerial control may be the best method due to snow cover. HSCPMD logged 144 aerial hours during this reporting period. Our pilot is Scott Jensen and is doing a great job in the basin.

HSCPMD continues to try and address any control situation and has added equipment to be able to meet that challenge. Our night vision equipment is an excellent tool for targeting specific problem animals that have proven to be elusive or unresponsive to other control methods. It also adds a level of safety to our field personnel when doing control work in grizzly bear and wolf areas. Due to increased damage by raccoons and skunks HSCPMD purchased live traps. These have been used in crop fields, along irrigation pipelines, around buildings and within the city limits. Our Polaris side by side has allowed increased mobility in rough terrain, mud and snow. It also cuts down on costs to maintain other vehicles.

#### IV. a) **Human health and safety issues:**

A large portion of Hot Springs County consists of riparian/lowland areas that attract birds, small mammals, game animals and predators. These areas also support human endeavors such as farming and ranching, recreation and various urban activities. This results in ongoing human/predator conflicts that are addressed by the HSCPMD

There are a number of diseases that are carried by wildlife, which include rabies, plague, tularemia, tick fevers and West Nile virus. These diseases can be transmitted to people, pets and livestock. Rabies is transferred from wild animals to domestic animals and to humans.

Skunks, raccoons and badgers have caused damage to buildings and other structures. Raccoons have caused damage to public electric transmission equipment.

#### b) **Goals:**

To protect the citizens and domestic animals in Hot Springs County by reducing the numbers of predators. This will result in a lower incidence of disease and property damage.



## **Actions taken:**

All field personnel assist in disease prevention as a result of normal day to day activities. They are on-call for any immediate safety issues that may arise. The HSCPMD monitors the presence of rabies by sending all bats collected and a number of skunks to the state laboratory for testing. 8 skunks and 1 bat were sent in from Hot Springs County with no positive results during the 2019-20 reporting period.

Rifle mounted suppressors have allowed control work near populated areas. Live traps are also a necessary tool in these areas.

Also, we've recently purchased a drone for operational work. The drone will be used to:

- 1) Check trap equipment without physically approaching sets
- 2) To search for individual animals (or dens) from the sky
- 3) To look into bird nests (ravens, birds of prey) to determine whether a nest is active
- 4) To approach predated livestock carcasses in search of nearby potential danger (grizzly bear)

Air rifles have been used within the city limits to disperse crows, ravens and roosting vultures.



## **VI. Additional Information:**

The HSCPMD will maintain cooperative agreements to work with USDA, APHIS and WS personnel. WS maintains annual Work Plans and MOU's with Forest Service, BLM, USFWS, WGFD, and other entities.

**# of problem animals removed:**

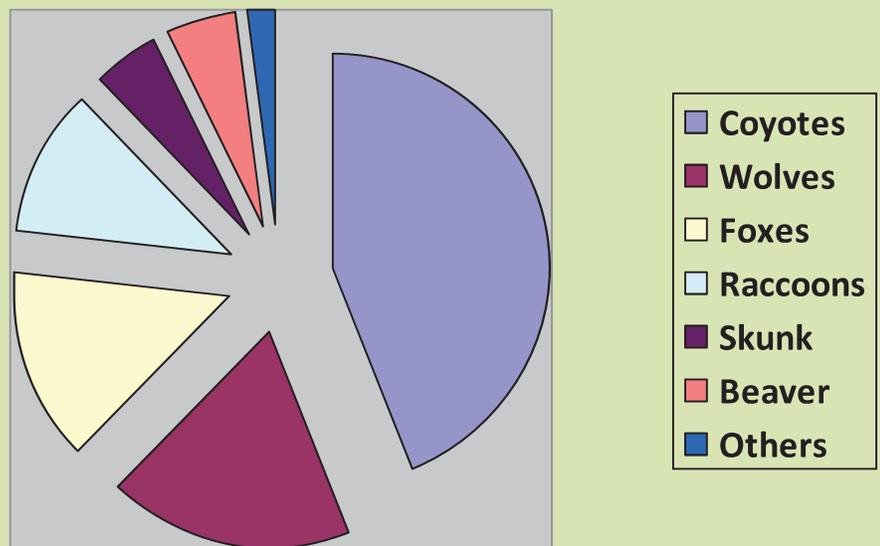
- Bats 1:
- Beavers: 23
- Bobcats: 1
- Feral cats: 3
- Coyotes: 321
- Coyote dens: 7
- Ravens: 43
- Red Fox: 30
- Red Fox dens: 6
- Raccoons: 109
- Starlings:360+
- Striped Skunks: 26
- Wolves: 2



During this reporting period (Feb.1, 2019-January 31, 2020), Hot Springs County currently maintains 2 FTE positions,.

Hot Springs County’s duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 6 WS employees during this reporting period to cater to the increasing requests to our program for assistance involving such wildlife species as: grizzly bears, black bears, beavers, coyotes, fox, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, feral dogs, porcupines, badgers, grey wolves, mountain lions, pigeons, ravens, golden eagles, muskrats, ravens, and American crow complaints. There was \$5,580 in livestock damage verified by the Hot Springs County Specialist’s during this reporting period.

The pie graph below shows the percentage of time spent on wildlife species throughout Hot Springs County:





# **Management Plan -- Johnson County Predator Management District**

## **Updated 3-27-20**

### *Mission Statement*

The mission of the Johnson County Predator Management District is to implement and coordinate an animal damage management program for the benefit of sportsmen and livestock producers, as well as the protection of human health and safety to all residents of Johnson County.

### *General Issues --*

Predator control is hampered in several ways. Johnson County's topography includes the Big Horn Mountain range on the west and the rough country of Crazy Woman Creek and the Powder River on the east. A large plain between these features is intersected by an Interstate Highway. These factors make aerial hunting one of the most effective means of control.

The population and activity associated with oil and methane gas exploration and production within the county has created some un-natural movement of animals and a difficult situation for control due to heavy activity and, in cases, tampering of equipment and theft.

The make-up of the rural population of our county continues to change to more "non-producers" or less ag production minded. This presents a different mind set toward predator control in general.

### *Wildlife Issues –*

In several areas of Johnson County mule deer and antelope herds are experiencing fawn mortality due, in some part, to predation. Population decreases have caused lower licensing rates for some areas in recent years. However, our predator control efforts have aided in the increase of several wildlife species.

### *Wildlife Goals and Actions –*

Although management methods are implemented year around they will be intensified May through July in these areas to enhance wildlife fawn survival. Control of primarily coyotes will be ground hunting, calling and denning. This time coincides with the need to protect new born lambs and calves as well, thus the requirement of additional manpower in the field. Success in this area will need to include the cooperation of sportsmen and the Wyoming Game & Fish. Work is being done with Wildlife Services and Wyoming Game & Fish to expedite kill confirmations and timely removal of predators, especially in the Big Horn Mountains. Big Game outfitters of the county have

initiated a very successful cooperation program and contributed to our aerial hunting program.

#### *Livestock Issues –*

Most of the predation in livestock occurs in the few sheep herds left in our county. However, as sheep numbers dwindle, cattle and wildlife will become targets of these predators. Much of the livestock moves to rougher mountain and river breaks areas of the county for spring and summer grazing, thus increasing the difficulty of protecting them from predation, mainly due to long distances of travel by contractors.

#### *Livestock Goals and Actions –*

Our goal is to maximize livestock production by minimizing losses by predators. This control is most effective by winter and spring time control, while coyotes are paired and denning. Aerial hunting, although expensive, is very effective if snow conditions are right. Trapping, snaring, calling and M44's are other tools used for effective control. Success in this area includes private fixed wing and helicopter as well as cooperative use of aircraft with Wildlife Services and working closely with livestock producers. We changed from 2 ½ to 2 full time trappers, one in the north and one in southern Johnson County and livestock losses increases considerably, thus we are looking to increase man power again to cut losses. Producer meetings were held and training and education on methods and help on the ground for aerial hunters will increase. Joint meetings were held with the G & F, with multiple producers, to iron out problems kill confirmations and compensation. Recently we decided to purchase several radios to aid in communications from ground for aerial hunting.

#### *Pre and Post-work monitoring –*

For years, each of our management employees have reported diligently the numbers of each species taken in the field, along with the method used with wildlife and. Thus, a base line has been established and trends in populations and controls can be easily identified. Our reporting forms can be changed to collect additional information, if needed. Because of the hours spent in the field these employees could also get some wildlife counts, if needed.

#### *Human Health and Safety issues –*

The Johnson County Management District has, for the past ten years, conducted a successful rabies mitigation project. This project targeted skunks, raccoon, feral cats, and red fox as rabies carrying animals. The emphasis of the project was in the areas

immediately surrounding the towns of Buffalo and Kaycee. With the use of two part-time employees we have nearly eliminated the ‘problem animal’ calls by the Buffalo and Kaycee police departments.

*Health and Safety Goals and Actions –*

Our goal is to continue this program as a service to the urban populations of Johnson County. Cooperation with local law officials, county and town landfills, for disposal, and Wyoming State Veterinary Lab, for testing, is components of the success for this program. In the early years of our project we had several rabies positive animals taken. We continue to remove several positive tested animals each year

*Cooperative Efforts-*

We are now beginning to implement a program to identify the location, by GPS points, of each predator “take”. This information may be mapped and these maps overlaid to those of the Game & Fish, Sage Grouse working groups and others. A new appointment to our board is a sportsman and wildlife biologist. He adds a new enthusiasm to the ‘science of predator control’ and will be very valuable wildlife and sage grouse groups. Our goals are to prove the worth of predator control to those and the general public.

*Other District Goals -*

The district has implemented electronic payroll and bill paying methods to save time and eliminate postage and mailings. Nearly all reports are made by contractors and distributed to board members via email. As a Wyoming special district, we are now required to make several changes as to meeting laws, bookkeeping, and public records and notices. These policies are in the process of being implemented.

February 26, 2020

Dear Jerry & AMDB Members,

As stated in previous years the goals and objectives of the Lincoln County AMDB is to provide services to prevent excessive economic losses to the agriculture industry, human health issues, and wildlife management in Lincoln County. Lincoln County had 2 full time trappers but because of budget cuts we had to let 1 trapper go, so now we only have 1 full time trapper, and 1 part time contract trapper, from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April to the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. We also pay for flying both on fixed wing and helicopter. The helicopter is used to fly rough country higher elevation, lambing areas, and wildlife wintering areas. The fixed wing is used for winter ranges and lambing rangers where problems occur.

A good example of this is this winter from January 15th through February 19<sup>th</sup> 2020. 237 coyotes were killed with the county contract helicopter. 153 of those coyotes killed were taken out of critical deer and antelope winter ranges. This shows that it doesn't only help the livestock people, but it helps the wildlife especially where this winter has been such a harsh winter making it difficult for the wildlife to survive. The Wildlife Services fixed wing also killed 93 coyotes out of the crucial wildlife area.

Arial gunning is an important tool in South Lincoln County. Most sheep lambing areas overlap with deer and antelope wintering area especially for the Wyoming Range wintering areas. The only problem with this tool, is that it can be very expensive to use. Therefore, this requires that we have an adequate amount of funding to keep the Arial work going. With the allotted funding that we currently have, we are limited on what we do with the Arial.

There are other factors affecting fawn survival of deer and antelope, and sage grouse broods. Some factors are weather, drought, cover, and forage quality and quantity. Regardless, predation is a big factor as more sheep men go out of the business. Flying, trapping, and denning become less, and so predation increases and wildlife population decreases. Wyoming is being scrutinized because of sage grouse and the threat of reevaluation occurs and they could be put on the threatened and endangered list.

It has really helped the past several years, not only on livestock but sage grouse. Since raven control has taken place, sage grouse numbers have greatly increased in Southwest Wyoming. Our trapper is doing a lot of work in Star Valley area where coyotes are killing calves. This is a hard area to work because of sub-divisions and hobby ranchers. We are trying to get people to sign up to perhaps be able to do more flying in the winter. This would also help on the sheep summer ranges. As you can see we try to service all of Lincoln County where there is a need and work one of the most important wintering areas for the Wyoming Range mule deer population. Deer migrate more than 100 miles south using habitat from the Hoback and Pinedale areas.

The LCAMD is able to stay even with the coyotes and fox, but wolves and bear are a big problem. Our hands are tied with wolves. For instance last summer we only had 1 government trapper for Lincoln County. As soon as the sheep arrived in the Grey's River Allotments the wolves started killing sheep. The government trapper was sent there to try and solve the problem, but dealing with the wolf in that terrain proved to be very difficult, so as is, he spent most of the summer working with the wolf problem and as a result, was not able to spend much time on the coyote problems on the other allotments throughout the rest of the county.

Another problem we have with the Grey's River wolves is, in the winter time they go back to the east side of the Wyoming Range in Sublet County, or head north to Teton County. Trying to locate them prior to March 1<sup>st</sup> in the predator area of the Grey's River is very difficult; when the whole Grey's River drainage opens up March 1<sup>st</sup> for predator it is still difficult. Due to the cost of flying we have to pick and choose what days we can fly and when we can go. And if the wolves are not there we can only control coyotes. Also come summer the elk and deer move back into the Grey's River and so does the wolves, right back into the sheep.

The Bridger Teton National Forest is the only forest in the state that has a large population of sheep still grazing. The Kemmerer Ranger District is using every allotment. Predators are more difficult to manage on forest service lands due to terrain, timber, and lack of roads. Not often will a trapper take on a ten-hour horseback ride and have time to spend two or three days on one allotment to completely solve the problem when he has at least 15-20 additional allotments to cover.

From this discussion I hope that the board will realize how important a good predatory is to Lincoln County, its agriculture and wildlife. As previously stated, the Bridger Teton Forest is the largest UNSF to have a large amount of sheep utilizing its ranges. Believe me when I tell you that not very many ranches can stay viable when they lose ten-plus percent of their crop to predators year after year.

We know that dollars are short. Ranchers know from their bankers the prices we are receiving for our goods, lambs, wool, and calves. What we cannot absorb is excess losses especially to predators. It can be the difference between breaking even or losing.

We thank the ADMB for their support in the past and hope you will be able to give us as much support as you can this coming year.

Sincerely,

Jon Child, President

Lincoln County PAB



**Natrona County**  
**Predator Management District**  
P.O. Box 1462  
Casper, WY 82602

**2020-2021**  
**District Management Plan**

**Outline:**

- I. Actions Taken
- II. Identifiable or Measurable Results
- III. Grant Monies expended
- IV. Current Financial Statement

**District Management Plan**

- I. **Actions Taken:** The mission of the Natrona County Predator Management District (NCPMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Natrona County. The number of ravens, crows, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes in Natrona County are at healthy levels. The NCPMD would like to facilitate an increase in the numbers of deer, antelope, and sage grouse.

The NCPMD has contracted with three (3) full time trappers who cover a very large geographical area compared to the other counties who have several full-time trappers. (Clint Cummings, Will Roberts, Rock Buckingham.)

Last year we received funding from the Wyoming Game & Fish for the Stove Gulch area. This is an area that the Wyoming Game and Fish asked for the NCPMD's assistance in controlling coyotes to help optimize a greater number of game to offer a greater hunting experience for resident hunters.

Natrona County continues to experience regular depredation to livestock as a result of a healthy coyote population. The NCPMD has worked to minimize the loss of livestock to predation, thereby maintaining the viability of a healthy livestock industry in Natrona County. The addition of strategic flying time has had a tremendous impact on prevention of livestock losses, as this method is often one of the best tools for coyote control, however, due to financial constraints, land-owners will be responsible for all flying for predator control. Control methods used to control predator populations are the use of leg hold and cage traps, foot snares, neck snares, shooting, trail and decoy dogs, aerial hunting and M-44 devices.

II. **Identifiable or Measurable Results:** From July 1, 2019 to date, the three trappers and aerial flying have harvested 1,118.

III.

The following is a breakdown of the coyotes taken per calendar year by the trappers and aerial program:

**Coyotes taken for the following calendar years:**

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Coyotes Taken</b>
2008	2,658
2009	1,493
2010	2,186
2011	1,788
2012	1,568
2013	1,355
2014	1,544
2015	1,728
2016	1,540
2017	1,826
2018	1,582
2019 to present	1,118

Income/Expense

Income

Livestock Account: **\$ 74,520.00**  
 Grant Account: **\$ 79,120.77**  
 Refund Savings Account: **\$ 2,515.92**

Income Available: **\$156,156.69**

Expenses:

Office Supplies: \$ 0.00  
 Postage and Delivery: \$ 110.00  
 Contract Services: \$154,074.49  
 Meeting expenses: \$ 327.32  
 Liability Insurance: \$ 300.00  
 PO Box Fee: \$ 0.00  
 Preparation of tax forms: \$ 1,045.00  
 Membership (LGLP): \$ 500.00  
 Livestock Predator Fees: \$ 0.00  
 Fly Time: \$ 52,109.46  
 Raven Control & Supplies: \$ 0.00  
 Board Mileage: \$ 328.24  
 Membership Dues: \$ 95.00

Total Expenses Incurred: **\$208,889.51**

7/1/19-3/10/20

**Current Financial Statement:** For the current Fiscal Year 2019-2020, NCPMD has a grant account balance of **\$79,120.77**. We have a livestock tax account balance of **\$74,520.00**. A Refund Saving Account was setup which has a balance of **\$2,515.92**. For a total of **\$156,156.69**. Anticipated expenditures through July 1, 2020 are **\$73,422.60**. This will leave us a balance of **\$82,734.09**. This does not include fly time that will exhaust these funds from now until the end of the fiscal year.

Total funds spent on aerial hunting from July 1, 2019-present is **\$52,109.46**. The NCPMD did not have any predator fee refunds for the calendar year.

Without legislative backing and the ADMB grant money, the NCPMD would not be able to function to the capacity that it has been operating at.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2020.

Mary Owens, President NCPMD

## **2021 Grant Narrative and Program Overview –Niobrara County**

The Niobrara County PMD continues to direct operations according to our original Management Plan. Our program is built around two independently contracted trappers. We implement a cyclical program of general control through the fall and winter, then work the calving areas in early spring before shifting the focus to preventing lamb losses and over predation of both antelope and deer fawns. We not only work our entire county, we also are requested to do a lot of work for northern Goshen County producers. Another neighbor, Platte County, has no predator program at all, and we do some work on ranches there that are adjacent to Niobrara County. We have the added burden of our eastern border being shared with Nebraska and South Dakota, each a willing supplier of fresh predator seedstock. We have a lot of work to do! We expect a lot of our guys, and being talented professionals, they come through for us every year. This year's weather conditions have posed a challenge to trapping.

As we do every year, we took a tremendous number of coyotes in the county this year, but once again we saw some increased losses in 2019. Although that was true statewide, we consider reducing losses to be our duty. The board has decided our best strategy is increased aerial service this spring. Aerial services are provided by both private contractors and Wildlife Services, and we are attempting to get a plane at every opportunity. You will see in the budget that we have increased our flying time for next year as well.

Niobrara County PMD would like to request \$175,000 in grant funding for 2021. We have not increased trapper contracts for several years and keep other costs minimal, but aerial costs will increase while income remains unchanged. For this reason, we feel we need this amount to continue our program to its fullest without using our savings. We have always tried to be conservative and built some "cushion" when funding was more plentiful.

We are confident that you will not find our program to have any waste, and you may be assured that we will use all money responsibly.

**NIOBRARA COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT REPORT**  
**July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020**

**Contract Personnel**  
 2 Contract Trapper Full-Time

**Aerial Services**

Wildlife Services 21.9 hours  
 2 Contract Aerial Providers 243.4 hours  
 1 Contract Aerial Hunter per coyote basis

**Acres in County**

Private 1,364,100  
 State 162,927  
 BLM 136,489  
**Total 1,663,516**

**COUNTY TAKE SUMMARY**

Category	Ground Methods	Aerial	Totals	Predators Taken	
				Total Coyotes	Total Fox
Coyotes-Dens	41		41	254	16
Pups in dens*	254	73	420	420	27
Pups, unborn**	95	690	942	1364	5
Other Coyotes	252	763			22
Total Coyotes	601				
Fox-Dens	0		0		22
Fox, Pups in den***	0				
Fox, Red	16		16		
Skunk	27		27		
Raccoon	5		5		
Porcupine	22		22		

\*\*Estimated based on average of 6 pups per pregnant female.  
 \*\*\*Estimated @ 5 fox pups per den

**TARGET AREA Coyote Take**

	Rawhide		NorthWest	
	Ground	Aerial	Ground	Aerial
Dens	0		3	
Pups in dens*	39		18	
Pups, unborn**	40		0	
Other Coyotes	0	34	10	43
<b>Totals</b>	<b>113</b>		<b>71</b>	

\*Estimated based on an average of 6 coyote pups per den

**PMD SURVEY IN MULE DEER TARGET AREAS, CONDUCTED November 18, 2019**

Deer Counts	Number by Category				Fawn/Doe Data		Notes
	Bucks	Yrlng Bucks	Does	Fawns	Current Ratio	Ave to Date	
<b>Rawhide Area (Niobrara)</b>	13	5	39	27	69.2%	62.3%(12 yrs)	Like 2018-19 there are still no rabbits and few prairie dogs, likely increasing predation on fawns. 2019 was an exceptional grass year.
Goshen County Portion	3	0	14	6	42.9%	55.7% (12 yrs)	
<b>Northwest Areas</b>	15	4	28	25	89.3%	67.9%(13 yrs)	It was noted deer were a little more scattered in roughs than last year.
Cow Creek	4	1	9	8	88.9%	69.9% (13 yrs)	
Snyder Creek	5	0	20	11	55.0%	61.8% (13 yrs)	
Twenty Mile Creek	24	5	57	44	77.2%	59.6% (13 yrs)	
<b>Total, NW</b>							

**Other Observations**

Pronghorn Population is increasing  
 Swift Fox Population is increasing. Swift fox are not a predator targeted by the district  
 Sage Grouse Leks & strutting grounds observed, population stable.  
 Turkey Population stable and increasing.  
 Other Game Birds Sharptail Grouse & Hungarian Partridge population increasing  
**Mange** Trappers note they are not seeing much for mange in the coyotes, except a few over towards the NE line.  
**Stomach Contents, etc** Trappers note that the stomach contents of coyotes show they are consuming mostly rodents. In June, virtually all of the dens taken had evidence of predation of fawn antelope ar

**Use of Funds**

ADMB Funds Operations 100%  
 All Funds Operations 95.6%  
 Admin & Other 4.4%

# Park County Predator Management District



## 2019-2020 Annual Report



Park County Predator Management District's (PCPMD) contracts with United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (WS) to provide a high-quality wildlife damage management service for all those that reside in Park County.

The PCPMD funds 1.5 WS employees. Most duties within the county were conducted by these 2 employees; however, 8 other WS employees (including pilots, gunners, and biologists) helped out within Park County during this reporting period. The data for this report is from February 1st, 2019-January 31, 2020. There were 41 different properties totaling 1,475,300 acres of public and private land that requested services from WS during this reporting period. The total man hours worked in the county was 4,599 hours.

A total of 167 hours of fixed wing was spent in Park County during the reporting period. Scott Jensen is the pilot for the Bighorn Basin and doing a great job. WS removed the following animals in response to damage conflict: during the reporting period:

- Bats:1
- Beavers: 1
- Coyotes: 324+ 1 dens
- Fox, Red: 15 + 4 dens
- Ground squirrels: 365
- Raccoons: 33
- Starlings: 2,500+
- Striped Skunks: 1
- Wolves, Gray: 5

### Board Members

- \* President  
Rori Renner,  
Meeteetse, Wy.
- \* Vice President  
Shane Smith,  
Powell, Wy.
- \* Sec/Treasurer  
Regan Smith,  
Powell, Wy.
- \* Ben Anson  
Meeteetse, Wy.
- \* Doug Heny  
Powell, Wy.
- \* George Joest  
Cody, Wy.
- \* Keith Schuebel  
Cody, Wy.
- \* Jacob Jarrett  
Cody, Wy.
- \* Tim Hockhalter,  
Cody, Wy.
- \* Breanne Thiel  
Powell, Wy.





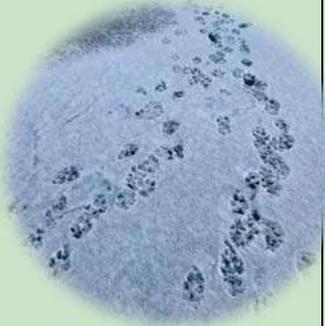
## Livestock Protection

Park County sits adjacent to vast wilderness and Yellowstone National Park, where large carnivore species are managed for healthy, abundant populations. Gray wolves, mountain lions, black and grizzly bears frequent livestock operation areas regularly and damage occurs annually.

Wolf management was turned over to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) in April of 2017. WS assists WGFD with wolf depredations when requested. During the reporting period, WS made 53 visits in response to verified wolf depredations involving livestock in Park County, and 5 wolves were removed on damage. 2 of those 5 were removed conducting ground work (shooting), while the other 3 were taken by aerial hunting. Wolf numbers remain stable.

There was \$4,119 of verified livestock damage caused by predators in Park County during this reporting period. This figure does not include wolf or grizzly bear damage that was verified by WGFD. Coyote densities have remained stable county-wide, with populations being reduced in chronic damage areas.

Park County WS assists Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) responding to damage by gray wolves, black bear, mountain lion, and can assist as well in some grizzly bear issues.



## Wildlife Protection

WS participated in efforts to protect a new black-footed ferret population near Meeteetse in Park County. WS hires seasonal help for this project with funds coming from other government agencies. These WS employees broadcast DeltaDust, an insecticide, to protect the prairie dogs, the ferrets food source, from sylvatic plague.



We continue to learn through GPS collar research that Park County is major wintering grounds for big game, as far as Jackson Lake. With the decline in mule deer populations, the removal of big game predators will certainly have positive impacts on these wintering big game populations. This winter is the second season we've been working with sportsmen's group and their dollars to address coyote/deer conflict on the Clarks Fork mule deer herd. Last year 70 coyotes were removed within the target zone in the 18-19 winter/spring.

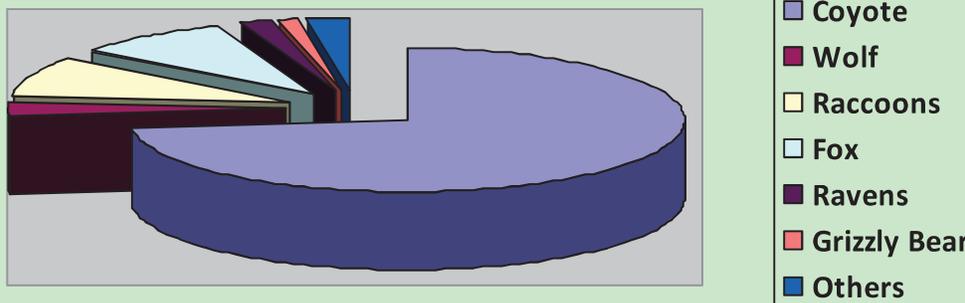


## Crop, Irrigation, and Human Health and Safety Resources Protection

There are important resources in need of protection from wildlife damage and diseases. In recent years, the Park County WS Specialists spent a large amount of time working to resolve conflicts between Park Country residents and the wildlife species that commonly are a nuisance or cause property damage. These species include raccoons, striped skunks, ground squirrels, beavers, and blackbirds.

Starlings and other blackbirds carry a plethora of diseases. Large infestations of these species can create a disease threat that is transmissible to both livestock and humans. WS provides assistance in Park County with the use of DRC-1339, a blackbird-specific avicide, and successfully reduced bird infestations where live-stock feed was damaged and where there were real threats of disease to both live-stock and producers.

Below is a pie graph that shows the total percentage of site visits per species in Park County.



## Park County Predator District's Management Plan for 2019-20

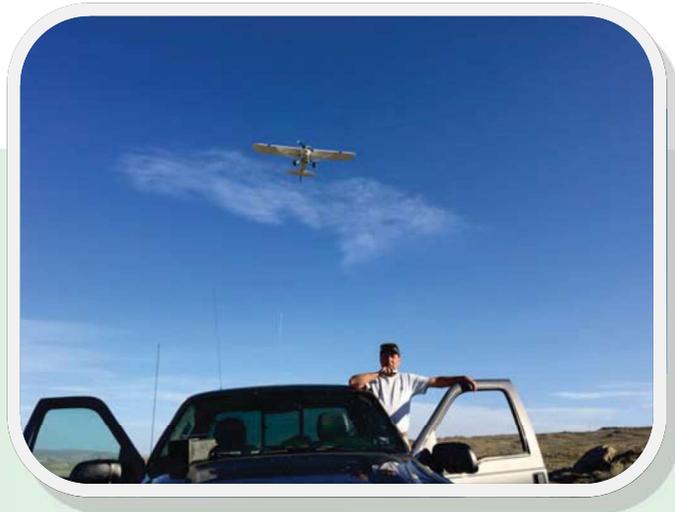
Park County Predator Management District's management plan is to continue working with USDA- Wildlife Services. WS enters into agreements, on an annual basis with Shoshone National Forest, the District BLM office, WGFD, and USFWS. WS also cooperates with other government agencies and private landowners county-wide. The cooperation puts our PMD in a position to best deal with all species and localities of our county regardless of state and federal protections with professionally-trained personnel.



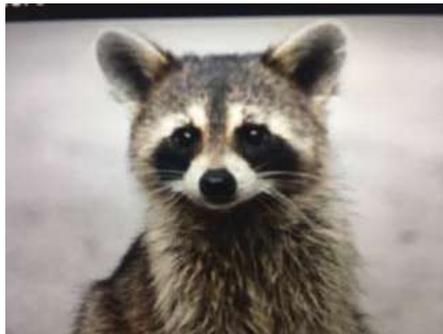
Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, as well as lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage problems, along with technical assistance to reduce or avoid future damage issues by wildlife. All activities performed by the PCPMD and WS will be performed in a professional manner, following all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

It appears that wolves will continue to have strong numbers in western Park County and we anticipate wolf predation this upcoming year to be on the same level as the last few years. WS and WGFD have a strong working relationship and plan to respond to trophy game carnivore conflicts in a timely manner.

WS will make a focus to target coyotes in and around calving and lambing pastures and overall keep coyote densities at lower levels.



# Predator Control is a tool in Livestock and Wildlife Management



# Sheridan County and PMD Selected Areas



**Area 1:** From Ucross, WY along HWY 14-16 East to Campbell County Line and South of 14-16 to Johnson County Line. Primary purpose will be to depopulate coyotes from the target area, helping doe to fawn ratio and Sage Grouse recovery on spring leks and nesting areas, as well as control on spring lambing grounds. (500 hours of predator control)

**Area 2:** From Sheridan, WY to Wyarno, Southeast along Ulm County RD. to the junction with 14-16, then south to the Johnson County Line; from Johnson County Line west to the face of the Big Horn Mountains and back to Sheridan. Area 2 is in hunt area 24 which had a ratio of 76

fawns per 100 does and 24 bucks per 100 does which were primarily whitetail deer. Area of concentration will for the spring calving grounds. (250 hours of predator control)

**Area 3:** From Wyarno, east to Passic County RD. following Buffalo Creek RD. east and Ulm County RD. southwest to HWY 14-16; everything east of Ulm County RD. and south of Buffalo Creek RD. to HWY 14-16. The control will directed at helping Sage Grouse leks and breeding grounds, as well as lambing grounds. In 2019 we observed more birds such as Sharptail and Hungarian Partridge. We believe this is due to stepped up trapping and flying and will continue to do so. (250 hours of predator control)



**Area 4:** North along Leiter and Passic County RD. to the Montana State Line, east to Campbell County Line, south to HWY 14-16. Primary purpose to remove coyotes from the Powder River area, for Mule Deer recovery and calving grounds. (250 hours of predator control)

**Area 5:** From Sheridan, north along I-90, then along Buffalo Creek to Passic County RD. as the east and southern border; from there, north to the Montana State Line. Primary purpose is Mule Deer Recovery. (400 hours of predator control)

**Area 6:** West of Sheridan and north of Wolf along the Big Horn Mountains, then north to the Montana State Line. Primary purpose is Mule Deer recovery. Area 6 is also in hunt area 24 with a mix of whitetail and mule deer (350 hours of predator control)

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## Findings

**Area 1 & 3:** Due to the request from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, we will be increasing predator control work to include targeting the red fox, raccoons and skunks in nesting and brood rearing habitat surrounding Sage Grouse leks sites. We will focus on an area within a couple miles of the lek. Also at the request of WGF, we will be stepping up efforts to control coyotes in deer hunt area 23 and 24 and antelope hunt areas 17 and 109 in 2019. This resulted in an increase of the fawn to doe ratio in 2019 of 90 fawns per 100 does well above the ratio of 70 fawns per 100 does in 2018.

**Area 4 & 5:** We have seen a high increase of coyotes along the Montana border and also along the Campbell County line. We will put more flying time into these areas to try and stop the flow of coyotes into Sheridan County. Our sportsmen are requesting more aerial hunting in mid-winter when wildlife is stressed by deep snow and more susceptible to predation. These areas are also in hunt area 23 and we already do a lot of aerial hunting in the spring during lambing and calving time. This is a benefit for wildlife when they are fawning as well.

To accomplish the additional aerial hunting we have increased our budget for the 2020-21 fiscal years. We received a Commissioners license which was auctioned off. The proceeds of this sale will be used for helicopter hunting on the Montana, Campbell and Johnson County borders. A year ago, as our specialist was aerial flying the Powder River and Clear Creek drainages he counted 21 total deer kills on the ice from coyotes. He was able to shoot a number of them off the kills.



**Wildlife Goals:**

The Sheridan County PMD would like to facilitate an increase in numbers of wild game through active management of the before mentioned species that have the most impact on our numbers.



**Proposed Actions:**

With harsh winters the past two years and the lack of smaller prey animals such as rabbits, there has been heavier predation on larger prey animals such as deer, antelope and sage grouse. Our field specialist is going to **use aerial hunting** in addition to ground work to better manage the predator numbers in our county.



**Livestock Issues:**

In Sheridan County, the livestock producers have experienced a greater hit from predation because of the lack of small game (rabbits) as well as the wildlife issues; *especially the sheep producers.*



**Livestock Goals:**

The Sheridan County PMD along with the field specialist is dedicated to minimize the loss of livestock from predation through any means possible.



**Sheridan County PMD positively affects the lives of our livestock producers.**



**Proposed Action:**

The Sheridan County PMD proposed action is to continue targeting our aerial hunting in March and April to coincide with most livestock producers calving and lambing season. We feel that pushing aerial hunting in these months plus hitting the ground work throughout the entire year will reduce the stress on our producers that they get from predation. These two methods combined will help out with everyone’s livestock and wildlife predation; a win-win for all in the county and state. We will continue to put a lot of pressure on our north and east borders where most of our predators come from.

**Pre and Post Work Monitoring:**

The PMD board, with the help of our specialist Alan Plummer (a full-time trapper) will work with our local Game and Fish Department to provide data on wildlife and Sage Grouse populations in relation to the work that our specialist has accomplished through aerial and ground work. The board does not anticipate any additional cost associated with these activities. This all would not be happening for Sheridan County PMD without the help of Wyoming Legislative through the Animal Damage Management Board. With that being said, we the board, livestock producers and sportsmen thank you for your hard work and belief in what we are accomplishing.

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF  
SWEETWATER COUNTY WYOMING

Gary Zakotnik, President

68 Eden, West 1<sup>st</sup> South

Eden, WY 82932

Telephone (307) 273-9481 Cell (307) 389-4686 email [gnjakotnik@gmail.com](mailto:gnjakotnik@gmail.com)

April 1, 2020

Animal Damage Management Board  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
2219 Carey Avenue  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002-0100

Gentlemen

Enclosed is the Grant Application of the Predator Management District of Sweetwater County Wyoming. Sweetwater County PMD is requesting a grant of \$145,000.00 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. According to our projections a grant of this amount and the expenditures as set out in the attached documents would leave the District at 6-30-2021 with a cash balance from all sources around \$90,000.00. We feel that it is prudent for the District as we have implemented a new program with Wyoming Wildlife Solutions and we have projected to try and keep our grant request at this level for a couple years and then try to have a program in place where our funding request can remain close to this level. That will bring our reserve down to the \$20,000 level which we feel is prudent. We have faced many challenges with our contract with Wildlife Services. We didn't realize that they were intentionally reducing the flying time in our contract to keep from billing us the full amount. This had been going on for a few years and was the culmination point that forced the board to seek another contractor.

Wyoming Wildlife Solutions has done a good job of assessing our county and coming up with a program that will work for not only the livestock producers but also give additional protections to our vast wildlife populations. They have come up with a proposal to spend time in the spring to help get our program caught up for the last few years of the intentional cutbacks done by Wildlife Services. This program also helps alleviate the problems we face with the bands of sheep that winter in our county that we receive no predator fees for. We should have a program

that will provide all producers in our county a level of protection regardless of where they pay their fees.

Sincerely

Gary Zakotnik, President

## Sweetwater County Predator Management District

April 1, 2020

Mr. Jerald Johnson – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

1. The mission of the Sweetwater County Predator Management District has been and is to provide predator control throughout the county for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Sweetwater County.
2. Sweetwater County encompasses 10,500 square miles, the largest county in Wyoming, and provides winter range for about 52,000 sheep and winter and summer range for about 14,000 cattle. This is also one of the best areas in Wyoming for antelope, deer and elk populations.
3. Sweetwater County contains a very large percentage of public lands. These lands allow the public access for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Maintaining our wildlife populations is essential to these activities.
4. a) *Wildlife Issues* - The numbers of predatory animals in Sweetwater County have been at healthy levels. Areas south of Rock Springs have experienced a decline in deer and pronghorn fawning ratios, due to the fact that the sheep production that used to exist in the area is now gone. However, the G&F had a project where they conducted predator control in this area to help the wildlife. .  
b) *Wildlife Goals* – The Sweetwater County Predator Management District is committed to increasing wildlife reproductive rates through effective management of those predator species have the most negative impact on wildlife reproduction and survival.
5. *Proposed Actions* – We are working on protecting wildlife within Western Wyoming and have received information from the Game and Fish Department on areas that they are concerned with low fawn numbers and have targeted these areas to help improve these ratios.
6. *Livestock Issues* – Predators have always been a great problem for livestock producers and our Board is dedicated to minimizing the loss of livestock due to predation, thereby enhancing Sweetwater County and its ability to produce livestock and their by-products.  
a) We are presently using tools that have proven to be selective and effective in the past. We are using more helicopter services, especially in the rugged areas of the county where fixed winged aircraft is somewhat limited, and we plan to expand the helicopter effort as it seems to be very effective, especially in some of the wildlife areas.  
b) We are seeing the success rate of fixed wing aircraft hunting diminishing. The predators are adapting to this technique and we feel that our use of a helicopter is showing good success. Although the rates to use a helicopter are far greater than fixed wing, the board feels this needs to be expanded to keep the predator numbers in check.
7. We have a very active Board made up of concerned ranchers, sportsmen and the public. We believe there have been some dramatic results and benefits evident for both wildlife and livestock within this County.
8. We have entered into a new contract for our predator control program with Wildlife solutions after many concerns on the effectiveness of Wildlife Services administering the program.
9. Wildlife Solutions has designed a program that we feel will effectively manage our predator concerns and we had good results in the first year.

Gary Zakotnik - Chairman

## Sweetwater County Predator Management Spring 2020 Follow-Up Program Proposal

During the months of April, May, and June, coyotes are establishing and maintaining their dens. Coyotes are extremely vulnerable at this time. This stage of their lifecycle provides an excellent opportunity to remove resident coyotes that have managed to escape all other control methods.

The most effective way to capitalize upon this seasonal opportunity is with a combined ground and aerial program. Removing dens and breeding adults in the spring, will help reduce summer livestock losses and jump start the coming fall/winter program.

For the months of April, May, and June 2020, we propose the use of one trapper for up to two months at \$8,000 per month and an aerial budget of up to \$59,000 (\$75,000 total) to fully take advantage of this window of opportunity.

# WYOMING WILDLIFE SOLUTIONS

## 2019/2020 SWEETWATER COUNTY PREDATOR CONTROL RESULTS.

### November:

Coyotes killed with aircraft: 7

Coyotes killed on the ground: 6

With the lack of snow on the ground in November we decided to hold off on very much flying except to respond to damage when needed, as conditions were not ideal. I believe the lack of snow resulted in coyotes hanging up in the high country as we found very little coyote sign that month, resulting in few being killed on the ground.

### December:

Coyotes killed with aircraft: 88

Coyotes killed on the ground: 5

By December the sheep bands from neighboring counties were spread across Sweetwater and began to cause coyotes to congregate in numbers around them. At this time, we got some good snow cover and aircraft was once again a very effective tool to take coyotes in numbers. The second week of December the plane killed 5 at the Boar's Tusk, 10 from the big sandy to 18 mile draw, 24 from Aspen Mtn south of RS Airport, to the Brady Plant where they were killing on Pete Arambel. The Helicopter killed 36 in Eden valley. And 13 killed with the helicopter in North Baxter while responding to a wolf complaint that was never confirmed.

### January:

Coyotes killed with aircraft: 70

Coyotes killed on the ground: 8

In January we continued to kill coyotes where we found them sucked in on the sheep with good success. During the first week of the month the plane killed 11 on Aspen Mtn, 13 from the Big Sandy to Alkali creek down the Blue rim, 25 in Bitter creek and the Eversole Ranch, and 16 east of Bitter creek, and on the Bitter creek Rd North of I-80. We also used the Helicopter the last week of January as a last resort effort to stop damage happening on Dennis Hunsaker south of Alkali creek. We killed 5 coyotes and found wool inside a pair of very old coyotes we caught hiding in the Grease wood. I believe they had

been educated to aircraft by past predator control efforts resulting in their becoming very old professional sheep killers as they had killed several yearling lambs and full-grown ewes.

## February:

Coyotes killed with aircraft: 115

Coyotes killed on the ground: 7

In February our ground program ended but we continued to trap anyways as it gave us an opportunity to scout for the plane. We flew the helicopter in the Little Fire Holes killing 10. Then flew the fixed wing 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23. The plane flew Black Butte killing 17, Aspen Mtn to Camel Rock killing 24, from the blue water tank on highway 430 to Vermilion Creek killing 33, and Patrick draw, Bitter creek, and 6-mile rim killing 31.

## March:

Coyotes killed with Aircraft: 29

In March we did no groundwork as our ground contract ended in February, but we continued some aerial hunting as needed. While flying Vermilion creek ranch area with the plane in February we were successful at killing a large number of coyotes, but we experienced several coyotes escaping into the cedar trees and rocks where the plane just wasn't effective. To correct this, we brought the helicopter back in March killing 16. Clyde Hanks lost two calves to coyotes towards the end of March, as our fixed wing was unavailable, I asked Jim Hickey to hunt his calving area and he was able to kill 10 from Clyde's ranch and the surrounding area. While our fixed wing was still unavailable, we used the helicopter to fly the Dry Sandy in an attempt to remove coyotes before Thoman's arrived to lamb there, however we had very little success killing 3. Currently Sublette County will only allow Wildlife Services to aerial hunt coyotes and wolves within Sublette County, as most of the Dry Sandy and Thoman's Lambing country is Sublette County I can't effectively help them by flying the little bit that is in Sweetwater.

## Summary:

From November 1 to March 24 we were able to remove 335 coyote's county wide. I believe our total number of coyotes will grow each year as I learn more about the country and when and where coyotes will be in numbers so as to be prepared ahead of time with equipment on the ground. Our program would also benefit from additional Funding from the state to do more aerial work across a larger part of our county. If we were able to provide predator control across a larger part of Sweetwater County, it would not only be beneficial to Sweetwater but also would slow the number of coyotes drifting from Sweetwater into Neighboring counties helping them as well. Its also worth mentioning that both Lincoln

and Uinta County provided some predator control to their own sheep within Sweetwater County, I believe Wildlife Services killed 40 coyotes on the Little Colorado on behalf of Lincoln County, and Jim Hickey killed 175 in Sweetwater in a calendar year on behalf of Uinta County. I will attach Jim's report on where he killed each coyote. Jim was obviously very effective and his work in the south west corner of Sweetwater was very helpful, allowing me to provide predator control to other areas that needed help.

Attached is a proposed budget for next season, we can also provide a formal program proposal at your request.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Cost
Ezra Cluff	4 months	\$ 8,000	\$ 32,000
Trapper 2	3 months	\$ 8,000	\$ 24,000
Aerial Budget/ Fixed wing cost	200 hours	\$ 250	\$ 50,000
Helicopter cost	40 hours	\$ 850	\$ 34,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$ 140,000</b>



# PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT OF UINTA COUNTY

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**Uinta County** is situated in the southwest corner of Wyoming. It has a land mass of 2081 sq miles. The management district also encompasses portions of Lincoln and Sweetwater counties in Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. Uinta County ranks 17<sup>th</sup> in cattle inventory and production in the State with 37,000 head in 2017. In 2017 the State of Wyoming's total livestock production was slightly above \$1 billion dollars. Wyoming was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest lamb producer in the nation with 235,000 head at a value of \$49.35 million dollars and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of wool with 2.2 million pounds at a value of \$4.4 million dollars. Uinta County was responsible for the second largest amount of wool and lamb produced in the State, making Uinta County one of the largest producing counties in the United States of America. These numbers would be significantly lower if not for the predator control efforts by the State of Wyoming, the Governor, and the State Legislature in conjunction with the State Animal Damage Management Board and the various predator management districts within the State. Sheep losses due to predation in 2017 accounted for 52.4% of the total losses from all causes. That amounted to \$3.263 million dollars in lost revenue to the producers and the State.

# MANAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS



# PROPOSED ACTIONS

Wildlife  
Issues



Proposed  
Actions



## Mule Deer (E-12.3)

- WG&F Mule Deer request
- Fawning ground aerial work

# WILDLIFE ISSUES

## ➤ Mule Deer (E-12.3)

- ✓ WG&F Department request to include Mule Deer \$ into UCPMD budget request
- ✓ Increase fawn survival rate with helicopter work on fawning grounds
- ✓ Helicopter work in areas inaccessible to fixed wing aircraft

# PROPOSED ACTIONS



## **Specialist Work (E-7.2,7.4,11.1)**

- Prior to livestock entering area
- Duration in area

## **Aerial concentration**

- PCC Helicopter (E-11.2)
- PCC Fixed Wing (E-11.3)
- Contract Trapper aerial augmentation work (E-11.1)

# LIVESTOCK ISSUES

- **Specialist Work** (E-7.2, 7.4, 11.1)
  - ✓ Concentration of work by specialists prior to and during livestock use of specific areas
  
- **Aerial Concentration** (E-11.1, 11.2, 11.3)
  - ✓ Increase aerial time to provide protection of newborn livestock
  - ✓ Increase use of aerial assets to reduce predation prior to entry of areas of use and duration in areas of use

# PROPOSED ACTIONS

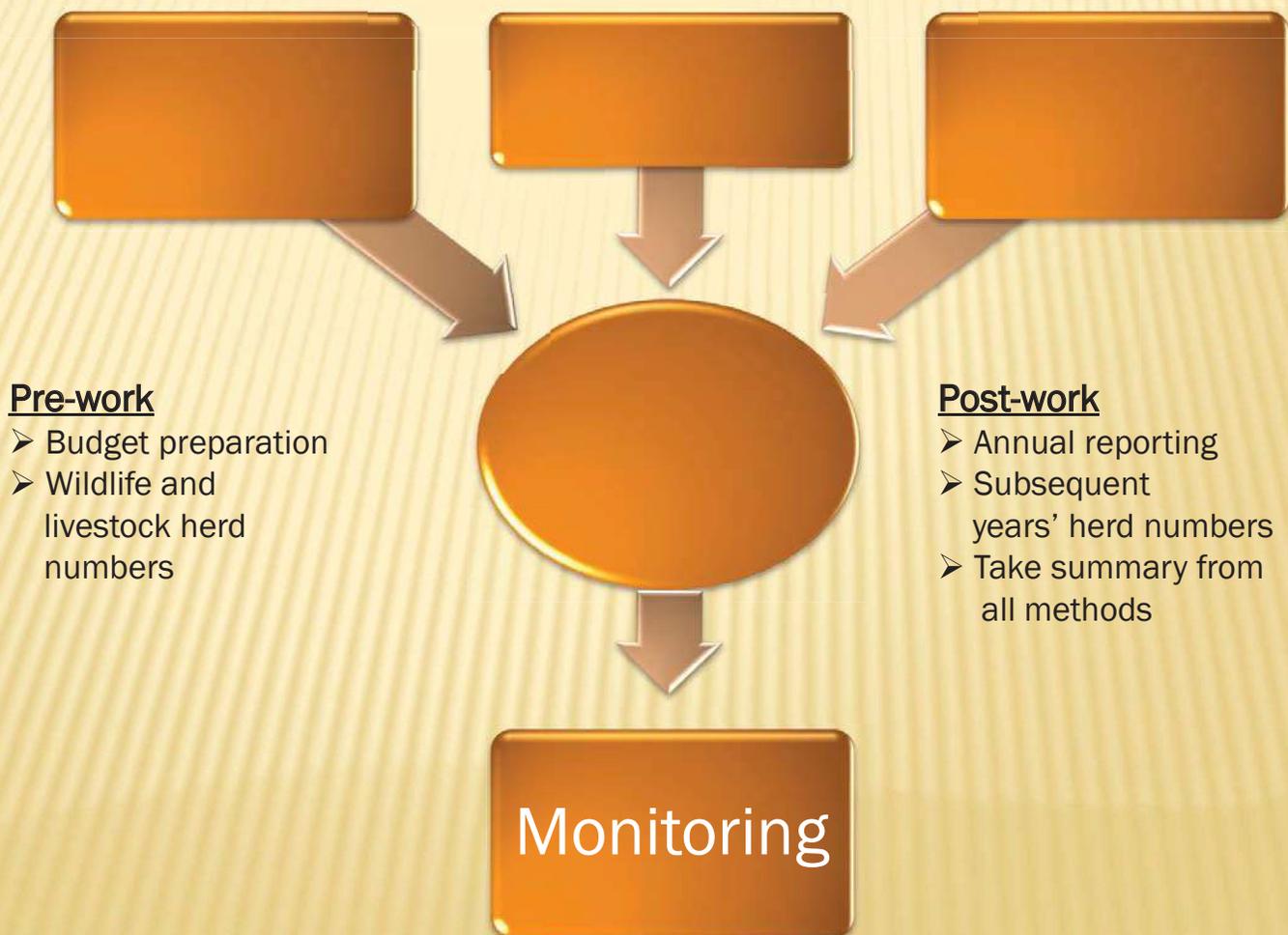
## Sampling

- Acquire samples for rabies detection

Health and Human Safety

Proposed Actions

# MONITORING



# MONITORING

## ➤ Pre-Work

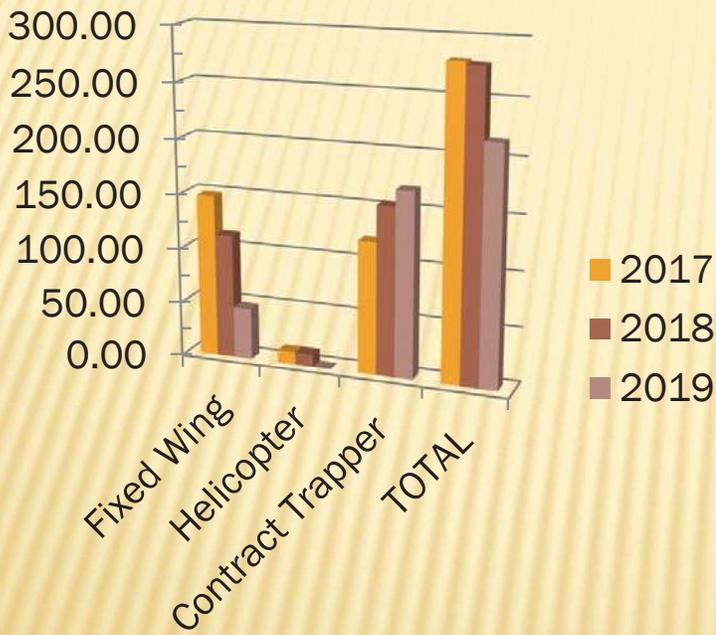
- ✓ Budget Preparation, Grant Application (E-4.2)
- ✓ Herd Inventories (Producers & WYG&F)

## ➤ Post-Work

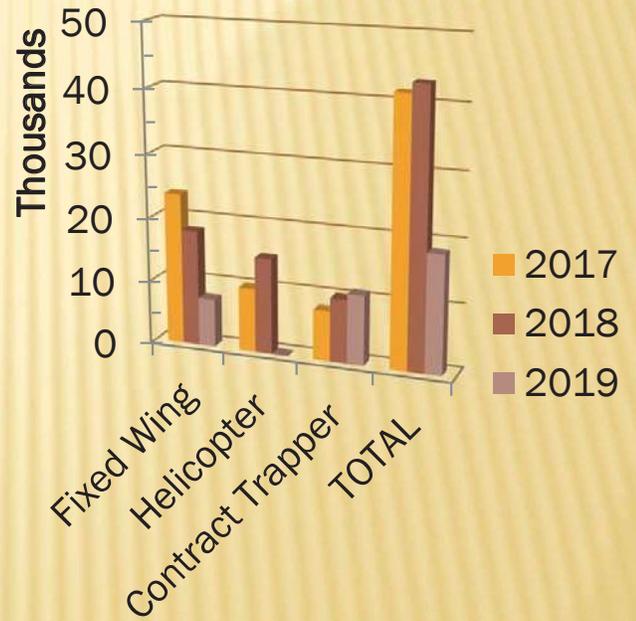
- ✓ Annual Reporting (E-4.2, 7.2,7.4)
- ✓ Herd Inventories (Wildlife & Livestock)
- ✓ Take Summaries (E-7.2,7.4,11.1,11.2 & 11.3)

# AERIAL SUMMARY

## # HOURS



## \$ COST



# Washakie County Predator Management District



## 2019-2020 Annual Report

The mission of the Washakie County Predator Management District (PMD) is to provide reasonable solutions to wildlife damage issues county-wide. This includes agricultural protection, disease testing and monitoring of zoonotic diseases, and conducting projects to ensure the protection and conservation of natural resources. The District plans to meet all challenges to solve wildlife damage in the most cooperative, efficient, and cost effective manner.

Washakie County contracts with United States Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services (WS), who is professionally trained to respond to all damage complaints. WS has agreements and strong working relationships with federal, state, and local government which helps facilitate an effective wildlife damage program.

Washakie County has dropped to 1.5 FTE WS trappers last year within the county due to shrunken budgets, but with hopes to increase back to 2 FTE's. 7 other WS employees, including pilots, gunners, wildlife specialists from neighboring counties, and WS biologists also assisted in Washakie during this reporting period. This data report was created early March, so the most recent 365 day period was used (February 1st, 2019– January 31 ,2020) to generate the number of hours worked/hours flown, and animals taken. The total man hours worked in the County during this time period is 3,842 hours on 53 different properties county-wide totaling 1,475,309 acres.

During this reporting period, 208 hours were flown fixed-wing and 7.2 hrs were flown by helicopter. The following animals were taken in response to conflicts with livestock, wildlife, nuisance, property, or human health and safety.

Badgers: 1

Beavers: 2

Coyotes: 573+ 7 dens

Foxes, Red: 13 + 1 red fox dens

Mountain Lions: 1

Raccoons: 99

Ravens: 3

Striped skunk: 1

## Board Members

**President:** Rolly Redland,  
Ten Sleep, Wy

**Vice President:** Mark  
Dooley, Worland, Wy

**Sec/Treasurer:** Chris  
Schmeltzer, Worland, Wy

Mark Brewster, Ten Sleep,  
Wy

Aaron Anderson, Ten Sleep,  
Wy

Kirk Tolman, Worland, Wy

Joe Winkler, Worland, Wy

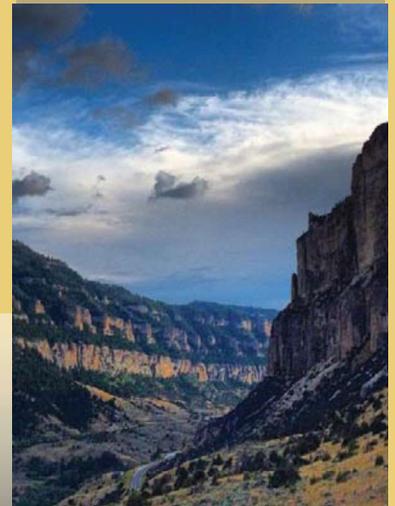
Bob Eisle, Worland, Wy

## WS' Specialists:

Brad Seaman—Full time

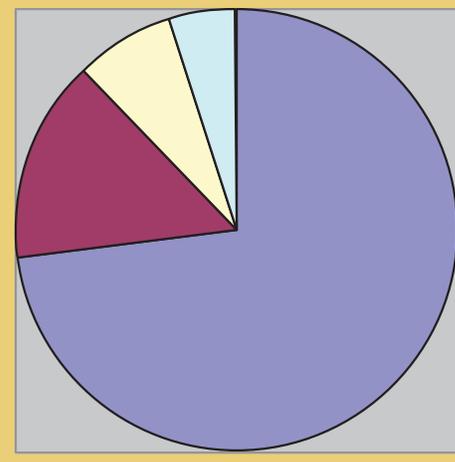
Josh Zimmerman—Half time

**Please Contact Wyoming USDA/  
APHIS/Wildlife Services if more  
information is needed**





### Percentage of WS Site Visits per Species during the Reporting Period



- Coyotes
- Raccoons
- Foxes
- Others



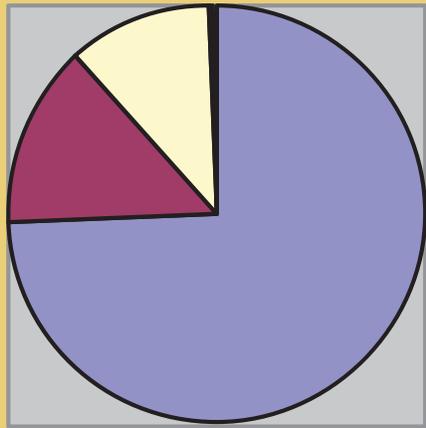
### Mule Deer Fawn Protection Project

There was \$10,000 received from the ADMB to remove coyotes to protect southwest Bighorn mule deer fawns in the spring of 2019. Spring 2019 was our third year on this project. The results were 89 coyotes removed. The study will continue in Spring 2020.

WS, Washakie PMD, and Wyoming Game and Fish are working together to identify major fawning areas, coordinate coyote and deer observations, and to ensure the project is successful.



## Percentage of WS time spent per resource during this reporting period



- Livestock
- Wildlife
- General Property
- Human Health and Safety

### **District Management Plan for 2019-20 year:**

Washakie County Predator Management District (WCPMD) and its cooperation with Wildlife Services plan to offer assistance to all those in the county with wildlife damage issues.

WS works, through MOU's and property agreements, to maintain strong working relationships with the BLM Worland Office, Bighorn USFS, Wyoming Game and Fish (WGFD), public health and safety agencies, local government, and private landowners county-wide.



WCPMD depends on the 1.5 FTE's to continue a combination of ground and aerial work county-wide to alleviate wildlife damage. Washakie County's plan is to continue with an effective livestock protection program county-wide.

Wolf are now considered predators within Washakie County. While there hasn't been any reported livestock kills by wolves, we are vigilantly keeping tabs on reports or observations.

With reducing employees to 1.5 FTE, the amount of time spent protecting resources such as crop/property/gamebird project and targeting smaller mammals like red fox, raccoons, beavers, and striped skunks has decreased. This is a valuable service that also allows for the sampling of diseases from these mammals including rabies, tularemia, and distemper. WCPMD plans to submit wildlife samples to the Vet Lab to test for these diseases within the county.



Weston County Predator  
Management Board  
Program Overview  
2019-2020



## Weston County Predator Management Board

The Weston County Predator Management Board has strived to deliver a Predator management strategy that serves everyone in Weston County. We have developed a program that has looked at all the facets that predators affect. We strive to help everyone from the large livestock producer to the big game hunter on public land to the shop owner in downtown Newcastle.



We have keyed our coyote management program on major dispersal routes. We concentrate our preventive maintenance lines on these routes which assists in keeping the surplus localized before it spreads throughout the county. One key to this being effective is being diversified in the tools used. The Weston County program uses all the tools available including Neck Snares, M-44's, Leghold Traps, Denning, Calling and Shooting and when needed Fixed Wing Aerial Operations. We strive to use fixed wing only when it is at its peak effectiveness or a necessity to stop livestock depredation. Basing a program on being diversified on major dispersal routes keeps our program less dependent on aerial operations. The

advantage of keeping the dispersal down county wide is that when a trouble call does come in it is much easier and economical to dissect the problem and remove the offending animal or animals and get the depredation stopped quickly. The main objective we strive to achieve is keeping predator densities down in livestock and wildlife birthing areas and keeping the average age of the predator under three years of age.



We have always made sure to observe stomach contents and litter sizes on a yearly average and converse with our state disease biologist (Mike Pipas) and Game and Fish officers (Troy Acterhoff and Joe Sandrini) of Weston County on what we are finding. Keeping in touch with these individuals keeps us well informed on where we can help the local big game herds and local hunters. We have helped Mike with a nationwide surveillance program dealing with the testing of raccoons for Raccoon Roundworm which we had the highest count of roundworms found in one raccoon in the state of Wyoming. We have in the past helped the Game and Fish officers to help with Mountain Lion issues in Newcastle and the surrounding housing communities. We have also helped the Wyoming Game and Fish in conjunction with the ADMB with a study on depredation of the local Big Horn Sheep herd in the Elk Mountain area. We are getting very positive feedback about our Mule Deer numbers from our producers showing the positive

impact of denning and late winter work in our Mule Deer wintering areas and fawning grounds.

Recently we have also expanded our program with more beaver work in the county when available from our normal predator issues. Beavers have been expanding in the Skull Creek, Oil Creek and Cheyenne River areas causing problems for both livestock getting bogged down and flooding roads and hay fields. We have been able to quickly assess and remove the problem beavers using both foothold and coniber traps and get the water flowing where it should be as soon as possible so that the rancher has the least amount of their operation affected.

The Weston County Predator Management Board also maintains a pigeon removal program in partnership with The Wyoming Refining Company to help with the spread of multiple diseases. This project also keeps the destruction of property to a minimum in downtown Newcastle and helps keep a safe working environment at the Newcastle Refinery. We use a combination of both toxicants and shooting to be the most effective.

We also continue to deal with multiple skunk issues and maintain a rabies monitoring program with any abnormal activities. We have not had a positive test result but are going to continue sending in skunk samples for testing.

Our trapper is also in constant surveillance of reported wolf and wolf track sightings. We have had a confirmed sighting of a Gray Wolf 12 miles south of Newcastle in November so it is inevitable that we will be dealing with wolves in the near future.

We also work with the US Fish and Wildlife with working with problem migratory bird issues. We have had to deal with Turkey Vultures killing heifer calves, and Great Blue Herons annihilating county stocked trout ponds.

In our ongoing attempt to keep the community involved with the program our trapper is involved in such youth activities as the FFA Ag day. Where he explains the tools used and the need for predator management. These have been going on for multiple years and are very well received. This is a way to connect

with the youth and their parents on why predator management and disease surveillance is used and needed.

**Summary of Duties performed by Wildlife Services in Weston County  
5/1/2011- 4/30/2020**

57 Properties worked

659,639 Private acres included in these properties (very conservative)

87,040 Public acres included in these properties

**Verified Loss**

1 Cow, 3 Lambs

**Reported Loss**

37 Lambs, 1 Ewe, 1 Calf

**Aerial Hours flown**

- 97.7 Hours with WS
- 8.5 Hours Contract Pilot

**Predators removed**

- Adult coyotes on the ground – 142
- Adult coyotes taken from the air – 269
- Total Adult Coyotes removed – 411
- Red Fox – 7
- Bobcat – 15
- Badger – 5
- Raccoon – 7
- Beaver – 3
- Porcupines – 6
- Skunk - 1
- Turkey Vulture – 2

- Pigeons – 70
- Total Predators removed – 457 (Not counting Pigeons)

We would like to thank you for this opportunity and consideration on our budget.

(Pictures courtesy of Nickalina Groenwold)