

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting
Tuesday May 17, 2022 & Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Casper Regional Game & Fish Office
Casper, Wyoming

Call to order 9:05 a.m. – Co-chair

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Representative Kent Drake

Co-chair Brian Nesvik

Amanda Hulet

Brett Belden

Mike Foster

Aaron Voos Forest service

Ron Cunningham

Bob Philips

Garret Falkenburg

Bob Harlan

Jeff Boner

Bob Philips

Board Members Absent: Gay Lynn Byrd, Tyler Abbot, Valori Armstrong

WDA Support Staff: Ashley Endress, JD Sater

Public Attendees: various County Board members

Garret Falkenburg moved to approve minutes from the January meeting, Jeff Boner seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Johnson discussed wolf funding, rabies funding, and PMD funding.

Brian Nesvik moved to approve \$160,000 (\$80,000/year) allocation to USDA/Wildlife Services contract, and \$20,000 for the biennium to the Wyoming State Vet lab for the rabies contract, Garret Falkenburg seconded. Motion carried.

Presentations

Goshen County: Jim Angel and Brady Smith USDA Wildlife Services (WS), Stan Smith, Board
Request: \$30,000

They have one person on the ground in the area for predator control. Seven WS employees worked in the county last year. Turkey vultures are an increasing nuisance species. The district would like to add a part time employee to help in busier times and with special projects. Thermal imaging will be a heavier focus this year.

Carbon County: Josh Peterson, , Sharon O'Tolle, Board and Luke Spanbauer *Request: \$218,150*

70% traditional work, 30% non-traditional, ravens, magpies, crows, skunks, feral cats, raccoons, disease surveillance. Dan Bragg retired last year and Ben Acres is a new replacement. Ben is working through the summer. Carbon County has completed 7 wildlife projects and will be submitting a new project application. Three wolf sightings and Colorado collaring a wolf south of Encampment. Livestock producers have concerns with the trend in Colorado and seeing more wolves along I-80. County wide antelope numbers are down. Difficulty getting plane due to weather and competition from other county boards.

Weston County: Carson Keeline, Allen Slagle, Board and Kassie Swartz (bookkeeper), and Brad Troftgruben, WS **Request: \$115,000**

Coyote numbers are steady and small prey base is very limited. 95% traditional program, and the balance is non-traditional, raccoon, turkey vultures, very few skunks. Hard to get a plane when they need one.

Albany County: Joel Moody, WS, Todd Slagel, Board **Request: \$135,000**

Coyote numbers are up and losses have been steady, approximately \$45,000 loss to livestock and \$30,000 loss to ravens at lime plant and in the city. No current wildlife projects with Game and Fish. More producers have been added with agreements. Have had three golden eagles removed. Fixed wing competitive to get with fewer planes available. Working hard to keep cooperators happy with service as they depend upon the service provided. Wolves may become an issue due to Colorado's proximity and control.

Campbell County: Kevin Geis, Board, Calvin Taylor (trapper), Kenda Ford (bookkeeper) **Request: \$165,000**
Rabies: \$15,000

Coyote numbers are steady, program working well and would like to continue as we are. They have three trappers who also do rabies work. They have limited their trapper days to balance the budget. 41 skunks tested with 12 positive, two human contact cases. Crows and ravens are more of an issue. They use mainly private pilots so they have been ok getting aerial help.

Uinta County: Steve Sims, Wade Larsen, Board **Request: \$205,000**

Private contract trapper program seems to be working well with quicker response time. Eagle problems are worse than in the past. Some trapping of eagles for relocation has occurred. They currently have a new trapper and a part time denner. They also use private contractors for aerial hunting.

Big Horn County: Randall Jones, Kay Neves, Board, and Mike Burrell, WS **Request: \$173,461**

Currently, they have one and a half full time trapper and the half time is shared with Washakie County PMD. The half time trapper spends more than one half of the time in Big Horn County. Livestock protection is primary focus on coyote. Dry conditions have pushed coyotes down to water sources. A little raven work has been done when time allows. They do have eagles but have not had depredation issues.

Park County: Regan Smith, Breanne Theil, Board and Mike Burrell, Monty Nicholson, WS

Request: \$86,925

Park County has one and ½ trappers with the half time trapper, primarily working as a gunner. They are seeing wolf depredation earlier this year than normal. With more people on the landscape, predator management gets to be more challenging. They have been working on a Clarks Fork mule deer winter project that was not funded by ADMB but has been successful.

Crook County: Fonzy Haskel **Request: \$150,000**

Currently have three private contract trappers that address traditional and non-traditional predator work. They are getting more people getting into the sheep business in the county. They also use two private contract pilots/gunners for aerial work. Livestock and preventative control are their primary focus.

Sheridan County: John Auzqui, Kellen Little, Board

Request: \$173,053

Rabies: \$20,000

They provided some population numbers in the county for eagles, pronghorn and mule deer shared by Game and Fish. For rabies mitigation they hired two trappers to remove skunks. Thirty-nine skunks were sent to the vet lab for testing and 21% came back positive for rabies. They have one trapper now. City of Sheridan is helping with funding. They are also asking the smaller towns to help with funding.

Fremont County: Rob Croft, Beth Evans, Allen Sinner, Gloria Philp, Tracy Frye WS

Request: \$190,000

Seventy-two percent of county acreage is covered with agreements. 116 private landowner agreements in the county. They have a large county and could use more money. 41 individuals inside the reservation also have agreements. They have a large population of cow calf operations. They also do some human health and safety. Wolf depredation has been pretty quiet as of late. They also do a seasonal bounty program.

Open to Public Comment.

No public comment from Zoom participants

Amy Hendrickson provided comment on PMD presentations and zoom participation.

Meeting will reconvene at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Garrett Falkenburg moved to adjourn, Jeff Boner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Called to order– 8:01 a.m. by Co-Chair Representative Kent drake, WDA

Presentations continued.

Natrona County: T.K. Atkinson, Board, Brian Olsen (G&F)

Request: \$195000

The plan is the same as in the past. Currently have 3 trappers. The challenge this year was to complete the mule deer projects and not able to get aerial help on BLM ground. The projects include the Bates Hole project and another project in the north end of the county. They will be requesting continuation of these projects.

Converse County: Tim Pexton, Casey Tillard, Board and Bradley Netz, Gene Heckel, trappers

Request: \$251,411

They have 2 full time trappers and one part-time trapper and a bookkeeper. One of the largest sheep producing counties in the state. They estimate they lost 5,000 lambs last year. Hard to get WS aerial help due to BLM situation and other county demand. Trappers work hard and have been dealing with challenges managing coyotes in a lot of sheep flocks with limited rodent and rabbit populations. Ravens have not been a large problem since the Glenrock animal dump has been closed.

Johnson County: Pete Camino, Dave Hall, TJ Tavegie, Board

Request: \$170,000

Rabies: \$15,000

Currently have two trappers, and two rabies mitigation trappers, private and WS aerial use. Mountain lions and bears are worse than in the past. Ravens have been a problem in the south end of the county and they have been working with WS on control efforts. Rabies – one trapper in Kaycee and one in Buffalo. Buffalo had an influx of skunks this fall so they did work in the town rather than just working on the outskirts. Request is the same as it has been for the last three years. They have worked to be efficient over time with 4% in administrative costs, they use contract trappers, and about \$1700 in inventory. They make decisions on data that they have collected over the years. Have had an outfitter/producer fund for the last three years. This year is the largest contribution with \$11,000. Also, working with the conservation district, working groups, and weed and pest in mapping sage grouse areas.

Hot Springs County: Jack Baird, Josh Longwell, Board, Mike Burrell, WS

Request: \$203,983

Currently have two specialists, and a plane based in Worland. Majority of the work is in livestock protection. Owl Creek drainage is a challenge with wolf and bear influx. One board member has provided thermal scopes to the two specialists.

Niobrara County: Arlene York Kitson Boldon, Board

Request: \$165,000

Nothing has changed in the program. They have 2 trappers. They take care of the entire county and some across other county borders. Not many sheep in the county and seeing more losses by cattle producers. They have been spending down their surplus. Their trappers have never received a raise but are very dedicated to the county and the program. Only 4.4% of the budget goes to administration and they do not carry any inventory items. They have a balanced program with both aerial and ground work, however would like to have more availability on air time (fixed wing).

Washakie County: Rolly Redland, Kent Lamm Board and Mike Burrell, WS

Request: \$156,000

They have one and ½ specialists. They also work on raccoon and skunk work as well. The county has decrease aerial work to save funds. They have continued with deer project with coyote removal on south end of Bighorns. They have submitted another mule deer project in Washakie County for consideration. Due to budget cuts, have submitted a lower budget to the ADMB

Sweetwater County: Eric Berg, Jim Burnett, Gary Zakotnik, Board

Request: \$145,000

Sweetwater County has been wintering sheep, therefore not receiving much from predator fees. Currently have a couple contract part-time trappers. They have not done much aerial due to funding. A large area of public land and not much buy-in of private land/producers that winter their livestock in Sweetwater County.

Lincoln County: Jon Child, Board and Steve Moyles, WS

Request: \$171,000

Work in Lincoln County is traditional work for livestock protection, with 25 herds of sheep (27,500 head). Some work in the fall and winter in Sweetwater County for the protection of sheep of Lincoln County producers. Coyote numbers were up mainly due to lack of helicopter and not much snow this winter. Lincoln County is in migratory corridors for deer and antelope and these are in cattle and sheep

wintering areas. Work relationships with Game and Fish, Forest Service, and private trappers and pilots is good. They have one WS specialist and two part time private contract trappers

Jerry Johnson presented funds available for this year's allocations. \$2,738,000 is available for allocations. The board discussed funding allocations.

Rabies: \$36,000 to allocate.

Mike Foster moved to allocate \$12,000 to each county, Brett Belden 2nd, after discussion Jeff Boner made an amendment to allocate \$10,000 to Campbell, \$14,000 to Sheridan, and \$12,000 to Johnson. Garrett Falkenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PMD: \$2,738,000 to allocate.

Mike Foster moved the following allocation. Jeff Boner seconded. Motion Failed.

Albany \$105,000
Big Horn \$135,000
Campbell \$165,000
Carbon \$165,000
Converse \$180,000
Crook \$146,000
Fremont \$180,000
Goshen \$30,000
Hot Springs \$175,000
Johnson \$170,000
Lincoln \$165,000
Natrona \$185,000
Niobrara \$155,000
Park \$86,925
Sheridan \$125,000
Sweetwater \$145,000
Uinta \$180,000
Washakie \$135,000
Weston \$105,000

It was suggested to obtain livestock numbers by county, and to consider implement a scoring matrix.

It was suggested to implement a 3.54% increase due to inflation based on 2021 allocation and put into column F.

Jeff Boner moved to allocate funds based on column F. Garrett Falkenburg seconded. Motion carried.

Bob Harlan moved to reallocate \$30,000 to Goshen County and \$86,925 to Park County. Jeff Boner seconded. Motion carried.

Jeff Boner moved to reallocate \$171,000 to Lincoln County. Bob Harlan seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bob Harlan moved to reallocate \$124,894 to Sweetwater County. Ron Cunningham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bob Harlan moved to reallocate \$10,000 from Lincoln County and Uinta County to give Carbon County an additional \$20,000. Mike Foster seconded. Motion carried.

Question called to vote on main motion to approve column F as amended Motion carried.
The final allocation in column F is shown below:

Albany \$103,540
Big Horn \$139,779
Campbell \$160,487
Carbon \$170,133
Converse \$186,372
Crook \$139,779
Fremont \$186,372
Goshen \$30,000
Hot Springs \$191,549
Johnson \$155,310
Lincoln \$161,000
Natrona \$186,372
Niobrara \$158,416
Park \$86,925
Sheridan \$129,425
Sweetwater \$124,894
Uinta \$181,549
Washakie \$139,779
Weston \$103,540

Public Comment: No public comment

Meeting Adjourned at 1:54 p.m.