

WY Animal Damage Management Board Meeting  
Wyoming Game and Fish  
Casper, WY  
September 30, 2004

**Board Members Present:** John Etchepare, Scott Talbott (standing in for Terry Cleveland, Wyoming Game and Fish Department); Dick Staiger, Ben Lamb, Linda Moberg, Dave Roberts, Rod Krischke, Dominic Domenici, Brad Boner, Dan McCarron, Gene Hardy, and Kerry Powers.

**Board Members Absent:** Jane Darnell, Terry Cleveland, and Helen Jones.

**Board Administrators Present:** Roy Reichenbach, Hank Uhden, and Diane Walker Tompkins.

**Public and Guests:** Dr. David Barber, Wyoming Department of Health; Dr. Jamie Snow, Wyoming Department of Health; Bryce Reece, Wyoming Wool Growers Association; John Emmerich, Wyoming Game and Fish Department; and Ken Hamilton, Wyoming Farm Bureau.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:15 by John Etchepare. B Boner moved to accept the agenda with the addition of sportsman brochure and committee assignments to be added under updates and wrap-up and Wyoming Association of County PAB's to be added after Status Updates. K Powers seconded and the amended agenda passed. D McCarron moved to approve the July 7 minutes as written. Second by B Lamb, motion passed.

**Project Application Review:** D McCarron presented the project application rewrite he had been working on since the last meeting. He noted this was the third generation of this form and was a compilation of the previous two forms. After a few wording and numbering changes, McCarron will send it to H Uhden and the form will be printed and put on the web page.

**Status Updates: Wolves, Grizzly Bears, and Sage Grouse:** John Emmerich presented an overview of the status of these three projects.

**Wolves:** Before a wolf management plan can be adopted, a ruling on the pending lawsuit from district court must be made.

**Grizzly Bear:** The Game and Fish was tasked to come back and refine the management direction of the state grizzly bear management plan with regard to occupancy in northwest Wyoming. Over eight thousand comments were received on the plan and over fifteen thousand were received on the conservation strategy. A Game and Fish internal working group has reviewed the comments and is working towards what constitutes "suitable grizzly bear habitat" and within that habitat what is "socially suitable habitat." Once this information is put into a draft, it will be sent to the Game and Fish commission for their comments. Those comment will be incorporated into a final draft that will be presented at eleven public meetings around the state starting on November 15. Written comments will be accepted from the meeting participants until December 31. All the information will be compiled and analyzed and put into a final recommendation for management of grizzly bear in northwest Wyoming.

**Sage Grouse:** As of September 28, all eight of the sage grouse working groups have met at least once. These working groups are set up on a three year charter. The first year is for the

development of a draft plan that is tiered after the state sage grouse management plan. The second year is for project proposals and the third year is for the implementation of the projects. After the third year, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department will evaluate the progress of the working groups and make recommendations to the commission whether to continue the working groups.

These working groups will be working cooperatively with sage grouse working groups from eleven other western states comprised of 45 working groups with the anticipation of 70 by the end of the year. This is an unprecedented conservation effort. Emmerich noted that Wyoming has 50% of the remaining sage grouse in the United States. Efforts will have to be made to improve conditions for sage grouse on the ground to prevent further decline in populations.

Emmerich also spoke briefly about West Nile.

**Bryce Reece:** Reece asked if the board would support a symposium to include some of the Canadian and Alaskan professional predator control persons for an information exchange. Reece will develop a proposal request for such a meeting and get them to H Uhden for the next meeting.

**Stamp Update:** A presentation about the 2005 ADMB Stamp was given by D Staiger and L Moberg. Staiger said it cost the ADMB only \$250 for the art work by Delores Halstead. Advertising money went to an ad showcasing the stamp in 75% of the Wyoming papers, the ad ran twice in each paper. Moberg talked about the seven articles the ADMB student intern, Karla Cochrane, produced and the cost. The articles went to all the papers in the state and Cochrane was paid \$1,050. The articles were about various projects the ADMB has funded.

The board, as a whole, discussed various ways to get the stamp out to a wider audience, specifically to stamp collectors. The Sam Houston Stamp and Lins web sites were mentioned.

**Rabies and Other Zoonotic Diseases of Public Health Concern:** (Drs. David Barber and Jamie Snow) Dr. Barber of the Wyoming Department of Health addressed the Board about some concerns of animal issues with regard to public health. They were specifically concerned about the lack of the requirement to vaccinate all domestic animals in Wyoming and how that task would be difficult to achieve.

**Review of 2003 Symposium:** A discussion was held to decide whether the Board wanted to conduct another symposium. It was generally agreed that the symposium was well received and worthy of attention. Several comments were made about a better advertising campaign for the next one. Some were concerned about the time frame, the Friday before the Expo, as not being the best choice and maybe it would best serve the intent of the symposium if it was held in conjunction with another high profile meeting. Questions were also raised about the target audience. Is the general public the best audience or should the board target specific groups because it seems that the same interest groups have attended the last two symposium. It was suggested the Board should put together a program from all the information that has been gathered from the various projects they had funded then design a structured program that had a specific message for a specific audience. Another idea was to partner up with other states and take turns hosting a symposium. B Boner summed up what he thought the purpose of the symposium to be and that was to give exposure to and help the board politically and to educate the public. Boner moved to host another symposium. Motion seconded. Uhden pointed out the Board had decided the latter was what had been decided at an earlier board meeting. He also

pointed out that if the Board wanted to have out-of-state speakers or do a call for papers, they would have to come up with some fund raisers to help pay expenses. S Talbott gave some fee guidelines for the symposium based on his experience with Game and Fish symposiums. Boner said the board should choose the wolf as the symposium topic, and should be called "Living with Wolves". This would be a stand alone symposium.

The Symposium Committee consists of K Powers, R Krischke, H Jones, and an ADMB Administrative staff member. Added to the committee were; B Boner, B Lamb, D McCarron, and a representative from the Game and Fish. They are to discuss the symposium and funding. The first meeting is scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, at 10:00 am, at the Wyoming Game and Fish Regional Office in Casper.

**Update and Wrap-up:** Uhden led the discussion for these topics;

Sportsman Brochures - The cost of printing five hundred brochures will be about \$1,000.00 . The discussion was centered as to how and to whom the brochures should be given. The Board gave H Uhden the latitude to decide how many brochures to mail to each licensing agent.

Committee Assignments -

*Finance Committee:* After discussion that most of the functions of the finance committee overlapped the other committees, D McCarron moved to disband the finance committee. D Staiger seconded; motion passed.

*Information and Education Committee:* Ben Lamb asked to be excused from this committee because he is on the other three.

*Wildlife Damage Management Stamp Committee:* no change

*Symposium Committee:* See above agenda item.

Grants - The study proposed by the National Wildlife Research Center for the M-44 study was able to get outside funding and they will be accepting the \$5,000.00 awarded by the Board to fund the project.

Game and Fish Meeting - The article was well written and showcased the ADMB.

State Fair and Game and Fish Expo - Both events went well with a little more exposure at the Game and Fish Expo this year.

Next Meeting - ***January 20, 2005 in Cheyenne.***

B Boner moved to adjourn. G Hardy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.