Animal Damage Management Board Meeting Wednesday, January 12, 2026 at 10:00 am Meeting held via ZOOM

Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Angie Bruce at 10:05am.

Introduction of board, guests and public

Board members in attendance: Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Angi Bruce (Co-Chair), Jared Zierenberg, Phil Osterli, Zeta Anderson, Roger Cox, Mark Jolovich, Tyler Abbott, Sharon O'Toole, and Jennifer McConchie, Brett Belden, Jeff Boner

Board members absent: Amanda Hulet

WDA Staff in attendance: Jerry Johnson, Joe Budd, JD Sater, Jordan Carlson, Emily Fowler, Slade Franklin

Public in attendance: Alison Crane, Samantha Brooke(USFWS migratory bird)

Approval of November 12, 2025 meeting minutes

No modification needed, motion to approve. After a unanimous vote, the motion carried and the minutes were accepted.

USDA/WS update on Golden Eagles

Goal identify and optimize a cost-effective deterrent to reduce golden eagle depredation of lambs in WY.

Lindsey Perry provided a project update, noting that while federal workforce reductions and shutdowns prevented access to funds for the 2025 lambing season, the team successfully utilized borrowed cameras to document eagle, raptor, and mammalian predator activity. Although a lack of funding for capture and marking has prevented "before and after" comparisons, a USDA-ADMB waiver for supplies is currently in process and NFWF funding has been secured for transmitters and materials. Spring data collection is set to begin with five

transmitters and a limited field crew. To address personnel shortages, the group discussed recruiting university interns and coordinating field schedules with the state elk program. Additionally, members noted high eagle visibility along the I-80 corridor and planned to share resources.

Rabies update UW vet lab Alexandra Brower, DVM, DACVP

The presentation, led by Alexandra Brower and a team of rabies lab workers including Isabella, Pat, and others, provided a comprehensive overview of 2025 Wyoming rabies data. Out of 468 animals tested, six positive cases were identified—primarily in bats across Sheridan and Teton counties, alongside one skunk in Sheridan. While wildlife represented the majority of the 141 domestic and wildlife submissions, officials are actively working to reduce the 63 "unsuitable" specimens received to improve data accuracy. Human exposure was noted in 227 cases, with bats remaining the primary risk factor, prompting the team to increase outreach for better public health and wildlife management support. Pat discussed the technical aspects of glycoprotein gene sequencing and phylogenetic potential, noting that while sequencing helps track how rabies moves through the state, the diagnostic outcome remains the same. The team expressed a need for additional funding to explore "spillover" effects and winter movement patterns, noting that while current case numbers are down from last year, this may be attributed to a smaller overall sample size.

Board Comment / Public Comment

There were no comments or questions from Board members nor the public. Next meeting will be May 12th & 13th in Casper. This is an in person meeting combing May and June meetings.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:35am

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2026 & Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Natrona County AG Building
2011 Fairgrounds Road
Casper, Wyoming

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto
Roger Cox
Sharon O'Toole
Brett Belden
Mark Jolovich
Phil Osterli USFS
Amanda Furnival (online)
Co-Chair Angi Bruce
Kevin Geis for Jeff Boner
Zeta Anderson
Kirby Camino
Jared Zierenberg
Tyler Abbott

Board Members Absent: Urban Rep (Vacant), Jeff Boner, Jennifer McConchie

WDA Staff: Joe Budd, Slade Franklin, Jerry Johnson, Dee McIntosh

Public Attendees: JD Sater, Predator District, Game & Fish, and Wildlife Services staff as noted in presentation notes

Online attendees: Laurie Alexander, Matt Bowers, Peter John Camino, Jarrell D, Kenda Ford, Alex Hargrave (Buffalo Bulletin), Embere Hall, Stan Harter, Izabela Ragan, Kas Schwartz, Jordan Winter

Approval of Minutes: Roger Cox moved to approve the minutes from the January meeting and Zeta Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

ADMB Updates

PMD Funding Availability: The Board heard two days of presentations from 19 state Predator Management Districts seeking designated funds for predator control in Wyoming. With $4,755,000 to allocate for FY2026-2027, it was a very productive two days. The total amount requested was $5,221,351. There were 16 wildlife projects with $439,480 in requests and $267,985 available.

Set asides were presented for approval at the beginning of the meeting: $120,000 for Wolf work with Wildlife Services. After discussion, Brett Belden moved to approve the set-aside funding allocation as presented and Roger Cox seconded, the motion carried.

Presentations

***WAIC**: Carolyn Jacobs*
Request: $2,500
Carolyn provided an update on the utilization of last year's grant funds and current curriculum. Educational materials are active across all Wyoming counties, targeting students in grades 2 through 5. Instruction focuses on Wyoming-based agriculture, minerals, energy, outdoor recreation, and tourism. Funded initiatives included three summer workshops focused on the Wyoming agriculture industry and resource stewardship. A comprehensive update of the curriculum is underway for the first time in 10 years. Grade-Specific Content, 2nd–4th Grade**,** lessons focus on predator-prey dynamics and practical mitigation strategies for sheep ranchers; 5th Grade, a new module requires students to research ecosystem balances and propose independent solutions. Upcoming Content will expand on outdoor recreation, tourism, and the impact of oilfields on wildlife corridors. Feral Horses**:** there is currently no curriculum that exists, they are not native to Wyoming, though it was noted that it would be a great program to see. Teachers need to understand all of the new/future curriculum so they can teach it. Several Board members offered their resources to help build the future curriculum.

Goshen County: *Dan Heilbrun, Matt Anderson, Matthew Woody, and Brady Smith (WS)*
***Request:* $235,000**
Dan Heilbrun gave an update on operations. The county successfully operates a two-trapper program split into distinct North and South jurisdictions. The program acquired a second set of night-vision equipment last year for $17,000, which has significantly increased Trapper Anderson's productivity. The overall budget remains stable, though operational costs are rising. They expect higher brand fees because people are selling more cattle. Key increases include higher rates for aerial services, co-op agreements, and Wildlife Services, while general services remain flat. Coyotes remain the primary issue for the county. While Niobrara County maintains effective control, surrounding areas to the south and west show lower engagement. The county bounty program doesn't expect numbers to go down because they get filtering in from neighboring counties. Brady Smith provided an update on personnel. The program added a second staff member, which has successfully improved operational efficiency and stakeholder satisfaction. The county faces diverse predatory challenges due to its varied agricultural landscape and crop production. Operational parameters and budgets will remain unchanged from last year. Aerial hours currently maintain an effective balance. Trappers may require minimal helicopter time in the future, but a formal request has not yet been submitted to the Board. The program focus remains on identifying the exact tools and resource levels necessary to fulfill field objectives. The sage reporting was part of this funding and they didn't see the congregation that they typically see. Densities are down in the state. Matt Woody said the north trapper is very busy, getting good feedback, NE corner//NE line, lots of pressure. Plenty of management bird work is there, a lot of starlings where smaller feedlots are wanting assistance with them. Avian influenza is a concern because birds and cattle congregate at the water. Dan Heilbrun said they are doing Starling work a little bit more because Starling numbers have exploded and they don't know why so they have been getting a lot more calls. A feedlot wants to get on a schedule to get them knocked down.

Johnson County*: Pete Camino (online), Dave Hall and TJ Tavagie*
Request: $450,000
Rabies: $20,000
Dave Hall presented that they have two full-time trappers (North and South) and one seasonal Rabies Control Officer. Their Bookkeeper manages payroll, data collection, and financial reporting. They create monthly reports and distribute them to the Board members, the City of Buffalo, and the Town of Kaycee. Contractors are independent operators who own their equipment, set their own schedules, and are paid electronically. Annual meeting notices sent to the Board include landowner harvest logs, land access permission slips, and prior-year loss surveys that are used for funding applications. Largest items are the contractor services where aerial hunting makes up 78% of their budget. Contractors want to spend their full aerial allocation so their budget is not reduced next year. The contract deadline is July 1st. The additional fuel costs, the contractor pays up front, but the expense is ultimately passed through to Johnson County. Revenue Sources are funded by ADMB, $75,000 in predator fees, $20,000–$30,000 per year from the rabies program, and contributions from the City of Buffalo assists. Producers and outfitters see the importance of their work. Accounts receivable was at $31,000 at the time of application, which is an invoice due from the City of Buffalo and Town of Kaycee for the rabies program. Reserves of $30,000 operational carry-over surplus. Rabies & Nuisance Control (TJ): No positive rabies cases reported since 2020. The county fulfills animal control duties for the City of Buffalo, recently managing bats, rock chucks, and muskrats at the Veterans' Home. Data & Mapping (Dave): Contractors record GPS coordinates for every kill. Data is mapped alongside Weed & Pest and Soil Conservation districts to target critical sage-grouse and mule deer habitats. Adult Coyote Kill Data: 1,607 coyotes taken; the average cost to take a coyote is $203, marking a $100 decrease from the previous year. Their program is transitioning from ground control to more effective aerial hunting, with plans to reallocate funds accordingly. The increase in the request is due to a 100-mile gap between current trapping territories; a request was made for a third trapper at 75% of what they are paying the current trapper. That trapper will get their own territory and separate from the rabies program. The county spans 4,100 square miles; operations cover 75% of the area, excluding Bighorn National Forest. Following the 2024 House Draw Fire, 500 miles of destroyed fence lines were replaced. However, 300 miles of fencing was replaced with wildlife-friendly fencing, eliminating those areas for snaring. After the fire, wildlife shifted towards Buffalo. Producers have concerns with all of the ravens. They haven't done anything with ravens for three years and are keeping a close eye on them.

Johnson County Wildlife Project-Mule Deer/Sage Grouse 2024-2025: *Dave Hall and TJ Tavagie*
Request: $30,000
TJ Tavagie reported that this is earmarked for aerial hunting to track where they take coyotes and overlay with Weed & Pest and Soil data. They bought GPS for the contractors. The GPS data will be very valuable information one day. They have been doing lots of seeding since the 2024 House Draw Fire. There were 68 sage grouse prior to the fire, but none of them have returned. They work with G&F Biologist Zach, focusing on where they are collaring deer and trying to hunt around those areas; the core area falls right in Johnson County.

Sheridan County: *Kellen Little, Paul Herman and Alan Plummer*
Request: $188,700
Rabies: $20,000
Kellen Little and Alan Plummer reported that they see different movements and it changes year-to-year. Budget down from last year and the year before. They have been building on the year supply. Takes $300,000 to run the program. Brand fees are $65-$70, could be up because of the drought; $188,700 is the bare minimum that they are requesting. The biggest cattle producer lost over a dozen calves in 1 week and then 19 coyotes were taken in that week. Lots of drift from the Elk and Remington fires, which burned a lot of country; coyotes have filtered in and they are taking them 44% in air and 50% on ground, which is opposite of last year. Two helicopter pilots; one from Montana who does not charge to come down. Fuel prices have gone up. The biggest cost with the helicopters is the price to repair them (bearings are $30,000 to $40,000 each). Johnson and Sheridan Counties work well together. When in the air (128 hours of flying time last year), they don't disturb sage grouse, deer, elk, antelope and horses, they fly around them. Would love to see an exemption for them for snare check, trap check. If you want a trap check in the mountain you need a break away cable because a 285/295 pound elk breaks the cable. Eagles were killing lambs. It got warm and the eagles disappeared. It is different times of the year. There have been studies of them moving through. It doesn't seem like there is a set time of year; nine eagles in January and now they are gone. 50/50 balds or golds. A few ravens, but not saying they are overpopulated. Ravens are at the slaughter house or the dump. Carryover funds of $220,000. In a light year that money helps and they don't want to undo all the good work that is done by a light year in funding. Paul Herman reported on the rabies program. It takes $19,000 to do what they are doing and they aren't getting support from the cities and towns around them. Vet clinics are getting Paul's number out, Health Dept, lots of people calling. The community loves it and they are requesting it all the time. Fifty percent (50%) of the calls he gets are "the animal looks sick". All bats go in for testing. They didn't get as many skunks last year, but the year before they had 15 skunks that were rabid and the bats were up to 12. Paul has not had any rabies in raccoons or foxes, the raccoons get sick, but they probably have distemper; they come back negative for rabies.

Weston County*: Carson Keeline and Brad Troftgruben (WS)*
Request: $100,000
Carson Keeline reported that they keep up with the sage grouse. Did not increase anything. Flew the grasslands this year. They are keeping up with predator numbers on the ground and getting done what they need to. Forty thousand with CDs; extra goes to flight time and program areas on the sheep. Eagles are a major issue; 84 lambs and 2 ewes were killed from eagles and there were at least 16 eagles around. By the time they get a permit it is too late so if they could have the permit and not have to wait for one that would be ideal. Jared Z noted that Lindsey Perry has been relocating juvenile eagles with telemetry and she also watches the adults to see how often they are going to the lamb grounds. Regarding the policy-side of things, Tyler Abbott said they can discuss better ways for strategizing logistically. This year it is too late to tell what was actually going to work because the damage has already been done. Seventy cows were killed by coyotes. Are they trying to draw-down their reserves? Carson noted that going forward, they hope a Commissioner tag is coming. Brad is the only one who can touch the million acres of grassland. Using flight time money to help the animals; it is not for the producers. Everyone else is calving earlier. Areas 6, 7, and 8 all have increased quotas.

Albany County*: Brooke Willis, Joel Moody, Lindsay Wheat, Brady Smith (WS)*
Request: $290,000
Brooke Willis reported that they are trying to build reserves but facing a $40,000 budget deficit this year. Standard 3% inflation applied, but likely insufficient to cover rising fuel costs. The helicopter budget is large and may have changes this year. Joel Moody said there are no changes; quiet this year. Coyote density is way down or this drought has got them dispersed out. The numbers aren't there where they usually are. Sage grouse have increased. Last year he didn't know where they were. The town business is straightforward. There are a few private guys that handle some of the stuff in town. There are certain guys he works with and mostly raccoons and skunks are in town. Last year they lost 12 calves, 36 lambs, 15 mule deer, 8 antelope, $40,000 in losses, which is up. People are selling a lot of cattle because of the drought. Brady Smith reported that a revised MOU with the BLM was completed recently.

The wind was the biggest battle with the aerials. It would be nice if they could increase helicopters. It is a fight to get any helicopters to come. Come January, if there is good snow cover that would help. Haven't seen too many birds, the ranchers don't say much. They don't pay attention unless they actually see them. Cooperators that run snowmobiles can see different predation with the birds but not nearly as much. ***Board Request*:** it would be helpful if all the categories match on the budgets. Use the reserve category on the budget so the Board can vote on it. Albany County spent $80,000 on equipment, but it wasn't noted separately. ***Follow-up:*** Brooke Willis will get with Jerry Johnson.

Campbell County*: Kevin Geis, Kenda Ford*
Request: $345,000
Rabies: $10,000
Kenda Ford reported that they have three full-time trappers and one part-time trapper. Office supplies were increased to support new landowner outreach initiatives, which included new agreements, information sheets, and Board introductions. Aerial and helicopter time is beneficial. They can always tell the landowners where the losses are happening. They started to lamb earlier this year and it was a funnel for all of the predators this season. At the end of April, 109 lamb kills and 1 yearling ewe; 5 eagle kills were verified. One producer went out of business. Predatory birds, specifically bald eagles, crows, and ravens, make up 22% of the population and pose a growing concern. Trappers keep track of lek areas and the animals that are harvested there. The fires from a few years ago transplanted everything out of the lek, but they are building up again. They aren't foreseeing any changes right now because of the fire with the ability to visualize and see a lot of things. Bird numbers appear to be rising, though trappers have not yet documented the sage grouse. Consequently, they are adapting their trapping methods to track other environmental factors. They used the $38,000 lek money from the ADMB. They asked for $11,500 from the county to put into the lek area, but have not heard from the county if they are going to get that money or not. There were 133 requests from livestock producers and 123 calls for help with skunks. Skunk personnel have about 16 calls per month; they had 377 skunks, 11 skunks were sent in, none were rabid (haven't had a rabid skunk in 4 years). They don't do anything in the city, that is just on the outskirts. They assume animal control works inside the city limits. Funding from the county is $48,500, for the skunk personnel program.

Lincoln County*: Jon Child, Steve Moyles (WS), Brady Smith (WS)*
Request: $298,500
Jon Child reported that in Greys River they lost 7 lambs to wolves and bears and a week later they lost 24 to wolves and mountain lions; all 24 were lost in one night. Game and fish reported bear problems on and off during the summer. It was a tough winter. There was filtering from Sublette county, wolves and coyotes. The county helicopter started on February 21st. There is a lot of ground work taking place. Calving grounds were a success, even with a lot of coyotes. Mule deer were spotted and there were coyotes there, too. There were more sage chicken broods this year than ever; 50 sage chickens and 3 coyotes right by them. Coyote densities are down quite a bit, but there are hardly any rabbits so that is why they are focusing on sage chickens. Sheep producers are sheering lamb. Coyotes keep rolling in. The wildlife service gave up snowmobiling so Lincoln county bought a new snowmobile for $7700; they are running 35 miles one way on snowmobiles so they are trying to keep that equipment current and reliable. Their second snowmobile is 10 years old. They bought another set of binoculars for $4250. Prices are going up. The wildlife services average $6200 every year. There are ravens during the winter where they congregate. No matter how hard they try they can't get ahead of them and they travel far. USFWS is aware of the depredation problem. Lincoln county should coordinate with the USFWS to see what tools they can offer to apply for individual permits. They gave the county trappers a raise one time. They've asked for $10,000 more this year. ***Board Request*:** put the reserve in the budget because they didn't show that. Jon reported that they have $267,000 in reserves and that won't even last a year.

Lincoln County Mule Deer Wildlife Project: *Jon Child*
Request: $30,000
Jon reported that the wildlife project spent $15,000 last year doing what was critical and they plan on doing the same this year. They spent $9,000 on winter range and $6,000 in the spring. Mule deer are slowly coming back, but they still have a long way to go. They fly when they can and do the best they can. The winter was mild, the deer didn't congregate.

Uinta County*: Wade Larsen, Steve Sims, and Brady Smith (WS)*
Request: $333,323
They reported that they have two trappers and it seems to be working with the size of the county. Sheep from border to border. They would like to keep the two trappers year round. Budget: added another trapper, lessened the work

load on Jim and Alex. An additional trapper will be $111,000. $211,000 for wildlife services. Management Plan using wildlife services, aerial, helicopter and two full-time specialists. Private contractor, Jim Hickey, uses a small ultralight aircraft. He traps, calls and is budgeted at $60,000. Aerial budget went up a bit because of the cost of fuel; 200 hours budgeted for that, same budget at $180/hour. Brady Smith reported that on the wildlife services side, a year with just Alex, 30,000 sheep, range operation, just too much ground and too many sheep. In December they decided to bring in the second trapper. Jeff is a wealth of knowledge and has made a world of difference for Alex. Uinta County has the lowest coyote density, however, what is there will humble the best of guys. Not much prey for the coyotes, no rabbits. Coyotes are older and they have been able to get some of the problem coyotes that were probably 8-9 years old. Along the Kemmerer highway there is a lot of roadkill, so the roadkill is an artificial food source for the eagles. The eagles kill more than the coyotes. It is a growing problem. One of the very first lamb kills this year was an eagle. Lamb crop, 5-10% of lambs, the eagles will take. Turkey vultures come in, but the eagles will kill them. Jeff Hansen does the raven work so they are minimal there. The antelope are coming back, but there is not much of a deer population. The elk population is huge.

Carbon County: *Luke Spanbauer, Jacob Ruid, Phil Damm (WGF), Whitney Merrel, Ashley Umphlett*
Request: $293,000
Whitney reported on the budget. They have a reserve of $101,529 in the regular money market. Benefits and wages are for two full-time trappers and one part-time trapper. Regarding personnel, Brady Smith will bring that to the Board because they would like to keep personnel the same. There has been a lot of wind, so the fixed wing doesn't get off the ground so they are focusing on the helicopter, which is $800 to $950 per hour. On May 15, 2026, they plan to fly the Platte Valley project again. Ten hours in with a little remaining budget to focus the last little push on that project to the first week of June. Everything else is pretty similar to last year. Luke Spanbauer reported that there were eight other specialists within Carbon county from March 10, 2025 to March 10, 2026. It is very diverse for cattle and sheep. Coyotes account for most depredation, but they have black bears, ravens, beavers, badgers, raccoons, skunks and an occasional grey wolf. Reported loss was very low, as low as it has ever been at 6,551; last year was 18,870. Verified losses in 2025 were 7,053 and in 2024 it was 9,051. Raven issues were related to human health and safety; fecal, property and equipment damage. At the landfill, Luke had a site visit, and verified the fecal damage and there were also wires pecked out on a million dollars worth of equipment. They counted the birds and tried non-lethal methods, hazing methods, and long-term mitigation efforts when necessary. The ravens are not going anywhere from the landfill sites. Ravens like cat food and 100 ravens can eat 30 pounds of cat food in a night. Trapper goes there and makes sure the bait is out and keeps counting the birds. Raven removal supports the sage grouse. They are focusing on improving fawn recruitment in the South Ferris area, as well as focusing on mule deer. In 2022 there were antelope, but in 2023 there were no antelope; they are starting to see a rebound of antelope. The Baggs mule deer herd fawn activity is doing well. Brand fees seem to be trending down.
Board question: C1.6 should show where you are supposed to be in July. It should not have jumped up $150,000 in reserves. Is it being reported twice? Whitney said the CD balance is $100,000, which is included in C1.6. They have not paid bills for last quarter. In the comment section under cash and investments, they anticipate $172,714 for the last quarter for USDA and other bills. ***Board suggestion:*** Hold half in reserve and keep the rest of it where you can move it around in your budget as needed. For Whitney, in her mind, "reserves" are in the Money Market. **N**on-liquid assets would need a Board vote, but no need to vote on liquid assets. What is the discrepancy of $170,000? Did they truly bank that money or is there something else going on? ***Follow-up****:* Whitney Merrel will get with Jerry Johnson to figure it out.

Carbon County Wildlife Project- Raven Removal: *Ashley Umphlett (WGF)*
Request: $19,980
Raven removal project - same maps and same areas. Sage grouse, on the downward trend as far as the 10-year population cycles go. On the Baggs side of things, there will be a drop off. Chick productivity the last couple of years leading up to 2025, the percentage of leks were down. Chick ratios of wing barrels dropped down to .7 per hen; they need 1-1.8 per hen. Growing conditions being what they are, this type of work will be more crucial for these birds to try and sustain populations. In the south central area, ravens have been damaging solar panels on the water wells.

Carbon County Wildlife Project-Coyote Removal to Enhance Platte Valley Mule Deer Fawn Survival: *Ashley Umphlett (WGF)*
Request: $19,980
Thirty percent below objective in the herd. Platte Valley had 6000-7000 fawns going into winter. Over winter survival and long term survival is an issue. They are seeing five to six coyotes every morning across Big Creek and Cedar Creek. Range conditions address depredation, because we can't change the weather.

Crook County: *Nick Smith*
Request: $179,100
Nick reported that their request was reduced last year because they had extra funding; reduced a couple of line items that were not being taken care of. This year, they are trying to get the line items used. They cashed out the CD last year and used the reserves to drop everything down. Nick doesn't know what is in the checking account since he is a contractor/trapper. They have approximately one-year's worth of cash or carry over, but it is not a dedicated C4. They have a part-time trapper and two full-time trappers with 4,731 hours on the ground and urban work accounted for 130 hours. Aerial budget, 78,136 hours flown, fixed wing and helicopter. They have a new helicopter pilot that is in Spearfish and the ferry time down is 20 minutes from the Spearfish airport and he is also a fixed wing pilot. They flew him around on April 10, 2026. He is very eager to fly. They will bring the helicopter back when the lambing starts. With a bigger aerial budget, lack of time for pilots, they took the opportunity to get this guy going which gave them another pilot that will be around for a while. Sage grouse money was added. They kept track of 316 hours on the ground, 41 fixed wing hours and 5.3 helicopter hours. No special projects. Geese on the golf course and the city parks til the end of August. Losses were 357 lambs, 75 were verified eagle kills. Early lambing up north lost 7 lambs and counted 31 eagles on fenceposts. Sixty percent of the losses were the eagles. It will be hard for the ranchers to utilize other pastures because of the drought. Coyote counts are going higher. There is a lot of flying in juniper country and broken country. They are trying to get populations under control. Urban work accounted for 130 hours. Ranchettes are being built and 176 chickens were lost last year. Bigger producers report that the coyotes are steady. There are bigger numbers in concentrated areas because of the drought, no water. Ranchers are going to the river due to the drought. It will be rough. They don't have the capability to contribute much help with skunks in Pine Haven. There is a retired guy who likes doing skunk patrol. Skunks go to culverts to den. The Board asked about the $75,000 additional revenue and Nick said that was two Governor's tags to be sold and they left it in their checking account, it wasn't earmarked and they moved it to another line item. Have they issued refunds? Yes, $62,000, down a little bit, big ranches have been lost. There is one guy leasing and running on more ground. Brett questioned the fact that he hasn't bought new equipment in 12 years? Nick owns all of his own equipment. It was too hard to track all of the equipment.

Hot Springs County*: Jack Baird, Josh Longwell and Shawn Giblin*
Request: $206,151
Josh Longwell reported that their predators are coyotes, red fox, turkey vultures, eagles and ravens. Lots of ravens where they range land and the ravens are smart. Sheep and cattle in the western half with bears, wolves, lions, coyotes, ravens and eagles. The birds are terrible right now. Range lamb contend with bears and mountain lions as well. The sage grouse contend with coyotes and red fox. Mule deer numbers are coming up. The western half is different from the east. Larger predators, Game & Fish are out sometimes two to three times per week, sometimes every day dealing with bears, lions and wolves, at the top of the ranch is the trophy zone. Game & Fish in Cody or Lander verify the kills. Trapper will help. It is 4.5 hours from Cody to the top of the mountain; $100,000 in damage every year between the sheep and cattle. Thankful for wildlife services and the Game and Fish commission. Their new trapper from the western side, Shawn Gilbin, is from Arizona and said there is a lot of country in WY with a diverse ecosystem. GPS collars for wolves, the equipment and resources are great. Jack Baird reported that the sage grouse numbers are doing exceptional. Josh reported that the grizzlies and lions left the livestock alone. There were two coyote kills. Things out of their control is where the damage comes from. Jerry talked about the damage compensation. Josh put in a claim, but the neighbors to the north didn't know about that program.

Sweetwater County: *Dick Thoman, Sue Thoman*
Request: $270,000
Dick Thoman reported that they winter sheep from three different counties, as well as in Idaho and Colorado. They have three full-time guys October through February and they have calving grounds and sage grouse in the spring as well. Last year there was no snowfall and a lot of wind, so no fixed wing or flight time. They had to use a helicopter more than usual. They control the predators with the helicopter in the northern and southern parts of the county. They lost 2 ewes, 50 head last winter out of 1000, so 5%, 60,00 sheep across the county. The concentration of coyotes wasn't as bad this year because of the dry conditions and no snowfall. Ravens are a problem in Barstow for

cattle and sheep. As far as reserves, they have the Wyoming Fund and would like to put money in there to draw some interest. They want to keep the amount of money in reserves as requested by the ADMB. They didn't use all the money for flying time, but they are going to try and increase the flight hours this year.

***Fremont County**: Rob Crofts, Tina Haddenham, Ivan Laird, Tracy Frye, Mac Crome*
Request: $386,937
They have a nine member Board, large county and diverse, members are not all from one county so it adds a lot of dynamics to the Board. They are the second largest county in the state and they have the Wind River Reservation as well. They have some tribe work in Shoshone. The Reservation is the size of Yellowstone National Park. Very diverse and a large wilderness. AG is big in Fremont county. Ranks in Top 20 for beef cow mothers in the nation. No snow cover was challenging. Aerial program's bounty program, the guys harvested 1000 coyotes. They try to make the best of the funding they get. They shifted their focus to wolves nearby; the southern end of Wind River, Lander is close. The Board is doing good work with the guys on the ground, telemetry collars, and try not to take more than they need to take. Cattleman's meetings ended up being positive and getting everyone on the same page with what they are trying to do. Did some one-on-one education and how to handle the problem. Grizzly bear conflicts slowed down in the upper country last year. Poor berry production last year was driven by dry seasonal conditions. They are actively watching all areas for potential activity and a confirmed grizzly bear was spotted at the southern end of Wind River. Human health and safety aspects of what they do weighs well with sage chicken programs. They are doing good planning and updating equipment. They are doing more with less. They suggested that goat producers anti-up like cattle and sheep producers do. They ride horseback in the summer and work with Brady on the south pass. It is hard looking for wolf and grizzly kills so the rancher can get compensated. They work cooperatively and get done what they need to do. Before ADMB got involved, it looked nothing like it used to and this is better. How do they coordinate with the tribes? When they need something they call Tracy, they get Board approval and they go do it. There is a set of rules with them and they call one or two tribal game wardens and ask permission and 99% of the time they say yes. Per Brady, Mac and Tracy maintain great working relationships with the tribes. They don't see too many eagles and ravens and they didn't get a single call this year. *Tina Haddenham* reported that there is $4,000 in reserve funds. They keep 5% of stock sale receipts for the head tax in case anyone asks for a refund and there never has been a refund.. There are no other funds, it is all in their checking account and they are not growing much of a reserve fund. Jerry Johnson said they got $20,000 last year to help build their reserve and he doesn't see that anywhere in the budget. At some point, they can have a carryover. For the first time they received a $105,000 aerial report bill from the USDA. Jared Z noted that there seems to be something off with that bill because it is substantially higher than what is normally seen. Tina said they estimated they would have $30,000 in reserve, but they won't have that. Jerry said C1.6 considers every amount that you have and the carryover. Ending balance for last year, $247,000.

***Fremont County Wildlife Project-Sweetwater Rock Mule Deer:** Tracy Fry and Mac Crome*
Request: $30,000
In Sweetwater Rocks they remove coyotes from the winter range mule deer herd. Five local mule deer herds; currently 3,300 mule deer and they would like to increase that number to 4,500 with this project. Total acres of this area is 83,000 acres with 29,000 private, 54,000 BLM and WY trust public land. Trappers spent 22.7 hours due in rough terrain and took out 34 coyotes. The bounty program took an additional 25 coyotes. Explain the bounty program: it is a $10,000 set aside budget line item; they pull the money from head tax money. They invoice coyotes that say were killed, have them bring the coyote in to them, $25 per coyote. Brady Smith said they coordinate with game and fish on where they want the concentration of operations. Coyote densities seem to be quite low. Lack of winter, the deer did not concentrate in the areas that were outlined. The coyotes and deer were pretty spread out. Stan Harter reported that they covered the project very well. The collared deer that they had didn't migrate in that area.

***Niobrara County**: Buttons York, Justin Miller, Brian Olsen (WGF)*
Request: $280,000
Buttons reported on the budget. Last year there was $50,000 they couldn't use, couldn't get air time. They kept that and then used it all this year. They had trouble with coyotes, a lot more work with deer and their Secretary quit. They bought a computer and had to pay the new Secretary a little more. They asked for more this year than last year. More trouble calls during calving and lambing and a lot more flying time in. They have 24 hours left of flying time to get them to July 1st. They had more wind days and a terrible winter with no snow. Coyotes were hard to get. They worked on their deer area and got around 80 coyotes and that is about 50 more than they've had in the past.

Niobrara County Wildlife Project-Manville Lance Creek 2025*: Buttons York, Justin Miller, Brian Olsen (WGF)*
Request: $20,000
They want to concentrate on the special project this year. Did not start on the deer area until July 2025, when they got the money. They brought in a helicopter and flew that country in August 2025. They noticed more fawns last fall, but didn't get an official count. There are coyotes and a few red foxes. Seventy-five percent of their problems are coyotes. In certain areas there are eagle nests. Ranchers in Sioux County, Nebraska hired a helicopter and got 400 coyotes in a week; three days on the edge next to Niobrara. The budget year was erroneously dated 2024, but that will be corrected to 2025. Do they own their own hangar? It is on city land, the Predator Board owns it and leases it out, same income as last year for the hangar. G&F on the project; first time they have done that area. It has gone really well and they've worked very hard. They will be well over 100 coyotes in that deer area by the time they get to the end of the fiscal year. That was money well spent. They never counted that area until last year and they don't have anything to compare it to. They will get a count this fall and they will have something to compare it to. No change in fawn production from 2016-2023. In the last two years of fawn production, they have seen an increase; 86 fawns from 100 does; 91 fawns from 100 does. If they don't get some rain the deer and fawns won't be in as good condition as they need to be in.

Public Comment

Sublette County: Kristy Wardell
Kristy Wardell, new Secretary/Treasurer, reported that they are proposing to change their predator fee to $1.00 from 20¢ for cows and 60¢ for sheep. They are looking at that to go from $14,000 to $70,000 with the $1.00 fee. It is a work in progress. They are sending out a survey and planning on putting out information about the history of the fee and how it benefits the public. They are asking the ADMB to consider $112,00 for next year for one full-time trapper and aerial time to actually get ahead instead of behind the predator management. They have had a part-time trapper before at $65,000-$70,000, in the past for ravens, coyotes, wolves, and bear control in the northern part of the county when they were lambing. They get $50,000 from County Commissioners. They have $200,000 in a WY account. Brady Smith said if they start down that road with a full-time trapper, that program would get really busy really fast. Trophy and predators are both in Sublette County.

Motion to adjourn was made by Co-chair Angi Bruce, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 a.m. by Co-Chair Angi Bruce, presentations continued.

Golden Eagle Project 2025-2029 Update USDA/FWS**:** *Lindsey Perry*
Lindsey gave an update on the project. Annual funds of $26,134 requested from the ADMB purchased 10 GPS/GSM transmitters. Proposed subsequent funding for data download charges for FY2026, FY2027 and FY2028, is $4181 for each year. The 2025 USDA/ADMB Cooperative Service Agreement was executed last week. There will be no 2026 funding request. National wildlife research center has a mandatory overhead of 27% and that is not possible unless it is only for equipment and materials. Word came down from the Secretary of AG and the Secretary of Interior calling for immediate action this lambing season. Translocate eagles, trapping sub-adults/capture and move. The hope is if they are moved they will stay away. Put topography and mountains in between so they won't come back. Move some 400km, some 800km and try to go further to Oregon, 1200km. They need to disrupt the focus on the lambs.

Updated Project Timeline 2025–2029

2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Planning & Logistics	Capture & Marking *Translocation	Capture & Marking *Translocation	Capture & Marking Camera Trap Study Deterrent Testing	Capture & Marking Camera Trap Study Deterrent Testing

Goal: Identify and optimize a cost-effective deterrent to reduce golden eagle depredation of lambs in Wyoming. Some states are concerned about moving eagles to their livestock production states. It isn't a "no", but they will come up with a plan and work with the states. Going west for now. Don't want to disrupt nesting. In the fall they will target some of the hatch birds and winter is when they can focus on the breeding adults. Some of the issues may be coming from some of the nesting pairs. States will come up with a plan with translocation, trapping and preparing for the deterrents. What equipment is used to move the birds? Lindsey said the requirements are a soft-sided dog crate, astro turf in the bottom, and they need a vet check to go into another state. They have a Vet that is willing to do the vet check. A perch will need to be inside the crate for feeding every 24 hours. Current permitting is up to 72 hours. A temperature controlled van will be moved into a wildlife services garage or crates will be in offices that are temperature controlled. They are trapping and moving in WY now, waiting to hear what changes need to be made before we move them. Could they be moved into national parks? All of the locations selected are eagle habitat, public lands, and natural forests. The concern is that they travel long distances. A request has been put in with the Tribal liaison as well. They need more time and information. Lindsey was unsure if they will need funding next year. Lindsey needs to figure out what the census is from the other states and then come up with a plan. Please spread the word at all future meetings (e.g. Stock Growers Association and the Tri-state Convention). Any other ideas for communicating plans, send them to Lindsey.

FWS Raven Depredation*: Michelle McDonnell*

Michelle reported that the raven population has doubled over the last 50 years. You must have federal authorization to take a raven. How much take can the raven population withstand? That is based on population dynamics. Ravens are not on the list of huntable species; major changes to make that a possibility. Ravens are not on the depredation order. It is hard tracking how many birds are actually being taken. Where is the conflict and where is it occurring? Options in place: USDA wildlife services need to document the problem, summarize the damage, document measures already tried and recommend additional deterrents. They identify the species and number and they set up the plan for you. If they agree that lethal management is justified, they will fill out, sign, and issue a Form 37. Non-lethal has to be in place before they issue a Form 37. Michelle hasn't heard of any permits being denied. It is hard to get enough coverage to help with every producer's land. If you have the permit in hand then you can enact that permit. Try non-lethal techniques. Think like a raven, relocate active nests, take away things that are going to help them like extra food, water, shelter, prevent access. Don't need a permit to remove inactive nests with no eggs or chicks when appropriate. Take the time to rebuild so they may go somewhere else. Active hazing. Effigies can work, but wildlife services is the first call to make. If interested, Michelle and Tyler have the information on research and what the states are doing. Any takes stay within their mandates. Long term success depends on consistent coordination. Let Tyler know if you want information shared. Do producers need to be authorized to get the chemical? Only Wildlife Services personnel can work with that chemical because it is a Restricted Use chemical. Jared will get Slade the information on the pesticide so they can discuss that Section 3, or 24C label, to see if there is any flexibility regarding the direct supervision of a person using that chemical by USDA/EPA/WS personnel within a 50-mile radius.

UW Wildlife Project - Predation in the WY Range*: Kevin Monteith*

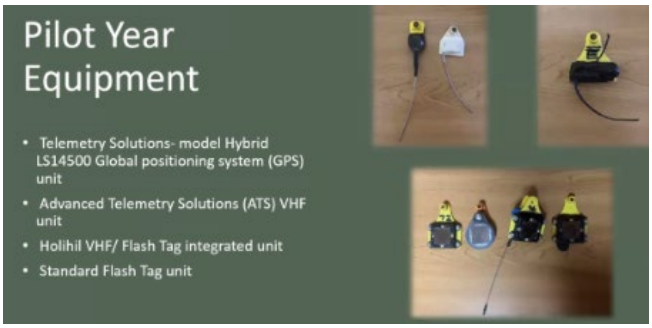
Request: $40,000

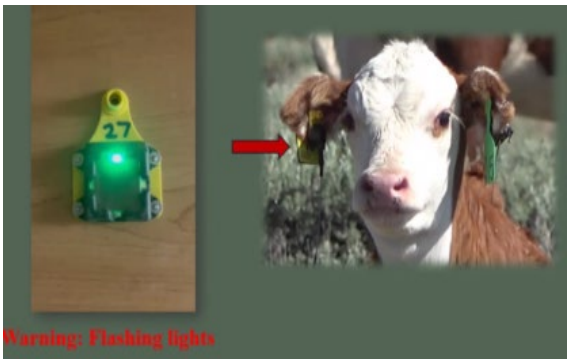
Kevin reported on the effects of predation on mule deer in the Wyoming Range. They follow individual deer as long as they can all the way to adulthood. What does it take for these deer to survive the winters? The 2022-2023 winter they lost 70% of the females. Predators survived and it was disproportional prey vs predator. Pockets where there used to be deer there were no deer anymore. It is important to regain that space. They are dealing with a whole different deer population now. Hard reset. He discussed the percentage of body fat after surviving winter and he discussed what that means to the predator and prey dynamics. Kevin discussed the birth mass during 2018, 2024, 2025 and the low in 2023, 30% survival through winter that year, they were barely hanging on. Their highest priority is to survive. This past summer, they had the greatest birth mass, fattest females. Strong reflection over summer survival. Are the lions moving with the deer? They worked to collar some lions in the heart of Greys River and were harvested shortly after. The lions hang around in the foothills. They don't follow the deer to their summer ranges. They have had interactions between the collared lions and the collared deer to see how those interactions come together and how it affects the mule deer population. Lower density deer population and fatter females should result in fatter densities. What does it mean when we have a drier winter? Since mule deer are migrators and they lost the learned knowledge in 2022 and 2023, how did that affect the herd? Kevin noted that they follow mom and the young females inherit mom's migratory route. There are a select few that do something different. Some young females flip their winter ranges. If they adopt a different winter they hold true to that. They hold on to their summer ranges. It is too early to tell. There were no surviving fawns in 2023 and 2024 and they need to get to two years of age, which is through the yearling year. Maybe there are young females being bold and venturing out, which will be

inherited after generational time. The deer population is still growing. Does the lion work overlap with bears? There are no bears now. In 2017, there were bears, they haven't been part of the work to this date. How many miles from the summer to winter ranges? Did they take an easier route? It is hard to identify huge migratory routes within that population. Iit hasn't had to do with length or easiest route. Certain mothers may mother in a different way, so it depends on mom's nutrition or mothering. Each female reproductive cycle is tied to how far they are going. They conceive later to give them the opportunity to get back to their summer range. That's a migratory tactic.

WY G&F Wildlife Project-Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control*: Craig Smith*
Request: $25,000
The WY G&F contracts with Wildlife Services to assist with wolf work in the trophy areas. They do control work and verify any damages that they are unable to respond to. It offsets some of their costs. Have they spent it all in the past? Craig said sometimes they do and sometimes they don't, but they are pretty close most years.

WY G&F Wildlife Project-Efficacy of Nonlethal Ear Tag Study: *Clint Atkinson and Colton Hoffer*
Request: $45,000
Flash tags are a non-lethal deterrent.

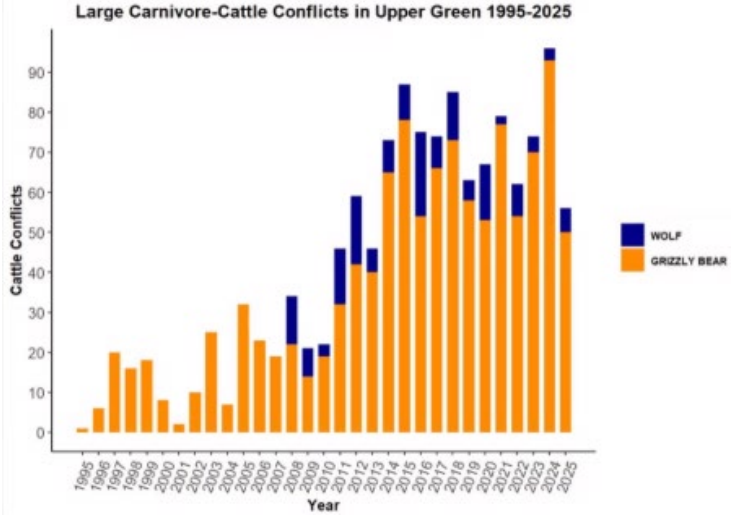




They completed their pilot season in the summer of 2025 where they tested GPS transmitters and Flashtags. Full research efforts will begin summer 2026 and continue in summer 2027. The study area is 17 pastures and they have 4 cattle grazing rotations. **Ramping up efforts in 2026. A new GPS model will be tested this spring. Every animal in the study will have VHF units.**

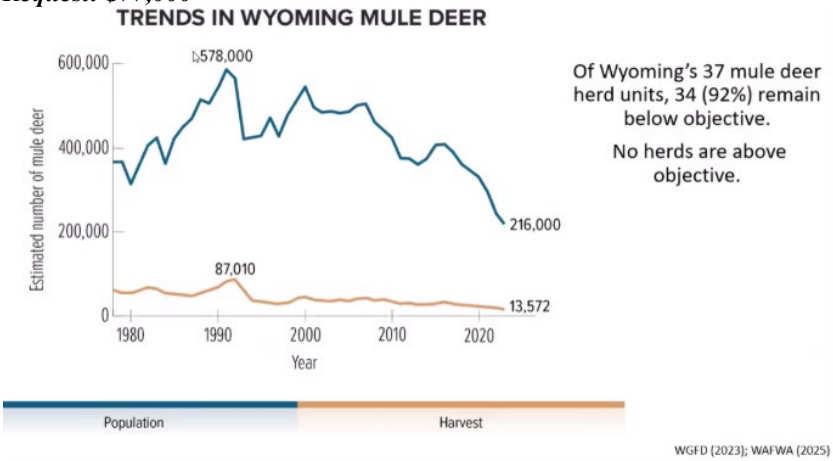
There is a pilot helping this year, flying twice weekly, to investigate all mortalities to determine the cause of death. Resulting data will be used to evaluate potential differences in survival between the control and treatment animals. They are partnered with three ranchers grazing in the Upper Green river grazing area: Ty Swain, Coke Landers and Garlie Swain. They will deploy VHF ear tag transmitters on ~30% of calves on each of the ranches. Half of each

sample will also be tagged with a Flash tag. The other half will serve as a control sample (no flash tag). A portion of each control and treatment sample will also be fit with GPS transmitters. The upper Green River grazing area presents unique challenges: high densities of cattle; high densities of grizzly bears in suitable grizzly bear habitat and the area is fully encompassed by one to two wolf pack ranges annually, which cannot be avoided. The Flash tags are lightweight and flexible. Some that were lost broke off when calves went through brush, a couple of calves disappeared and they didn't know what happened to them and one calf lost it, it completely fell off. They are always interested in new tools to biologists and livestock producers. Criteria for a nonlethal tool to be used in the Upper Green: must be relevant at large scales; needs to be inexpensive; needs to remain with livestock constantly; and, needs to actually deter depredation by large carnivores. **Nonlethal ear tag deterrents** meet all of these criteria, however, they lack an understanding of their effectiveness at deterring depredation.



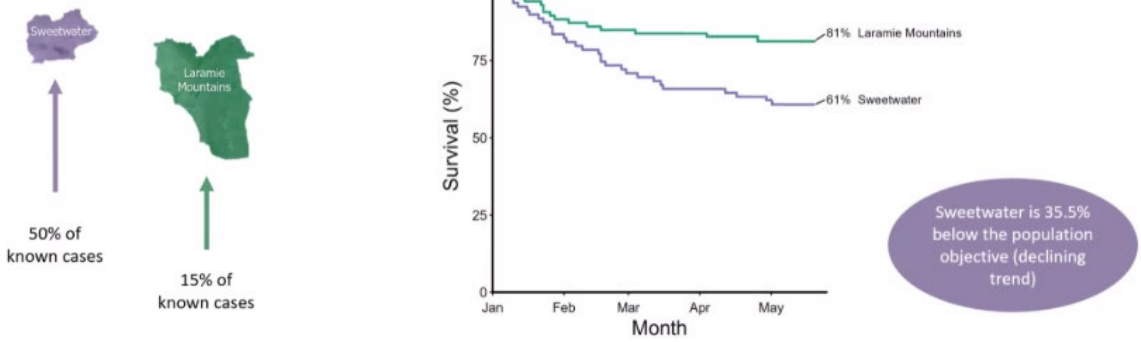
Robust study design - other factors can influence calf survival beyond predation: pneumonia (dry and dusty conditions, large daily temperature fluctuations; high altitude sickness (high elevation grazing pastures). Other factors can cause annual fluctuations in depredation rates: fluctuations in natural foods; removal of chronic depredating bears; variation in wolf pack sizes; and, cattle grazing proximity to core area for wolves. The robust study design will allow a true test of the effectiveness of Flash tags at deterring depredation. Mark Jolovich talked about the damage claims that they are paying out from mostly grizzly bears and some wolves. The hope is that this study helps with the huge damage claims that are paid every year. They would like this to be successful.

<u>WY G&F Coyote Abundance Study-New</u>*: Matt Bowers*
Request: $77,000



Mule Deer monitoring is in North Bighorn, Upper Shoshone, Sweetwater, Laramie Mountains and Wyoming Range; 2022 to present: 5 herds, 3,300 collared deer. GPS collars notify mortality sites and G&F go collect evidence to determine the cause of death. Coyote predation of six-month old juvenile mule deer is high in Sweetwater. Managers are concerned about it despite the efforts to remove coyotes in the system. Two herds, 100 juveniles in both areas.

Coyote Predation:



Coyote presence is contributing to the declining population. Why is coyote predation higher in Sweetwater? Juveniles are lighter than in the Laramie mountains. Is it because there are more in Sweetwater? They don't have that data, but the **Goal 1** is to get the data.

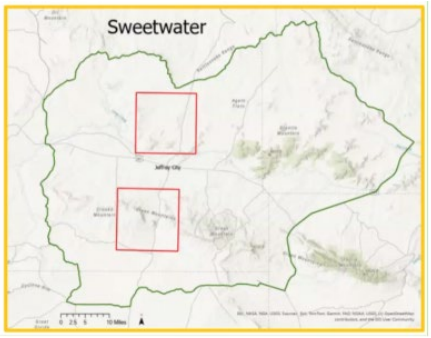
Why Aerial Infrared Imagery?

Method	Cost	Effort	Survey Area	Detectability
Camera grids (mark-recapture)	$$	↑	↓	↓
GPS collars + territory size	$$$	↑	---	---
Call/sign transects	$	↑	---	---
Traditional aerial transects	$$	↓	↑	↓
Aerial infrared transects	$$	↓	↑	↑

Goal 2: Evaluate aerial infrared imagery as a viable method to estimate coyote abundance.

Proposed Methods:

- Conduct flights in winter of 2026-27
  - Vendor TBD
- Stratify transects across at least 2 grids per herd
  - Extrapolation

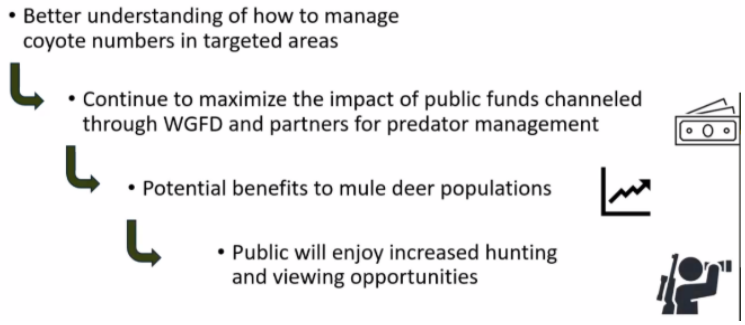


Two grids per herd – 5000 acre grid
Winter range and summer range
Different densities trying to extrapolate good data to know low and high density.

Proposed Budget:

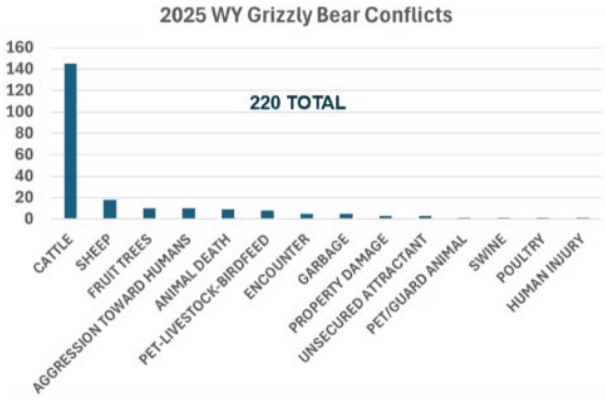
Item	Details	Total Cost
Flights (Owhyee)	$1,700/hr x 32 hrs	$54,400
Flight crew ferrying	$1,700/hr x 10 hrs	$17,000
Flight crew lodging/per diem	3 people, 9 days	$4,800
Flight crew additional expenses	Fees, travel, etc.	$800
Total		**$77,000**

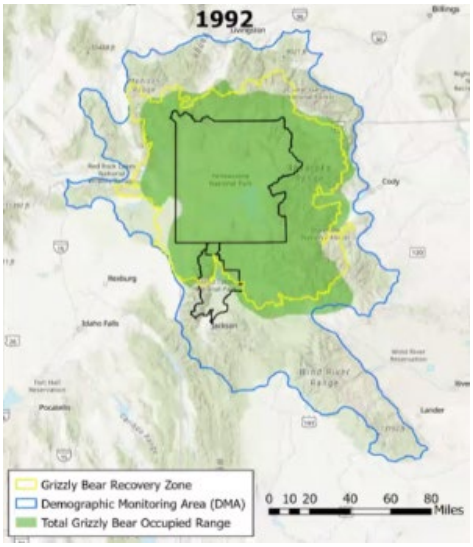
The funds are for the flights; aiming for 32 hours of flight time, 4, 8-hour flights. If the hourly rates change they would present to the Board.
Management Outputs: Development of a new field method for surveying coyotes; understanding if differences in coyote abundance drive differences in predator rates; identification of locations where both mule deer and coyote densities are high; and, understanding how coyote management (to benefit mule deer) may differ across Wyoming. They need to remove 70% of the coyotes to see any meaningful impact on the mule deer population. **This study opens the door for future research (e.g., collaring coyotes).**
Benefits to the Public:



Acknowledgements: **WGFD Lander & Laramie Regions; WGFD Science Research & Analytical Support Unit; Merkle Research Group, University of Wyoming; WGFD Wildlife Health Lab & Wyoming State Veterinary Lab.**
Funders: Wyoming Game & Fish Commission; Dallas Safari Club; Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's Outdoor Fund and APHIS
Question & Answers: How similar are the trends between the two sites? Sweetwater Rocks has a lot of sagebrush and Green Mountain has a diversity of vegetation there. Equal amounts of predator control at each site? How much aerial control do they do? If you don't have equal control there will be differences. They get used to the noise and the coyotes disperse. If Laramie coyotes don't have equal amounts of control, would that mean it would be higher? Take vs hours to measure abundance – everything equal? Drones could be one option and could they reduce cost? However, drones go slower so they'll need more hours. "Take" option, not vigorous and account for all coyotes that are taken. A lot of the take areas are concentrated and they are trying to look at the abundance. $40,000 in like-kind monies being attributed? How many years do you want funded for this project? One year can be sufficient if we get one year of data on these two herd units. More years is always better for more data. "Take" in two different herds; do this survey in December before the coyotes. Research shows that coyote predation is worse right after birth, the fawns. Body fat and body condition upon "cause of death", they do incorporate bone marrow at the time of death as a proxy. Most juveniles going into their first winter don't have the best bone marrow to begin with. Habitat nutritional difference is also something they are looking at and nutrition. The numbers of the alternate prey sources, cottontails and jack rabbits, may be starting to pop back. Pronghorns are surviving winters pretty well.

WY G&F Park County Carcass Removal-New*: Dan Thompson*
Request: $30,000
Seventy-five percent of their work is cattle depredation.
Increasing: Abundance, Density and Distribution:

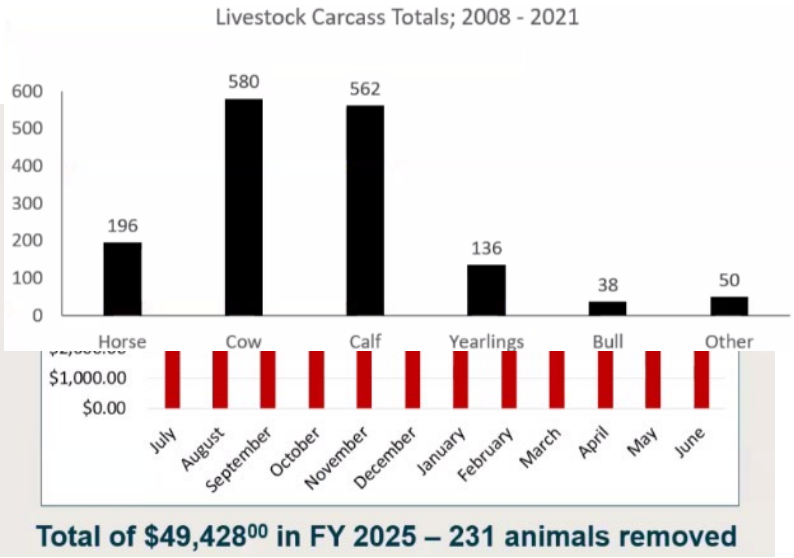




We can try to find ways to reduce the depredation. Dealing with conflict-multiple options available-conflict

management/prevention, information and education and security attractants. Management of individual animals: aversive conditioning, deterrence and securing attractants, relocation and removal. Compensation programs. Seeking ways to reduce the potential for conflict with the amount of grizzly bears and humans, zero conflicts is not real. Removal of carcasses has more than one benefit: removes an alluring food source in close proximity to humans, "smell factor". Removes habituation to bone piles/carcass pits and benefits to producers, not losing daylight running to dump, safety risk.

Park County Carcass Removal Program:



Proposal Request: Building on the success of almost two decades of work. Producer support, agency support, public support (forward thinking). This long running conflict prevention program removes livestock carcasses from the landscape in high grizzly bear conflict areas of Park County before they can attract bears to ranch yards, calving areas, homes, outbuildings, and other places where people live and work. The program reduces conflict risk for residents and producers, protects livestock operations by reducing situations that often lead to food conditioning, repeated conflicts, relocation, or lethal management. In-kind contributions include: Park County PMD, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish, Greater Yellowstone Coalition and Vital Ground Foundation. Requesting $30,000 to offset costs of this long running program to reduce conflict potential between grizzly bears and livestock producers. Budget summary: the requested ADMB funds would support the annual operating costs of the Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program. A proposed working budget is the County Livestock Carcass Management Program. A proposed working budget is below. Partner contributions help support the full annual project cost.

Expense Category	Proposed Amount
Contractor carcass retrieval and hauling	$54,000
Landfill / disposal fees	$4,000
Equipment rental, maintenance, and supplies	$2,000
Total project expenses	$60,000

Their goal has always been the same, to get them delisted, and these efforts help support the cause. Data shows that you've reduced depredation. Get the food source away from people. Sharon noted that Montana has a program where they compost the dead animals and the public picks it up. Jerry asked about the Park County in-kind contributions and if there are any other outdoor groups contributing. Park County gave $5,000 last year and he doesn't know the exact details. This request is in addition.

***Natrona County**: John Marton, Brian Olsen (WGF)*

Request: $360,000

They have three full-time trappers who split the county. The main predators are coyotes, foxes and ravens. Their trappers do a great job and it is best to have three trappers and enough money for air support. WGF projects crucial leks and sage chickens. Raven project money did not get spent because APHIS bait and poison never got on the same schedule, they asked for an extension on $2500, poison at dump in December and January, there was no snow

on the ground, so he didn't get it done. Brady Smith noted that there is one guy licensed to get the whole state done. A ranch south of this county, there were 2 ravens out there and now there are 75 ravens on the sheep grounds. Last year the extra $30,000 went towards more flying, but most of it went straight to CD and was invested. Three CD's currently, interest of $63,000 will be the carryover. They still have 1.5 months the trappers need to fly, which will go into a CD, $290,000 with the next CD invested, helicopter support went up. Every year they are adding to the savings. Harvest numbers are very successful. Sharon asked if there are any trappers qualified to poison. Brad**y** said there is extensive training for that and they don't allow just anyone to control that poison. You have to make sure eagles and protected birds don't get it, too. They have to monitor the bait site. What would it take for their trapper to get APHIS certified? Why can't APHIS train another employee? Pre-baiting, turn them onto that, and that saves Brady from having to spend so many days out there because of the monitoring. They joined forces with the city dump and they are all for it because it worked so well. It is hard to get the schedules aligned. Snow matters. They don't want to dig through the snow. It takes a week to bait a raven and that takes the trappers away from what they are supposed to be doing. **Jared Z** noted that there are additional people coming online that will be certified to handle the restricted use pesticide. It was noted, range lambs are on 20,000 acres and it is too hard to tell if eagles are an issue. Eagles are always there. There are more and more and they kill lambs and fawns every day. **Jerry** said he will get with Natrona County on the $2500 extension, that is actually good through September. **Brett** said flying was $4,291 and the new request is for $33,650? Why is the difference between the two so big? **John** said it is because they contract with three helicopter pilots. The trappers decide who they want to use. Availability right now is tough once they start spraying for crops. **Jerry** noted that the entire flight budget is $33,650, not just to APHIS. There is a working agreement for a whole lot more. **John** reported that flying was off because the wind blew all winter long.

Natrona County, Wildlife *– John Marton, Brian Olsen (WGF)*
Request: $20,000
John presented that this project is to focus on key areas south of Casper for control for livestock producers and the mule deer. Casper has seen really good fawn production over the last two years. They are continuing to control coyote depredation on fawns and every landowner is involved. A new area, the last five years, is south of the Big Horn mountains. They are working to get access with new landowners. The deer number is suffering from low fawn survival. They want to observe the country. Antelope fawns, too.

Converse County: *Casey Tillard, Dave Moore, Curtis Maxwell, Kyle Davis (WGF)*
Request: $278,664
Wildlife: $20,000
Winter made things tough. Two full-time trappers and added a new part-time trapper for a total of five part-time trappers for spring and summer work (two retirees, one outfitter and ranch hands), to help the air unit; 120,000 miles and over 9,000 hours. Mule deer area and large sage grass habitats. Fawns from 2010-2019 great; 2019-2023, good, 72 fawns for 100 does. Protects the antelope, too, and they see an increase in antelope fawns. Guys showed up to assist the aircraft on the ground, but getting mother nature to cooperate was another story. Their long-term pilot was grounded for six months. 1500 coyotes were taken and that has helped with the sheep losses, 3000 losses last year, 2200 this year. Close to $500,000 in losses. Mountain lion problem calls this year; they didn't kill that many calves. Nuisance calls: skunks, raccoons and beavers. A handful of skunks went in for testing (chicken coop calls), but haven't had any concerns. They send in skunk calls once in a while if they are in the middle of the day. **Question:** Are crow and ravens increasing? Is it a recurring thing every year with the eagles? The eagles come through for lambing and tend to leave after that. They surveyed the ranchers and the ranchers say the eagles are a problem there. Coyotes took 2200 and 150 lambs were taken by eagles. At one lamber's, one day there were 15 bald eagles sitting in the lamb pasture. They can't prove the 15 kills, but his best guess was the eagles because that pasture borders the city dump. **Sharon** asked about the $168,000 in savings and asked if there was a reserve. It comes and goes with five part-time trappers, one secretary and two full-time trappers. Forty hours of flying and fifty with another group and another forty, so the reserves are leftover from flying. Waiting for snow and just haven't gotten it. They are trying to find other pilots. Their goal with the reserves is to get to a year and they have done that. The goal would be to get two years in reserve so if funding went away the program would not go away. They don't buy a lot of equipment. Thermal is their next purchase from savings. Ten percent from grant money is reserved for equipment.

***Washakie County**: Rolly Redland, Mark Duly, Eli White*
Request: $253,022
The program is comfortable. There has been an uptick in mule deer and sage grouse. There have been plenty of mountain lions. No eagle problems, no range land. Eli reported on operational, on par with flying, their wind was not as bad as other parts of Wyoming. The Basin is about average hours for this year, 180 hours right now. Mule deer project has seen an uptick in numbers; 285 hours of ground operations with sage grouse, 33 hours of flying, and a couple of nests have been seen this year already. Decoy dogs are tripping over nests. The County is good to them. Cutting edge of thermal that helps with flying. On the ground, thermal has stepped up their game by getting to a country they couldn't reach before with the side-by-side. They have a thermal sensor on the plane. They are hoping to get a different optic that will mount on the plane. All counties in the Basin are talking about chipping in for electronics that hook into the plane. Carryover is slightly over a one-year cushion, in two CDs. A third CD keeps them alive and has been there for a very long time. Airplane and pilot, certified gunner and going high tech as they can, two side-by-side (county funds) and a lot of visual optics help them; they can do a lot in the dark. The Board noted that the secretary separates brand fees for sheep and cattle and that really helps the Board understand their operation better.

***Big Horn County**: Randall Jones, Brandon O'Brien*
Request: $214,335
They have two full-time trappers, quite a few sheep and a lot of farm plots and range pans. Predators are coyotes and they deal with some black bear and lion. They don't have the personnel to do raccoon work. Their program is an excellent program, predation is next to nothing. They use a fixed wing for flying. Trappers use thermals quite a few nights with the sheep and have success with the thermals. It costs $283,000 to run the program; $462,513 in the bank account ($306,927 cash reserve for one-year) leaving a $30,591 balance. Brand fees at $20,000 to finish out the fiscal year, will leave them with $50,000 for the year.

***Park County**: Tim Maxler, Shane Smith, Monty Nichols WS*
Request: $257,619
Their county is unique; 70 miles of border with Montana, 104 miles with Yellowstone park. They have wolves, a trophy game zone, and the highest number of grizzlies in the lower 48. There are coyote problems on farm ground where a lot of sheep are run on. Cattle have trouble with grizzlies. And they are the forefront to keep the predators out of the rest of the state. They have two trappers. They had coyotes on sheep and they had starlings in the feedlots for the first time. There is a dairy close to Cody; they get everything whether they like it or not. In the budget, GPS collaring on coyotes to figure out what those coyotes are doing. They didn't used to live in the valley and now they are living in the valley. They have good luck with thermals. They have trailers with motion-detected lights that come on at night. At a feedlot, a coyote came in and killed and two foxes were messing with the sheep; they killed two coyotes that same night. Monty reported that flight time has been affected with new housing coming in and land he used to drive across now he can't and getting access is getting tougher. There are 14 different landowners in one square mile. Game and fish on a deer project in the Crandall area, G&F have had success in a helicopter and fixed wing at night with thermals. Trapping not as much now, baby grizzlies are out. Tim Maxler commented that they have three ecosystems in the county. Yellowstone Park brings a lot of money to the community. They need to understand how everyone can work and live together. Monty said it is nice to have Tim's perspective because he has spent a lot of time in the mountains. He was a guide for a while and he builds houses. What is the $106,000 listed as "all other"? Is that a reserve? Monty said Park county came into it with $100,000. They show that as a separate line item because in those lean years they take it out of that account. They run stingy. Jump "other funds" to $300,000 next year? Monty said they have two CD's. He can't answer the bookkeeping questions. To get the carcass program going originally, the CD helped to fund that and it is great, anything non-lethal. They went and found self-funding and that dried out.

***Park County, Wildlife**: Shane Smith, Jordan Winter (WGF)*
Request $10,000
Ran the program January through April; 60 to 70 coyotes so far by aerial. Through Monty they were able to do a lot more ground work and be pretty effective. Mule deer are doing very good right now due to light winters. They are requesting a renewal for this year, $3,000 from Cody, mule deer and white tail in the area and they are harvesting more white tail to boost that. Chronic wasting disease testing will be on specific licenses.

Public Comments - None

Board Discussion on Wildlife Projects

Slade Franklin asked Game & Fish how they ranked their projects. Craig Smith explained that a committee reviews the projects. They consider them, statutorily, and look at the value of the projects in terms of the impact on the ground they may have. They recognize they are research and look at them holistically. A one-time request got a high ranking. A lot of counties have long-term projects and they see the value in that as well. Jerry Johnson said of the Carbon County project, they had four, two aged out, so G&F felt they didn't need to do that project, so they will drop out. Washakie County was there for five years and it termed out. Roger Cox asked if it was going to take more than three years on the air tags. In regards to the ear tags, Mark Jolovich said the money they pay out on damage claims, they need to figure something out!

A motion was made by Brett to approve the Wildlife Projects spreadsheet as presented, Roger Cox seconded, and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

2026 ADMB Grant Spreadsheet
Fiscal Year 2026
0317 Funds available for allocation>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>> ***$ 267,985.00***

Project Name	Request	Budget 03.17 ADMB Grant *Funding* ADMB Approved Amount	G&F *Ranking*
WGFD Efficacy of nonlethal ear tags	$ 45,000	$ 45,000	1
Coyote abundance study for mule deer project	$ 77,000	$ 40,000	2
Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control	$ 25,000	$ 25,000	3
Park Co Carcass removal	$ 30,000	$ 15,000	4
Wyoming Range mule deer study 2023-28	$ 40,000	$ 15,000	5
Park co G&F Clark river mule deer project	$ 10,000	$ 10,000	6
Carbon CO. Coyote removal to enhance Platte Valley mule deer fawn survival	$ 15,000	$ 10,000	7
Fremont Co. Sweetwater rock mule deer project	$ 30,000	$ 20,000	8
Carbon County Raven removal project	$ 4,980	$ 4,980	9
Lincoln County Mule deer project	$ 30,000	$ 15,000	10
Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival	$ 30,000	$ 15,000	11
Coyote Removal to Enhance Red Wall & Big Sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival	$ 30,000	$ 15,000	12
Johnson County Mule deer/Sage grouse 2024-25	$ 30,000	$ 15,000	13
Converse Co. sand and sage cr. mule deer project	$ 20,000	$ 10,000	14
Niobrara Manville Lance creek project 2025	$ 20,000	$ 10,000	15
Wyoming Stewardship Project, Educator Workshops	$ 2,500	$ 2,500	N/A
	$ 439,480		

PMD Regular Funding

A motion by Brett was made to start looking at the allocations on Jerry Johnson's master PMD spreadsheet and go from there, Phil seconded that motion, and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Jerry presented the allocation spreadsheet, taking into consideration all discussions over both days, and each district's reserves. The Board discussed and clarified some of the figures, and Jerry made the suggested changes.

Regarding Sublette: predator fees get changed once per year and their next meeting is in December. If they choose to increase to $1, then they can look at that next year. Jerry Johnson noted that if the Board held back $100,000 for Sublette, or $50,000, it would come back to the program if they don't request it. Kirby asked if they had to charge a full predator fee in a county to ask money from ADMB. Sublette winters in Sweetwater, but they don't collect the predator fees from Sublette. Jerry Johnson said that you can designate what county you want the fees to go to, and that could be another county. You don't have to run in that county. Example: run in Natrona county and send the fees to Powell and pay the balance in Natrona county.

Jerry Johnson confirmed that the Board wants to move forward to fund as allocated in the PMD spreadsheet and not hold anything back for Sublette.

Roger Cox moved to approve the allocations as presented on the PMD master spreadsheet and Zeta Anderson seconded, and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (Please see the spreadsheet below).

PMD Allocation sheet May 13th 2026 FY 2026-27 requests	board 2026-27 Recommendation	budget 009 1501 Sage Grouse	budget 001 1501 base	Board Final total allocation
		$800,000.00	$3,930,834.00	$ 4,755,000.00
	Allocation amount available $4,875,000 - $120,000 wolf work			
			$ -	$ -
Albany County PMD	$250,000.00	$38,000.00	$212,000.00	$250,000.00
Big Horn County PMD	$ 204,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$166,000.00	$204,000.00
Campbell County PMD	$ 310,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$272,000.00	$310,000.00
Carbon County PMD	$ 278,000.00	$ 65,750.00	$212,250.00	$278,000.00
Converse County PMD	$ 262,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$224,000.00	$262,000.00
Crook County PMD	$ 179,100.00	$ 38,000.00	$141,100.00	$179,100.00
Fremont County PMD	$ 290,000.00	$ 65,750.00	$224,250.00	$290,000.00
Goshen County PMD	$ 225,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$220,000.00	$225,000.00
Hot Springs County PMD	$ 195,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$157,000.00	$195,000.00
Johnson County PMD	$ 380,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$342,000.00	$380,000.00
Lincoln County PMD	$ 295,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$257,000.00	$295,000.00
Natrona County PMD	$ 322,000.00	$ 65,750.00	$256,250.00	$322,000.00
Niobrara County PMD	$ 235,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$197,000.00	$235,000.00
Park County PMD	$ 225,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$187,000.00	$225,000.00
Sheridan County PMD	$ 188,700.00	$ 38,000.00	$150,700.00	$188,700.00
Sweetwater County PMD	$ 260,000.00	$ 65,750.00	$194,250.00	$260,000.00
Uinta County PMD	$ 310,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$272,000.00	$310,000.00
Washakie County PMD	$ 245,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$207,000.00	$245,000.00
Weston County PMD	$ 100,000.00	$ 38,000.00	$62,000.00	$100,000.00
Balances 1501	$ 4,753,800.00	$800,000.00	$3,953,800.00	$4,753,800.00
			$4,753,800.00	$ 1,200.00
Other Projects 0313	**$ 38,000.00**			
Campbell Rabies	$12,000.00			
Sheridan Rabies	$14,000.00			
Johnson Rabies	$12,000.00			
2 year Vet lab contract	$20,000.00			
Budget FY25-26 0313 $97,143	$58,000.00			

Mark Jolovich motioned that the rabies allocations presented in Jerry Johnson's PMD Regular Funding for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 spreadsheet ($20,000 US Vet Lab rabies testing and $36,000 for rabies testing for three counties, Campbell-$10,500; Sheridan-$12,750; and, Johnson-$12,750) discussed on May 12, 2026, be approved as presented and Kirby Camino seconded. Motion carried.

Other Business

Form 37 question regarding the raven permit. Can a county apply for a permit and have several names on that permit to make it smoother for the county? Michelle was not present at the end of the meeting to answer this question.

It was asked if technology could be used for this meeting rather than being in person (e.g., virtual meeting). Jerry Johnson noted that because the PMD and Wildlife allocation meetings are now combined, the Board requires applicants to present their projects in person It was also noted that the technology didn't always work and made it hard to communicate. It is up to the applicants on how many people they bring to present. There is a virtual option for others to attend as long as one person for the applicant attends in person.

Motion to adjourn was made by Co-chair Angi Bruce, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.