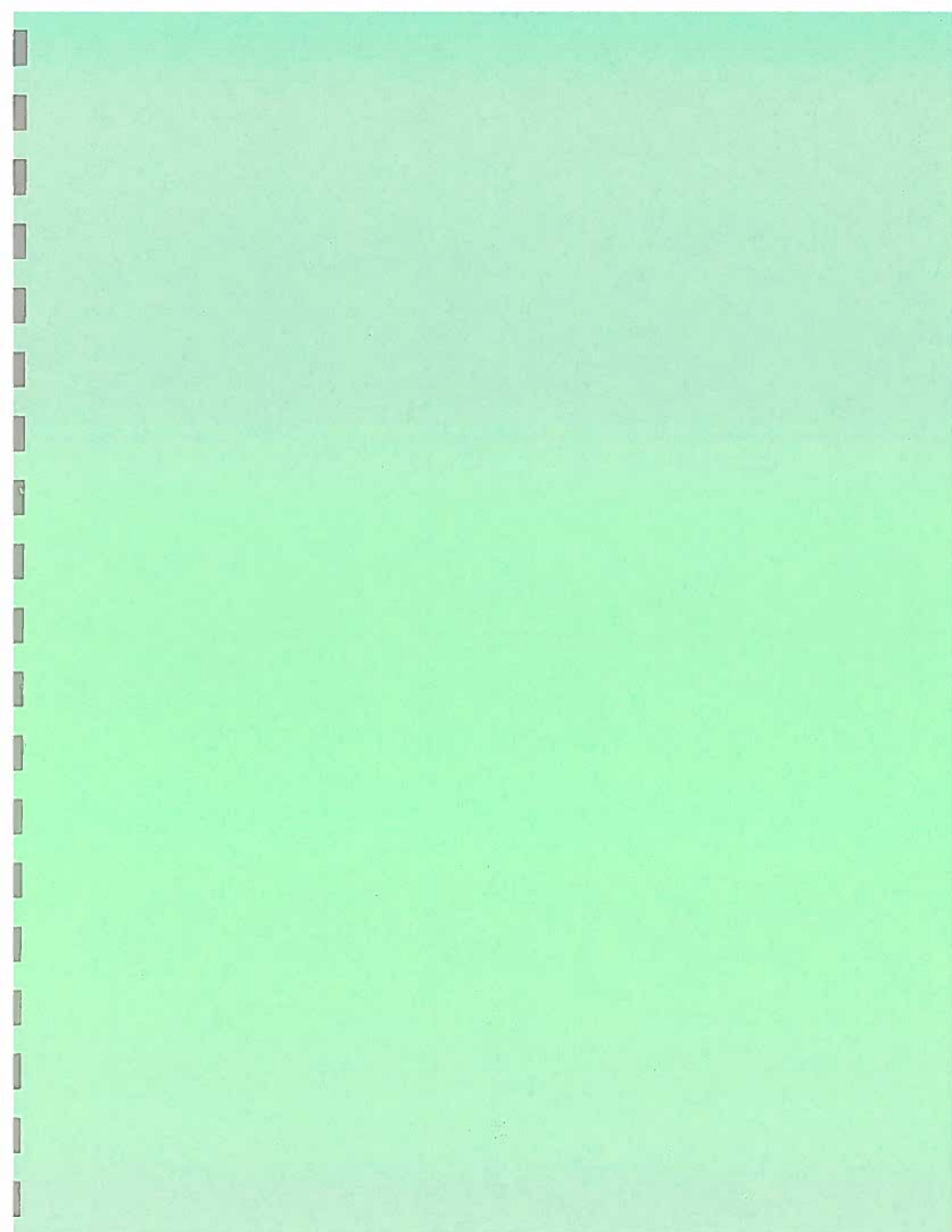


# **Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board**

## **2010 Annual Report**



Compiled by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture





**WYOMING**

# **ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

Phone: 307-777-6433 □ Fax: 307-777-6593 □ E-mail: [admb@state.wy.us](mailto:admb@state.wy.us) □ [www.wyadmb.com](http://www.wyadmb.com)

## **MEMORANDUM**

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

**FROM:** Jason Fearneyhough, ADMB Co-Chair  
Steve Ferrell, ADMB Co-Chair

**DATE:** December 21, 2010

**SUBJECT:** 2010 Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board Annual Report

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Please find enclosed the required annual progress report due on or before December 31 of each year regarding the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board.

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

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

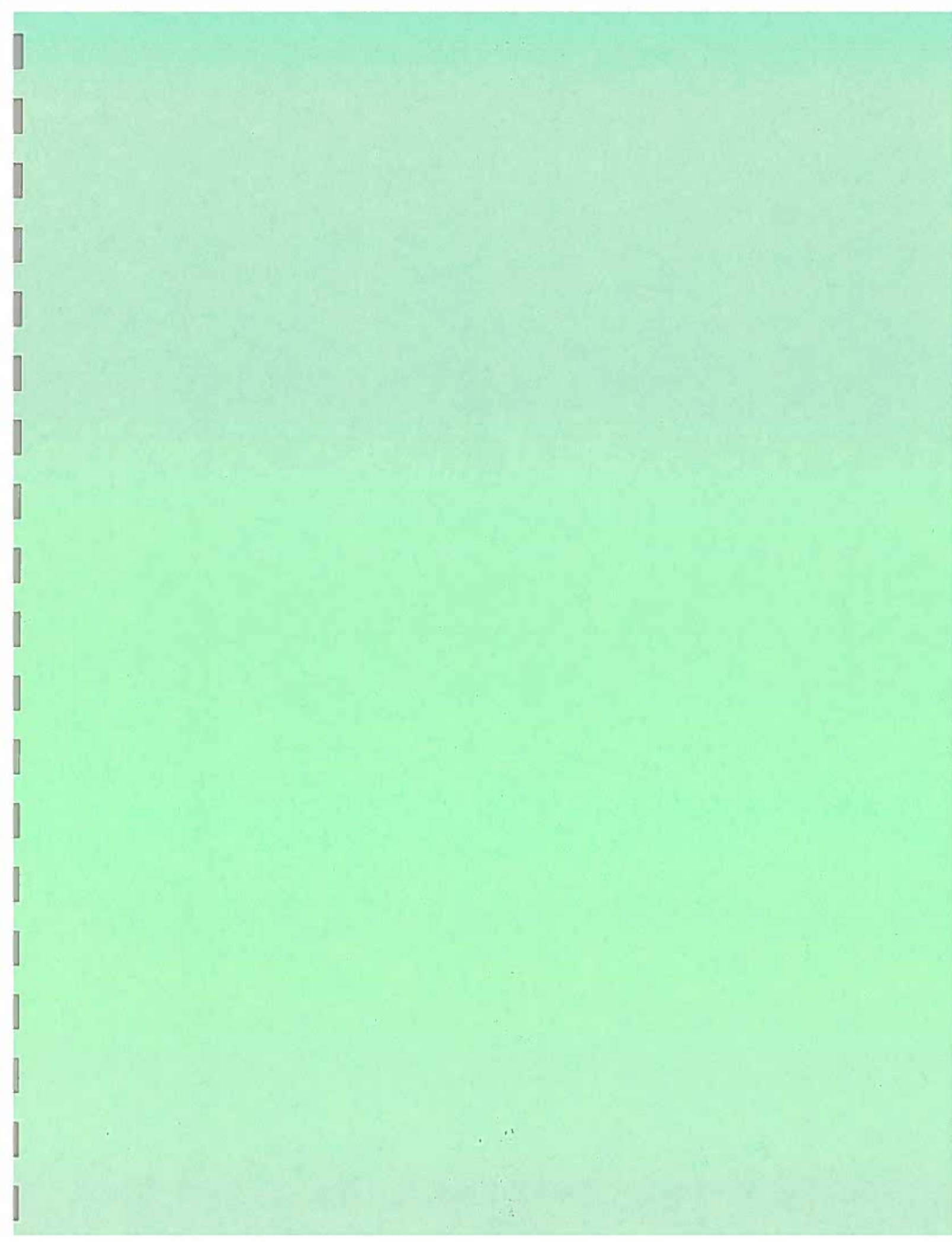
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**WYOMING  
ANIMAL DAMAGE  
MANAGEMENT  
BOARD**

**Directory**

2219 Carey Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100  
Phone: (307) 777-6433 Fax: (307) 777-6593  
E-mail: [admb@state.wy.us](mailto:admb@state.wy.us)  
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Term: - Indefinite

Domestic Sheep Producer Representative  
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Term - To 8/2013

Cattle Producer Representative  
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Rawlins, WY 82301  
307-324-4174 (home)  
307-324-3779 (ranch)  
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Term: To 8/2011

State Director, USDA/Wildlife Services  
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USDA/APHIS/WS  
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Term: Indefinite

Sportsmen/Outfitters/Hunters (2)  
Jim Collins  
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E-mail: [sdeckim@riconnect.net](mailto:sdeckim@riconnect.net)  
Term: To 8/2013

President, Predatory Animal Advisory Board  
Gene Hardy  
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Douglas, WY 82633  
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Term: Indefinite

Steve Ferrell, Director  
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5400 Bishop Blvd.  
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Term: - Indefinite

John (Dale) Leatham  
1945 S. Lennox  
Casper, WY 82601  
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Term: To 8/2011

Urban Representative  
Amanda K. Hulet  
259 Sunset Ave.  
Buffalo, WY 82834  
(307)620-2898  
E-mail: [jahulet@fiberpipe.net](mailto:jahulet@fiberpipe.net)  
Term: To 8/2011



**WY Game & Fish Commissioner**

Ronald "Jerry" Galles  
3332 Allendale Blvd.  
Casper, WY 82601  
307-237-3329  
E-mail: jerrygalles@wyobeam.com  
Term: To 3/2011

**WY Board of Agriculture**

Shaun Sims  
122 Brookhollow Drive  
Evanston, WY 82930  
307-789-4859  
E-mail: simsshaun@yahoo.com  
Term: To 8/2011

**Non-consumptive User of Wildlife Representative**

Jim Schellinger  
735 Clarendon Avenue  
Sheridan, WY 82801  
(307) 672 – 6759 (h) (307) 672-7421 (w)  
E-mail: jschellinger@hotmail.com  
Term: To 8/2013

**Ex-officio Nonvoting Members**

**United States Forest Service Representative**

vacant  
Herschler Bld, 3 West, room 3603  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
(307)  
E-mail:  
Term: Indefinite

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service Representative**

vacant  
5353 Yellowstone Road, Suite 308A  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009  
(307)  
E-mail:  
Term: Indefinite

**United States Bureau of Land Management Representative**

Dennis Saville  
5353 Yellowstone Road  
Cheyenne, WY 82003  
(307) 775-6106  
E-mail: dennis\_saville@blm.gov  
Term: Indefinite



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## 2010 Overview

1. **Meetings:** The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) met five (5) times over the course of the calendar year (January 27, April 28-29, July 7, July 26 – conference call, November 4). Agendas and meeting minutes are included in this report.
2. **Predator District Funding:** The ADMB received applications and approved funding for 19 predator management districts across the state. As of the date of this report, \$2,406,289 of the initial \$4,830,000 has been allocated to the districts.
3. **Projects:** Evaluated and approved funding for 11 projects (7 new, 4 renewing multiple year,) this past year. Project synopses are included with this report. Complete project reports are available upon request.
4. **Rabies Management:** Renewed the state-wide wildlife rabies management plan with a modified budget. Maintain a Wyoming rabies website at [www.wyorabies.org](http://www.wyorabies.org). Continued a state-wide rabies surveillance program, with laboratory validation of rabies prevalence. Three on the ground management programs are in operation.
5. **Program Partnerships:** The ADMB and Wyoming Ag in the Classroom have joined forces in developing and distributing predator management related curriculum to classrooms across Wyoming.
6. **Promotion & Funding:** As part of the promotion of the voluntary Wildlife Damage Management Stamp, the board continues to develop a stamp with artwork and distributed colored promotional posters to all Wyoming license selling agents. The 2006 stamp displays Sage Grouse; the 2007 stamp featured a pronghorn fawn and coyote; the 2008 stamp features a livestock guarding dog, the 2009 stamp features a raccoon, the 2010 stamp features a grizzly bear, and the 2011 stamp features a common raven and sage grouse.
7. **Public Relations:** The Board had their booth on display at the Wyoming Game & Fish Hunting and Fishing Heritage Exposition held in September, and informational reports at the Farm Bureau, Conservation Districts and Stock Growers conventions held in November and December.
8. **Information Dissemination:** The ADMB website at <http://www.wyadmb.com> continues to be maintained and provides available information regarding the current activities and programs for the ADMB.

## In Progress:

1. The next regular meeting of the ADMB will be January 13, 2011 at the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Conference Room, 2219 Carey Av. , Cheyenne
2. Project applications for consideration at the January 13, 2010 meeting will be accepted until January 3, 2011.
3. Project applications for the July 2010 meeting will be accepted from April 15 to June 1 2011.



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# ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

**WYOMING**

2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

Phone: 307-777-6433 □ Fax: 307-777-6593 □ E-mail: [admb@state.wy.us](mailto:admb@state.wy.us) □ [wyadmb.com](http://wyadmb.com)

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Wyoming Game & Fish Commission

**FROM:** Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board  
Steve Ferrell, Co-Chair  
Jason Fearneyhough, Co-Chair

**DATE:** August 5, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Request For Funds

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In accordance with Wyoming Statute 11-6-307, the ADMB is requesting \$100,000.00 (one-hundred thousand dollars) from the Wyoming game and fish commission. A synopsis of the projects selected for funding by the ADMB at the July 7, 2010 board meeting, is listed below.

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

**FY '10 ADMB Projects**

**Standing Projects:**

1) Large Carnivore Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – Funding: \$25,000  
Synopsis: Funding up to a maximum of \$25,000 with the Wyoming Game & Fish Commission and Wildlife Services to alleviate black bear, grizzly bear, and mountain lion depredation to livestock, bees and beehives in all counties of the state. Unused funds will revert back to the ADMB account. Submitted by: Wyoming Game & Fish Department

2) Absaroka Elk Ecology – Funding: \$5,750 (\$5,000 from G&F Commission funds and \$750 from ADMB funds)

Synopsis: Radio-telemetry study to determine status of migratory and resident elk and examine elk seasonal movements and habitat use, including elk habitat selection response to wolf pack distribution and movement. Submitted by: Wyoming Game & Fish and University of Wyoming Co-op Unit

3) Impact of raven and red fox removal on Sage Grouse populations in Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties – Funding: \$50,000

Synopsis: Dr. Michael Conover, Utah State University, has been studying the impact of raven and fox predation on the nesting success and densities of sage-grouse in Sweetwater, Lincoln, and Uinta counties for the last three years. The funding will be used to continue this study until June 2012 and to determine if sage-grouse nesting success is higher in areas where raven and foxes are being removed. Submitted by: Utah State University

4) Agriculture in the Classroom Predator Education - Funding: \$3,500

Synopsis: Brook Gerke, Wyoming Ag in the Classroom Education Coordinator will produce and distribute one comprehensive issue on predator management in the *Country to Classroom* publication to 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers across Wyoming. In addition, Ag in the Classroom will also provide experience-based learning opportunities for 40+ Wyoming Educators in a three-day workshop. A specific topic will be "Impact wolves have on area farmers and ranchers". Submitted by: Agriculture in the Classroom

## **New Projects:**

### **5) Cedar Mountain Targeted Predator Control to Benefit Mule Deer – Funding: \$15,000**

**Synopsis:** The purpose of this project is to document critical habitat areas, especially fawning sites, used by mule deer in the Cedar Mountain area. Identification of critical habitats will allow the Department to recommend predator control efforts (conducted by Wildlife Services personnel) and habitat enhancement projects to the areas where it will have the most potential to improve mule deer numbers. The primary end goal of the project is to increase fawn:doe ratios and can be measured with trends in post season ratios. The project area is located within Uinta and Sweetwater Counties in deer hunt area 132. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

### **6) Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program – Funding: \$5,000**

**Synopsis:** The Livestock Carcass Management program is a domestic livestock carcass removal service available to livestock producers/landowners who live in areas of Park County that have historically experienced a high number of human-bear conflicts. The main purpose of this program is to minimize human-bear conflicts and increase human safety by removing carcasses that attract and hold grizzly bears, black bears, wolves, and other predators in areas that are in close proximity to humans, ranch buildings, feed lots, or calving areas. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

### **7) New Bear Trap for Big Piney Region Project – Funding: \$5,000**

**Synopsis:** Funding will be used to purchase bear proof refuse containers for public use areas in the Big Piney area to prevent black bears from obtaining human food rewards and losing their wariness of humans. Submitted by: Wyoming Game & Fish Department

### **8) ID of Mule Deer Range to Maximize Predator Control in Platte Valley – Funding: \$22,000**

**Synopsis:** This study will provide wildlife managers with a credible, standardized estimate of the number of mule deer that utilize winter range habitat in Wyoming's Upper Platte Valley. In addition, the methods designed and evaluated will be applicable to many other mule deer populations through Wyoming and the West. Movement data from GPS-collared deer will allow for a rigorous evaluation of migration timing for different herd segments and delineation of key migration routes throughout the study area. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

### **9) Chemical Gonadectomy of the Coyote – Funding : \$25,885**

**Synopsis:** The overall goal of this research is to develop an additional tool for the management of coyotes. Specifically, we will investigate if a single treatment of a sustained release GnRH agonist may suffice to permanently chemically neuter coyotes as a means to control reproduction in this species. Submitted by: Dept of Zoology & Physiology, University of Wyoming

10) Predator Protection for Shepherders and Sheep in Upper Green River BT Forest – Funding: \$14,236

Synopsis: The purpose of the project is to find a way to ensure the safety of herders and sheep from wolves and bears. Therefore we intend to utilize multiple portable electrified night pens to protect sheep from predators while they are most vulnerable. These pens should greatly reduce the opportunity for wolves and bears to access and kill sheep, which benefits our operation by reducing direct losses from depredation, reducing attractants in these allotments which should reduce the number of predators in the allotments, increasing the efficiency of management trapping when necessary and when , and most importantly, it will greatly increase the safety for herders responsible for overseeing these bands. Submitted by: Wyoming Association of County Predator Animal Boards

11) Transferring Livestock Protection Dog Traditions – Funding: \$20,000

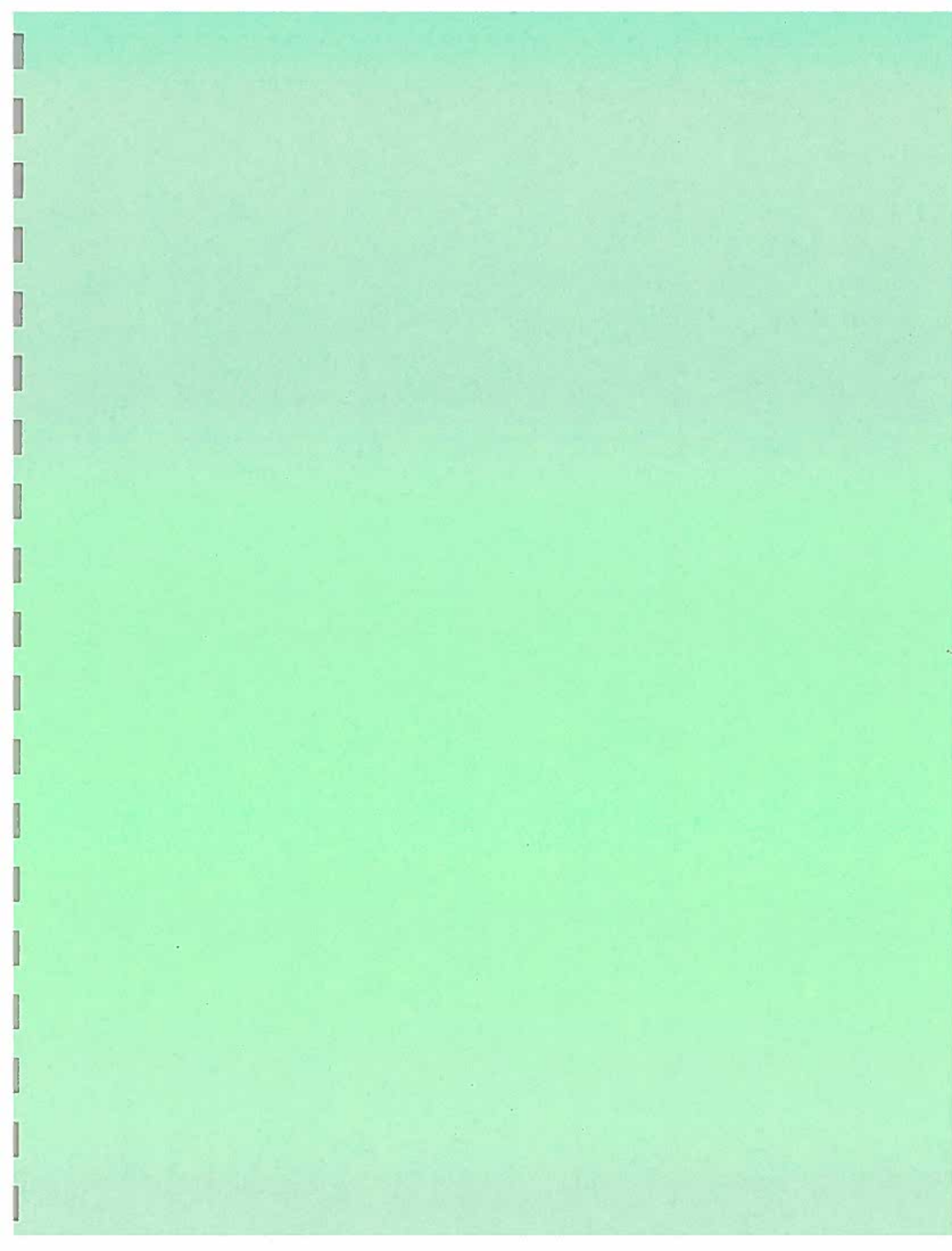
Synopsis: This project will identify, record, and provide for the transfer of the biological, cultural and historical resources of one aspect of animal husbandry from the Old World to the New World – the successful use of Livestock Protection Dogs in areas with large carnivores. The knowledge transfer would apply to both sheep and cattle operations. We plan wide distribution and publication of the information resulting from this research, which involves approximately three-to-five weeks of international travel for two people to at least three regions where Livestock Protection Dogs and large carnivore populations co-exist to identify the breeds, interview the livestock herds that tend to the dogs, and to disseminate the information when we return. Submitted by: Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Note: All projects, with the exception of the Agriculture in the Classroom Predator Education (number 4), Chemical Gonadectomy of the Coyote (number 9), Predator Protection for Shepherders and Sheep in Upper Green (number 10), and Transferring Livestock Protection Dog Traditions (number 11) were approved for G&F Commission funds. These approved projects total \$127,750. If Commission funds are approved, the balance and the other projects will be funded from the regular ADMB account.

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**ADMB Meeting  
Regional Wyoming Game and Fish Office  
Casper, WY**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2010**

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Ferrell)  
➤ Introductions of board, guests, & public  
➤ Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda  
➤ Approval of October 29, 2009 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. - Review of ADMB Policies
- 9:30 a.m. - Review of ADMB Rules and Regulations ( Rules, Funding, Rabies)
- 9:50 a.m. - Development of New 5 year Strategic Plan with facilitator Larry Bentley
- 12:00 noon. - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Presentation on Wildlife Management Stamp Contest, Jennifer Wagner, Wy. G&F
- 1:45 p.m. - Ag in the Classroom Progress Report – Brook Gerke, Wy. Ag in the Classroom  
Action item: Close out old contract
- 2:15 p.m. - State Veterinary Lab Rabies Report – Dr. Ken Mills, UW  
Action item: Ratify new contract
- 3:00 p.m. - Review of ADMB Funding Application
- 3:30 p.m. - Review of 2009 Annual Report and Project Summaries, All District Date Deadlines,  
and ADMB report deadlines
- 3:50 p.m. - Approval for Carryover Funds – Tara Teaschner, Wy. Game and Fish  
Action item: Amend new contract
- 4:00 p.m. - Rabies Funding Discussion  
Action Item: Possible new contract with Sheridan County PMD
- 4:15 p.m. - Public Comment / Board Comment
- 4:30 p.m. - Adjourn

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

**ADMBA Meeting - January 27, 2010  
Regional Wyoming Game and Fish Office  
Casper, WY**

**Board Members Present:**  
 Co-chair Jason Farnyrough  
 Rod Kirschke  
 Dale Leatham  
 Amanda Hulce  
 Co-Chair Steve Ferrell  
 John Espy  
 Gene Hardy  
 Jim Schellingner  
 Bob Innes  
 Jim Collins  
 Ronald "Jerry" Galles  
 Dennis Saville

**Board Members Absent:**  
 Shaun Sims

**WDA Support Staff**  
 Kent Drake  
 Hank Uhden  
 Alexandria Englander

**Guests**  
 Larry Bentley  
 Jennifer Wagner  
 Dennis Sun  
 Dr. Ken Mills  
 Mantha Phillips  
 Bryce Reece

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Steve Ferrell at 9:04am. Board members and guests were introduced.

**Agenda Notes**  
 K. Drake asked that Rod Kirschke have time to speak. This was approved by S. Ferrell. Agenda was approved. Minutes from the October meeting were reviewed. J. Collins moved to approve the minutes, G. Hardy seconded, motion passed.

**Review of ADMBA Policies**  
 Larry Bentley led the board through a review of the ADMBA Policies. Policy numbers 4 and 25 were carefully reviewed. Amended items were the deletion of "newly introduced or depressed" from number 4 and the addition of "full or" in sentence 2 so that it reads "a full or partial refund". A motion to accept the amended policies was made by J. Collins, G. Hardy seconded, motion passed.

**Review of ADMBA Rules and Regulations (Rules, Funding, Rabies)**  
 H. Uhden asked that the rules and regulations be discussed at an upcoming meeting. H. Uhden did however bring the issue of ultra lights used in aerial hunting to the board's attention. He stated that all aerial hunting aircraft are required to have an "n" number and the fact that ultra lights do not have said number. S. Ferrell asked that this subject be deferred to next meeting due to time.

**Development of New 5 year Strategic Plan with facilitator Larry Bentley**  
 Larry Bentley led the board through a review of the ADMBA Strategic Plan for 2010-2014. Multiple changes were made; including the acronym page and the addition of Objective 4.2 which will be developed by WDA staff and reviewed at the next ADMBA meeting. R. Kirschke moved to accept the amended strategic plan, G. Hardy seconded. J. Collins asked it be noted that Objective 4.2 needs to be completed. Motion passed.



J. Collins moved to only revisit the strategic plan every five years and/or as necessary. R. Galles seconded, motion passed.

G. Hardy brought the issue of livestock protection dogs to the board's attention. He asked the board whether they would like to be involved in this issue. A committee of Gene Hardy, Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough and Kent Drake was appointed to develop a plan for public education, concerning livestock protection dogs. J. Collins asked that this topic be discussed at the next meeting.

J. Fearneyhough presented new state budget information to the board.

R. Krischke presented an update on Wildlife Services budgets and measurable objectives.

#### **Presentation on Wildlife Management Stamp Contest, Jennifer Wagner, Wy. G&F**

Jennifer Wagner presented detailed information on the conservation stamp contest. This presentation was meant to inform the board of possible ideas for the ADMB stamp program. No action was taken.

#### **Ag in the Classroom Progress Report**

Dennis Sun and Mantha Phillips presented a letter written from Brook Gerke, WAIC Coordinator, as well as an Ag in the Classroom progress report. M. Phillips stated that a copy of the current Country to Classroom would be mailed out to each member of the board. M. Phillips solicited the board for help in judging the predatory bookmarks entries in the bookmark contest. The following members volunteered to help: J. Schellinger, J. Espy, A. Hulet D. Leatham, and R. Galles.

A motion to close the old Ag in the Classroom contract was made by R. Krischke. A. Hulet seconded, motion passed.

#### **State Veterinary Lab Rabies Report – Dr. Ken Mills, UW**

Dr. K. Mills presented an update on rabies testing at the State Vet Lab. The contract includes \$20,000 for a target of 17 rabies tests per county, completing this fiscal year (6/30/10). Dr. K. Mills stated that he would be working with Craig Acres, WS, to develop a plan to do more testing in the areas that historically have had rabies and less testing in areas that have not had rabies for the next contract year. R. Krischke moved to approve the \$20,000 contract, from 03.17 funds, to be completed 6/30/10. G. Hardy seconded, motion passed.

#### **Review of ADMB Funding Application**

K. Drake presented on ADMB Funding Applications and suggested adjustments. The board was asked for comments and decided that the application would stay the same for this year. Discussion over having representatives from each district be at the next board meeting was discussed and the general consensus was that all individuals are invited, but conference called would be allowed. The board decided that April's board meeting should be a two day meeting and there are tentatively 19 district applications expected. K. Drake was asked to generate check list for the grants submissions (Meets requirements, Sent in a timely fashion, etc.).

H. Uhden presented on the special project proposal application and the administrative problem occurring with item No. 4, regarding matching funds. A motion stating that all match funds listed in the application will be placed in the contract and match funds not attained will void the contract, was made by B. Innes,

seconded by J. Espy, motion passed.

B. Innes also motioned that if the a grant recipient fails to secure any match funds then the ADMB grant award will be reduces proportionally and the grantee will need to return said amount to the ADMB. R. Gallis seconded, motion passed.

**Review of 2009 Annual Report and Project Summaries, All District Date Deadlines, and ADMB report deadlines**

All reports and district deadlines were handed out and it was decided that any questions would be brought to the next meeting.

**Approval for Carryover Funds – Tara Teaschner, Wy. Game and Fish**

K. Drake gave details on the Tara Teaschner's Bear Wise contract. The original contract awarded \$10,000, however the contract ran out at the end of the last fiscal year, leaving a \$4,422.00 balance. At the last meeting, the board did award an additional \$4,200.00. K. Drake asked that the Bear Wise contract be amended to award another \$222.00 leaving the contract with its original \$10,000. J. Schellingner motion to amend the Bear Wise contract by awarding an additional \$222.00. R. Krischke seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Rabies Funding Discussion**

K. Drake presented the rabies funding contract for Sheridan County. Contract requires \$10,000 for initial cost of buying traps, some labor, and supplies. B. Innes moved for a one time authorization of \$10,000 in rabies funding, from 03.15 funds, to be used in the remainder of this fiscal year (6/30/10). Motion was seconded by A. Hulic, motion passed.

**Public Comment / Board Comment**

B. Reese presented on a publication entitled "Protecting and Enhancing Wyoming's Livestock & Wildlife Resources." The copy supplied to the board is not the final copy. The projects completion was delayed and there was an overage of \$2,250. R. Krischke moved to award \$2,250 to Wy. Association of Predator Animal Boards to cover the projects overage costs from 15.01 funds. J. Collins seconded the motion. Motion passed.

K. Drake brought the purchases of a skunk by a Kaycee, WY resident and asked the board for suggestions of how to handle the illegal importation of the animal. The board suggested informing the out of state supplier that this purchase was illegal. K. Drake was asked to draft a letter notifying the county attorney and leaving any disciplinary actions up to said party.

**The next ADMB meeting was scheduled for April 20 – 21, 2010 in Casper at the Wy. Game and Fish Regional office.**

Motion to adjourn was made by J. Schellingner, seconded by A. Hulic, motion passed.  
Meeting was adjourn at 4:35

# ADMB April 28-29, 2010

**Call to Order 9:00 a.m. Welcome, Cattle Loss Survey Summary, Grant Project Requests, Interview Process**

Start Time	End Time	Interview	Request
10:15	10:45	Natrona	\$179,300
10:45	11:15	Converse	\$164,473
11:15	11:45	Weston	\$100,000
11:45	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	1:30	Carbon	\$128,636
1:30	2:00	Campbell	\$246,635
2:00	2:30	Albany	\$123,368
2:30	3:00	Big Horn	\$232,000
3:00	3:30	Park	\$187,979
3:30	4:00	Crook	\$182,000
4:00	4:30	Fremont	\$190,390
4:30		Public Comment	
Thursday,	April 29		
8:45 a.m.		Resume	
9:00	9:30	Johnson	\$136,250
9:30	10:00	Goshen	\$86,991
10:00	10:30	Sheridan	\$182,657
10:30	11:00	Hot Springs	\$183,356
11:00	11:30	Niobrara	\$159,400
11:30	noon	Sweetwater	\$181,200
Noon	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	1:30	Washakie	\$117,433
1:30	2:00	Lincoln	\$171,029
2:00	2:30	Uinta	\$140,012
2:30	4:00	Discussion	
4:00	4:30	Public Comment and Adjournment	

ADMB Meeting – April 28, 2010 to April 29, 2010  
 Regional Wyoming Game and Fish Office  
 Casper, WY

**Board Members Present:**

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough  
 representing Brian Kelly  
 Bob Innes  
 Jim Collins  
 Ronald "Jerry" Galle  
 Dennis Saville

**Board Members Absent:**

Co-Chair Steve Ferrell  
 Rod Krichske  
 Dale Learham  
 Amanda Halcut  
 Shaun Sims  
 John Espy  
 Gene Hardy  
 Jim Schellinger

**WDA Support Staff**

Kent Drake  
 Hank Uhden  
 Margy Anderson  
 Alexandria "Lexie"  
 Englander

**Guests**  
 Bryce Reece

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough at 9:06 a.m. Board members and guests were introduced. Minutes were reviewed by the board, J. Schellinger moved to approve, A. Hulet seconded, motion passed.

**Cattle Loss survey**

Steve Gunn, USDA NASS, presented a final report on the USDA cattle loss survey to the board.

**Conover Project**

K. Drake presented Conover's Sage Grouse project amendment request. R. Krichske motioned to approve Conover's request to amend the contract to transfer \$4,000 in graduate salaries and \$2,000 in fringe funds to \$6,000 in hourly workers. B. Innes seconded the motion, motion passed. J. Schellinger voted nay.

**University of Wyoming requests removal of cost match requirement**

After some discussion, it was decided through consensus to table further discussion until a university representative could be reached to answer the board's questions. A teleconference was scheduled for April 29 at 10:30 a.m.

**County Presentations**

**Natrona County – Request of \$179,300**

Request was presented by: Chuck Harland, Don Dodds, and Sy Gilliland

**Converse County – Request of \$164,473**

Request was presented by: Troy Scott & Tim Pexton

The issue of ferry time was brought to the attention of the board by T. Paxton. J. Collins asked that the topic be put on the next ADMB meeting agenda.

**Weston County – Request of \$100,000**

Request was presented by: Alan Todd & Jerry Shepperson

**Hot Springs County – Request of \$183,356**

Request was presented by: Brett Belden, Bob Blacketer, and Art Hunter

**Carbon County – Request of \$128,636**

Request was presented by: Charlene Abbott

**Campbell County – Request of \$246,635**

Request was presented by: Dave Daigle

**Albany County – Request of \$123,368**

Request was presented by: T.C. Page & David Kalco

**Big Horn County – Request of \$232,000**

Request was presented by: Grey Flitner, John Kelso, & George McGregor

**Park County – Request of \$187,979**

Request was presented by: Shane Smith & Tara Teschner

T. Teschner discussed the carcass removal program. B. Innes told Tara that if the money does not come through in the district budget that she consider applying for additional funds through a research project application due June 15.

**Crook County – Request of \$182,000**

Request was presented by: J.W. Nuckolls & Darla West

**Fremont County – Request of \$190,390**

Request was presented by: Shane Sanderson

**Public Comment**

Co-chair J. Fearneyhough called for public comment.

H. Uhden said we could initiate drafting rules in regard to changing the current state predator fee refund policy.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:28.

ADMB Meeting—April 29, 2010  
 Regional Wyoming Game and Fish Office  
 Casper, WY

**Board Members Present:** Co-chair Jason Fearnough representing Brian Kelly, Bob Innes, Jim Collins, Amanda Hulce, Rod Krischke, Gene Hardy, Jim Schelling, Shaun Sims, John Espy, Ronald "Jerry" Gales, Scott Hicks,

**Board Members Absent:** Dale Leatham, Dennis Saville

**WDA Support Staff:** Kent Drake, Hank Ulden, Margy Anderson, Alexandria "Lexie" Englander

**Guests:** Bryce Reece

The meeting was called back to order by Co-Chair Jason Fearnough at 8:49 a.m.

**Johnson County – Request of \$136,250**

Request was presented by: Peter John Camino & Pete Dube

**Goshen County – Request of \$86,991**

Request was presented by: Art Davis, Wiley Cross, Stan Smith

**University of Wyoming requests removal of cost match requirement (tabled yesterday)**

by phone: M. Matt Kauffman (Assistant Leader – WY Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit) explained that the contract verbiage asked for cost matching. However it was discussed that the board only expects cost sharing. M. Anderson offered to contact the university and work with them to change the terminology.

R. Krischke moved that the WDA work with UW staff on rewording the Absoroka Elk and Absoroka Wolf-Cattle contracts. The board expectations are a list of other funding agencies that have contributed to these projects, including funding amounts. Motion was seconded by B. Innes, motion passed.

Motion was made by S. Ferrell to allow a one year no cost time extension for the Absoroka Wolf-Cattle Study. Motion was seconded by S. Sims, motion passed.

**Sheddan County – Request of \$182,657**

Request was presented by: Mike Connell & Alan Plummer

**Niobrara County – Request of \$159,400**

Request was presented by: Barb Kilmer & Shannon Bruegger

**Sweetwater County – Request of \$181,200**

Request was presented by: Bill Taliferro

**Washakie County – Request of \$117,433**

Request was presented by: Mark Dooley

**Lincoln County – Request of \$171,029**

Request was presented by: Bill Taliferro

**Uinta County – Request of \$140,012**

Request was presented by: Wade Larson, Joe Hickey

**Discussion**

S. Sims moved to spend up to \$2,800 for a reprinting of the ADMB brochure. Seconded by J. Espy, motion passed.

J. Fearneyhough presented his recommended funding allocations for the 19 participating districts. They were as follows:

Grantees	Application Request	Funding Recommendation
Albany County PMD	\$ 123,368.00	\$ 87,368.00
Big Horn County PMD	\$ 232,000.00	\$ 155,400.00
Campbell County PMD	\$ 246,365.00	\$ 152,865.00
Carbon County PMD	\$ 128,636.00	\$ 123,636.00
Converse County PMD	\$ 164,473.00	\$ 136,473.00
Crook County PMD	\$ 182,000.00	\$ 131,000.00
Fremont County PMD	\$ 190,390.00	\$ 145,040.00
Goshen County PMD	\$ 86,991.00	\$ 84,991.00
Hot Springs County PMD	\$ 183,356.00	\$ 168,356.00
Johnson County PMD	\$ 136,250.00	\$ 102,750.00
Lincoln County PMD	\$ 171,029.00	\$ 146,029.00
Natrona County PMD	\$ 179,300.00	\$ 163,300.00
Niobrara County PMD	\$ 159,400.00	\$ 68,200.00 * 6 months funding
Park County PMD	\$ 187,979.00	\$ 136,479.00
Sheridan County PMD	\$ 182,657.00	\$ 131,257.00
Sweetwater County PMD	\$ 181,200.00	\$ 139,700.00
Uinta County PMD	\$ 140,012.00	\$ 131,012.00
Washakie County PMD	\$ 117,433.00	\$ 105,433.00
Weston County PMD	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 97,000.00





<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$ 3,092,839.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,406,289.00</b>
<b>Other Projects</b>		
Campbell Rabies	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 31,500.00
Sheridan Rabies	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Johnson Rabies	\$ 23,500.00	\$ 23,500.00
<b>Final Balance</b>		<b>\$ 2,471,289.00</b>

B. Innes moved to approve the recommended funding allocations. J. Schellinger seconded.

J. Espy commented that he was uncomfortable with awarding so much of the rabies fund in the beginning of the biennium.

R. Galles moved an amendment of \$5,000 less funding for Campbell & Johnson Counties out of the rabies funding. Motion died for lack of a second.

The original motion to approve the recommended funding allocations passed.

**Niobrara County is changing funding cycles from calendar year to fiscal year. The funding recommendation reflects this change and this comment was made to remind ADMB to look at their 2011-2012 request in light of this change.**

Co-Chair J. Fearneyhough directed Hank Uhden and Shaun Sims to participate in the upcoming Wyoming Department of Agriculture teleconference, May 12 to discuss drafting rules to change the state predator fee refund policy.

**Public Comment**

Shannon Bruegger made comment on the amount awarded to Niobrara County.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> in Rawlins, WY.

G. Hardy moved to adjourn, A. Hulet seconded, Meeting was adjourn at 2:52.



**ADMB Meeting  
BLM Office  
Rawlins, WY**

**Agenda**

**Wednesday, July 7, 2010**

- 9:00 am - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Ferrell)  
Introductions of board, guests, & public  
Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda  
Approval of April 28-29, 2010 Minutes
- 9:10 am - Agenda Formation – J. Collins  
Request for Extension on Wolf/Cattle Study  
Request for Extension on Grizzly-Black Bear/ Wolf/Mountain Lion Depredation  
Prevention/Control  
Stamp Artwork Selection  
Set price of Wildlife Damage Management Stamp
- 9:20 am - Project Reports (15 min each)  
\* Johnson County Rabies Supplement – D. Hall  
\* Absaroka Wolf-Cattle Study – Arthur Middleton  
\* New Bear Trap for Laramie Region – S. Talbott  
\* Washakie County Nuisance Predator and Disease Project – J. Pehringer
- 10:20 am - Project Proposals – Renewals w/ Updates (20 minutes each)  
\* Grizzly/B. Bear/Wolf/Mtn Lion depredation prevention/control – S. Talbott  
And New Bear Trap for Big Piney Region – S. Talbott  
\* Impact of raven and fox removal on sage grouse –SW, L, U counties – M. Conover  
\* Absaroka Elk Ecology – A. Middleton  
\* Agriculture in the Classroom – B. Gerke
- 11:40 a.m. Project Proposal (New) (20 minutes each)  
\* Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program – T. Teaschner
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 pm - Project Proposal (New) (20 minutes each)  
\* Sage Grouse Response to Predator Control in the Powder River Basin Natural Gas  
Fields – C. Marlow  
\* Hot Springs County Sage Grouse Study #1 – B. Belden  
\* Cedar Mountain targeted predator control to benefit mule deer – J. Short  
\* Evaluating Habitat, Population Demographics, and Management Strategies of a  
Hunted Cougar Population in Northeastern Wyoming – D. Thompson  
\* ID of mule deer seasonal ranges to maximize predator control benefits in Platte  
Valley herd unit – W. Schultz

\* Predator Protection against wolves and bears for sheepherders and sheep in Upper Green River BT Forest – M. Thoman

3:00 pm - Break

3:10 pm - \* Elk Mountain Big Horn Sheep Project – D. Shorma  
 \* Transferring livestock protection dog traditions to large carnivore occupancy – C. Urbigkit

3:50 pm - Discussion of grant awards criteria

4:00 pm - Determination of Grant Awards

4:30 pm - Public Comment / Board Comment

4:45 pm - Adjourn

**ADMB Meeting - Wednesday, July 7, 2010  
BLM Office - Rawlins, WY**

**Board Members Present:**

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough  
Bob Innes  
Dale Leatham  
Dennis Saville

Co-Chair Steve Ferrell  
Rod Krischke  
Amanda Hulet  
Shaun Sims

Jim Collins  
Jim Schellinger  
Brian Kelly

**Board Members Absent:**

Ronald "Jerry" Galles

John Espy

Gene Hardy

**WDA Support Staff**

Kent Drake  
Alexandria Englander- Tuttle

Hank Uhden

Margy Anderson

**Guests**

Roy Fenster  
Bryce Reece  
Dan Thompson  
Brook Gerke  
Mary Thoman

Scott Talbott  
Bill Taliaferro  
Steven Gunn  
Tara Teaschner  
Cat Urbigkit

Mike Conover  
Arthur Middleton  
Will Schultz  
Marjie MacGregor

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair S. Ferrell at 9:04 a.m. Board members and guests were introduced. Agenda reviewed, changes were made:

- The request for Extension on Wolf/Cattle Study was removed,
- The Hot Springs Grouse project was removed,
- The Chemical Gonadectomy of the Coyote was added.

Agenda was approved. Minutes from the April 28-29, 2010 meeting were reviewed by the board, J. Shellinger moved to approve, A. Hulet seconded, motion carried.

Agenda formation and process was reviewed by the board. It was decided that in the future the board would be called upon for agenda items at the end of every meeting and a week prior to the drafted agenda being released to the board. Also, Co-Chair S. Ferrell asked that an outline of requirements for public meeting be found and sent to members of the board.

M. Anderson presented on the request for Extension on Grizzly-Black Bear/Wolf/Mountain Lion Depredation Prevention/Control, explaining that an extension cannot be given to a contract that has concluded.

K. Drake presented stamp artwork selection to the board. S. Sims moved to approve the raven artwork including the sage grouse hen, J. Fearneyhough seconded, motion passed.

K. Drake presented on the setting of a price for the wildlife damage management stamp. J. Collins moved to approve the current price of \$10.00 for the sale of the stamps, S. Simms seconded, motion passed.

K. Drake presented a report on Predator Fee Refund Policy. K. Drake encouraged the board to be aware of the policy and that it will be more fully discussed at the next board meeting. Motion was made to request a formal letter from the Attorney General in regards to the Predator Fee Refund Policy. S. Sims moved, J. Fearneyhough seconded, motion passed.

### Project Reports

Johnson County Rabies Supplement – D. Hall, was not presented.

New Bear Trap for Laramie Region – S. Talbott gave an oral report to the board that the Bear trap was purchased.

Washakie County Nuisance Predator and Disease Project – J. Pehring informed of its progress during the April meeting. The board agreed that a teleconference was unnecessary.

### Project Proposals – Renewals and Updates

Grizzly/B. Bear/Wolf/Mtn Lion depredation prevention/control – S. Talbott gave an oral report to the board on the progress of this project. The new title of this on-going project is Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control. Grant Request: \$25,000

New Bear Trap for Big Piney Region – S. Talbott gave an oral report to the board noting that the Big Piney trap is very old and dangerous to personnel. Grant Request: \$5,000

Impact of raven and fox removal on sage grouse – SW, L, U counties – M. Conover gave an oral report to the board noting the current results of this project. J. Collins asked that a more extensive report be provided to the board. Grant Request: \$50,000

Absaroka Elk Ecology – A. Middleton gave an oral report to the board noting current project results. Grant Request: \$23,000

Agriculture in the Classroom – B. Gerke gave an oral report to the board noting project success. J. Collins asked whether it would be possible for the predator control category to be removed from the book mark contest. B. Gerke informed the board that it a possibility. J. Fearneyhough, R. Krischke, and A. Hulet complimented B. Gerke on her work. Grant Request: \$4,500

### Project Proposal

Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program – T. Teaschner gave an oral report to

the board noting that 125 carcasses have been retrieved thus far. As was asked, ADMB logo was used in BearWise projects. Grant Request: \$5,000

Sage Grouse Response to Predator Control in the Powder River Basin Natural Gas Fields - C. Marlow  
Grant Request: \$69,905

Chemical Gonadectomy of the Coyote - Grant Request: \$25,885

*Hot Springs County Sage Grouse Study #1 - B. Belden was withdrawn.*

Cedar Mountain targeted predator control to benefit mule deer - S. Talbott Grant Request: \$15,000

Evaluating Habitat, Population Demographics, and Management Strategies of a Hunted Cougar Population in Northeastern Wyoming - D. Thompson Grant Request: \$82,450

ID of mule deer seasonal ranges to maximize predator control benefits in Platte Valley herd unit - W. Schultz Grant Request: \$22,000

Predator Protection against wolves and bears for sheepherders and sheep in Upper Green River BT Forest - M. Thoman, Grant Request: \$14,236

Project was Tabled - Elk Mountain Big Horn Sheep Project - D. Shorma

Transferring livestock protection dog traditions to large carnivore occupancy - C. Urbigkit, Wyoming Wool Growers, Grant Request: \$20,000

#### **Determination of Grant Awards**

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Predator Protection for Sheepherders and Sheep in Upper Green - Grant Request: \$14,236  
S. Simms motioned to approve the entire grant request, J. Fearneyhough seconded, motion carried.

Motion to have the Predator Protection for Sheepherders and Sheep in Upper Green Project change their application so the Wyoming Association of County PABs is the Grant applicant. ADMB will own the protection fence and all other durable materials. J. Collins motioned, B. Innes seconded, motion carried.

Ag in the Classroom - Grant Request: \$4,500  
J. Collins motioned to approve the request at \$3,500, J. Schellinger seconded, motion carried.

Absarka Elk Ecology Project - Grant Request: \$23,000  
J. Collins motioned to approve the request at \$5,750, B. Innes seconded, motion carried.

A motion was made that the Game & Fish Funds (\$100,000) would be distributed thus:

- Absaroka Elk Ecology Project - \$5,000
- Impact of Raven/Fox Removal on Sage Grouse in SW, L, U Counties - \$50,000
- Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control - \$25,000
- Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program - \$5,000
- Cedar Mtn. Targeted Predator Control to Benefit Mule Deer - \$15,000
- J. Shellingner motioned, J. Collins seconded, motion carried.

Chemical Gonadectomy of the Coyote - Grant Request: \$25,885  
B. Innes motioned to approve the request in full, S. Simms seconded, motion carried.

ID of Mule Deer Range to Maximize Predator Control in Platte Valley - Grant Request: \$22,000  
New Bear Trap in Big Piney Region - Grant Request: \$5,000  
J. Collins motioned to approve these request in full, A. Hulet seconded, motion carried.

Motion to stop deliberation was made by B. Innes, S. Simms seconded, motion carried.

[Editorial Note: Although there was a general consensus to fund the Transferring Livestock Protection Dog Traditions Project, upon review of this meetings audio recording, it was found that the board did not formally motion to approve this project funds. K. Drake will follow up with legal advice on how to proceed.]

### Public Comment / Board Comment

B. Talferro (Sweetwater PMD) - presented very strong feelings that the Sweetwater County PMD wants to see the ADMB enter into agreement with Wildlife Services rather than Sweetwater County PMD because it is the only contract their predator board deals with and he doesn't want to have the additional board responsibilities and liabilities placed upon him by the new open meeting and special district legislation.  
In response, Co-chair J. Fearneyhough stated that he still wants to see local control for the County PMD programs and Co-chair S. Ferrell said that we would like to have information on these new meeting/special district laws at the next ADMB meeting. Co-Chair S. Ferrell asked that this be added to the next ADMB agenda. B. Reese asked that Kara Brighten attend next meeting to further explain this year's legislation.

Next agenda will cover both strategic planning and project updates.

The next meeting will be held in Buffalo. Meeting date will be decided through e-mail.  
A. Hulet moved to adjourn, B. Innes seconded, meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m..



**ADMB Meeting  
Phone Teleconference**

**Agenda**

**Monday, July 26, 2010**

12:00 noon - Motion and Discussion on "the Transferring Livestock Protection Dog Traditions Project",  
Submitted by Jim and Cat Urbigkit and Wyoming Wool Growers

12:05 p.m.- Public Comment

12:10 p.m. - Adjourn

ADMB Meeting - Monday, July 26 2010  
Teleconference

Board Members Present:

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough  
Bob Innes

Dale Leatham

Schellingner

John Espy

WDA Support Staff

Kent Drake

Hank Uhden

Guests

Cat Urbigit

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair S. Fearneyhough at 12:02 p.m. Board members and guests were introduced.

A motion was made by Shaun Sims to fund the Transferring Livestock Protection Dog Traditions Project, submitted by Jim and Cat Urbigit and the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, for \$20,000. Gene Hardy seconded the motion.

After discussion, the motion was voted on and passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

**ADMB Meeting  
Hampton Inn  
Buffalo, WY**

**Tentative Agenda**

**Thursday, November 4, 2010**

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Ferrell)  
✔ Introductions of board, guests, & public  
✔ Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda  
✔ Approval of July 7 & 26, 2010 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. - Aerial Contract Issue specific to Natrona County, Sy Gilliland, Natrona County Predator Board Member
- 9:20 a.m. - Funding Request Proposal, Seminoe Big Horn Sheep Pre-Introduction Predator Management, Kevin Hurley, Wy. Game and Fish Big Horn Sheep Coordinator
- 9:40 a.m. - Funding Request Proposal, Elk Mountain Big Horn Sheep Project, Dustin Shorma, Wy. Game and Fish Dept. and Brad Troftgruben, USDA Wildlife Services
- 10:15 a.m. - Discussion on USDA Wildlife Services Aerial Hunting Ferry Time, Rod Krischke, USDA Wildlife Services
- 11:00 a.m. - Update on County Predator Management Board Refund Policy, Jason Fearneyhough, Co-Chair ADMB and Director Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- 11:30 a.m. - Discussion of Raven Predation on Sage Grouse Research Project – Big Horn Basin, Steve Jones, Meeteetse Conservation District
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Predator Management District Board Meeting Rules/Regulations, Kara Brighton, Attorney, Hageman/Brighton Law Office, Cheyenne
- 2:30 p.m. - Update on Wyoming Wolves, Mike Jimenez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- 3:30 p.m. - Public Comment / Board Comment
- 3:45 p.m. - Adjourn

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

ADMB Meeting - Thursday, November 4, 2010  
 Hampton Inn - Buffalo, WY

**Board Members Present:**

Co-Chair Jason Fearnelyhough  
 Bob Innes  
 John Espy  
 Gene Hardy

**Board Members Absent:**

Dennis Saville

**WDA Support Staff**

Kent Drake

**Guests**

Chris Schmelzter

Bryce Reece

Art Davis

Kevin Hurley

Steve Jones

Mike Jimenez

Rod Litzel

Co-Chair Steve Ferrell

Rod Kirschke

Amanda Hulet

Ronald "Jerry" Gales

Jim Collins  
 Jim Schellinger

Shaun Sims

Dale Leatham

Margy Anderson

Dustin Shorma

Matt Withroder

Wade Larson

Tom Jones

Ken Beer

Kara Brighon

Tiffany Bertsch

Brad Troftgruben

Rolly Redland

Ralph Foster

Troy Scott

Paty & Jerry Johnson

Bob Sundeen

Aaron Palmer

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair J. Fearnelyhough at 9:05 a.m. Board members and guests were introduced. The agenda was reviewed, and the following changes were made:

- The Aerial Contract Issue specific to Natrona County was not presented. Sy Gilliland, presenter from the Natrona County PMD, cancelled the meeting presentation.

J. Schellinger moved to approve the changes to the agenda. G. Hardy seconded, motion carried.

Minutes from the July 7, 2010 meeting were reviewed by the Board. R. Kirschke requested clarification to the public comment made by Bill Taliaferro, regarding contracts and new board member legislation. K. Drake suggested alternate language which more accurately captured the intent of the comment and more follow-up discussion (training on new board member legislation). The Board discussed substituting the modified comment language into the July 7 minutes. R. Kirschke moved to approve, J. Collins seconded, motion carried.

J. Schellinger moved to accept the July 7 minutes as amended. B. Innes seconded, motion carried.

## Project Proposals

Kevin Hurley, Wyoming Game and Fish Big Horn Sheep Coordinator, presented a funding request proposal for the Seminoe Mountain Big Horn Sheep Supplemental Release, which included a history of the project, and data collected to date. The purpose of the project is to transport and import 20 Big Horn sheep from Oregon into Central Wyoming.

Dustin Shorma, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. and Brad Troftgruben, from USDA Wildlife Services, presented a funding request proposal for the Elk Mountain Big Horn Sheep Project. The purpose of the project is to increase Bighorn sheep lamb survival, by researching lambing areas, wintering patterns of ewes and decreasing coyote predation.

J. Fearneyhough asked the Board to vote on funding the two requests presented. The total amount requested by both projects totaled \$15,450.00.

J. Fearneyhough called for discussion of the Seminoe Mountain Sheep Release. J. Espy moved to fully fund said project at \$5,200.00. A. Hulet seconded. No further comments were made by the Board. Motion carried.

J. Fearneyhough called for discussion of the Elk Mountain Big Horn Project. J. Collins moved to fully fund year 1 of said project at \$10,250.00, with the understanding that funding for years 2 and 3 of the project be sought from additional sources. J. Galles seconded. Motion carried.

Co-Chair J. Fearneyhough and M. Anderson explained that if D. Shorma and B. Troftgruben wanted Weston County PMD to provide fiscal and administrative oversight on the project, Weston County PMD must be an applicant on the funding request.

## Presentations/Discussions

Rod Krischke, from USDA Wildlife Services, led a discussion on USDA Wildlife Services Aerial Hunting Ferry Time, which included a breakdown of aviation expenses, current funding sources, aerial data by county, and six possible options for covering charges for ferry time versus hunting time. After discussion of the above, the Board made no recommendations but suggested the same information be re-presented at the district allocation meeting next April.

Jason Fearneyhough, ADMB Co-Chair and Director, Wyoming Department of Agriculture, gave an update on the County Predator Management Board Refund Policy. After some discussion of the policy and legal interpretation of statutes, the Board decided to consider the information presented and revisit the topic at the next Board meeting.

The Board took a break for lunch. Co-Chair J. Fearneyhough called the meeting back to order at 12:46 p.m.

Steve Jones, Meeteetse Conservation District, led a discussion on the Raven Predation on Sage Grouse in the Big Horn Basin Research Project. At this point the project is conceptual among the Area 3 conservation districts, and a more formal project is in development. J. Fearneyhough asked S. Jones to keep Justin Williams, WDA staff, informed of project and predator impact of project. K. Drake suggested the Board consider taking action for predator management, perhaps by hosting or helping sponsor a sage grouse symposium. J. Fearneyhough suggested the Board collect information about the topic and discuss at the January Board meeting.

Kara Brighton, Attorney with the Hageman/Brighton Law Office, presented information on Predator Management District Board Meeting Rules and Regulations. PMDs fall under the "special district" classification under the Open Meetings Act, Public Records Act and Administrative Procedure Act.

K. Brighton led the Board through each act, explaining key statutes.

Mike Jimenez, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, gave an update on Wyoming wolves. The update included a history of wolves in regard to the Environmental Species Act, collective data on 3 recovery areas: Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, and the current status of the management plans in said states.

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#### Public Comment / Board Comment

Public comments were called for. No public comments were made.

Board comments were called for. The Board was in agreement that presentations made during the day were informative.

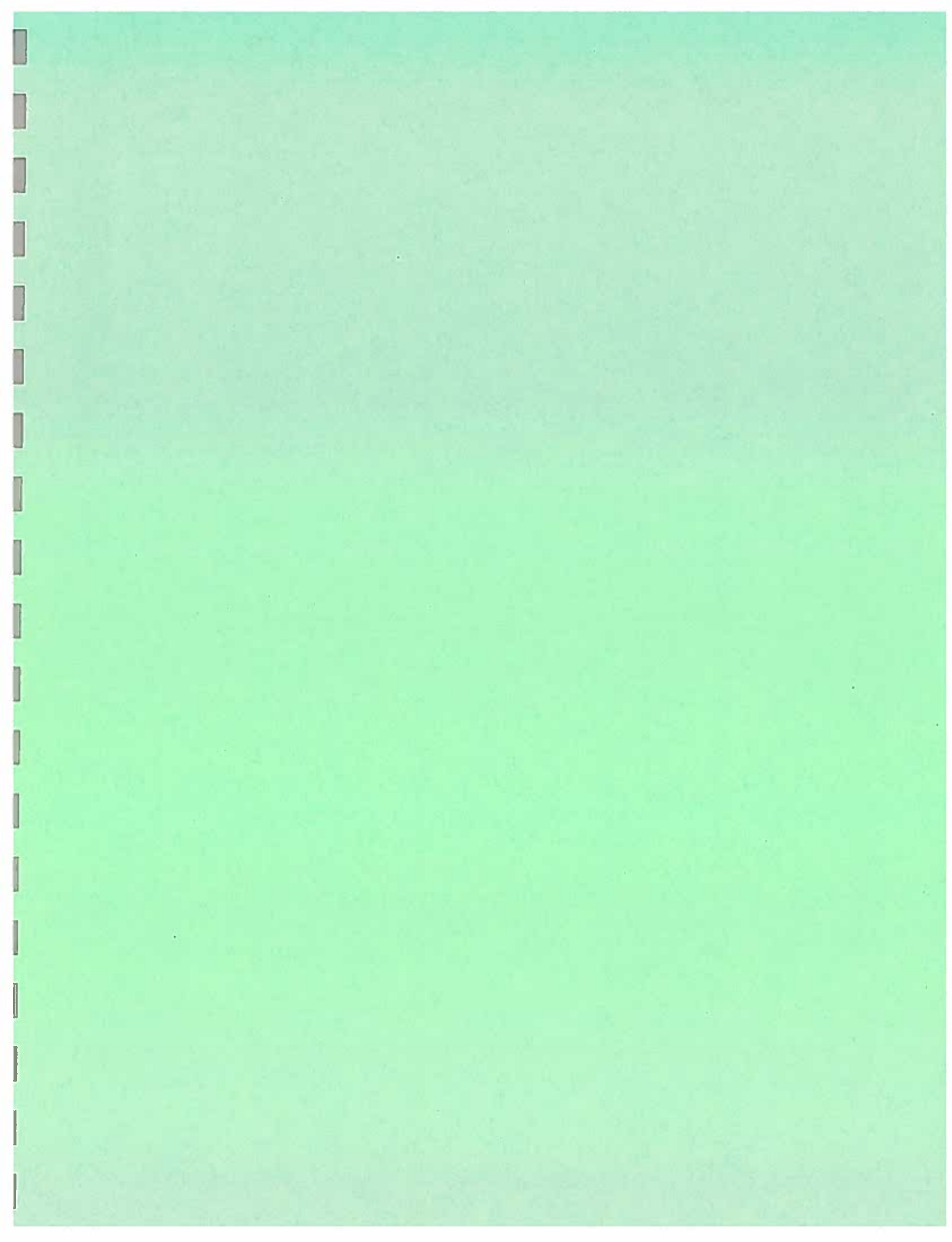
K. Drake requested the Board schedule the next meeting date, required by statute to be held in January. The Board agreed the next meeting will be held in Cheyenne, date to be announced.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Co-chair J. Fearneyhough at 3:37 p.m.

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PREDATOR MANAGEMENT 1501	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 11-12		YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED 16.67%	
<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>	<i>100.00</i>	\$161,333	\$28,591		\$132,742	17.72%	
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	<i>200.00</i>						
Equipment Repairs & Minc	202.00	749	0		749	0.00%	
Utilities	203.00	840	70		770	8.33%	
Freight and Postage	204.00	2,500	149		2,351	5.95%	
Employee Development	207.00	2,500	0		2,500	0.00%	
Travel In State	221.00	20,000	950		19,050	4.75%	
Travel Out of State	222.00	17,500	0		17,500	0.00%	
Board Travel	227.00	1,000	0		1,000	0.00%	
Permanently Assigned Vehicles	223.00	20,000	2,283		17,717	11.42%	
Office Supplies/Printing	231.00	14,900	357		14,543	2.39%	
Motor Vehicle Supplies	233.00	100	0		100	0.00%	
Other Repair Supplies	239.00	5,000	0		5,000	0.00%	
Office Furniture & Equipment	241.00	1,000	0		1,000	0.00%	
Data Processing Equipment	242.00	2,000	0		2,000	0.00%	
Food Service Equipment	244.00	0	0		0		
Real Property Rental	251.00	5,507	0		5,507	0.00%	
Equipment Rental	252.00	1,750	0		1,750	0.00%	
<b>200 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$95,346</b>	<b>\$3,808</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$91,538</b>	<b>3.99%</b>	
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	<i>400.00</i>						
Telecommunications A&I	420.00	2,051	267		1,784	13.00%	
<b>400 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$2,051</b>	<b>\$267</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,784</b>	<b>13.00%</b>	
<i>GRANTS &amp; AID PYMTS</i>	<i>600.00</i>						
Grants	626.00	4,830,000	2,406,289		2,423,711	49.82%	
<b>600 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$4,830,000</b>	<b>\$2,406,289</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,423,711</b>	<b>49.82%</b>	
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS.</i>	<i>900.00</i>						
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	34,000	500		33,500	1.47%	
<b>900 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$34,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$33,500</b>	<b>1.47%</b>	
<b>PREDATOR MANAGEMENT TOTAL</b>		<b>\$5,122,730</b>	<b>\$2,439,455</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,683,275</b>	<b>47.62%</b>	

		YTD Transfers	
General Funds	5,122,730	2,439,455	48%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$5,122,730</b>	<b>\$2,439,455</b>	<b>48%</b>

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0317		FY 11-12		YTD		ENCUMBERED		BALANCE		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM	
Fund 047		BUDGETED		EXPENDED		ENCUMBERED		BALANCE		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM	
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES													
201.00	201.00	600	0	0	0	0	0	100	0.00%	100	0.00%	600	0.00%
202.00	202.00	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	0.00%	100	0.00%	100	0.00%
203.00	203.00	50	0	0	0	0	0	50	0.00%	50	0.00%	50	0.00%
204.00	204.00	750	5	5	5	5	5	745	0.67%	745	0.67%	745	0.67%
210.00	210.00	100	0	0	0	0	0	100	0.00%	100	0.00%	100	0.00%
221.00	221.00	500	0	0	0	0	0	500	0.00%	500	0.00%	500	0.00%
227.00	227.00	10,000	1,599	1,599	1,599	1,599	1,599	8,401	15.99%	8,401	15.99%	8,401	15.99%
231.00	231.00	6,524	219	219	219	219	219	6,305	3.36%	6,305	3.36%	6,305	3.36%
236.00	236.00	350	0	0	0	0	0	350	0.00%	350	0.00%	350	0.00%
242.00	242.00	350	0	0	0	0	0	350	0.00%	350	0.00%	350	0.00%
251.00	251.00	350	0	0	0	0	0	350	0.00%	350	0.00%	350	0.00%
252.00	252.00	350	0	0	0	0	0	350	0.00%	350	0.00%	350	0.00%
200 SERIES TOTAL													
400.00	400.00	5772	97	97	97	97	97	5675	12.51%	5675	12.51%	5675	12.51%
DATA PROCESSING													
400 SERIES TOTAL													
600.00	600.00	284,217	98,108	72,000	114,109	59,85%	108,352	22.60%	47,56%	544,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%
GRANTS & AID PMNTS													
626.00	626.00	284,217	98,108	72,000	114,109	59.85%	108,352	22.60%	47.56%	544,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%
UW Grants & Aid Payments													
667.00	667.00	139,987	0	31,635	108,352	22.60%	108,352	22.60%	47.56%	544,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%
600 SERIES TOTAL													
900.00	900.00	44,000	0	44,000	44,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%	0.00%	44,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%
CONTRACTUAL SRVS													
901.00	901.00	44,000	0	44,000	44,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%	0.00%	44,000	0.00%	44,000	0.00%
Professional/Consulting Fees													
900 SERIES TOTAL													
5489,000	5489,000	\$100,028	\$103,635	\$285,337	41.65%	285,337	41.65%	285,337	41.65%	285,337	41.65%	285,337	41.65%
ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0 TOTAL													
285,000	285,000	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%
YTD Revenue YTD %													
DISCUSSION ITEMS													
Reduced by 318,396 to account for revenues not collected													
0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
200,000	200,000	200,000	0%	200,000	0%	200,000	0%	200,000	0%	200,000	0%	200,000	0%
Game & Fish - 5040													
4,000	4,000	4,000	0%	4,000	0%	4,000	0%	4,000	0%	4,000	0%	4,000	0%
Landowner Coupons-6204													
0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Predator Boards - 6301													
0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Wildlife Damage Stamp-2634													
0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Livestock Brand Fee-5353													
0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Other Funds													
285,000	285,000	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%	285,000	100%
General Funds													
451,059.83	451,059.83	451,059.83	100%	451,059.83	100%	451,059.83	100%	451,059.83	100%	451,059.83	100%	451,059.83	100%
Cash Balance													
0	0	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
5489,000	5489,000	5489,000	100%	5489,000	100%	5489,000	100%	5489,000	100%	5489,000	100%	5489,000	100%
TOTAL													
285,000	285,000	285,000	58%	285,000	58%	285,000	58%	285,000	58%	285,000	58%	285,000	58%

ADMB - RABIES 0313		BUDGETED	EXPENDED	PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES	
		FY 11-12	YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE		EXPENDED
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>		100.00					
	Equipment Rep & Maint	202.00	0	0	0		
	Utilities	203.00	100	0	100	0.00%	
	Freight & Postage	204.00	100	0	100	0.44%	
	Supplies/Printing	231.00	100	0	100	0.00%	
	Equipment Rental	252.00	0	0	0		
<b>200 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>0.15%</b>	
<i>Grants and Aid Payments</i>		600.00					
	Grants	626.00	161,700	65,000	96,700	40.20%	
<b>0600 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$161,700</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$96,700</b>	<b>40.20%</b>	
<i>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</i>		900.00					
	Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0	0		
<b>0900 SERIES TOTAL</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>		
<b>ADMB - RABIES 03.13</b>		<b>\$162,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$97,000</b>	<b>46.12%</b>	

		YTD Revenue	YTD %
General funds	162,000	65,000	40%
	0	0	
	<b>\$162,000</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>40%</b>

DISCUSSION ITEMS



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

Phone: (307) 777-4600 Fax: (307) 777-4610

Web site: <http://gf.state.wy.us>

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CLIFFORD KIRK

October 10, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kent Drake, Predator Management Co-ordinator, Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

FROM: Kathy Frank, Asst Chief Fiscal Officer

COPY TO: Steve Ferrell, Rich Reynders, file

SUBJECT: Animal Damage Management Board (ADBM) ANNUAL REPORT

In accordance with W.S. 11-6-305 (a) and 23-3-105(b), I provide the following information on the wildlife damage management stamp and landowner coupon designations to the ADBM for fiscal year 2010.

Landowner coupons designated to ADBM	\$16				
Funds transferred to ADBM (all)	\$16				
Wildlife damage management stamp					
Sales deposited through 7/1/2009- 6/30/2010					\$1,295.90
(License agent reports through 5/31; net of commission)					
Costs of program administration					
Management stamp:					
Stamp printing	\$ 1,850				
Personnel adm time	273 (10 hrs)				
Total stamp costs	\$ 2,123				
Total administrative costs for fy 2010					(\$2123.00)
Excess (deficit) of collections over expenditures					(\$ 827.10)
Deficit collections previous years					(\$3166.00)
Amount due to be transferred to ADBM for fy 10					\$ 0.00
					=

In accordance with statutory provisions and to insure federal aid compliance, the Department can transfer funds collected only after administrative costs have been deducted. FY 10 costs were higher than revenue received, primarily due to printing costs of stamp and accordingly, no funds will be transferred this year and the deficit will be charged against fy 11 collections.

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

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## Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(h) "Commercial Feedlot" means any place, establishment or facility commonly known as a feedlot conducted, operated or managed for profit or nonprofit for livestock producers, feeders or market agencies, consisting of pens and their appurtenances, in which

Ivestock are received, held, fed, cared for or kept for sale or shipment in commerce.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Submit the following to the ADMB:

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



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

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

(B) Each district shall establish a method by which assessment, billing and collection for goats may be conducted.

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

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

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

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

- (a) An initial standard budget of \$50,000.00 shall be awarded by the ADMB to each qualified district whose application has been approved by the ADMB prior to May 1, 2007.
- (b) The application must be received by the ADMB prior to April 1, 2007.
- (c) Thereafter, the ADMB shall annually establish a standard budget amount that shall be provided to all qualified districts with an application submitted prior to April 1.
  - (i) Additional funds, including but not limited to operational expenses and capital purchases, may be applied for by the grant application and justified in the management plan and budget.

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

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

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

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

- (a) The budget shall show all proposed income and expenses of the district.

- (b) The budget shall be accompanied by the district's current financial statement.

- (c) Audit Reports as required by W.S. § 9-1-507(a)(iii) and Chapter 6 rules for special districts shall be submitted to the state Department of Audit and a copy to the ADMB.

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

- (a) The management plan shall address the following, as applicable for the district or funding requested:

- i. Wildlife issues and goals
- ii. Livestock issues and goals
- iii. Pre- and post-work monitoring
- iv. Partnerships and cooperative agreements required to accomplish the management plan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted: January 27, 2010

**WYOMING ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD (WYADMB)  
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN  
2010-2014**

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

**GOALS:**

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

**ACRONYMS USED IN STRATEGIC PLAN**

**ADMB** – Animal Damage Management Board

**ADM** – Animal Damage Management

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

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

**MOU** – Memorandum of Understanding

**PMB** – Predator Management Boards

**PMD** – Predator Management Districts

**WDA** – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

**WS** – USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

**WAIC** – Wyoming Ag in the Classroom

**WLB** - Wyoming Livestock Board

**GOAL 1:** To implement a Wyoming animal damage management policy.  
**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** W.S. 11-6-304

**OBJECTIVE 1.1**

**W.S. 11-6-304(a), Feral Livestock Statute**

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

<b>STRATEGY 1.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage.</b>			
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
1. Review and update MOUs as needed.	1. WDA, G&F, ADMB, WLB, WS	1. As needed	
2. Review and amend project proposal guidelines and protocol.	2. ADMB	2. As needed	
3. Review and amend policy guidelines and application protocols.	3. ADMB	3. As needed	
<b>STRATEGY 1.1.2: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(ii): Specify programs designed to prevent damage by predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredated animals to livestock, agricultural crops, wildlife, property and human health and safety.</b>			
<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
1. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Governor</li> <li>➤ Agriculture, Appropriations, Travel, Recreation and Wildlife legislative committees</li> <li>➤ Formal presentation to Wyoming Game and Fish Commission</li> </ul>	1. WDA  1. ADMB co-chairman	1. 12/31 each year  1. Annually  1. Annually	

<p>2. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to:            ➤ Joint Agriculture committee</p> <p>3. Rabies Management Plan            ➤ Review the Rabies Management Plan               (REFERENCE RABIES MANAGEMENT               PLAN FOR ACTION ITEMS)</p> <p>4. Review programs effectiveness (50/50; 1501           grant program; 317, and 313.</p>	<p>2. ADMB, staff</p> <p>3. ADMB</p> <p>4. ADMB</p>	<p>2. 10/1 each year</p> <p>3. Annually</p> <p>4. Annually</p>	
<p><b>STRATEGY 1.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(vi): Cooperate with Federal, State and County governments, educational institutions and private persons or organizations to effectuate agricultural and wildlife damage and rabid wildlife prevention policies.</b></p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>ACTION</i></b></p>			
<p>1. Review as needed and implement the MOUs.           2. Coordinate programs in accordance with statutes.</p>	<p>1. ADMB           2. ADMB</p>	<p>1. As needed           2. As needed</p>	<p><b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b></p>

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

**OBJECTIVE 2.1**

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

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

**STRATEGY 2.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i):** Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage.

**STRATEGY 2.1.2: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(v):** Specify methods for the prevention and management of damage and for the selective control of predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredating animals.

<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
1. Accept project proposals with measurable outcomes.	1. ADMB, staff	1. On - going	
2. Foster relationships between PMBs and ADMB.	2. ADMB	2. On-going	

**STRATEGY 2.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(viii):** Consider recommendations received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for projects funded by respective agencies.

<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
1. Project proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Requests submitted annually</li> <li>➢ Wildlife projects will be reviewed by G&amp;F and approved by the Commission.</li> </ul>	1. ADMB	1. Annually	
2. 1501 budget monies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➢ Requests submitted annually</li> </ul>	2. ADMB	2. Annually	



<b>STRATEGY 2.1.4: (W.S. 11-6-304(e): The ADMB may elect to provide various degrees of predator damage management services to any other person pursuant to a separately negotiated cooperative agreement.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
<p>1. ADMB will receive requests for assistance. Request will be submitted on form provided by ADMB. ADMB will work with the requester to develop a management plan that addresses the issue. ADMB will receive reports as required by contract.</p>	<p>1. ADMB</p>	<p>1. As required by contract.</p>	
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.5: (W.S. 11-6-312): The ADMB may enter into cooperative agreements with other governmental agencies, counties, associations, corporations or individuals for carrying out the purposes of W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313.</b>			
<b><i>ACTION</i></b>	<b><i>RESPONSIBILITY</i></b>	<b><i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i></b>	<b><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></b>
<p>1. ADMB will receive requests for assistance. Request will be submitted on form provided by ADMB. ADMB will work with the requester to develop a management plan that addresses the issue. ADMB will receive reports as required by contract.</p>	<p>1. ADMB</p>	<p>1. As required by contract.</p>	

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

**OBJECTIVE 3.1:**

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

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

**STRATEGY 3.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(vii): Develop memorandums of understanding between the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS) to accommodate funding sources and administrative guidelines for the program.**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Review and amend MOUs as needed. 2. Explore options for grants and/or pass through funds. 3. Complete projects and assure that they are measurable and accountable through the proposal and reporting process.	1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. ADMB	1. As needed 2. On-going 3. On-going and as projects are submitted and being implemented	

**STRATEGY 3.1.2: (W.S. 11-6-307): The Board will request one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to be expended for wildlife priorities.**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ADMB will maintain a relationship with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.</li> <li>2. ADMB will submit a letter of request for funding to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission.</li> <li>3. ADMB will assure Game and Fish federal aid criteria are maintained through WGFD review of submitted projects.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ADMB</li> <li>2. ADMB</li> <li>3. G&amp;F</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On-going</li> <li>2. By 8/1 of year before funding is to be expended.</li> <li>3. By 7/1 of year before funding is to be expended.</li> </ol>	
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**STRATEGY 3.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-305: The Board will receive money from various sources to be expended for wildlife priorities. (Volunteer Funding).**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b>	<b>DATE COMPLETED</b>
1. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT STAMP Program 2. LANDOWNER COUPON Program ➤ Board will continue to work with landowners to gain support of program. (REFERENCE MARKETING STRATEGY 4.1.1.) 3. VOLUNTARY BRAND INSPECTION Program ➤ Board will continue to work to secure funding and generate revenue. (REFERENCE MARKETING STRATEGY 4.1.1.) 4. GRANTS ➤ Search for grants that are applicable to program and apply. 5. DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES	1. ADMB  2. ADMB  3. ADMB  4. WDA  5. ADMB	1. 7/1 each year  2. Annually  3. Annually  4. On-going and as available  5. On-going and as contributions are made	

**GOAL 4: Develop a public education and involvement plan.  
 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313**

**OBJECTIVE 4.1**

**W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313**

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

**STRATEGY 4.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313): Determine needs and expectations of various audiences.**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Develop a marketing strategy for the ADM program. Strategy should include who to contact; method of contact; when to contact; and who will be contacted. 2. Timely updating of the ADMB web site 3. Promote successes of ADMB through news articles. 4. Continue to market the ADMB program and educate the public through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Facilitating symposiums to share information about current issues</li> <li>➤ Sharing ADMB booth at State Fair, Game and Fish Expo and other opportunities.</li> <li>➤ Coordinate education activities through groups such as WAIC</li> </ul> 5. Hire a WDA intern to assist with marketing efforts and other duties associated with ADM program.	1. ADMB  2. WDA staff 3. ADMB  4. WDA staff and ADMB board          5. WDA	1. On-going   2. update as information changes  3. & 4. On-going and as opportunities arise. State Fair and Expo are annual events.          5. Annually (as funds are available)	

**Objective 4.2**

Promotion of “Best Management Practices” through Public Information and Education, i.e. Bear Wise, WAIC, Livestock Protection Dogs, etc.

**GOAL 5: Obtain credible information to enhance the Wyoming Animal Damage Management program.  
 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313**

**OBJECTIVE 5.1**

**W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313**

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

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

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

**OBJECTIVE 6.1**

**W.S. 11-6-313**

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

**STRATEGY 6.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313)**

<i><b>ACTION</b></i>	<i><b>RESPONSIBILITY</b></i>	<i><b>DATE TO COMPLETE</b></i>	<i><b>DATE COMPLETED</b></i>
1. Continue a strategy to ensure program continuation.	1. ADMB	1. On-going	
2. Continue to develop and utilize performance measures for program.	2. ADMB	2. On-going	
3. Identify and include citizen groups, county boards, predator districts, legislators and stakeholders to support the ADMB program.	3. ADMB	3. On-going	
4. Increase visibility efforts	4. ADMB	4. On-going	
5. Re-evaluate the statutes and programs to be included in legislation.	5. ADMB	5. On-going	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Voluntary sources</li> <li>&gt; Annual Report</li> </ul>			
6. Maintain an open dialogue with the Governor	6. ADMB	6. On-going	
7. Develop economic benefits analysis of program to State of Wyoming	7. ADMB	7. Completed and will update when necessary.	



# **Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board**

## **2009-2010 Annual Report for the Predator Management Program**



Submitted by:  
The Wyoming ADMB





# Animal Damage Management Board

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Joint Agriculture, Public Lands and Water Committee

**FROM:** Jason Fearneyhough, ADMB Co-Chair  
Steve Ferrell, ADMB Co-Chair

**DATE:** September 7, 2010

**SUBJECT:** 2009-2010 Wyoming Predator Management Program Annual Report

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Please find enclosed the required annual progress report due on or before October 1 of each year regarding the Wyoming Predator Management Program as administered by the ADMB and the Department of Agriculture.

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

cc: ADMB Members  
Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
Wyoming Game & Fish Commission  
Governor Freudenthal  
Joint Appropriations Committee  
Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee

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**Overview of Activities**  
**County Summaries**

**Section I**

### Overview of Activities to Date:

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

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

Through the work of the ADMB, \$2,406,289 of the current biennium's \$4.83 million has been disbursed to the nineteen qualified districts for the current fiscal year. The ADMB received \$3,092,839 in requests from these districts.

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

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

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

A majority of the Predator Management Districts are concerned with increasing predator fee refund requests from out of state livestock seasonal grazers, who lease Wyoming grasslands.

Western Wyoming Predator Management Districts are concerned with increasing predation from bears and wolves and a majority of the Predator Management Districts are concerned with increasing predation from mountain lions.

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

Following is a listing of funded districts, and the amounts distributed to each for the current biennium.

<b>PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ALLOCATIONS</b>		
<b>First Year Funding \$2,406,289</b>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Amount Allocated</b>
Albany	4/29/10	\$87,368
Big Horn	4/29/10	\$155,400
Campbell	4/29/10	\$152,865
Carbon	4/29/10	\$123,636
Converse	4/29/10	\$136,473
Crook	4/29/10	\$131,000
Fremont	4/29/10	\$145,040
Goshen	4/29/10	\$84,991
Hot Springs	4/29/10	\$168,356
Johnson	4/29/10	\$102,750
Lincoln	4/29/10	\$146,029
Natrona	4/29/10	\$163,300
Niobrara	4/29/10	\$68,200
Park	4/29/10	\$136,479
Sheridan	4/29/10	\$131,257
Sweetwater	4/29/10	\$139,700
Uima	4/29/10	\$131,012
Washakie	4/29/10	\$105,433
Weston	4/29/10	\$97,000
		<b>\$2,406,289</b>

By July 1, 2010, each district provided to the ADMB a Year-End Report, detailing actions taken and results, monies expended, and the most recent audit report. The following contains some statistics from across the state, and a brief overview of wildlife projects being conducted in conjunction with livestock related management efforts.

**Albany County** – With direction from the Albany County Predator Management Board, U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services has worked on 64 properties totaling 1,049,963 acres.

So far in 2010 the Albany County Wildlife Project (ACWP) has had very positive feedback from the livestock producers within its boundaries and in nearby surrounding areas. Not only on the lack of harassment and livestock losses due to coyotes, (they have not had any verified livestock losses this year) but also on the increase in Antelope, Mule Deer, and Sage Grouse. The Sage Grouse seem to be the least affected of the species, which due to personal observations since 2009, have experienced the highest amount of predation from Ravens robbing their nests. Although during the week of March 29-April 2 they removed to two groups of coyotes (1 group of 3 coyotes and another of 4 coyotes) from leks that had birds actively breeding on them.

The Mule Deer and Antelope at this time have been traveling up and down the mountain a significant amount due to the warm periods that have been followed by snow storms with fairly large accumulations of snow. The ranchers within the project area are very satisfied with the fawn recruitment in the mule deer and antelope. Many ranchers have noted that the mule deer have been having their fawns in the hay meadows the last three years instead of on the steeper and brushy side hills and canyon walls. So far this is being attributed to the lack of depredation pressure from coyotes in the area.

The Big Horn Sheep on the north side of Sybille Canyon around Poe Mountain and Canyon creek seemed to have increased from the previous years, due to predator management work in the winter and spring.

This year the district removed 345 pigeons for the City of Laramie and 3 Turkey Vultures and has assisted in getting the Laramie Police Department and Laramie Fire Department involved in pigeon removal. With the destruction of the Fox Theatre the main nesting and roosting site for Pigeons in Laramie is gone and they have received reports of the birds traveling around the county and moving into barns nearby.

The National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO continually works with Wildlife Services and this year the Albany County Predator Management District employee collected 28 coyote specimens for necropsy training that they were putting on for their research students. He is also collecting specimens for the Wyoming State Veterinary Lab in Laramie to assist in training their employees and graduate students in necropsy.

**Big Horn County** – Our mission is to provide high quality animal damage management support for all situations that require protection of agriculture, wildlife, natural resources, property, and human health and safety within Big Horn County. Our county, located in the northwest part of the state covers more than 3,100 square miles. Our environment consists of desert, irrigated farmland at 4,000 feet to sub-alpine regions that reach 10,000 feet in elevation. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, Big Horn County livestock numbers are approximately 7,000 sheep and 51,000 cattle. In addition there are a small number of goats and alpacas present.

**Predator Issues:** Our county has large numbers of raccoons, skunks, feral cats, ravens and coyotes. The fox population is growing and the crows are out of control.

**Wildlife Goals:** The sportsmen members of the board have a keen interest in increasing and maintaining viable populations of game birds within the county; focusing on pheasants and turkey. We have chosen to do that by managing the small predator populations of raccoons, skunks, fox and feral cats. Improved habitat will help with their proliferation once we achieve balance of game birds to predator base. At that critical point it will be up to the producers on how to best handle that need.

**Actions Taken:** Based on the success experienced in our primary test area (the Greybull river) we expanded into the Shoshone River area and southward toward Hyattville: now encompassing most of Big Horn county. In the fall we surveyed most of the producers and farmers we had involvement with throughout the year. We were interested in their perceptions and comments regarding the project and it's affect on their game bird populations, crop damage, and property damage. The positive feedback was far greater than we anticipated. Reports of game bird sightings were up, property damage down and according to local Game and Fish personnel, corn damage by raccoons dropped by fifty percent on the year.

**Livestock Goals:** Big Horn County experiences predation to livestock on a regular basis due to a healthy large predator base in the county. The Big Horn Predator Management Board is dedicated to minimizing livestock losses to predation by any and all means available: thereby enabling viability of the local producers.

**Action Taken:** We now have one full time large predator trapper and a second who moves between small and large predators where and when required. Our third part time trapper (essentially the small predator trapper) also moves between the large predators (secondarily) and the small predators (primarily). Necessity is the mother of invention after all. Coyote reduction was 40% by ground means and 60% by air. The 60% by air shows that this is a very important tool for managing the coyotes and wolves. USDA Wildlife Services did remove wolves from the Big Horns this year due to serious predation problems. Also, there was the removal of two mountain lions for predation issues. These two predators are two we have not had to deal with on a regular basis before.

**Human Health and Safety:** Health and safety to predator carried disease continues to be a concern. The control efforts used would be employed to minimize human exposure to predator borne diseases.



Goal: to monitor, track and report on any disease outbreaks in the predator populations.

Action: Testing of coyotes, raccoons, skunks for rabies, tularemia, plague and round worm; providing the community with a "heads up" if or when an outbreak may occur. The trappers obtain blood and other samples that may be required from random predators, or, those that appear to be sick and send them to the state lab for work up and reporting. Some coyotes have tested positive for plague anti-bodies and over 60% of the raccoons tested for round worm were infected. The raccoon problem can be a very serious issue for anyone infected by that worm.

Monitoring: Any control project initiated with the expectation of results, either good or bad, requires some form of monitoring. Done initially, it provides you with a base t measure your future results against. Progress evaluation is required, whether it be producer based or sportsmen.

Goals: USDA Wildlife Services personnel, Wy. Game and Fish personnel, and land owner input is to be used to evaluate progress; whether it is livestock loss reduction or game and game bird population changes.

Action: We are now entering our fourth year of the game bird project and used two survey processes to measure progress; spring time pheasant hen and rooster visual counts, followed by rooster audible counts and then a rough calculation of the population. This process is far from scientific, but does provide trend data. The second survey process involved having the land owners fill out a one page survey on their perceptions of population changes, crop damage and property damage. A summary package of the results is available for review. With regard to large predator control, USDA Wildlife Services monitors and reports their results on a regular basis and from the looks of their report, we are almost holding our own with regard to control efforts and livestock losses. Mountain lions and wolves seem to be more of a concern than in the past.

The monies provided by the state have been very beneficial to us in Big Horn County with the progress and results we have seen in our predator control programs and game bird project. We thank you all for the financial help and we appreciate it and treat it with respect. Again – Thanks!!

**Campbell County** – The Campbell County Predator Management Board has been actively working with USDA Wildlife Services while continuing to employ two trappers and our wildlife biologist. We have been billed for 234 hours of aerial time as of June 21, 2010. The spring storms made it difficult to fly for dens during that time. Our private helicopter was able to fly 8 hours, but the weather also shut him down during the spring.

Calvin Taylor, county trapper, continues to be very beneficial in Campbell County. He believes that actual livestock depredation has risen over the winter and spring due to the fact that there are very few rabbits in his area of the county. He also noticed a tremendous increase in eagle and coyote kills to antelope this winter which he also attributes to the low rabbit numbers. His hours included 1,135 of actual field work, with an additional 630 hours of administration work.

Andy Mckinney, county trapper, also is a huge asset to the livestock producers of Campbell County. They work closely with him for their predator management needs. He spent 1,879 hours in the field and 181 hours doing administrative work.

Wade Jones, wildlife biologist, continues to have a great working relationship with all the agencies and all the citizens that he works with in Campbell County. While being employed by Campbell County, Wade also has been helping surrounding counties with their rabies prevention programs. Currently Wade is working with the dispatchers from the Campbell County Sheriff's office, Gillette City Police, Animal Control and the Campbell County Weed and Pest, trying to come up with a way to record the number of calls that they receive and then forward to Wade.

Wade has also been working with the USDA Wildlife Services national rabies coordinator to conduct skunk density (population) studies in several areas in Wyoming. There will probably be 3-4 study areas set up throughout the summer. The purpose of these studies is to determine skunk densities in several habitat types so that one day in the future we can use oral rabies vaccination bait drops to help control rabies in Wyoming. The density studies are modeled after raccoon density studies in the east, and help determine how many vaccination baits to drop in various habitat types.

Local Wyoming Game and Fish game warden, Irah Leonetti, spoke at our last annual meeting and reported that wildlife populations are at or above agency objectives in our area. We contribute our predator management activities to being a major factor in the success of these wildlife populations. We have and will continue to offer our services and look forward to being able to work with the Wyoming Game and Fish and the possibilities of conducting more studies in the future.

**Carbon County –** The Carbon County Predator Management District oversees a very diverse predator management program with many cooperative agencies working together to address wildlife or livestock issues that have or may present themselves. Our on-going agreement with Wildlife Services is of great value to the standards we have set. Through that agreement, we employ three full-time and one half-time Wildlife Services Specialists. When funding first became available from the ADMB, it was the decision of our board that our large county necessitated hiring the extra help to keep our livestock producer support up to our past standard, while beginning and continuing work on several wildlife projects.

Total land acres under agreement worked by Carbon County Wildlife Services personnel:

BLM lands	1,078,333
US Forest Service lands	45,880
Private lands	1,352,428
State lands	121,958
Other lands	10,241
Total acres	2,608,840

In addition to our four hires, we get help from others in the form of pilots and gunners. Total

hours worked by nine (9) Wildlife Services personnel in Carbon County:

Aerial (Fixed Wing) hunting	153.80
Aerial (Helicopter) hunting	18.60
Field work	3,876.69
Total hours spent	4,036.33

It should also be mentioned that we partner with neighboring county boards from time to time. As many ranches cross county lines, and coyotes do not know – nor care – where those lines are, we share our resources when we are in an area. We mostly cooperate with Albany, Natrona and Sweetwater Counties as well as a couple in Northern Colorado.

#### **Actions Taken:**

Carbon County Wildlife Project #1 has been on-going for three years in conjunction with Sweetwater and Lincoln Counties. A researcher contracted by Sweetwater PMD through Mike Conover of the Berryman Institute, at Utah State University, gathered information on antelope, mule deer and sage grouse. One of the three study area pairs was in Carbon County. Flat Top was our heavily controlled area; with Kinney Rim is our non-controlled area. A total of 195,886 acres are involved in this area.

Carbon County Wildlife Project #2 is in its second year and is being done in cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish to raise mule deer numbers which were below objectives in the Southern section (the portion that drains into the Bow River) of Deer Area 70. A total of 437,460 acres are involved in this project.

The following is from a report completed by Will Schultz, Wy. Game and Fish Saratoga District wildlife biologist.

In February 2008, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Wildlife Biologist, Will Schultz, met with USDA/APHIS Wildlife Services personnel, Rod Merrell, Dan Braig and Tracy Villwok to discuss the implementation of a coyote control project for the benefit of mule deer in MD540. Wildlife Services proposed, in addition to the coyote control efforts currently implemented in MD540 for livestock protection, their agency would also implement enhanced coyote control in a portion of MD540 for the benefit of mule deer. This project would be funded through the Carbon County Predator Management District's allocation of funding to Wildlife Services for the benefit of wildlife in Carbon County. This summary was developed to provide Wildlife Services and the Carbon County Predator Management District with mule deer population data for MD540 thus far, to review with regard to their efforts of providing coyote control to benefit mule deer.

#### **Results**

Fawn and total buck ratios in the treatment area were less than the control area in 2006 and 2007. Fawn and total buck ratios in the treatment area were greater than the control area in 2008 and 2009.

Seminole Mountain Bighorn Sheep Release Project: Wildlife Services personnel conducted two

aerial flights with rotor wing aircraft as the pre-release coyote control segment of the supplemental bighorn sheep release in the Seminoe Mountains in Central Wyoming. Specific to these two flights, ground crews and aircraft gunning duties were shared by Wildlife Service specialists stationed in Carbon County (Troy Aleshire, Dan Braig, and Tracy Willwok) and their immediate supervisor Craig Acres. Local game warden Bill Brinegar also assisted in ground crewing. Sky Aviation, located in Worland, WY provided the contract Jet RANGER Helicopter used in the operation with John Martin as its pilot. The flights consisted of 2.5 total hours of Ferry time and 7 hours of hunting time in the project area. Most of the 28 coyotes taken were located on the fringes and lower ¼ of the project core area and around the release site. All necessary agreements to conduct these activities on private and public lands were obtained by our specialists prior to the flights. While acquiring these agreements, all affected landowners presented supportive attitudes for these pre-treatment flights, both for the benefit of the soon to be transplanted sheep and the livestock located in the area. Because of landowner requests, we anticipate more flights for the benefit of livestock with fixed wing aircraft and some ground work in the areas adjacent to the project.

General Actions: Our specialists attained a major goal this year by updating every agreement on record in Carbon County. Many past agreements were changed to new owners and/or instructions. This process was very time consuming as specialists were required to make personal contact with each producer. Through this process - and due to the added funds from ADMB - we gained 31 new signed agreements which cover an extra 957,680 acres of land that we now service.

Human Health and Safety: Several municipalities asked for our professional help with issues within their borders. Many skunks were taken inside city limits this year, and all were submitted for rabies testing. Badgers were removed from the cemetery in Hanna, feral cats were controlled for the Dixon town council, beaver were removed from a water works plant, badgers were removed from a school yard, and various other predators were controlled in inhabited areas. We also received a call from the Hanna Town Marshal for help with a mountain lion within the city limits.

Thirty skunks and two raccoons were euthanized and submitted for rabies testing with no positive results. However, 52 coyotes were tested for plague/tularemia and produced one positive for plague.

Education: Each year the Carbon County Stock Growers and Cooperative Extension Service host an Ag Expo during the last week of April. They invite all 4th graders from Rawlins, Saratoga, Encampment, Little Snake River Valley, Wamsutter, Sinclair, Bairoil, Hanna, Elk Mountain, Medicine Bow and all home schooled children from Carbon County to attend the 6 hour event. Three of our Wildlife Services specialists were invited as speakers this year to share their knowledge of predator identification and control. One of our specialists also gave programs at several community service clubs.

Converse County - The Converse County Predator Management District in the last year contracted with Wildlife Services to help with predator control.

In contracting with Wildlife Services, we had 2 full-time trappers and used 293 hours of our 300 hours proposed flying time. In this last year these services allowed us to take coyotes in our county, skunks taken for rabies testing (none found), starling control at a few ranches, and pigeons taken out of the roof at Boys & Girls Club (97 pigeons total).

Contracting with Wildlife Services not only gives us great predator control for our wildlife and livestock, our public health and safety also benefits.

In addition to our Wildlife Services contract, we have 4 other aircraft performing contract hunting for our county – 3 private airplanes and 1 private helicopter.

In closing, our program is working very well by the response we receive from livestock producers and sportsmen on our board and in our county.

### **Crook County – GRANT ACTION ITEMS AND RESULTS:**

#### **Wildlife Issues**

The numbers of ravens, crows, skunks, raccoons, coyotes and fox in Crook County are at healthy levels. The PMD Board is concerned about an increase in rabies in these animals since more are being seen during winter months; non-typical times for them to be so mobile. This may be due to great influxes in weather this season, but as a precautionary measure they wish to increase the number of animals tested, both skunks and raccoons in the FY 2009 to 2010.

Results: At the beginning of the year there seemed to be an excessive amount of raccoons and skunks dead on roads in central and western parts of the County. However, with multiple tests done for rabies the results were negative. By year end, few of these animals were found. Our conclusion is that the increased sightings were of a normal cycle.

The numbers of young antelope and deer fawns seem to be on the decline in the northwestern part of the County. Reported sightings of coyotes are on the rise. Since a number of area ranchers have sold out of the sheep business it can be assumed that the predators have moved to the wildlife to replace this food source.

Fawns and kids are increasing in number South of Interstate 90 but only slightly. The winter hardships didn't seem to be quite so harsh and not so detrimental to the young. Numbers of

wildlife fawns, kids, and hatchlings continue to be of concern and will again be a focus for wildlife personnel in Crook County over the next grant period.

### Wildlife Goals

1. To increase the number of animals tested, both skunks and raccoons for rabies and other diseases deemed of concern by 15%.

Results: This year 14 coyotes, 2 mountain lions, 3 raccoons, and 3 striped skunks were tested. Of those animals, 43 total tests for rabies, tularemia and plague were run. No positive results in any of the samples taken.

2. To have additional time to be spent in the northwest area of Crook County to increase the take of predatory animals by 10% in order to increase fawn and kid populations by 5 to 8 percent.

Results: It is estimated that an increase of trapper ground time exceeded the 10% ratio over last year's reports. Land involved in this summary increased the 'Other Federal Land' category.

3. Continue predation efforts in areas South of Interstate 90 to continue building wildlife

young by another 15 to 20 percent while decreasing last year's time spent only by 10%.

Results: Trapper ground time was decreased an approximate 10-15% due to the increase in time spent in the NE corner of the county. Target area changed slightly throughout the year due to

calls from landowners and problem predators in more wooded areas and the flats around the Oshoto area, Rocky Point area, and the area northwest of Moorcroft running along the county

line. Using kid and fawn sightings as the indicator, it can be assessed that the numbers of

offspring remain equal to the increase we saw last year in the same area which is significantly better than what was seen in 2004 and 2005 when visual monitoring began.

1. Air time will be increased from 300 hours to 325 hours.

Results: Weather conditions hindered this goal. More ground time was necessary due to deep

snow depths, many days with fog and low-lying clouds, wind, and electrical storms. This issue was addressed in the next budget by allocating additional ground time.

2. Additional funding will be allocated for winter month hunting to include an allowance for additional four-wheeler usage and to add snowmobile allowance.

Results: Favorable results in this area. Trappers have been more successful in their allowed

hunt time frames, covered more area and been better able to serve landowners during heavy snow seasons and wet muddy days that previously hindered hunting.

3. Helicopter time of 40 hours will remain, some of which will be used for the wildlife recovery portion of the current program.

Results: Weather conditions limited utilization of this allocated effort. This was an item that had to be limited or cut due to budget concerns.

4. Partnerships and cooperative agreements for land owner-operators south of I-90 will continue to be a focus.

Results: Additional agreements were formed and trappers continue to build necessary relationships.

5. Trappers will periodically make observation notes and count wildlife numbers for reporting purposes along with working with local Game and Fish Department staff for monitoring purposes.

Results: Monitoring of wildlife numbers result in unofficial accounts of increased numbers in the south and southwest side of Crook County. In the south west side of the county there are fewer numbers of deer, antelope, and turkey. The trend of lower numbers continues in the northwest side of the county. However, in the middle to lower areas there are pockets of increased deer, white-tailed species especially. Throughout the county there are unofficial reports of increased predatory pressures and the trappers continue to build relationships with current cooperators while building new agreements. Work with the local Game and Fish representatives has continued with the addition of traps, several occasions of lion kills and the processes of verifying those kills. It is important to also note that areas south of I-90 are now reporting turkeys and sage grouse where there were no sightings just three years prior.

#### Livestock Issues

Crook County is experiencing regular depredation to livestock as a result of a healthy coyote population. Fox also have a depredation effect on young livestock, although their numbers are currently lower than they have been in recent years; they are at healthy population numbers. Maintenance of the current fox levels is inclusive in the PMD Board's management target.

Sheep and goat numbers continue to decline from 20,000 breeding ewes in 2000 to a reported

15,000 in 2008 for Crook County and predation is sighted as one of the factors for the producers that are "getting out of the business" (numbers according to the National Statistical Reporting Service, NASS.) Profit margins for producers are slim, and with predation the margin for loss continues to tighten.

Bovine numbers in 2000 numbered 67,000 in Crook County and according to NASS in 2008 were 65,000; another substantial decrease. As expenses for operation continue to rise, more and more producers are concerned over the predation fee attached to moving and selling their livestock numbers. More requests for return of predatory funds are being received.

A big portion of the trend can be contributed to losses due to predation. An ever increasing number of coyotes, bobcats, and mountain lions feed on these herds. Along with agricultural impacts, sportsmen and women are also affected because these predatory animals also feed on turkeys, deer antelope, and other small wildlife.

#### Livestock Goals

1. Increase coyote take numbers by 15% while maintaining current fox levels.

Results: We met our target with fox, but fell short of the target increase within the coyote

populations.

2. In areas where sheep herds are being dissolved there is an increase in demand for

predatory management not only to keep remaining herds from being harder but also toward

wildlife herds that are replacing this food source. Crook County's PMD Board will target the

northwest portion of Crook County to increase take of predatory animals by 10% of the above

mentioned 15%.

Results: As reported earlier time spent in this area, although unable to measure and provide a

statistical percentage, the results are encouraging with visual, unofficial monitoring of wildlife

numbers, calls from landowners, target dens, and kills in specific areas.

3. In order to address the increase number of requests for refunds of collected predatory

fees, Crook County PMD Board will add to its program a newsletter to better inform the public

of their accomplishments, their efforts on the ground, ease contact information for those needing

help, and increase communication between trappers, the PMD Board, and the general public.



Three newsletters will be targeted for distribution over the next grant period in order to open the doors of communication.

Results: This target goal was abandoned due to budget cuts. One mailing, end of year, based off information in this report is planned instead of the targeted three publications.

4. Build upon current programs in the use of leg hold and cage traps, foot snares, neck snares, shooting, trail and decoy dogs, aerial hunting, and M-44 devices for coyote management and control especially in winter months.

Results: Additional traps and leg holds were purchased and used. Cage traps for Mountain Lions were purchased and are available. Additional ammunition was purchased in order to keep supply levels maintained at even levels.

5. Facilitating den crews to work on a contract basis to increase time on the ground for trappers if personnel available as guidelines permit.

Results: Since the overall budget was short after allocations distributed; this line item was scratched.

6. Contract agreement with land owner/operators increase by ten agreements in the northwest part of the county and increase the number of contract agreements with land owner/operators by five agreements south of I-90.

Results: Completed

#### Pre- and Post-Work Monitoring

1. Crook County PMD Board, with the help of Wildlife Services, will seek to provide data on deer and antelope populations in relation to predatory management efforts in target areas including northwestern Crook County and areas south of Interstate 90.

2. Before and after numbers for designated areas will also be solicited from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for reporting purposes.

Results for both 1) and 2) above: No official reports have been received. WY Game and Fish does not recognize county lines for wildlife counts. The move by WY Game and Fish to shorten Area 1 hunt season was in part due to deer number declines. Unofficial observations coincide with the Wyoming Game and Fish representatives in most of the county.

3. Increase in working contracts with the local PMD can be easily counted by agreements signed.

Results: Completed, as per additional reporting

4. Air time and ground time, as well as increased time in winter months can easily be monitored through trapper reports. The addition of equipment for winter trapping amongst livestock (hammer drills for trap bait settings and M-44 charges in frozen ground) will better utilize trapper time and efforts during winter months.

Results: Hammer drills were not purchased due to such an overload of snow this past winter their effectiveness was limited. This target was changed to maintain regular ammunition levels and equipment funds were reallocated toward other equipment.

5. Crook County PMD Board will ask for trapper reports/Wildlife Service's reports at each of their meetings in order to monitor progress.

Results: These reports have been provided by APHIS. Trappers have attended the meetings or called in their reports to be inclusive for board members.

6. Updated mail lists and distribution of newsletters can be monitored by current board and staff.

Results: Ongoing – We continue to look for corrections and additions as well as deletions as

individuals quit the business.

7. Additional dog tracking devices are requested for monitoring the area covered by hunt dogs. These devices can also be used for keeping these highly trained animals from getting lost or accessing undesirable areas.

Results: Updated GPS system purchased as well as maintenance and replacement of devices in order to be as efficient as possible.

8. Denning crews, contracted and put in place, will monitor their hours, their kills, their

expenses, and report feedback from land owner/operators for monitoring purposes.

Results: No denning crews were contracted over and above current trappers in the area. Current trappers spent extra hours working with land-owners to improve efficiency. Since there was a

deficit to the budget this item was scratched.

Human Health and Safety Issues and Goals

Crook County PMD tested nearly 30 coyotes for tularemia and plague in 2008. Goals for the

next grant period will be targeted at 50. Approximately 30 coyotes were tested for heartworm over the same time frame; in 2009 to 2010 the target will be 50.

One raccoon and 10 to 15 skunks were tested for rabies FY 2008-2009. For the next grant period the target will be 15 to 20 skunks and five to ten raccoons.

Results: This year 14 coyotes, 2 mountain lions, 3 raccoons, and 3 striped skunks were tested. Of those animals, 43 total tests for rabies, tularemia and plague were run. No positive results in any of the samples taken. Predatory animal control efforts in Crook County PMD will decrease the number of diseased coyotes, skunks, raccoons, and subsequently other animals that may be infected keeping healthy population numbers and healthy animals.

### **Fremont County –**

## **FREMONT COUNTY SAGE GROUSE/MULE DEER PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT**

In the past year our sage grouse/mule deer project has went smoothly with measurable results. The Goal of the project is 3-fold.

1. To identify which predators/animals depredate sage grouse nests. This has been accomplished using infrared motion sensing trail cameras on artificial sage grouse nests.
2. Measure, if possible, the difference in nesting success of sage grouse in areas of little predator control as opposed to and adjacent area with intense predator control.
3. To enhance a struggling mule deer population.

In spring/early summer 2010 trail cams were once again put out on artificial nests in both the “control” and the “treatment” area. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year. 10 cameras total were used. Each cam is stationed at the same spot for one week and then rotated to a different nesting spot. This gives us a total of 40 different nesting sites to gather data on. 27 total nests were raided this year. The common raven was the species that depredated the most. The species that raided nests this year was more varied than in past years. Here is the breakdown of nest depredation by species:

Common raven - 21 damaged nest (77.6%)  
Magpie - 2 damaged nests (7.4%)  
Coyote - 3 damaged nests (11%)  
Badger - 1 damaged nest (4%)

It has been very difficult if not impossible to determine actual sage grouse population growth due to higher nesting success when coyotes and other ground predators are removed from the

treatment area and not the control area. This is due to very few nests being depredated by ground predators thus far in the project. A few nests have been depredated by foxes and coyotes, but not enough to make any type of comparison. One thing is clear thus far: The common raven is top nest scavenger in central Wyoming.

A struggling mule deer herd in Wyoming Game and Fish Department hunt area 90 has been the focus of this project also. The main predator of the mule deer in this part of Wyoming is the coyote. The project area lies east of Riverton, Wyoming and takes in both area 90 and the Kirby creek area of the Wind River Indian Reservation. Coyotes are removed year round from the "treatment" area of the project. A coyote stomach analysis is done and a yearly deer count in late December-early January by USDA Wildlife Services personnel and aircraft. To date 2010 we have removed 141 coyotes. 316 field hours have been worked and 60.2 fixed wing hours have been flown. This is all in line with project costs and goals. Stomach content analysis on coyotes thus far this year has netted the following results:

25 coyote stomachs were analyzed. Of these, 9 were empty. This leaves 16 with edible material.

Mule deer	12%
Pronghorn antelope	13%
Sage grouse	5%
Livestock (fresh/carton)	15%
Cottontail/jackrabbit	11%
Rodent	10%
Wild horse	15%
Indistinguishable	19%

In early late December 2008 we did our yearly mule deer count. 518 total deer were counted in the treatment portion of hunt area 90 and adjoining reservation land. This count is slightly lower than the previous year. Poor conditions (spotty snow) made counting deer much more difficult. In conclusion, I think this project has been extremely beneficial in not only the data recovered for future use, but also a boost to our state's economy with an increased deer population. Thanks once again to the ADMB board for its support of this project.

## DUBOIS BIGHORN SHEEP PROJECT

The Dubois bighorn sheep project is ongoing through the Fremont County PMD, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and FNAWS (Federation for North American Wild Sheep). The purpose of the project is to help increase bighorn sheep numbers and ewe/lamb percentages in the whiskey mountain and spring mountain areas close to Dubois, Wyoming.

Control work is done on coyotes around the sheep herds both on the ground and with aerial hunting. Most of the work is done from fall to spring. To date, 10 coyotes have been removed around the sheep. 7 hours have been flown and 23 hours worked on the ground. Population monitoring is done by Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

## OCEAN LAKE PHEASANT PROJECT

The ocean lake pheasant project was started in cooperation with the Fremont County PMD and the Wyoming Game and Fish commission. Ocean Lake lies west of Riverton, Wyoming and is a public land resource owned by WGFD. An array of public activities takes place there. Boating, fishing, hunting, camping etc. In the fall, WGFD releases pheasants for bird hunters on the property at different times. The projects aim is to reduce predators just prior to the open bird season. This helps to keep more birds in the field for hunters. Red foxes are the dominant predator in the area. Coyotes, raccoons, skunks and feral house cats are also present. This project only runs in the month of September, therefore no data will be available until that time.

### Goshen County –

#### Actions Taken

With the grant monies received from the WY ADMB, we have been able to begin, maintain and improve our projects designed for the use of these funds. The employing of Wiley Cross as our second trapper, using these funds, was very beneficial. He has been instrumental in the designing and implementation of several wildlife projects, as well as assisting Casey Hunter, our other trapper, with livestock depredation. Casey also assists Wiley with the wildlife enhancement projects. They work well together and provide valuable assistance to all residents of Goshen County.

Wiley, with help from USDA Wildlife Services (WS) and the PMD board designed the initial project attempting to increase the pheasant population utilizing predator control, with emphasis being placed on raccoon removal. What was intended to be a two year project is now in the fourth year. Corn growers noticed a decrease in damage to field corn, irrigation equipment, ditches, and other property with the raccoon removal. Hoping to quantify the damage to field corn, Gebhardt and Shwiff of the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) were contacted and they, Wiley, other WS personnel, and the PMD Board designed a project to determine the extent of damage to field corn.

Wyoming Game and Fish personnel indicated that the mule deer population in Goshen County was below herd objectives so we instituted a program targeting depredation of fawns by coyotes and to a lesser degree foxes. This was an inexpensive project to implement as it could be incorporated with the existing program to eliminate livestock losses by coyotes. We assumed that in areas experiencing livestock losses, fawn losses would also be high because coyote numbers would also be higher than areas not experiencing losses. Coyote stomach contents are examined during the birthing and hatching seasons to identify what they are consuming. Many coyotes taken had deer and antelope fawn remains in the stomach, along with occasional game bird chick remains, either pheasant or sharp tailed grouse.

Another project initiated with ADMB funding was starling control at local feed yards. Some

winters these birds are extremely numerous numbering in the many thousands, and they potentially carry disease and ruin or consume large quantities of livestock feed. On an as needed basis, both trappers work to bait the birds with controlling bait. This is somewhat successful, but almost a never ending task as there is a continual influx of new birds.

Other calls for assistance come from homeowners experiencing problems with wildlife. This includes birds and mammals and the trappers help alleviate these concerns as best they can. The town of Torrington has requested help with vultures roosting within the town and also with feral cat problems. We are trying to assist the town but need them to allow lethal control measures with vultures and to be able to receive, warehouse, and dispose of feral cats we would trap. In neither case have they demonstrated a willingness to meet certain requirements we need them to meet before we help alleviate their problems.

#### Identifiable and Measurable Results

Results from the pheasant project are not as large as hoped. The pheasant population is slowly expanding in the areas targeted for raccoon trapping. Based on crow counts, the Veteran area showed a 7% increase and the Huntley area showed a 34.2% increase. The most telling data was a 58.5% decrease in crow counts in non-trapped control areas. Wiley and Wyoming Game and Fish personnel work together to make this count. We have determined that pheasant restocking in the five targeted trapping areas would be beneficial. It is hard to increase a population of anything without breeding stock. To that end we visited with local Game and Fish people and discovered they release their breeding stock from the Springer Game Unit each year after they have collected sufficient eggs for their needs. Releases are done fifteen birds at a time, mostly hens in each box. They determine the release sites and quite a few were put on the Rawhide Management Unit on the North Platte River west of Torrington. Being river bottom (excellent raccoon habitat) and not an area trapped by Wiley, we felt releases into trapped areas would be more beneficial to increase the pheasant population. This spring they had already released most of the pheasants, but we were able to get a few boxes released into trapped areas. We are waiting for a call from the local Rooster Boosters group to attend their next meeting to try to get their involvement in pheasant restocking. Several of their members raise pheasants to be released and introducing them into trapped areas should help with survival and an ultimate pheasant population increase. Pheasant restocking following sustained predator control may be the answer to increasing numbers, and in the ensuing years Game and Fish has indicated they will consider putting more pheasants into trapped areas.

The NWRC study stopped short of determining an actual dollar value of corn lost yearly in Goshen County to raccoons. Much more data would need to be gathered and analyzed to accomplish that, a very time consuming task that would be beyond their area of involvement and quite expensive for us. However the study does demonstrate a significant negative economic impact in areas with a large raccoon population. UW SARFEC experienced a total loss of their corn test plots in 2007. Our trappers assisted them with trapping in 2008 and the damage decreased quite significantly, with the plots yielding usable data. In 2009 they didn't request our help and again their corn plots were mostly decimated. This demonstrates that to be successful for whatever purpose, raccoon removal needs to be an ongoing multi-year project covering as wide an area as possible given limitations, mostly manpower and funds. To lower the raccoon

population to a more desirable level, several trappers could be used, along with many more traps than we currently possess.

Raccoons in certain areas of Goshen County had severe infestations of canine distemper and round worms this past winter, eliminating a significant number of them. In areas where they have been targeted for removal, incidences of road kill have also declined. This is beneficial in that newer smaller plastic fronted cars sustain extensive damage from collisions with raccoons, sometime to the extent of the car being a total loss. While it is impossible to affix a definite dollar value to the county from raccoon removal, there is no doubt that our efforts are already benefitting the county and with the project continuation, the benefits will increase yearly.

With the herd objective 38% below desired levels, it is worthwhile for us to target deer predators, mainly coyotes. Coyote stomach content examination reveals considerable fawn depredation, both deer and antelope. As of this date, no data has been generated show what percent of coyotes have fawn contents in their stomach, along with game bird chick remains. Later in the year this data should become available. To document increases in the mule deer population, we will have to rely on Wyoming Game and Fish data. Currently, we haven't been made aware of any new data, other than what is included.

Starling control hasn't been requested as much as in past years. We aren't certain why. Our local efforts surely can't impact a large regional migratory population. But fewer requests for assistance indicate we are having some success. A big benefit is that when out of state cattle are fed in Goshen County and the owner objects to the 25 cents per head predator fee, we can point to decreased costs accruing from our starling control work. That small cost can be recovered several times during the time required to finish a beef animal.

**Hot Springs County** – The Hot Springs County Predator Management District (HSCPMD) consists of 1,060,031 acres, (the entirety of Hot Springs County), and involves the following entities; the Bureau of Land Management, the City of Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, the U.S. Forest Service, private landowners, the State of Wyoming and the Wind River Indian Reservation. In this fiscal year 51 contracts were written with producers and all 51 were assisted at some time during the year. This assistance was in the form of traditional on-the-ground methods, and aerial gunning.

The HSCPMD utilizes the personnel of Wildlife Services (WS), a division of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This allows the HSCPMD to operate on Federal and Tribal lands by way of the cooperative agreements between these agencies. The HSCPMD funded 2.5 control agents to conduct the predator control in the District, plus 123 hours of aerial time. The airplane was moved from Thermopolis to Worland this year, so the District will now have to allow for ferry time to and from the control areas. 9.9 hours of ferry time were billed this year.

The verified livestock losses this year were:

10 chickens to foxes

9 chickens to raccoons

4 sheep to mountain lion

1 sheep to coyote

Once again our losses were minimal due to the competency and diligence of our control agents. A random sampling of skunks and bats were sent to the Analytical Lab for testing, and none proved positive.

Our Mule Deer project is in its third year. The March aerial count was 509 Mule Deer, compared to 411 in 2008 and 391 in 2009. We are hoping to continue this project for at least 5 years.

The Owl Creek Bird project is in its third year also. Actual counts are harder to do on birds, but area landowners and sportsmen think that numbers are up in this area. A comparison of the 2008 and 2010 questionnaire shows favorable results on a county wide scale.

2008 Pheasant - Historic level 84% below 16%above
Adequate level 90%below 3%above
2010 Pheasant- Historic level 72% below 28% above
Adequate level 78% below 22% above
2008 Sage Grouse- Historic level 89% below 11% above
Adequate level 82% below 15% above
2010 Sage Grouse-Historic level 82% below 18% above
Adequate level 81% below 19% above
2008 Chukar- Historic level 88% below 12% above
Adequate level 61% below 15% above
2010 Chukar- Historic level 87% below 13% above
Adequate level 86% below 14% above
2008 Mule Deer- Historic level 65% below 35% above
Adequate level 61% below 30% above
2010 Mule Deer-Historic level 36 % below 64% above
Adequate level 33% below/ 67% above

The 2010 survey also added a Turkey census so that these birds can be monitored in future years.

**Johnson County** - This has been another busy and successful year for the Johnson County Predator Management District with several changes and challenges.

Our board continues to be very active promoting control measures and continuing programs.

The state management grant fees continue to enable us to carry out an active program spelled out in our management plan.

- Aerial hunting continues to be one of our largest expenditure and has been very successful with good numbers of coyotes taken from the air. Many where taken just before or during the denning season, thus population control was achieved by good



timing. Private helicopters and Wildlife Services fixed wing planes were used the majority of the time. This is not only advantageous to livestock producers, but great for the wildlife populations, county-wide.

- We have completed our first full year of “Contract for Services” agreements with our full time personnel. A few slight changes to the contracts were made and it seems to be a better situation than dealing with allowances, keeping hours and dealing with overtime and vacation issues. Part-time and bookkeeping staff will remain as salaried employees.
- We’ve had a few requests for refunds of predator fees collected. We continue to educate and inform our producers about our program at every chance but also feel that, as the agricultural economy struggles, we may see more refund requests. Each year with the annual meeting notice, a report of coyotes take on each landowner is also distributed.
- Cooperative efforts continue with USDA Wildlife Services as we have seen wolf activity in our district. A special producer meeting was hosted by our District with about 60 stockmen, sportsmen and interested parties in attendance. Wildlife Services personnel gave detailed information on recognition of wolf kills and the protocol for handling such issues, as well as fielding many questions. We feel this was of great benefit and service to our producers. We have also had meetings with Wyoming Game & Fish to coordinate overall efforts with some success.

Johnson County continues its Rabies Mitigation Program with continued success. We have two seasonal employees for this program, one in Buffalo and one in Kaycee. Our contract employees also control and document rabies targeted animals. We’ve seen numbers lower and level off which might indicate a level of control. Both Buffalo and Kaycee city officials are very satisfied with the success of this program and have contributed financially to the program.

In summary, the livestock and wildlife of Johnson County as well as the residents of Buffalo and Kaycee are much safer due to the dedication of the members of the district board and the employees of the Johnson County Predator District. The success of the program is due, in great part, to the grant funding through the Wyoming Animal Management Board

**Lincoln County** – The following is a brief report concerning the LCPAB for the past 18 months.

Lincoln County currently employs 2 full-time trappers and shares a part-time trapper with Sweetwater County. The trappers are assigned to different regions within the county covering winter, spring, summer, and fall assignments. The Board tries to make sure a trapper is responding to any rancher or entity. One example was with the Game & Fish personnel about a mountain lion sighted at the Kemmerer Middle School. The trappers are assigned different

sheep men during the spring lambing season. They also assisted researchers in two projects conducted by the Berryman Institute at Utah State University. The fawn survival study on deer and antelope is complete and we expect the final copy any day. In the controlled area where coyotes were removed, an 18% increase was observed vs. uncontrolled area. Currently, the sage grouse/raven study is still on-going. Preliminary results for radio collaring of birds in some areas show a 48% breakup of grouse nests in uncontrolled/controlled raven removal. The Animal Management Damage Board has taken over this study, but the county is sending out quarterly reports to the state of Wyoming and Fish and Wildlife Service. Our employees respond to wolf depredation and verification of trophy-game animal losses.

The data on coyote number removal and other predators is found in the Wildlife Services annual reports that are available at the Rock Springs district office and state office in Casper. In addition, state reports on the fawn survival and sage grouse/raven study can be received from:

Berryman Institute  
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife  
Utah State University  
Logan, UT 84322-5230

Our present system which is 2 1/2 trappers, aerial flying with fixed wing and helicopter will have to be changed. The last two years, the state AMDB has greatly reduced our budget request. We will have to cut a full-time trapper probably the end of September in order to save some flying money. We are hoping that we can find a part-time trapper to work six months of the year who would probably contract with the LCAMDB directly and not be a WLS joint employee. We believe that the flying we do, especially the helicopter on the winter and the summer ranges where the fixed wing cannot go has greatly benefited wildlife and livestock in Lincoln County. But due to budget cuts, we are not able to provide the same services. We would like to propose additional deer studies, but do not believe we can get funding.

## Natrona County –

### Actions Taken

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

The NCPMD has contracted with three (3) full time trappers who cover a very large geographical area compared to the other counties who have several full time trappers.

The third full time trapper was hired on March 1, 2010. The purpose of hiring a third trapper was to assist our two full time trappers with ground work. Due to the large area of Natrona County, it was felt that the predator board adds a third trapper to help in areas that have not been

worked previously because of the limitation of the two ground trappers. Gene Heckel will work deer unit 66 in southeast Natrona County, which is the Stinking Creek area and its tributaries. The focus of requesting predator control in deer unit 66 is to bring the deer herd numbers back up. In addition to the wintering areas, the predator control will extend into this deer herds summer range.

The Wyoming Game and Fish asked for the NCPMD's assistance in trapping in this specific area and we agreed to assist with this project. The reason that the Wy. Game and Fish has requested this is because for over 8 years, the deer numbers have been down. The predator board has not been actively working this area that is affected because land owners have not requested or desired ours services in that part of the county. The Wy. Game and Fish is also helping us secure access to these ranches for predator control to primarily help the mule deer population. Below are the deer numbers provided by the Game and Fish department in this specific area:

Mule Deer – Per 100 Does (collected in Nov/Dec each year post season)  
Herd Unit: MD 757 – Bates Hole/Hat Six (Hunt Area 66)

Year	Yearling Bucks	Mature Bucks	Total Bucks	Fawns
2000	15	15	30	59
2001	10	18	28	66
2002	9	16	25	85
2003	10	13	23	77
2004	13	16	29	67
2005	13	12	25	75
2006	17	18	35	47
2007	12	19	32	58
2008	12	18	30	65
2009	8	15	23	57

2009 post season population estimate of 6,689 (44% below herd objective)

#### Wildlife Services

The NCPMD has been asked by Wildlife Services to have our three (3) trappers carry tests with them to take a sample of the coyote's blood so it can be tested for Rabies and Tularemia. A total of 82 samples have been taken and recorded Natrona County. Please see attached the NWDC/CDC Cooperative Plaque/Tularemia Surveillance Guidelines for 2010 provided by Wildlife Services.

The NCPMD has utilized aerial time and the trappers for the hunting of predators before critical fawning and nesting periods. The activity for this has been concentrated in areas within the county that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department has designated as critical fawning, nesting, and lek areas.

Natrona County is experiencing regular depredation to livestock as a result of a healthy coyote population. The NCPMD has minimized the loss of livestock to predation, thereby enabling

viability of the local producers. The addition of strategic flying time has had a tremendous impact on prevention of livestock losses, as this method is often one of the best tools for coyote control. Other control methods used to remove predators that are preying upon or threatening livestock and are creating hazards to public safety, or are damaging crops or property is the use of leg hold and cage traps, foot snares, neck snares, shooting, trail and decoy dogs, aerial hunting and M-44 devices.

The Natrona County Predator Management District continues to participate and display its booth at various sport shows within Natrona County to promote predator control. The booth has pictures of sheep and antelope taken by coyotes and other predators, various traps used by the trappers, statistics and predator method control. The booth will be displayed at the Wyoming Association of Taxidermy Artists (WATA) and at the Wyoming Game and Fish Expo in September plus other state association banquets in 2010.

Identifiable or Measurable Results:

Arial Fly Time:

The following were contracted to conduct aerial removal of coyotes for fiscal year July 1, 2009-June 1, 2010:

USDA-APHIS: 140.3 hours

Cheney Flying Service: 55.9 hours

Total for aerial fly time is 196.2 hours.

The NCPMD has renewed its contract with Wildlife Services from January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Due to increased costs and a budget cut, Wildlife Services has had to increase some costs for fly time. On April 1, 2010, aerial fees will increase to \$165.00 per hour. The new contract will be 200 hours at \$35.00 per hour for ground work, not exceeding \$7,000.00 dollars. Aerial fixed wing hunting and ferry time estimate is a maximum of \$37,500.00. The total for ground and aerial expense will be \$44,500.00. Wildlife Services will also be charging a 5% Administrative Support fee totaling \$2,225.00. The grand total for Wildlife Services is \$46,725.00.

The NCPMD received a contract from Wildlife Services for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011. Please see attached document.

Helicopter Fly Time:

Wyoming Air Corporation was contracted to remove coyotes. Unfortunately due to the helicopter having mechanical problems and bad weather, Wyoming Air Corporation wasn't able to fly for us as expected.

Total fly time from July 1, 2009-June 1, 2010 is 181.20.

Wyoming Air Corporation will no longer be flying with us. Wyoming Air Corporation was bought by Holmes Helicopters and they will be flying for us. We are anticipating them to start flying for the NCMPD July 1<sup>st</sup>.

With additional predator control, loss of livestock is at its lowest in recent times. Lamb loss is down by 35%-40%. We have also noticed that the survival rate for antelope and fawns are up.

**Niobrara County** – The goal of the Niobrara County PMB was once again to minimize losses to livestock and wildlife by reducing the threat of predators. We implement a cyclical program of general control in the fall and winter, and then work the calving areas before shifting the focus to preventing lamb losses and over predation of fawns. We always try to be as efficient as possible; 97.1% of funds expended this year were for operations.

The district has two full-time contract trappers. One of these men began work in March, 2009; the other began in August during the time the outgoing WS trapper was on extended sick leave. The first hire is an experienced trapper having worked here in the past as a WS specialist. He is a proficient gunner and knows the denning areas well. The second man is a trapping specialist. He deployed an extraordinary amount of equipment over the winter with unheard of results in the take of predators and varmints. He concentrated on the influx of predators from uncontrolled areas adjacent to our borders; Goshen County, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

We have contracted with multiple aerial service providers this year. We consider WS to be our primary provider, but have always struggled with having a plane available when we needed it, even when one was stationed in Lusk. Now that WS has pulled that plane out of eastern Wyoming, it has made things very difficult. Their newly increased price per hour plus paying ferry time from central or northern Wyoming makes WS a less attractive option than the three private providers we have under contract. We find these men to be more available, and less expensive. With our trapper as gunner, they are quite effective. However, we would wholeheartedly support the return of a WS airplane to Lusk. We know that other counties on this side of the state are having the same difficulties we experience with availability of aerial services from Wildlife Services.

Mange had been epidemic in our predators for the past two years. The trappers now report far fewer cases. In the spring of 2009 we noted more dry female coyotes and fewer dens or reduced litter sizes. This year the pregnant and wet females incidence has increased to more normal levels and has shown litter sizes from five to eleven pups.

Our primary wildlife species of concern is the mule deer. We feel that we are making a positive difference with predator control as the only tool. The county had been in an extended drought for a number of years. Drought lessened somewhat in 2009, but some areas suffered decimation by grasshoppers. In spite of difficult habitat, we find that deer are showing a correlation with predator control as described in the following paragraphs. We are hearing from producers in the Breaks area that the mule deer are decreasing there, and they attribute it to the increased presence of mountain lions. They are disappointed that the power of control of this dangerous predator does not rest with predator districts.

The annual aerial deer survey was conducted in the Northwest special deer emphasis area, using the same protocol as previous years. The fawn to doe ratio in the entire emphasis area shows a 20% increase over the 2008 count. The Snyder Creek count area showed a dramatic improvement, from 0% last year to 117% this year. The data supports our expectation that fawn ratios would correlate to predator control efforts. Predator control was not well provided to the 2008 crop of fawns and lambs in this northwest area. Data showed a toll on both fawn and lamb survival. The board took steps to correct this situation, and predator control was increased for the 2009 crop. As has been proven over and over, fawn to doe ratios for 2009 reflected the effectiveness of controlling predators for improving fawn survival. We expect to see the 2010 results for fawns to continue to improve.

The survey conducted in the Rawhide deer area in November of 2009, showed an 85% fawn/doe ratio for mule deer in the designated area, up from 66% in 2008. The surveyor also conducted a count in an area to the south which had been used as a control area in the former Rawhide Recovery project conducted a number of years ago. This area has received predator control for the past three years similar to that conducted in our project area. The fawn/doe ratio there was found to be 95%, down just a bit from the 100% noted last year. Both areas show amazing improvement from the 15-20% rate found there before predator control was begun. More does and fawns were counted in this area than our primary area. The surveyor felt that the deer were more concentrated there due to heavy livestock grazing on adjacent land.

Other key species we watch appear to be stable. Pronghorns are plentiful in the south and seem to be increasing in the north. Sage grouse populations continue to be observed by board volunteers and personnel and are doing well. Turkeys are noted through most of the county. Sharptail grouse and partridges are noted in the southeastern portion of the county and north to the Breaks to a lesser extent. With the removal of raccoons, badgers, and skunks through the winter we are hoping to support the recovery of these more northern populations to levels seen in the past. Removal of porcupines is cheered by the numerous landowners who are trying to establish and maintain tree plantings and shelterbelts. Porcupines riddle drip irrigation lines and decimate pine and spruce tree plantings, causing serious time and economic losses.

**Park County – The Park County Pheasant Enhancement Project** is a two-year project. Field activities began April - September 2008 and resumed March - September 2009. Due to success and positive results of the project, activities resumed March 2010 in a more expansive area than the original project. Wildlife specialist found it necessary to take advantage of better raccoon habitat that fed this area with target predators along the Shoshone River. This project was conducted under the direction of the Park County Predator Management District (PMD) with the cooperation of United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services (WS), State Veterinary Laboratory, Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB). By removing striped skunks, raccoons, feral cats, red foxes, and coyotes, our goals were to enhance the wildlife resource, and to reduce the damage caused by predators for farmers, livestock producers, and residents. As predators were removed, samples were collected for plague, tularemia, raccoon roundworm, canine heartworm, and rabies which provide information on zoonotic disease.

Success of the project was determined by analyzing information gathered by WS specialists in the field and field studies conducted in the project area. Damage information is tracked by the MIS program (WS Database) as problems were reported with damage confirmation where control actions were taken. Control actions were carried out using the best and most humane tools that provide an immediate desired response for each situation and location. Live traps are the tool of choice by WS specialists due to the presence of pets and hobby animals in the area.

Predetermined areas were delineated by the Park County Predator Management District (PMD) where WS concentrated their efforts to deal with the impacts of these species. Control actions were performed in the project area where the PMD felt wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts would benefit the most, as well as where damage was confirmed and known to be a significant issue. Disease samples were collected and sent to the State Veterinary Laboratory for testing. As results were obtained they were released to the PMD and disease concerns were dealt with through the Centers for Disease Control and public health agencies. During the January 2010 Annual PMD meeting, activities and positive feedback were discussed. It was decided to continue activities where damage had been significantly curbed by WS activities and where additional damage was reported and confirmed.

There have been numerous reports from farmers and sportsmen about the positive impacts the project has made in reducing crop damage and improving pheasant production in the area. Many farmers in the project area have commented that this project has allowed them to harvest a quality crop of sweet corn without extensive damage. They have also benefitted from a large decrease in the amount of damage and consequent maintenance to irrigation systems. Farmers and sportsmen noticed and reported seeing more pheasant broods in the area throughout the summer and into the hunting season. For all these reasons, the Park County PMD felt this project has been very beneficial to farm production and wildlife protection and should continue county wide where damage is reported and confirmed.

As project personnel worked in this area, they documented damage to residences, private property of many types, livestock feed buildings, irrigation systems, crops, leaf cutter bee hives, bird feeders, and pet food storage areas. The total monetary value of documented damage by the targeted predators was significant. Damage and value has been documented and tracked using the MIS system.

As mentioned previously, captured animals were sampled for diseases such as rabies, plague, tularemia, canine roundworm, and heartworm. Samples were collected and sent to the State Vet Laboratory where they were analyzed and results were sent back to the county PMD's. Skunks were the primary source used for testing rabies along with one raccoon. Project personnel collected skunk samples which were sent to the State Veterinary Laboratory. At this time, no positive rabies samples documented from the Bighorn Basin. Due to the increase in positive rabies samples collected in Campbell, Johnson, and Natrona counties; Park County PMD feels rabies surveillance efforts should be continued to identify when, where, and how rabies enters the Bighorn Basin.



Plague and tularemia samples were collected from coyotes by using Nobuo blood filter strips. These strips were sent to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in Fort Collins Colorado where they were tested for blood serum titers that indicate exposure to plague bacteria or tularemia. Samples have indicated positive results for plague titers in the Big Horn Basin, but tularemia results are still pending. USDA-WS works with the CDC to track the plague. If the samples are found to have alerting elevated titer levels CDC will notify all relevant public and health officials. WS specialists will continue to collect samples and work with the CDC to monitor plague and tularemia in the Basin.

We have completed the second year of the two year Park County Wildlife Enhancement Project. Results of the project have made this type of activity a necessary as part of the workload for USDA-Wildlife Services requested by the PMD to provide assistance to the producers and sportsmen of Park County. Wildlife Services will continue to provide service to requests for assistance as damage is confirmed or known to be a problem. We hope this summary provides an idea of what has been accomplished to date with the Park County Wildlife Enhancement Project to reduce crop and irrigation damage, reduce damage to human residences and structures, detect and monitor diseases, and provide enhanced opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy Wyoming's wildlife resources.

### Park and Washakie County Cooperative Wildlife Project Annual Report

The Park and Washakie County Cooperative Wildlife Enhancement Project was proposed to improve mule deer and antelope recruitment in deer hunt area 125 which is not only for Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and hunters, but agricultural producers and wildlife enthusiasts as well. Although many environmental stresses affect wildlife populations, only a relative few can be manipulated. Predator management can be used, in some cases, to help limit mortality in ungulate populations and enhance fawn recruitment, improve doe survival, and help increase the portion of breeding bucks in problem areas. Although predation is rarely the sole factor limiting populations, it can play significant role in suppressing populations below herd objectives. The goal of this project is to help boost ungulate populations towards a more self sustaining level. This project has progressed into the third year, and due to positive results to wild ungulate populations it has been agreed the project activities will continue two more years. This population will continue to be monitored very closely by the WGFD and United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (WS).

Sheridan County – Alan Plummer, county trapper divides the county in 5 areas. He reports that in area 1, sheep and lamb, losses are down significantly due to trapping pressure put on the primary predator, coyotes. In area 2, cattle and calves, there was reduced predation on spring calving grounds, except for being called out on 5 different cattle operations on calf killing. In area 3, game birds, Alan has seen a number of grouse on leks this spring, in addition to a large number of raptors, primarily eagles. In area 4, big game, additional management has been applied to many deer areas in the county but due to large grasshopper populations, many deer have moved out of traditional areas due to lack of forage. Finally, in area 5, other issues, mountain lions are at a high population level in Sheridan County and several large ranches are



not allowing access for predator management work.

During 2006-2007, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) Sheridan Regional Office received numerous reports of dead rabbits from throughout Sheridan County. Due to the wide spread distribution of dead rabbits, we concluded a disease outbreak was likely occurring. The WGFD investigated various methods to document and monitor wildlife diseases. It was decided to collect blood from coyotes to test for diseases known to affect rabbits and other small mammals. There are several advantages to using coyotes to monitor certain diseases, specifically plague and tularemia. Coyotes are generally resistant to these diseases; when exposed to either disease, they rarely develop clinical symptoms but do develop specific antibodies to each pathogen, which can then be detected during analysis of blood samples. Also, coyotes are relatively short lived, so exposure to either disease likely occurred in the recent past (1-3 years). And finally, due to on-going predator control activities, the opportunity to collect blood samples in a cost effective manner was available.

Plague is a flea-transmitted disease affecting and perpetuated by rodents. It is an acute infectious disease with a high mortality rate in many mammals species caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*. Rodents are very susceptible to plague and have a high mortality rate. In Wyoming, prairie dogs and ground squirrels are likely the most affected wildlife species and act as a reservoir for the bacteria.

Tularemia is an acute, contagious bacterial disease primarily of lagomorphs (i.e. rabbits) and rodents. It is caused by the bacteria *Francisella tularensis*. Cottontail rabbits are very susceptible to tularemia and likely the most affected wildlife species in Sheridan County.

Both diseases are important in that they can cause wide spread wildlife die-offs and both are also zoonotic (i.e. transmissible to humans). Our emphasis with this study was to 1) determine the cause of region wide rabbit mortalities (tularemia suspected) and 2) determine effectiveness of monitoring these diseases using coyotes as a surrogate.

Coyotes are resistant to both diseases and rarely develop clinical signs of either disease. If a coyote tests "positive" for either disease, it simply means it was exposed at one time and has developed specific antibodies to the bacteria, not that the animal is infectious or able to spread the disease.

Coyotes in Sheridan and Johnson Counties face a variety of mortality factors, including disease (e.g. parvo, distemper, rabies), parasites (e.g. mites), recreational shooting, and targeted removal by aerial shooting, trapping and snaring. As such, they likely don't live very long. Under ideal conditions, coyotes can live 10-12 years. Under conditions in Sheridan and Johnson Counties, it is likely much shorter. A similar survey in Johnson County, Wyoming in 2007 involved 50 coyotes that were aged. The average age was 2.4 years old (range = 0 - 5).

The WGFD partnered with the Predator Management Board (PMB) of Sheridan County for this effort. The County Trapper, Allan Plummer, collected blood samples from coyotes collected during predator control activities. The PMB provided money for postage to ship samples overnight to Laramie. The WGFD provided collection and shipping supplies; received, stored

and shipped samples; and conducted testing at the WGFD Wildlife Disease Laboratory.

Samples must be kept cool and tested as soon as practical after collection for best results. Overnight shipping is required to expedite testing. The PMB granted the WGFD \$1,200 to pay overnight shipping costs to send samples to the WGFD Wildlife Disease Lab located at the Wyoming Veterinary Laboratory in Laramie.

Exposure to plague have fluctuated from a low of 36% (n=16) in 2009 to a high of 85% (n=11) in 2010. There did not seem to be any difference between males and females exposure. Younger animals appeared to be more susceptible to exposure, although that could be a function of sample size and subjective aging. These results are consistent with other areas of Wyoming where plague is known to exist. Plague is established in rodent populations in Wyoming and other parts of the semi arid, western United States. We will continue to see periodic wildlife mortality events caused by plague. Human risk of exposure is likely through direct contact with infected wildlife or domesticated (e.g. house cats) animals.

Exposure to tularemia peaked in 2007, when 50% of those tested (n=12) were positive for exposure. Of the first six samples submitted in April and May, 2007, five (83%) were positive for exposure to tularemia. This corresponds to the end of the time period when we experienced a significant rabbit die off. Since that time, the exposure rate to tularemia has declined to one positive in 2009 and zero positives in 2010. Females seemed more susceptible to exposure to tularemia than males and younger coyotes seemed more susceptible than adult coyotes. Based on these results, we are confident that the extensive rabbit die off in 2006 and early 2007 was the result of a tularemia outbreak. With the decline in tularemia, as evident by the lack of exposed coyotes in recent years, rabbit populations have increased and are approaching pre-2006 levels.

**Sweetwater County** – During the past year we have been attempting to limit livestock losses from predators in Sweetwater County with the cooperation of U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services. We contracted with the Berryman Institute of Utah State University to study the impacts of predators on deer and antelope fawns and the predatory impacts upon sage grouse in southwestern Wyoming and we carried out predator control in various wildlife areas to see how the wildlife populations responded to control areas as compared to non-control areas.

Surveys of these populations were conducted plus sage grouse have again been caught and fitted with electronic collars in order to follow their nesting and the predation that takes place in these nests.

## Uinta County – Actions Taken

The county trappers made an attempt to clear designated areas of coyotes before the sheep were moved into the specific areas.

We received information from cattlemen to ascertain if coyotes were on the calving grounds before calving season. We were able to have reduced the number of predators during the winter

before lambing and calving.

Helicopter flying time was used primarily during the spring time this year. We were able to take advantage of the extra snow cover and therefore afford better protection to the sheep ranges utilized in the first part of the summer. These areas are hard to access in the summer and therefore we utilized the late spring snows to work these hard to get areas this year.

During the lambing season, with the winter work done for the cattlemen, we were able to put both fulltime trappers and our contract trappers covering the lambing herds.

With the helicopter time we are able to cover more wooded areas and inaccessible areas to fixed wing measures as the sheep are moved to higher summer ranges.

### Identifiable and Measureable Results

Lamb counts, according to producers were less than last year. This was mostly attributable to two factors. One being some severe spring weather that accounted for substantial losses during lambing season and the other cause was a slightly higher number of predators.

In some areas deer counts were up slightly as assessed from the previous year. The milder winter was also attributable to these increases.

Sage grouse counts have increased again slightly. More leks are being reported overall and in some areas leks have been reported where they had previously not existed.

Our total person day visits were down slightly as compared to last year and the total hours worked were less by approximately forty hours.

The target intentional take total was less than last year. In addition, the new equipment has given our trappers increased ability to access previously hard to access areas and an added fuel savings has been recognized. Trapper effectiveness has also been enhanced with the addition of the new equipment.

**Washakie County** – The Park and Washakie County Cooperative Wildlife Enhancement Project was proposed to improve mule deer and antelope recruitment in deer hunt area 125 which is not only for Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and hunters, but agricultural producers and wildlife enthusiasts as well. Although many environmental stresses affect wildlife populations, only a relative few can be manipulated. Predator management can be used, in some cases, to help limit mortality in ungulate populations and enhance fawn recruitment, improve doe survival, and help increase the portion of breeding bucks in problem areas. Although predation is rarely the sole factor limiting populations, it can play significant role in suppressing populations below herd objectives. The goal of this project is to help boost ungulate populations towards a more self sustaining level. This project has progressed into the third year, and due to positive results to wild ungulate populations it has been agreed the project activities will continue two more years. This population will continue to be monitored very closely by the WGFD and United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (WS).

The project area encompasses WGF D deer hunt area 125 and antelope hunt area 77. Many landowners and sportsmen have voiced concern over the last few years regarding the declining deer and antelope numbers. The cooperative effort between the WGF D and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and their data on habitat and population parameters helped identify the decline.

Within the project area, we have identified distinct winter ranges and fawning grounds utilized by antelope and mule deer. The project area consists of rangeland separated from agricultural crops which have no history of ungulate damage. As deer and antelope numbers respond positively to treatment the effects will expand outside of the project area. The WGF D Biologist, Bart Kroeger, feels any efforts to help improve the deer and antelope populations on native ranges are welcome, especially deer which are currently under objective. The antelope population is near objective in this area.

Wildlife Services has selectively utilized trapping, snaring, denning, call/shoot, aerial hunting to accomplish project objectives. WS Specialists analyzed stomach contents from coyotes for dietary analysis along with age and sex classifications and placental scar inspection to determine reproductive status. Coyotes were tested for plague and tularemia as well as the presence of canine heartworm. All methods and activities were conducted in accordance with federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Project data was recorded daily including wildlife counts, GPS locations, and activities. Wildlife species targeted for this project include coyotes and red foxes. Control activities are preapproved with the area livestock producer to ensure safety of stock and herding dogs.

All activities and methods were utilized in compliance with agreements established by WS with landowners and management agencies. All project activities were documented by the MIS program (activity tracking database) used by USDA-Wildlife Services. WS used established ground and air census methods for mule deer and antelope surveys along with population trend data provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. We used existing information from cooperating agencies to document long term trends for both deer and antelope populations. Wildlife Services collected the following data: GPS locations of predators taken, wildlife classifications and numbers.

Wildlife Services personnel identified and quantified predation on mule deer and antelope. On five different occasions, coyotes were taken by aircraft while in the act of killing fawns. In three situations, WS documented fawn deer and antelope remains at or near dens sites. Of coyote stomachs examined, 33% contained either antelope or deer remains (table 3). Other prey found in grouse, grasshoppers, and beef calves.

Placental scar data were collected from female coyotes removed from the project area (table 3). This data showed litter numbers ranging from seven to twelve, with an average of nine pups. WS specialists observed signs of other potential ungulate predators in the project area including mountain lions, golden eagles, and bobcats.

In the information provided by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, there has been an increase in the total number of antelope and deer observed during classification surveys following treatment year by project activities. This has been the first significant increase detected during the previous ten years.

In addition to the Wildlife project listed in conjunction with Park County, our Washakie County Predator Management District had 55 agreements with livestock producers covering 918,000 acres.

**Weston County** – The Weston County Predator Management District (WCPMD) is charged with controlling problem predators and other problem wildlife issues such as rabid skunks in Weston County WY. WCPMD receives some funding for operations from the State of Wyoming through the Wyoming ADMB. This funding is to purchase equipment, supplies, office expense, fund two full time Wildlife Specialists, and flight time for aerial work in this district along with ferry time.

WCPMD has expended \$15,078 for equipment during the fiscal year 2010. \$118,186 was expended for contractual services with Wildlife Services which includes flying time. \$8,929 was expended for operations such as supplies, repairs, phone, office, fuel and other operational expenses.

Two Hundred Fifty (250) hours of flying time, which also includes ferry time was budgeted into the 2010 District contract with WS. Weather and availability has hampered the WCPMD using the total hours of flying time requested. The greatest need of the aircraft is when the airplanes are least available and weather is sometimes the least predictable.

Observations of Sage Grouse leeks are being made and recorded as found. The Sage Hens have their chicks out in the grass and currently, the grass and sweet clover is very tall and thick so little chance to see chicks except on roads or water holes. There are plenty of grasshoppers and crickets so there is no shortage of food for the Sage Grouse. Some grasshopper spraying is occurring in the district, however, it is understood that there are strips left so birds do have insects. The mature antelope populations throughout the District are plentiful and currently we find no shortage in most areas however, with no rabbits, we are seeing a large depredation on fawn antelope this spring of 2010. Deer numbers are also in good supply throughout the District and their fawns are also being hit hard by the coyotes this spring of 2010. The Wildlife Specialists hope to do a recruitment counts on antelope and deer later in the summer to verify numbers.

The Wildlife Specialists are working to remove the coyotes that are moving into the sheep and calving areas. During the spring of 2010, one producer lost 2 cows and 4 calves to coyotes which the Wildlife Specialist verified and within 24 hours after the call, had removed the target coyotes. District wide, the numbers of coyotes seem to have decreased somewhat this spring, possibly from mange, however the coyotes that remain are traveling farther to hit livestock. The rapid decrease of rabbits and mice over the last two years has caused livestock to become a more essential prey base for coyotes. Mange in the coyotes has become very prevalent across the

entire district in the last 2-3 years.

The Striped Skunk populations exploded during the spring of 2008 and 2009 but seem to have diminished somewhat during the spring of 2010 but still plentiful. Many of the skunks in the rural areas are removed by the Wildlife Specialists with private assistance. With the purchase of the live box traps, the Wildlife Specialists are removing skunks as called upon. Proactive trapping is also reducing numbers in known skunk areas.

As each year, the District receives requests from the public for lion control which is referred to the Wyoming Game and Fish. The Wildlife Specialists explain to those making the requests, that they will study the situation, such as tracks and kills and then confer with the local warden. They also explain that the warden has final say on removing a lion. The Wildlife Specialists will assist the warden if requested.

Equipment purchased with grant moneys during Fiscal 2010 include a trading of the Ranger ATV for a 2010 model, one set of two GPS dog collars and one hand held unit, 20 box traps, one powder scale, and bipod.

When there are problem predators that need to be removed either by ground work or aircraft, the trappers work together in the problem areas. During times where the problem calls decrease, the trappers work in separate areas of the county. This is a benefit as when the problems arise, more man-hours can be thrown into the problem. As problems decrease, the man-hours can be spread over a larger area in the district. Ongoing training for the trappers is provided by Wildlife Services in all aspects of their work.

Brand inspection revenues for Fiscal 2010 are \$38,192, this being more than estimated. It is thought due to the severe grasshopper problem during the summer of 2009, many livestock producers sold more livestock than normal. The District received one request for a refund, in which \$1,838 was refunded to a producer who was running strictly yearling grass cattle.





