

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

2012 Annual Report



Compiled by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Jason Fearneyhough, ADMB Co-Chair
Scott Talbott, ADMB Co-Chair

DATE: November 26, 2012

SUBJECT: 2012 Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board Annual Report

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

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

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

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**WYOMING
ANIMAL DAMAGE
MANAGEMENT
BOARD**

Directory

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Non-consumptive User of Wildlife Representative

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2012 Major Issue Overview

Gray Wolf Delisting and Established Predator Zone

October 1st was the beginning date for the gray wolf to be delisted from the Endangered Species Act and under state management in Wyoming. The ADMB is responsible for the management of the gray wolf in the newly established predator zone and the flex zone, during March 1-October 14 each year. The ADMB has been working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USDA-Wildlife Services, and county predator district board members on this new management. In addition, the State Legislature and Governor provided funds to the ADMB to manage gray wolves in the predator areas. Emergency rules are in place, and regular rules are being processed, to establish regulations governing the granting of these wolf management program funds. In conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, a guide for livestock producers in dealing with wolves in the trophy game animal zone, the flex zone, and the predator zone was developed and is currently being distributed.

2012 Overview

1. **Meetings:** The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) met six (6) times over the course of the calendar year [January 12, April 30 – May 1, June 8, October 3 and October 10 – conference call and November 11.] Agendas and meeting minutes are included in this report.
2. **Predator District Funding:** The ADMB received applications from 19 qualifying predator management districts across the state that totaled \$3.97 million. On May 1st, the ADMB granted \$2.785 million for those districts. A balance of \$2.785 million was left for next year's requests.
3. **Projects:** Twenty different research/special project proposals were evaluated by the ADMB that totaled \$376,000. The ADMB approved \$231,000 in funding for 14 projects (7 new, 7 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. 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 through the Country to Classroom publication and the Teacher Rendezvous.
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 2012 stamp displays a golden eagle.
7. **Public Relations:** The Board had their booth on display during the Wyoming Game & Fish Hunting and Fishing Heritage Exposition held in September. Members and staff participated in the Wyoming Wool Growers annual convention, the Farm Bureau annual convention, and plan to participate in the Stock Growers/Conservation District/SRM meeting in December.
8. **Legislative:** Changes were made this past year to predator district statutes concerning annual meeting voter eligibility and deadlines for districts to pay predator fee refunds. In addition, legislation was passed to provide for the Wyoming wolf management plan and additional funding.
9. **Information Dissemination:** The ADMB website at <http://www.wyadmb.com> continues to be maintained and provides available information regarding the current activities and programs for the ADMB.

In Progress:

1. The next regular meeting of the ADMB will be January 17, 2013 at the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. Headquarters in Cheyenne, 5400 Bishop Blvd.
2. Project applications for consideration at the January 17, 2013 meeting will be accepted until January 4, 2013.
3. Project applications for the June 2013 meeting will be accepted from March 15 to May 15, 2013.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Game & Fish Commission

FROM: Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board
Scott Talbott, Co-Chair
Jason Fearneyhough, Co-Chair

DATE: August 29, 2012

SUBJECT: Request for Funds

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 June 8, 2012 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 '12 ADMB Projects

Standing Projects:

1) Impact of raven removal on Sage Grouse populations in Sweetwater, Uinta and Lincoln Counties – Funding: \$40,000

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 four years. The funding will be used to determine where ravens that forage in garbage dumps and roosts located in Sweetwater, Lincoln and Uinta counties during the winter are located during the spring and summer. Such information is needed to target specific winter roosts and garbage dumps used for ravens that are depredating sage grouse nests and causing problems for agricultural producers. Submitted by: Utah State University

2) 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

3) Estimating population size of mountain lions using DNA markers – Funding: \$5,000

Synopsis: Collaborating with South Dakota State University, we will use volunteer and agency personnel to tree mountain lions and gather a tissue sample through a biopsy dart. With this information we will create a database of marked individuals using DNA individual identification and assess population size using mark-recapture methods of harvested individuals/known mortalities in accordance with the genetic database. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

4) Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of sage grouse in the Big Horn Basin – Funding: \$45,000

Synopsis: This project has four main objectives. They are: 1. Document mortality causes to sage-grouse in the Big Horn Basin, 2. Identify potential nest predators, 3. Gather information on seasonal habitat use, migration patterns, and lek fidelity, 4. Evaluate control measures for potential predators. Submitted by: Wyoming Game & Fish Department and Meeteetse Conservation District and administrated by Meeteetse Conservation District.

5) Jackson Elk Monitoring – Funding: \$15,000

Synopsis: Radio collar elk on winter range in the Buffalo Valley and Yellowstone National Park during last year and this year and monitor migrations and survival compared to hunting seasons, elk feed grounds and wolf pack home ranges. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

6) Bates Hole coyote removal to enhance Mule Deer fawn survival - Funding: \$30,000

Synopsis: The proposed project will entail controlling coyotes in the Bates Hole area south of Casper. The primary goal is to improve mule deer neonate survival and over-summer fawn recruitment. Project efficacy will be gauged by numbers of coyotes removed and comparisons of site-specific postseason mule deer classification ratios (fawn ratios) within the project area to those of adjacent areas within the Bates Hole / Hat Six Mule Deer Herd Unit. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department annually collects aerial (helicopter) mule deer classification ratios during November of each year. Submitted by: Natrona County Predator Management Board

7) Hot Springs Wildlife Specialist – Nuisance Animal Project and Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Project – Funding: \$20,000

Synopsis: This project position will conduct predator management activities to alleviate wildlife damage to decrease crop and irrigation damage and to increase pheasant enhancement and to provide assistance in conducting Big Horn Basin sage grouse predation research project. Submitted by: Hot Springs County Predator Management Board

New Projects:

8) Washakie Wildlife Specialist – Nuisance Animal Project and Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Project – Funding: \$20,000

Synopsis: This project position will conduct predator management activities to alleviate wildlife damage to decrease crop and irrigation damage and to increase pheasant enhancement and to provide assistance in conducting Big Horn Basin sage grouse predation research project. Submitted by: Washakie County Predator Management Board

9) Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain – Funding: \$4,500

Synopsis: This is a program of targeted predator control on key fawning ranges when it is most effective for the benefit of mule deer in the Uinta mule deer herd unit. Work will be targeted using data from the radio collar study. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

10) Country to Classroom School publication – Funding: \$2,000

Synopsis: The Country to Classroom is an annual publication that highlights categories of agriculture and natural resources with predator management as one of those categories. The Country to Classroom provides lessons and prompts for the annual book mark contest. Submitted by: Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom

11) Electric Fence Supply Project -Funding: \$2,000

Synopsis: Funds will be used to procure electric fencing components. Components will be used to deter or prevent large carnivore conflicts at sheep camps, cow camps and outfitter camps throughout the state. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish

12) Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program - Funding: \$2,500

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 in areas that are in close proximity to humans, ranch buildings, feedlots, or calving areas. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish

13) Identifying crucial fawning areas to allow targeted and effective predator control in Wyoming Range - Funding: \$10,000

Synopsis: This project will identify key habitats used by mule deer in the Wyoming Range for fawn rearing, and those where fawn recruitment rates are lower than expected given habitat conditions, which will allow the targeted removal of predators to increase fawn production and enhance population growth. Targeting predator control efforts in such habitats could serve to increase fawn recruitment for female mule deer as well as increase the efficiency and effectiveness of predator control efforts to benefit mule deer. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish

14) Removal of coyotes from mule deer parturition habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit-Funding: \$10,000

Synopsis: Remove coyotes using ground and aerial lethal control techniques in an effort to improve mule deer fawn survival. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish

Note: All projects, with the exception of Country to Classroom publication, were approved for G&F Commission funds. These approved projects total \$229,000. If Commission funds are approved, projects will be funded from the \$100,000 provided in addition to funds from the regular ADMB account.

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Phone: 307-777-6781 □ Fax: 307-777-1943 □ E-mail: admb@wyo.gov □ www.wyadmb.com

ADMB Meeting Regional Game and Fish Meeting Room Casper, WY

Agenda

Thursday, January 12, 2012

9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Talbott)

- Introductions of board, guests, & public
- Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
- Approval of November 3, 2011 Minutes

9:10 a.m. - Review of ADMB Strategic Plan, District and Project Application Dates, Wildlife Management Stamp

9:30 a.m. - Discussion on Sheep Surveys, Todd Ballard, USDA-NASS

10:30 a.m. - Review of ADMB Board Duties and Fiscal Recommendations, Julie Cook, WDA Administration Manager.

12:00 noon - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - “A Study of the Impacts of a Wind Energy Development on Greater Sage-Grouse in Southeastern Wyoming” Research Project Application, Matt Holloran, Wyoming Wildlife Consultants, LLC

1:45 p.m. - Review of District Data, Kent Drake, WDA

2:45 p.m. - Review of District Application Forms, Kent Drake, WDA

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.

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Thursday, January 12, 2012
Wyoming Game and Fish Regional Office, Casper, WY**

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough Mignery	Co-Chair Scott Talbott	Ed
Dale Leatham Krischke	Bob Innes	Rod
Jim Collins Hulet	Gene Hardy	Amanda
Mark Sattelberg Sims	Jim Schellinger	Shaun

Board Members Absent:

John Espy Saville	Cheryl Chatham	Dennis
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WDA Support Staff

Kent Drake Anderson Julie Cook (via web teleconference)	Hank Uhden	Margy
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The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough at 9:15 a.m. The agenda was reviewed. Scott Talbott requested the Board add discussion of the April 2012 meeting dates to the Agenda. The minutes from the meeting held 11-3-11 were reviewed. Jim Collins moved to approve the minutes as presented. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the dates of the April meeting, noting that board members had conflicts with the current dates. Jim Schellinger moved to reschedule the April meeting from April 25th and 26th, to April 30th and May 1st, 2012. Jim Collins seconded. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the ADMB Strategic plan. Discussion ensued, and the Board determined they were on target with the current plan.

District and research project due dates were discussed. The Board decided the current dates of April 1 and May 15th were good dates, giving sufficient time for the Board to review the applications.

Kent Drake explained the status of the 2012 Wildlife Stamp, and showed the Board the current draft of the stamp poster design. Co-Chair Talbott suggested the Board have a future discussion on scaling back the costs of producing the stamp, sharing history where

the stamp has never made a profit. Jim Schellinger suggested the discussion take place after legislative budget session. Hank Uhden suggested getting the topic on the legislative interim topic list, as meeting dates for the 2012 session would allow. Kent Drake referred the Board to the annual report, where deficits of past stamp production were shown. Jim Collins moved that the Board proceed to change statutory language, if needed that requires the Board to collect on the stamp. Rod Krischke seconded. Motion carried. Kent said that he would ask the attorney general's office to clarify the ADMB requirements regarding the wildlife damage management stamp issue.

Co-Chair Fearneyhough provided a legislative update on the status of budget requests concerning ADMB funding, noting the Governor's recommendations, as published, were incorrect compared to those numbers introduced at the Joint Appropriations Committee. Bryce Reece spoke on past appropriations, compared to the current budget requests. Discussion ensued.

Kent Drake suggested the Board discuss how the draft bill appropriations for Wolf predation will be dispersed, either through ADMB or via MOU between ADMB and Wildlife Services. Hank Uhden mentioned the disbursement process will need to have controls in place, and according to the draft bill, ADMB is to have the administrative authority to disperse the funds. Co-Chair Talbott stated the Board must develop rules for predation verification, and continuity of the process, especially concerning such an emotional topic. Jim Collins requested a rough draft of the rules be ready ahead of time so the Board will have something to build upon when the Board begins rule development. The Board determined formal discussions on Wolf rules will begin as soon as possible.

Todd Ballard provided the status of USDA/NASS sheep surveys.

Julie Cook joined the meeting via video conference and presented information on ADMB Board member responsibilities regarding fiscal procedures and reviewing grant applications. Julie explained that each pool of funds the ADMB oversees is under the same fiscal control requirements and state procedural requirements as any other funds the WDA has. The Board function regarding said funds is to review all grant proposals and make sure funding requests are in keeping with state statutes, while meeting the grant qualifications unique to each pool of funds/corresponding program. ADMB funds currently have no statutory grant matching requirements, but it is important to note when the Legislative Services Office, Joint Appropriations Committee, Legislature and Governor review WDA budget requests, including funds for ADMB, the question is always asked about what additional dollars are being put into the projects, showing added dollar value and increased participant interest. The Board also is responsible for re-reviewing a grant application which was initially approved for funding, after a grantee makes notice of a change to their original match requirements. The Board needs to decide in each situation if the project can continue as originally presented to the Board, or if the possible project changes are acceptable to the Board. The Board does have the authority to delegate the decision in each circumstance to the Co-Chairs, who can then determine the outcome on the Board's behalf. Rod Krischke asked if the Board can fund research projects that take place out of state, as long as the research benefits Wyoming. Jim

Collins asked what requirements would need to be considered before funding a research project involving a reservation entity and/or taking place on a reservation. Julie stated she would seek answers for these questions and get back to the Board at their April meeting.

The Board took a break at 11:25 for lunch. Co-Chair Fearneyhough called the meeting back to order at 1:10 pm.

Kent Drake mentioned that funds for consulting services remain available for the remainder of the fiscal year, and will no longer be available after June 30th, 2011.

Matt Holloran of Wyoming Wildlife Consultants, LLC joined the meeting via teleconference to present a research request for the project titled: A Study of the Impacts of a Wind Energy Development on Greater Sage-Grouse in Southeastern Wyoming. The Board discussed Matt's request after the teleconference ended. The Board decided not to fund the request at this time.

Kent Drake provided a review of some predator management district data collected from Nephi Cole, NRCS. The Board could review the data, organized by county, and refer to it when looking at the district funding applications, to be distributed to board members after the April 1st application deadline. Shaun Sims moved to request the predator districts provide the Board information on the amount of refunds they are giving, and where said refunds are going, either locally or out of state. Rod Krischke seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Collins asked if Kent Drake could get county data on forest service/BLM grazing allotments as well as Cattle on Feed information by county for the Board.

The Board continued to discuss predator management district refunds.

Kent Drake reviewed the budget page of the district funding application with the Board, pointing out how sections of the page are used to break down the districts' funding requests. The budget page makes the districts balance their budget as well as show which parts of their budget request would be covered by ADMB funds, and which parts would be paid for by the district. Kent moved on to explain the cash flow worksheet of the district application in regard to what figures are being asked for in each column. Jim Collins asked that a row for actual flight time recorded for the past two years be added to the cash flow worksheet.

Scott Talbott provided the cost of printing the wildlife stamp for fiscal years 11 and 12. The actual cost of producing the stamp for fiscal year 11 was \$1900.49 and for fiscal year 12 was \$2724.70. Jim Collins asked if legally, can a paper stamp not be produced and just printed electronically on the license. Kent will follow up with the request to the attorney general's office for clarification.

Co-Chair Fearneyhough called for public comment and Board comment.

Amanda Hulet moved to adjourn the meeting. Dale Leatham seconded. Motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned by Co-chair Fearneyhough at 3:05 p.m.

ADMB April 30 – May 1, 2012

Call to Order 9:00 a.m, Welcome, , Interview Process

Start Time	End Time	Interview	Request
9:30	10:00	Goshen	\$130,324
10:00	10:30	Carbon	\$159,940
10:30	11:00	Weston	\$176,754
11:00	11:30	Albany	\$147,308
11:30	noon	Campbell	\$318,780, rabies \$60,000
noon	1:30	Lunch	
1:30	2:00	Uinta	\$204,588
2:00	2:30	Big Horn	\$286,870
2:30	3:00	Park	\$240,959
3:00	3:30	Crook	\$185,000
3:30	4:00	Sheridan	\$140,907, rabies \$10,000
4:00	4:30	Fremont	\$215,000
4:30	5:00	Public Comment	
Tuesday,	May 1		
8:00 a.m.	8:30	Natrona	\$223,800
8:30	9:00	Converse	\$202,637
9:00	9:30	Johnson	\$138,065, rabies \$23,500
9:30	10:00	Hot Springs	\$248,389
10:00	10:30	Niobrara	\$160,000
10:30	11:00	Washakie	\$209,167
11:00	11:30	Sweetwater	\$182,500
11:30	noon	Lincoln	\$226,430
Noon	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	3:00	Discussion	
3:00	3:30	Public Comment and Adjournment	

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Monday, April 30, and Tuesday, May 1,
2012
Game and Fish Department - Casper, WY**

Board Members Present:

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough	Co-Chair Scott Talbott	
Bob Innes	Rod Krischke	Jim Collins
John Espy	Amanda Hulet	Jim Schellinger
Gene Hardy	Dennis Saville (on 4-30-12)	Mark Sattelberg
Dale Leatham	Ed Mignery	Cheryl Chatham

Board Members Absent:

Shaun Sims

WDA Support Staff

Kent Drake	Margy Anderson	Hank Uhden
Doug Miyamoto		

Public Attending

Senator Gerald Geis	David Williams	Stan Smith
Wylie Cross	Art Davis	Roger Cox
Alan Todd	T.C. Page	David Kalco
Joel	David Daigle	Dan Reimler
BJ Clark	Joe Hickey	Bruce Aimone
Lisa Kimsey	Todd Jones	Kay Neves
Jim Pehringer	Shane Smith	Jerry Ista
Darla West	J.W. Nuckolls	Rori Renner
Alan Plummer	Mike Connell	Shane Sanderson
Sy Gilliland	Don Garrison	Tim Pexton
Troy Scott	Jeff Boner	Dave Hall
Bob Blacketer	Jack Baird	Brett Belden
Barb Kilmer	Rolly Redland	Bill Taliaferro
Truman Julian		

The meeting was called to order on 4-30 by Co-Chair J. Fearneyhough at 9:06 a.m. The minutes from the meeting held 1-12-12 were reviewed. Rod Krischke moved to approve the minutes as presented to the Board. Amanda Hulet seconded. Motion Carried.

Kent Drake presented a letter from the Attorney General's Office regarding the Wildlife Damage Management stamp. Jim Collins requested discussion of the letter and the stamp be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Rod Krischke distributed information to the Board showing federal funding for the Wildlife Services program since 1972, including cooperative funds received. Current federal funding has decreased by \$500,000. Administrative fees have been charged at 5%

for the past six years, and since APHIS is now required to charge 16%, Rod covered 11% of the fee, so districts are still paying 5%. Rod also passed out a letter written by the Game and Fish Director regarding the status of sage grouse protection services in Wyoming. The Board discussed the issue of Raven control and Sage Grouse protection, including depredation permits in other states on ravens.

Board members and guests were introduced.

Mark Sattelberg announced U.S. Fish and Wildlife are going to open a 15 day public comment period, starting May 1, for comments on delisting Wolves.

Co-Chair Talbott updated the Board on the process of the Game and Fish Wolf plan, establishing commission regulations for Wolf Management in Wyoming. All requirements to move forward with delisting of the wolf were completed last week. Wyoming is slated to have rules in place October 1, 2012.

Kent Drake stated the Board had \$2.785 Million to allocate for funding, and \$64,950.00 for rabies control. Co-Chair Fearneyhough reminded the Board that the Governor has requested State Agencies look at making 8% percent budget cuts.

Predator Management Program Presentations

Representatives from each predator management district presented information on their fiscal year 13 funding requests and took Board questions. District presentations took place in the following order:

Goshen County PMD: Wylie Cross, Stan Smith and Art Davis presented the Goshen County request, which is less than last year's request. They answered Board questions regarding the districts' trapping efforts, including an increase in crow counts, and controlling feral hogs. They spoke about the biggest challenges they face bordering counties and Nebraska. Knowing budget cuts are a reality, an across the board cut would be preferred as opposed to cutting from a certain category.

Carbon County PMD: Roger Cox presented, and explained where the District is in the process of drafting rules to clarify county refunds, stating how refunds are paid out, and limiting refunds to the 5% required by statute. Roger answered Board questions and stated that they have reduced their funding request in anticipation of paying out less for refunds. Roger stated an across the board cut would be best for the District as opposed to cutting funds from any one category. Roger mentioned the Board search the internet for the 3 Bar Mule Deer Study taking place in Arizona, which he believes exemplifies predation is a bigger problem than habitat.

Weston County PMD: Alan Todd presented for the District. Alan answered Board questions about aerial hunting, including aerial done under the special Big Horn Sheep project, trapping and hazardous duty pay. Alan stated budget cuts would be best taken from the aerial hunting category and if needed, the District would take funds from the

cash count to cover aerial expenses. Alan stated sage grouse are abundant particularly on the west half of the county. Antelope are also high in count right now. The Mule Deer are starting to come back after a slight two year decline. Ravens are seen in the county most of the year. The biggest factor affecting sage grouse are the raptors; the eagles and hawks.

Albany County PMD: T.C. Page and David Kalco presented the Albany County request, accompanied by their new county trapper. Their current request does not vary much from last year's request. They answered Board questions about aerial time used last year including helicopter time, as well as what is included in the budget category "other" in their current request. T.C. Page stated the Albany County program would still operate fine with funds distributed after 8% budget cut.

Campbell County PMD: David Daigle, Dan Reimler and BJ Clark presented. They will be terminating District agreements with Wildlife Services in an effort to localize their program and increase efficiency. The District has voted to be pro-active in the rabies program to fulfill their role in the human health and safety issue. Skunks have always been an issue in Campbell County. Going back to a private system can take care of these types of issues, and allow for more samples to be collected. They will require the trappers use a daily log to account for numbers of coyotes trapped. Their request for a third trapper is a higher priority than the request for more aerial funds. Dan Reimler stated they would prefer an 8% cut come from the rabies money, however that is a separate pool of funds, so he and David then stated a cut would best come from the aerial request. The District plans to have monthly meetings so county residents can bring their concerns to the District. They plan to use the third trapper on concentrated areas where problems occur.

Uinta County PMD: Joe Hickey and Bruce Aimone presented the request for Uinta County. Deer herd numbers have really increased, and sage grouse count are very good. They gave detail on their funding request by category, which includes more for helicopter time to cover critical deer fawning areas among other key areas. Joe stated they will deal with which categories to cut if their request is cut by 8%. It may mean losing a trapper which would be a great loss to their program.

The Board broke for lunch and the meeting reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Big Horn County PMD: Lisa Kimsey, Kay Neves, Todd Jones and Jim Pehringer represented Big Horn County. Jim presented the current number of predators collected by species in the Bighorn Basin. Ongoing pheasant and crop damage projects are county-wide. Russian olive removal has caused an increase in the raccoon population turning to farms, fields and towns to find feed. The result is a large concern with raccoons spreading roundworm, which can be fatal for children, and can also cause macular degeneration. The District has about 160 county agreements they work on, as well as some in Sheridan County. Jim thought an 8% budget cut could be taken from the aerial funds requested. The County has never had an issue with refund requests.

Park County PMD: Shane Smith, Rori Renner and Jim Pehringer presented the Park County request. Their request is larger this year as they are budgeting to add a third person for trapping. Park County deals with about 67 miles of land bordering the Montana border, and about 100 miles west which borders Yellowstone Park, where predation is not strongly done and thus causes Park County to work harder in their predation efforts. There are a lot of county residents which do not want any predation happening on their land, which makes for a unique predator management situation in the county. They would prefer an 8% cut come from the aerial funds being requested.

Crook County PMD: J.W. Nuckolls, Jerry Ista and Darla West represented Crook County. They have two full-time contract trappers. They have a person to help with denning part-time. They did experience some predator control down time this past year after a trapper left the program. Livestock numbers continue to be a concern as some sheep producers are getting out of the business, and others are reducing their stock. J. W. spoke of the Belle Fourche area where you used to see several sheep ranches and today you see none. The loss of individual predation efforts as sheep producers get out of the business leaves a huge responsibility for the county program. Mountain lions are also becoming quite a problem in the county. They would want an 8% cut to come from flying time, but a cut would directly affect personnel as most of the program funds provide personnel.

Sheridan County PMD: Mike Connell and Alan Plummer represented Sheridan County. Their program is based on the livestock industry and the game bird industry. Eagles are the worst problem they have regarding game birds. Their grouse populations are barely holding on as far as sharp tails. They have documented six individual wolves this winter/spring. They are still trying to hire a full-time trapper minus amenities like a vehicle. Their current request is 12.5% less than the funds they received last year.

Fremont County PMD: Shane Sanderson represented Fremont County and began his presentation by naming the wildlife projects currently being conducted. They have two trappers. Their request did include funds to control wolves in the helicopter category. This category as well as flying time would be the areas where budget cuts would come from. The District has an agreement in place with the reservation to do predator control on private deeded property and tribal lands. Wildlife Services has an MOU to control predators on the reservation which includes wolves but is for primarily for coyotes. The producers on the reservation all pay predator fees to Wildlife Services and the agreement has been in place for some time.

Public Comment / Board Comment 4-30-12

Public comments were called for. Senator Geis commented on the problem of mountain lions which this State should be prepared for. Eagles are another concern. Dave Williams, Oregon Wildlife Services Director, commented on being impressed with the organization of the different groups and recognition of the needs for predation among these groups.

Board comments were called for, and no comments were made.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair J. Fearneyhough at 4:11 pm, to reconvene on 5-1 at 8:00 am.

5-1-12

The meeting was called to order on by Co-Chair J. Fearneyhough at 8:02 a.m.

Predator Management Program Presentations 5-1-12

Representatives from each predator management district presented information on their fiscal year 13 funding requests and took Board questions. District presentations took place in the following order:

Natrona County PMD: Sy Gilliland and Don Garrison represented Natrona County. Their current request includes funds for the Bates Hole project. They would like to start a bounty program in the county, to help sell the predator program to the county sportsman. Predator assessment fees would be used for the bounty program. Trappers are independent contract employees. Sy recommended budget cuts would best be taken from flying time.

Converse County PMD: Tim Pexton, Troy Scott and Jeff Boner presented their budget request. They want to keep their trappers on the ground in light of budget cuts. They want to tie in to the game and fish collar program and see if they can help with the doe/fawn ratio. Flying time with Wildlife Services is the only flexible area where a budget cut could be taken from. They operate with two trappers.

Johnson County PMD: Dave Hall presented the budget request for Johnson County. The rabies program is in its 5th year. Support from Kaycee and Buffalo is very good. They work the green areas in those towns. They collect raccoons, fox and feral cats. After two or three years of negative tests, just the other day a test came up positive for rabies, however, they know where it came from. They have two full-time trappers. The county does have a bounty program in place. Dave believes a budget cut would best come from the aerial hunting funds. A cut from rabies funds would cause them to have the workers go out for fewer days per month.

Hot Springs County PMD: Brett Belden, Jack Baird and Bob Blacketer represented Hot Springs County. They want to keep all three of their trappers as the time needed to conduct the program is greater than they anticipated. They are concentrating on the sage grouse project right now. Brett commented how a training program for trappers is essential for the future of predator control. They thought a budget cut would best come from the amount they allotted for the aerial budget.

Niobrara County PMD: Barb Kilmer represented the county, and gave a synopsis of the program projects and how they have been working. They have two contracted full-time

trappers. They are requesting the same amount they were allocated last year.

Washakie County PMD: Rolly Redland represented Washakie County. They are requesting funds for a half-time person to work on a wildlife project around farm areas. The funds they are requesting are to maintain their program as is. They currently have one trapper and are in the process of replacing one who recently retired. The half-time person they are hoping to add would work during the summer months. Rolly suggests the least amount they would need to operate a bare bones budget would be \$150,000.

The Board had a discussion on Wolf rules. It was noted the Board needs to make sure to write the rules broad in scope to make sure the Board has the flexibility to determine how to go after wolves, and account for human health and safety. Senator Geis said the aim was to take care of the wildlife but that intermingles with benefit to livestock. After there is a confirmation of wolves being delisted, the money can be used. In two years we will have a better idea of how to conduct the program for controlling wolves.

Jason suggested the wolf rules be a topic of discussion at the next ADMI meeting.

Sweetwater County PMD: Bill Taliaferro presented for Sweetwater County. Bill said they have real raven problems in southwestern Wyoming. They have some lands next to the county dump they cannot use anymore as the ravens have taken over the area. The cattlemen are losing calves, and livestock are being lost as well. Bridger Coal has 200 ravens nesting in their buildings. The sage grouse are also being affected by the ravens inhabiting the area. Ravens feed on grouse eggs. Around the oil and gas plants you cannot use anything with a spark to control the ravens so you have to use carbon dioxide. They need to go in to control the ravens to make a real impact on the health of the sage grouse and also to assist with the industry in the area. He would like to see the Weed and Pest list the Raven as an official pest so they can be taken out. Scott wrote a request to Wildlife Services to manage ravens in four keys areas, to do something for the sage grouse. Bob asked Bill about the current situation with the number of trappers they have.

Lincoln County PMD: Truman Julian presented for Lincoln County. He stated the ravens are quite a problem, and said the ravens picked some of his lambs to death recently. They have two and a quarter trappers. There is a lot of country to cover and a lot of permittees involved. There are 40,000 sheep on the Bridger Teton Forest lands. There is a problem with bears, and they need to come up with some way to speed up the process of verification so they can remove the animal. The aerial funds remaining in the current budget will be used to fly the hot spots the rest of the year.

Kent Drake presented a spreadsheet to the Board showing a recommendation for looking at starting to make budget cuts to the funds requested. Kent answered Board questions about the sheet.

The Board took a break for lunch and reconvened at 1:30 pm.

Scott Talbott gave an update to the Board about eagles, and historically the only way

eagles can be taken is when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife allows up to six being taken for falconry. Under the Western States Environmental Act only six can be taken, and now the second thought is that a permit would no longer be needed to take the eagles for falconry. The Board should consider holding the permit should a state Agency be required to do so. In the last year the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has transferred most of the process to the states. Mark offered to find out what he could about the issue.

PMD Discussion and Allocations

Bob Innes moved to approve the funding recommendations as presented to the Board. John Espy seconded.

Jim Schellinger moved to amend the original motion and pull \$20,000.00 out of Weston, \$20,000.00 out of Park, \$10,000.00 out of Washakie, and give \$20,000.00 to Sheridan and \$30,000.00 to Sweetwater County. Bob Innes seconded. Motion carried.

Jim Collins moved to take \$20,000 out of Natrona and put it in Hot Springs County. Jim Schellinger seconded. Motion fails.

The original motion, as amended, was voted on. All unanimous and in favor, motion carried.

The final amounts allocated to each District and approved by the Board were as follows:

Grantees	Board Approved
Albany County PMD	\$94,758.00
Big Horn County PMD	\$175,820.00
Campbell County PMD	\$161,690.00
Carbon County PMD	\$151,260.00
Converse County PMD	\$141,637.00
Crook County PMD	\$134,600.00
Fremont County PMD	\$159,540.00
Goshen County PMD	\$126,124.00
Hot Springs County PMD	\$159,827.00
Johnson County PMD	\$132,065.00
Lincoln County PMD	\$179,030.00
Natrona County PMD	\$170,107.00
Niobrara County PMD	\$147,400.00
Park County PMD	\$180,230.00
Sheridan County PMD	\$98,207.00
Sweetwater County PMD	\$122,110.00
Uinta County PMD	\$155,628.00
Washakie County PMD	\$153,603.00
Weston County PMD	\$141,364.00

John Espy moved to approve the rabies fund allocations as recommended on the spreadsheet. Bob Innes seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The final amounts allocated to each District for rabies work and approved by the Board were as follows:

Campbell County Rabies	\$ 32,450.0
Sheridan County Rabies	\$ 9,500.00
Johnson County Rabies	\$ 23,000.00

The next ADMB meeting is in Evanston, June 8th.

Public Comment / Board Comment 5-1-12

Board comments were called for. The Board really appreciated Senator Geis taking the time to be here.

Public comments were called for. David Williams is impressed with the county predation programs and they show Wyoming is serious about their work to reduce depredation. Senator Geis recommended adding emergency funds or holding some funds back so when emergencies arise the Board is in a place to help the counties out.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by Co-chair J. Fearneyhough at 2:55 p.m.



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

WYOMING

2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

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ADMB Meeting Uinta County Library Evanston, WY

Agenda

Friday, June 8, 2012

- 8:00 am - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Talbott)
➤ Introductions of board, guests, & public
➤ Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
➤ Approval of April 30 – May 1, 2012 Minutes
- 8:15 am - Predator Area Wolf Management Proposed Rules, Wildlife Damage
Mgmt. Stamp
- 8:45 am - Project Reports (15 min each)
* Cody Elk Preseason Classification Survey – D. McWhirter
- 9:00 am - Project Proposals – Renewals w/ Updates (20 min. each)
* Impact of Raven/Fox Removal on Sage Grouse in SW, L, U Counties –
M. Conover
* Chemical Castration of the Coyote – D. Skinner and M. MacGregor
* Jackson Elk Monitoring – D. Brimeyer
* Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – S.
Edberg
* Estimating population size of mountain lions using DNA markers – D.
Thompson
* Coyote Removal to enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival – S.
Gilliland, D. Garrison, J. Binfet
- 11:00 am - Project Proposals - New (20 min. each)

- * Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain – J. Short
- * Identifying Crucial fawning areas to allow targeted and effective predator control in Wyoming Range – S. Smith
- * Removal of coyotes from mule deer parturition habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit – G. Williams

Noon - Lunch

1:00 pm - Project Proposal Renewals w/ Updates (20 min. each)
 * Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin – S. Jones

1:20 pm - Project Proposals - New (20 min. each)
 * Coyote removal to enhance South Converse Mule Deer Fawn Survival – T. Pexton and J. Binfet
 * Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resource Science Institute – J. Defoe
 * Country to Classroom publication and Bookmark Contest – J. Defoe
 * Washakie County Nuisance Predator Project and BH Basin Sage Grouse Pred. Project - R. Redland
 * Hot Springs County Nuisance Predator Project and BH Basin Sage Grouse Pred. Project – B. Belden

3:00 pm - Break

- * Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program – D. Lasseter
- * Nuisance Bear Reduction Project – T. Thomas and C. Jones
- * Large Carnivore Immobilization Supplies – T. Kreeger
- * Electric Fence Supply Project – Z. Turnbull
- * New Bear Trap/Trailer – Green River Region – S. DeCeeco

4:40 pm - Discussion of grant awards criteria

5:00 pm - Determination of Grant Awards

5:15 pm - Public Comment / Board Comment

5:30 pm - Adjourn

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Friday, June 8, 2012
Uinta County Library - Evanston, WY

Board Members Present:

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough	Ed Mignery	Co-chair Scott Talbott
Shaun Sims	Rod Krischke	Jim Collins
John Espy	Amanda Hulet	Mark Sattelberg
Gene Hardy		

Board Members Absent:

Dale Leatham	Jim Schellinger	Bob Innes
Cheryl Chatham	Dennis Saville	

WDA Support Staff

Kent Drake	Margy Anderson	Doug Miyamoto
Hank Uhden		

Public Attending

Doug McWhirter	Mike Conover	Jonathan Dinkins
Senator Paul Barner	Marjie MacGregor	Dr. Donal Skinner
Dan Thompson	Will Schultz	Joe Gilbert
Jeff Short	Troy Tobiasson	Scott Smith
Justin Binfet	Doug Brimeyer	Mark Bruscano
Scott Edberg	Gary Fralick	Sy Gilliland
Charlene Abbott	Shaun Harris	Steve Jones
Jim Pehringer	Steve DeCecco	Jeff Perry
Representative Clarence Vranish		

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Scott Talbott at 8:01 a.m. The agenda was reviewed. Jim Collins moved to accept the agenda. Amanda Hulet seconded. Motion carried.

The minutes from the meeting held 4-30 and 5-1-12 were reviewed. Rod Krischke moved to approve the minutes as presented to the Board. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion Carried.

Board Members and guests were introduced.

The Board discussed the rules to be run through the Department of Agriculture regarding the wolf predation issue once the wolf becomes delisted October 1, 2012. Jason Fearneyhough reminded the Board even if the rules run through the Department of Agriculture, he still wants input from the ADMB. Discussion took place on if the process should begin with regular rules or emergency rules. Hank Uhden stated language of emergency rules will need to be nearly identical to what regular rules would state. The Co-chairs will need to contact the Governor so he is aware of what is coming up and can support the rules if the decision is to submit them as emergency rules. Emergency rules

are good for 120 days and can be renewed once. Gene Hardy spoke on getting comments from the predator management boards, and thinks it will be difficult to collect timely comments unless we can visit with them directly. Co-chair Talbott suggested holding a few meetings statewide to inform the districts of the wolf management funding and how their input will be valuable, not only district members but for members of the public as well. Gene Hardy thought public meetings would be an excellent idea.

Kent updated the Board on the status of the Wildlife Damage Management stamp. There is the option for folks to buy it electronically and add it to their license. This would meet state statutes. Co-chair Scott Talbott summarized the situation: the proposal is to do away with the paper stamp and finding artwork, which is costing the Board 2-3 grand a year. The program continues to lose funds. If done electronically, it would do away with the overhead, and would relieve the Board of the debt. Jim Collins moved to sell the stamp electronically only. John Espy seconded. Motion carried. Kent reminded the Board every year they set the price of the stamp, which is currently \$10.00. Jim Collins moved to keep price for the stamp \$10.00. Shaun Sims seconded. Motion carried.

Kent said the Board usually takes care of the Cattle Loss Survey. Funding of the survey has been \$8,000 in the past, now USDA NASS is asking for \$11,100. Kent also asked for the Board's input in the sheep loss survey. They are looking to revise how the survey is conducted. Instead of surveying by district, NASS is looking at a statewide survey. The Board usually pays for the Cattle Loss Survey out of the consulting funds. Shaun Sims moved to fund the cattle loss survey pending adequate funding. Amanda Hulett seconded. Motion carried. Kent asked for the Board comments on surveying for sheep loss by the 5 Districts versus a statewide survey. Shaun Sims would like to see the format remain by District, but if budget is tight, he would rather have a statewide survey than no survey at all. Gene Hardy agreed. Kent will pass the Board comments on to Todd Ballard of NASS. Rod Krischke asked if the possible survey change is because of budget cuts in the region. Kent responded yes.

Oral Presentations – final reports

Doug McWhirter from the Game and Fish out of Cody gave a final oral report on the “Cody Elk Preseason Classifications Survey” and answered Board questions.

Project Proposals to be considered for Renewal

Jon Dinkins and Dr. Mike Conover from Department of Wildland Resources, Utah State University gave an update on the status of the “Impact of Raven/Fox Removal on Sage Grouse in Sweetwater, Lincoln and Uinta Counties”.

Marjie MacGregor from the University of Wyoming reported on the progress of the “Chemical Castration of the Coyote” project.

Doug Brimeyer from the Jackson Game and Fish Office spoke about the work done to date on the “Jackson Elk Monitoring” project.

Scott Edberg, Assistant Chief of the Game and Fish Wildlife Division in Casper, gave a summary of the “Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control” project activity over the past year.

Dan Thompson, Game and Fish Department, informed the Board on the status of the “Estimating Population Size of Mountain Lions Using DNA Markers” project.

Sy Gilliland from Natrona County PMD and Justin Binfet, Wyoming Game and Fish, presented on the “Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival” project.

Co-chair Talbott called for a 10 minute break, and called the meeting back to order at 11:15.

New Project Proposals to be considered for Funding

Joe Gilbert from Wyoming Game and Fish presented a proposal to fund the “Nuisance Bear Reduction project – Phase II”.

Scott Smith from Wyoming Game and Fish presented a proposal to fund the “Identifying Crucial Fawning Areas to allow Targeted and Effective Predation Control in the Wyoming Range” project.

Will Schultz from Wyoming Game and Fish, and Charlene Abbott from Carbon County Predator Management District presented a proposal to fund the “Removal of Coyotes from Mule Deer Parturition Habitat in the Platte Valley Herd Unit” project.

The Board took a break for lunch at 12:08 pm. Co-chair Talbott called the meeting back to order at 1:26 pm.

Steve Jones from Meeteetse Conservation District, and Jim Pehringer from Wildlife Services presented a proposal to continue funding of the “Monitoring Causes of Mortality and Predation Rates of Sage Grouse in the Big Horn Basin” project.

Justin Binfet from Wyoming Game and Fish presented a proposal to fund the “Coyote Removal to enhance South Converse Mule Deer Fawn Survival” project.

Jim Pehringer from Wildlife Services presented on behalf of the Washakie County Predator Management District for the “Washakie County Nuisance Predator Project and Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Predator Project.

Jim Pehringer from Wildlife Services presented on behalf of the Hot Springs County Predator Management District for the “Hot Springs County Nuisance Predator Project and Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Predator Project.

Jessie Dafoe from the Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom joined the meeting via

conference call to present information on the “Wyoming Agriculture and Natural Resources Science Institute” and “Country to Classroom Publication and Bookmark Contest” funding proposals.

Mark Bruscano from Wyoming Game and Fish presented proposals to fund the “Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program”, the “Large Carnivore Immobilization Supplies” project and the “Electric Fence Supply” request.

Jeff Short from Wyoming Game and Fish presented a proposal to fund the “Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain” project.

Steve DeCecco from Wyoming Game and Fish presented a proposal to fund the “New Bear Trap/Trailer – Green River Region” project.

The Board took a break. Co-chair Talbott called the meeting back to order at 3:29 pm.

Funding Proposals Discussion and Grant allocations

The Board began discussion of the grant proposals presented earlier. Kent Drake walked the Board through the amounts requested for each proposal. The total amount of requests is \$375,795.00. Kent gave the Board the ranking of each project by the Game and Fish for \$100,000 required to fund wildlife projects. Funding available is \$231,000. Jim Collins moved to fund the renewal projects first, with the following proposed amounts:

Chemical Castration \$0

Impact Raven \$40,000

Large Carnivore \$25,000

Estimating Mountain Lions 5,000

Monitoring SG Big Horn Basin 50,000

Jackson Elk Monitoring \$15,000

Coyote Removal Bates Hole \$30,000

Hot Springs \$20,000

The proposed allocations total of \$185,000.

John Espy seconded.

Jason Fearneyhough moved to amend the main motion to fund Monitoring SG Big Horn Basin at \$45,000 rather than \$50,000. Jim Collins seconded. Amendment passed.

Rod Krischke moved to amend main motion to fund \$5,000 of the Chemical Castration project. Shaun Sims seconded. Amendment failed.

The main motion was then voted on to fund the following allocations:

Impact Raven \$40,000

Large Carnivore \$25,000

Estimating Mountain Lions 5,000

Monitoring SG Big Horn Basin 45,000

Jackson Elk Monitoring \$15,000

Coyote Removal Bates Hole \$30,000
Hot Springs \$20,000
The allocations totaled of \$180,000. Motion carried.

The Board moved on to discuss allocation of the new projects. Jim Collins moved to fund:

Park Co Carcass \$2,500
WAIC Country to Classroom publication \$3,500
Cedar Mountain \$7,000
Electric Fence \$2,000
Platte Deer 12,000
Wyoming Range \$12,000
Converse Co Mule Deer \$6,500
Washakie Co \$20,000
Gene Hardy seconded.

Amanda Hulet moved to amend the following:

Converse Co Mule Deer \$0
Cedar Mountain \$0
Country to Classroom \$2,500
John Espy seconded. Amendment carried.

John Espy moved to cut \$2,000 from allocations for Wyoming Range and \$2,000 from Platte Deer and combine the amounts with the \$500 left to allocate a total of \$4,500 to Cedar Mountain. Amanda Hulett seconded. Amendment carried.

The amended motion was then voted on that contained the following allocations:

Park Co Carcass \$2,500
WAIC Country to Classroom Publication only \$2,000
Cedar Mountain \$4,500
Electric Fence \$2,000
Platte Deer \$10,000
Wyoming Range \$10,000
Washakie Co \$20,000
Motion carried.

Kent reminded the Board to vote on which projected will be allocated for the Game and Fish. Co-chair Talbott suggested:

Jackson Elk Monitoring \$15,000
Big Horn Basin SG \$45,000
Platte Valley \$10,000
Coyote Removal Bates Hole \$30,000
Ed Mignery moved to accept the proposed Game and Fish Project suggestions. Amanda seconded. Motion carried.

A summary of final amounts approved for 0317 ADMB projects are as follows:

Utah State University - Impact of Raven/Fox Removal on Sage Grouse in SW, L, U Counties	\$40,000.00
Wyoming Game and Fish - Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control	\$25,000.00
Wyoming Game and Fish - Estimating population size of mountain lions using DNA Markers	\$ 5,000.00
Meeteetse CD - Monitoring Causes of Mortality and Predation Rates of Sage Grouse in the Bighorn Basin	\$45,000.00
Wyoming Game and Fish - Jackson Elk Monitoring	\$15,000.00
Natrona Co. PMD - Coyote Removal to enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival	\$30,000.00
Hot Springs Co. PMD - Nuisance Predator Project and BH Basin Sage Grouse Pred. Project	\$20,000.00
Wyoming Game and Fish - Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain	\$ 4,500.00
Wyoming Game and Fish - Electric Fence Supply Project	\$ 2,000.00
Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program	\$ 2,500.00
Wyoming Game and Fish - Identifying crucial fawning areas to allow Targeted and Effective Predator control in Wyoming Range	\$10,000.00
Carbon Co. PMD - Removal of Coyotes from Mule Deer Parturition Habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit	\$10,000.00
WAIC - Country to Classroom Publication	\$ 2,000.00
Washakie Co. PMD - Nuisance Predator Project and BH Basin Sage Grouse Predator Project	\$20,000.00

Public Comment / Board Comment

Co-chair Talbott called for public comment. Shaun Harris from Rugged Country Helicopters spoke about his gunning business and noted he would like to do work in Wyoming for the predator management districts and others who would be interested in his services. Steve Jones thanked the Board for funding the Meeteetse Conservation District project.

Co-chair Talbott thanked Shaun Sims and the coordinators of the Uinta County tour for a great tour and being great hosts for the meeting.

Amanda Hulet moved to adjourn the meeting. Shaun Sims seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Co-chair Talbott at 4:27 p.m.



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

WYOMING

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**ADMB Meeting
Teleconference
Call In – 877-278-8686
Code: 811882**

Agenda

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

1:00 pm - Discussion and Decision on Adopting Emergency Regulations
Governing the Granting of Wolf Management Program Funds.

1:45 pm Public Comment

2:00 pm - Adjourn

ADMB meeting October 3, 2012 teleconference

Members present:

Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough
Jim Schellinger
Ed Mignery
Dale Leatham
Mark Sattelberg

Co-Chair Scott Talbott
Shaun Sims
Amanda Hulet
John Espy
Rod Krischke

Others: Kent Drake, WDA
Hank Uhden, WDA
Saige Albert, Wyoming Roundup

Co-Chair Scott Talbott called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Discussion was held on the emergency rules governing the granting of wolf management program funds.

Jim Schellinger moved to adopt the emergency rules governing the granting of wolf management program funds.

Amanda Hulet seconded

Motion carried.

John Espy moved to adjourn.
Rod Krischke seconded.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m..



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**ADMB Meeting
Teleconference
Call In – 877-278-8686
Code: 811882**

Agenda

Wednesday, October 10, 2012

1:00 pm - Discussion and Decision on Adopting Emergency Regulations
Governing the Granting of Wolf Management Program Funds.

1:45 pm Public Comment

2:00 pm - Adjourn

ADMB meeting October 10, 2012 teleconference

Members present:

Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough	Co-Chair Scott Talbott
Jim Schellinger	Bob Innes
Ed Mignery	Amanda Hulet
Dale Leatham	John Espy
Mark Sattelberg	

Others: Kent Drake, WDA
Saige Albert, Wyoming Roundup

Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m..

Discussion was held on the amended emergency rules governing the granting of wolf management program funds.

Jim Schellinger moved to adopt the emergency rules governing the granting of wolf management program funds as amended.

John Espy seconded.

Motion carried.

Ed Mignery moved to adjourn.
Amanda Hulet seconded.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m..



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

WYOMING

2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

Phone: 307-777-6781 □ Fax: 307-777-1943 □ E-mail: admb@wyo.gov □ www.wyadmb.com

ADMB Meeting Best Western Inn at Lander Lander, WY

Tentative Agenda

Thursday, November 1, 2012

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Talbott)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of June 6, 2012, Oct. 3, 2012, and Oct. 10, 2012 Minutes
 - Request for Kent Drake to administrate grant requests on behalf of ADMB
 - Update on PMDs Refund Policy
- 9:20 a.m. - Update on Cattle Loss Survey and Sheep Loss Surveys, Steve Gunn,
National Agriculture Statistics Service
- 9:45 a.m. - Update on Emergency Wolf Management Funding Rules and Discussion
on Regular Wolf Management Rules, Kent Drake, WDA
- 10:15 a.m. - Update on Wolf Management Plan, Mark Bruscano, Wy. Game and Fish
- 10:30 a.m. - Current Wolf Management Activities of USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services
in Predator Area bordering Trophy Game Animal Area, Rod Krischke, Wildlife
Services
- 10:45 a.m. - Current Issues with Wolf Predation in Predator Area bordering Trophy
Game Animal Area, Livestock Producers and Predator Management District Board
members
- 12:00 noon - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Continued Discussion on Wolf Management in Predator Area bordering
Trophy Game Animal Area
- 2:00 p.m. - Golden Eagles and Lamb Predation Issues, Bill Taliaferro and Dan
McCarron, Sweetwater County Predator Management District Board members
- 3:00 p.m. - Public Comment / Board Comment
- 3:00 p.m. - Adjourn

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

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Thursday, November 1, 2012
Best Western Inn at Lander, Lander, WY**

Board Members Present:

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough	Co-chair Scott Talbott	Rod Krischke
Jim Collins	Bob Innes	John Espy
Amanda Hulet	Dennis Saville	Gene Hardy
Cheryl Chatham	Jim Schellinger	

Board Members Absent:

Dale Leatham	Shaun Sims	Mark Sattelberg
Ed Mignery		

WDA Support Staff

Kent Drake	Hank Uhden
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Public Attending

Mark Bruscano	Scott Edberg	Ken Mills
Allen Plummer	Cat Urbigit	Dan McCarron
Bill Taliaferro	Brian Debolt	Sam Crowe
Shane Sanderson	Rod Merrill	Richard Klouda
Steve Gunn	Reporter – Chnl 13 News	

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough at 9:01 a.m. The agenda was reviewed. Setting 2013 meeting dates and discussion of grizzly bear predation were added to the agenda. It was moved to accept the agenda as amended. Seconded. Motion carried.

Board Members and guests were introduced.

The minutes from the meetings held 6-8-12, 10-3-12, and 10-10-12 were reviewed. Jim Collins moved to amend the 6-8-12 minutes on page 4 to read Hot Springs “\$20,000” instead of “\$30,000.” The amendment was seconded. Motion carried. The amended minutes were then moved to approve. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

It was moved to accept the 10-3-12 minutes as presented. Motion Seconded. Motion carried.

It was moved to accept the 10-10-12 minutes as presented. Motion Seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on allowing Kent to administrate minor changes in the granting process on behalf of the board. He explained how he requested permission from the co-chairs to help do an extension for Julie Young’s on her purchase of protective collars for

livestock protection dogs. There was no change in the grant, just the need for an extension of the grant since time was running out for her to purchase the collars. Kent didn't want to call a meeting of the entire board for a small change. Jim Collins moved to allow Kent to make minor changes in the grant process, on behalf of the ADMB, as long as the original intent of the ADMB stayed in place and that the ADMB was notified before any action was taken. The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Steve Gunn, USDA-NASS, provided an update of the results of the 2011 Sheep and Cattle Loss Surveys. He extended his appreciation to the board for their support of these surveys and stated that he was unsure of surveys going forward due to the budget situation in Washington. There was discussion on the results of the surveys and the differences in numbers compared to Game and Fish loss compensation numbers.

Kent distributed copies of the emergency wolf management funding rules that are in place and are active regulations as of October 12, 2012 when the governor signed them. They are in effect for 120 days from that date.

Kent distributed draft copies of the regular wolf management funding rules for the board's consideration. Two changes had been made using the emergency rules as the guideline. A definition for "qualified agent or agent" was added to the definitions and under Section 6 (a) "Initial" was added before "funding". Discussion was held and it was decided to wait until after lunch to get some board member questions answered before further action would be taken.

Allen Plummer, Sheridan County PMD trapper asked that, under the emergency rules, if he could become a qualified agent, to verify wolf depredation in his county. Co-chair Fearneyhough stated that he could be and more clarification to that procedure will be made as we move forward with these rules.

Mark Bruscano, Wy. G&F Large Carnivore Supervisor provided an update on the Wyoming Wolf Management plan. After a month of trophy game animal and predator area designations, and the current hunting season, the plan is progressing smoothly. This summer, before the delisting, there was a great deal of livestock depredation, mainly in the Wind River and Wyoming ranges. The majority of livestock depredation was not only caused by wolves, but also black bears and some grizzly bears.

Mark then introduced Brian Debolt, Wy. Game and Fish Bear Management Officer, who gave a presentation on black bear and grizzly bear ranges in Western Wyoming.

Rod Krischke, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services Wyoming Director provided an update on specialist work in Western Wyoming this summer. He stated that there were fewer wolf conflicts in the Big Horn Basin than in the Wind River and Wyoming Ranges. Rod introduced, Rod Merrill, Wildlife Services Southwest District Director, who provided an update on his district. Rod Merrill referred to this summer as being a real "wreck" with heavy livestock depredation especially in the Wyoming Range due to wolves and bears. He said that the Wy. Game and Fish personnel in his district were very responsive to

helping with verification but a lack of interagency communication equipment made total response times to depredation problems stretch up to a week in length. This was too long and he hoped that his specialists could get equipment and have access to WyoLink to allow them to talk to Game and Fish personnel and others quickly rather than having to come off the mountain to find cell service. He also stated that the Wyoming Range was very hard to cover as there are no roads and the only access is by horseback.

After further discussion, the board to a break for lunch at 12:00 noon.

The board reconvened at 1:10 p.m. and Co-chair Fearneyhough brought the regular rules for wolf management funding back up for discussion. Jim Schellinger moved to adopt the regular wolf management funding rules with additional amendments to remove “(a)” after 11-6-304 in Section 1. Authority; and adding “(agreement)” after “Memorandum of Understanding” in Section 5. Qualifications for Funding, Subsection (c). The motion was seconded. Motion carried.

Individual ranchers and PMD board members provided their perspective on the livestock depredation activity and their ideas to help reduce it in the future.

It was agreed upon to look at ways to possibly fund one or two “roving” specialists to deal with wolf livestock depredation problems from local funding and possibly 15.01 or 03.17 funding in 2013.

Dan McCarron, Sweetwater County PMD board member, provided information on developing a process to use golden eagle take permits and allow the eagles to be distributed to qualified falconers. The board agreed to invite Mark Sattelberg and a representative from the regional U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, to the next ADMB meeting for further discussion on this topic.

Rod Krischke gave an update on ravens and Wildlife Services ability to provide control through the use of DRC-1339. He has a request into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and hopes to receive a response soon.

Meeting dates for 2013 were set: **January 17**, Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, Cheyenne, **April 30- May 1**, Regional Game and Fish Office, Casper, **June 5**, Sheridan, **November 6**, location to be determined.

Jim Collins asked about the Elk Mountain Big Horn Sheep project and how much ADMB had spent and that other organizations were being billed for other costs. Rod Krischke said that he would look into the project and report back on total costs and which entities were paying for each cost.

Amanda Hulet moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned by Co-chair Fearneyhough at 3:20 p.m.

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ADMB - RABIES 0313	BUDGETED FY 13 - 14	EXPENDED YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
					EXPENDED	12.50%	
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>							
Equipment Rep & Minc	202.00	0	0	0	0		
Utilities	203.00	0	0	0	0		
Freight & Postage	204.00	100	0	100	0.00%		
Supplies/Printing	231.00	0	0	0	0		
Equipment Rental	252.00	0	0	0	0		
200 SERIES TOTAL	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$100	0.00%		
<i>Grants and Aid Payments</i>							
Grants	626.00	129,900	64,950	64,950	50.00%	proposed reduction	
0600 SERIES TOTAL	\$129,900	\$64,950	\$0	\$64,950	50.00%		
<i>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</i>							
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0	0	0		
0900 SERIES TOTAL	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
ADMB - RABIES 03.13	\$130,000	\$64,950	\$0	\$65,050	49.96%		

General funds	YTD Revenue		YTD %	
	130,000	64,950	50%	50%
0	0	0	0	0
\$130,000	\$130,000	\$64,950	50%	50%

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Total proposed reductions of \$32,000

ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0317	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 13 - 14	YTD	FY 13 - 14	YTD			EXPENDED	12.50%	
Fund 047									
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	200.00								
Real Property Repairs & Minc	201.00	0				0			
Equipment Repairs & Minc	202.00	0	1			(1)			
Utilities	203.00	750				750	0.00%		
Freight & Postage	204.00	2,100	11			2,089	0.52%		
Board Travel	227.00	7,600	1,338			6,262	17.60%		
Supplies/Printing	231.00	3,424				3,424	0.00%		
Educational Supplies	236.00	0				0			
Real Property Rental	251.00	0				0			
Equipment Rental	252.00	150	10			140	6.55%		
200 SERIES TOTAL		\$14,024	\$1,359		\$0	\$12,665	9.69%		

<i>RESTRICTIVE SERVICES</i>	300.00								
Cost Allocation	301.00	72	0			72	0.00%		
300 SERIES TOTAL		\$72	\$0		\$0	\$72	0.00%		
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	400.00								
Telecommunications - A&I	420.00	552	46			506	8.33%		
400 SERIES TOTAL		\$552	\$46		\$0	\$506	8.33%		

<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i>	600.00								
Grants	626.00	614,204	120,000			494,204	19.54%	(200,000 votes)	
UW Grants & Aid Payments	667.00					0			
600 SERIES TOTAL		\$614,204	\$120,000		\$0	\$494,204	19.54%		

<i>CONTRACTUAL SVCS</i>	900.00								
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	50,000	0			50,000	0.00%		
900 SERIES TOTAL		\$50,000	\$0		\$0	\$50,000	0.00%		

ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0 TOTAL	\$678,852	\$121,405	\$121,405	26%	\$0	\$557,375	17.88%	
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		YTD Revenue	YTD %
General Funds	475,000	121,293	26%
Other Funds			
Livestock Brand Fee-5353	352	0%	
Wildlife Damage Stamp-2634	1,000	0%	
Landowner Coupons-6204	2,500	112	4%
Predator Boards - 6501	0		
Game & Fish - 5040	200,000	0%	
TOTAL	\$678,852	\$121,405	18%

DISCUSSION ITEMS
Reduced by 318,396 to account for revenues not collected
Total proposed reductions of \$10,000

Cash Balance 155,896.32

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT 1501		BUDGETED	EXPENDED	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	PERCENT EXPENDED	OPTIMUM	NOTES
FY 13 - 14		FY 13 - 14	YTD			12.50%		
<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>		100.00	\$188,612	\$15,472	\$173,140	8.20%		
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>		200.00						
Equipment Repairs & Mntnc	202.00	749	2		747	0.24%		
Utilities	203.00	840	250		591	29.70%		
Freight and Postage	204.00	2,500	99		2,401	3.95%		
Employee Development	207.00	2,500	10		2,490	0.40%		
Advertising/Promotions	208.00	0	679		(679)			
Travel In State	221.00	20,000	1,762		18,238	8.81%		
Travel Out of State	222.00	17,500	0		17,500	0.00%		
Permanently Assigned Vehicles	223.00	20,000	1,114		18,886	5.57%		
Board Travel	227.00	0	0		0			
Office Supplies/Printing	231.00	19,000	101		18,899	0.53%		
Motor Vehicle Supplies	233.00	0	0		0			
Other Repair Supplies	239.00	5,000	0		5,000	0.00%		
Office Furniture & Equipment	241.00	0	0		0			
Data Processing Equipment	242.00	0	0		0			
Food Service Equipment	244.00	0	0		0			
Real Property Rental	251.00	5,507	200		5,307	3.63%		
Equipment Rental	252.00	1,750	17		1,733	0.97%		
<i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$95,346	\$4,233	\$0	\$91,113	4.44%		
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>		400.00						
Telecommunications A&I	420.00	1,734	136		1,598	7.82%		
<i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$1,734	\$136	\$0	\$1,598	7.82%		
<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i>		600.00						
Grants	626.00	5,855,100	2,785,000		3,070,100	47.57%		
<i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$5,855,100	\$2,785,000	\$0	\$3,070,100	47.57%		
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS.</i>		900.00						
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0		0			
<i>900 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0			
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT TOTAL		\$6,140,792	\$2,804,841	\$0	\$3,335,951	45.68%		

	YTD Transfers	DISCUSSION ITEMS
General Funds	6,140,792	Total proposed reduction of \$507,200
TOTALS	\$6,140,792	0



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

Phone: (307) 777-4600 Fax: (307) 777-4699

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SCOTT TALBOTT

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MIKE HEALY
RICHARD KLOUDA
T. CARRIE LITTLE
ED MIGNERY
CHARLES PRICE

October 24, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kent Drake, Predator Management Coordinator, Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

FROM: Amy Copeland, Assistant Chief Fiscal Officer

COPY TO: Scott Talbott, 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 (FY) 2012.

Landowner coupons designated to ADMB	\$ -	
Funds transferred to ADMB (all)	\$ -	
Wildlife damage management stamp		
Sales deposited through 7/1/2011/ 6/30/2012		\$1,804.50
(License agent reports through 6/30/2012)		
Costs of program administration		
Management stamp:		
Stamp printing	\$ 2,724.70	
Total administrative costs for FY 2012		<u>(\$2,724.70)</u>
Excess (deficit) of collections over expenditures		(\$ 920.20)
Deficit collections previous years		(\$4,913.30)
Amount due to be transferred to ADMB for FY 12	=	<u>\$ 0.00</u>

In accordance with statutory provisions and to insure federal aid compliance, the Department can transfer funds collected only after administrative costs have been deducted. FY 12 printing costs exceed stamp sales and accordingly, no funds will be transferred this year and the deficit will be charged against FY 13 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 livestock are received, held, fed, cared for or kept for sale or shipment in commerce.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) Submit the following to the ADMB:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 10. Reporting. The district shall submit an annual report, due to the ADMB, 2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, WY 82002 by no later than July 1st 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)

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 depreddating animals; feral animals, predatory animals, rabid wildlife; predacious birds; and protect human health and safety.

STRATEGY 1.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage.		RESPONSIBILITY	DATE TO COMPLETE	DATE COMPLETED
ACTION				
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		
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 depreddating animals to livestock, agricultural crops, wildlife, property and human health and safety.				
ACTION		RESPONSIBILITY	DATE TO COMPLETE	DATE COMPLETED
1. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Governor ➤ Agriculture, Appropriations, Travel, Recreation and Wildlife legislative committees ➤ Formal presentation to Wyoming Game and Fish Commission 	1. WDA	1. 12/31 each year		
2. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Joint Agriculture committee 	1. ADMB co-chairman 2. ADMB, staff	1. Annually 2. 10/1 each year		

<p>3. Rabies Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the Rabies Management Plan (REFERENCE RABIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ACTION ITEMS) <p>4. Review programs effectiveness (50/50; 1501 grant program; 317, and 313.</p>	<p>3. ADMB</p> <p>4. ADMB</p>	<p>3. Annually</p> <p>4. Annually</p>	
<p>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.</p>			
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>ACTION</i></p>			
<p>1. Review as needed and implement the MOUs.</p> <p>2. Coordinate programs in accordance with statutes.</p>	<p>1. ADMB</p> <p>2. ADMB</p>	<p>1. As needed</p> <p>2. As needed</p>	<p><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></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)(iv): Specify methods for the prevention and management of damage and for the selective control of predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredating animals.			
<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>			
1. Project proposals.	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
➤ Requests submitted annually	1. ADMB	1. Annually	
➤ Wildlife projects will be reviewed by G&F and approved by the Commission.			
2. 1501 budget monies	2. ADMB	2. Annually	
➤ Requests submitted annually			

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

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

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

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

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>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. ADMB 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB will maintain a relationship with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. 2. ADMB will submit a letter of request for funding to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. 3. ADMB will assure Game and Fish federal aid criteria are maintained through WGFD review of submitted projects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. G&F 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-going 2. By 8/1 of year before funding is to be expended. 3. By 7/1 of year before funding is to be expended. 	

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

<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
<p>1. WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT STAMP Program</p> <p>2. LANDOWNER COUPON Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Board will continue to work with landowners to gain support of program. (REFERENCE MARKETING STRATEGY 4.1.1.) <p>3. VOLUNTARY BRAND INSPECTION Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Board will continue to work to secure funding and generate revenue. (REFERENCE MARKETING STRATEGY 4.1.1.) <p>4. GRANTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Search for grants that are applicable to program and apply. <p>5. DONATIONS FROM OUTSIDE SOURCES</p>	<p>1. ADMB</p> <p>2. ADMB</p> <p>3. ADMB</p> <p>4. WDA</p> <p>5. ADMB</p>	<p>1. 7/1 each year</p> <p>2. Annually</p> <p>3. Annually</p> <p>4. On-going and as available</p> <p>5. On-going and as contributions are made</p>	

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

**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.

STRATEGY 5.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313): Focus on applied research rather than basic (theoretical) research.		DATE TO COMPLETE	DATE COMPLETED
ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY		
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)	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DATE TO COMPLETE	DATE COMPLETED
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue a strategy to ensure program continuation. 2. Continue to develop and utilize performance measures for program. 3. Identify and include citizen groups, county boards, predator districts, legislators and stakeholders to support the ADMB program. 4. Increase visibility efforts 5. Re-evaluate the statutes and programs to be included in legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Voluntary sources ➤ Annual Report 6. Maintain an open dialogue with the Governor 7. Develop economic benefits analysis of program to State of Wyoming 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. ADMB 4. ADMB 5. ADMB 6. ADMB 7. ADMB 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-going 2. On-going 3. On-going 4. On-going 5. On-going 6. On-going 7. Completed and will update when necessary. 		

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Overview of Activities to Date:

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

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

Through the work of the ADMB, \$2.785 million has been awarded to the nineteen qualified districts in the past year. In 2012, the ADMB received \$3,797,418 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. Some of the districts have passed policy or are in the process of passing policy to limit the amount of refunds provided, at the end of the calendar year, to the 5% set aside by Wyoming statute.

Western Wyoming Predator Management Districts are concerned with increasing livestock and wildlife predation from bears and wolves and are concerned with predation from ravens and other predators on sage grouse and the on-going status of sage grouse being a candidate concerning endangered species.

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

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

Predator Management Program Allocations

Grantees	Date Approved	Board Approved
Albany County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$94,758.00
Big Horn County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$175,820.00
Campbell County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$161,690.00
Carbon County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$151,260.00
Converse County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$141,637.00
Crook County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$134,600.00
Fremont County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$159,540.00
Goshen County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$126,124.00
Hot Springs County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$159,827.00
Johnson County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$132,065.00
Lincoln County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$179,030.00
Natrona County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$170,107.00
Niobrara County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$147,400.00
Park County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$180,230.00
Sheridan County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$98,207.00
Sweetwater County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$122,110.00
Uinta County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$155,628.00
Washakie County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$153,603.00
Weston County PMD	May 1, 2012	\$141,364.00
	Total	\$2,785,000

By July 1, 2012, 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 –

Albany County PMD Responsibilities and Mission: To provide services to individuals, corporations, state and federal agencies and municipalities located in Albany County and surrounding areas with the following issues: Human Health & Safety Issues, Livestock Protection, and Wildlife Recruitment.

Albany County PMD has the desire to respond to all of the above issues that deal with the removal or manipulation of specifically predators and any other wildlife deemed necessary. This involves partnering with USDA/APHIS/WS (WS') as the lead agency to provide any actions/services needed.

Albany County is home to a variety of pertinent issues relevant to the responsibilities of the PMD and demand and variety of services requested has the ability to change drastically from year to year.

Lands worked by WS' in Albany County and surrounding areas.

BLM Lands	4,440 acres
USFS Lands	5,240 acres
Private lands	834,174 acres
State lands	32,280 acres
Total lands	876,134 acres worked under WS' agreement.

Summary of operational activities:

The current program administered by the Albany County PMD is primarily targeted at removing offending predators from depredating on livestock such as cattle and sheep. WS' personnel in Albany County continue to protect several thousand sheep seasonally brought into the county by Warren Ranch. Previously these duties were taken by WS' personnel located in Goshen County. Human Health and Safety Issues and responding to nuisance damage complaints in the county continue to be fairly constant. WS' personnel in the county have also been assisting various research entities including the University of Wyoming with several projects.

5 individual WS' personnel worked in Albany County during FY period.

130.2 hrs. of aerial hunting time was spent. This includes fixed wing/helicopter aircraft hunting and ferry time spent.

1,595 hrs. WS' field work.

67 hrs. WS' outreach and administrative work.

1,792 hrs. WS' total hrs. worked.

Human Health & Safety in Albany County:

4 raccoons were tested for raccoon round worm and other diseases (8 samples taken)
7 Striped Skunks were tested for rabies in Albany County by WS'. Enhanced rabies surveillance will continue to take place in 2012 to help detect if this disease becomes prevalent as time goes on. Rabies has not been prevalent in Albany County this year to our knowledge.

Summary:

Albany County PMD is continuing to strive to provide quality services within the responsibilities it holds. The PMD looks forward to continuing to partner with WS' and will continue to be available to participate in any wildlife enhancement if the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. requests or deems it appropriate.

Disease surveillance, livestock protection, nuisance animal control, and any other issues that might arise will continue to be addressed.

Big Horn County –

Our Bighorn County Predator Management District's (PMD) management plan is in place to provide services to requests for wildlife damage assistance from any entity in Bighorn County. We feel it is our responsibility to have an adequate number of well trained professionals that are permitted through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with all land and wildlife managements agencies to deal with our increasing wildlife damage management workload here in Bighorn County.

We feel we need to be able to respond to requests regarding all wildlife species whether they are under federal or state laws including resident, migratory, and threatened or endangered wildlife.

As part of Bighorn County's responsibility we will continue to contract with United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to provide high-quality wildlife damage management services for the protection of agriculture, wild and domestic species, natural resources, private and federal property, and human health and safety concerns.

We will provide service or respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after contact has been made to Bighorn County personnel. Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, and lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage along with technical advice on best practices to reduce or avoid future damage by wildlife. Lethal control will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Threatened and Endangered Species of wildlife and control actions will be conducted as directed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to minimize the impact to private property, livestock, and wildlife as well as the species of wildlife confirmed to have caused the damage. Bighorn County will continue to provide additional personnel to conduct with a number of ongoing human health and safety and wildlife projects in the Bighorn Basin.

During 2011 Bighorn County PMD donated "In Kind" finances to the Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Research Project which included aerial support and eighty-six hours of personnel assistance and the Bighorn County PMD has agreed to support the projects expansion into additional areas in the Bighorn Basin this spring.

This additional help will also allow for better and more efficient control of reoccurring gray wolf damage we have had in Bighorn County as efforts continue towards the delisting of gray wolves and their expanding population. We feel the boarding counties along the purposed trophy game zones will absorb dispersing wolves which have caused a history of damage over the last ten years along the front range and on the Bighorn Mountains in both federal and private properties. Our plan will continually make sure that all human health and safety, private property, and wildlife interests are taken into considerations while wildlife damage management control actions are performed. As we provide assistance, Bighorn County will assess all control actions and monitor results for efficiency and effectiveness.

In conclusion, Bighorn County Predator Management District plans to meet all challenges to solve wildlife damage in the most cooperative, efficient, cost effective, and expeditious manner with the least impacts for all interests.

Bighorn County Nuisance Predator and Wildlife Enhancement Activities

Bighorn County has proven to be very effective at solving small predator problems through Bighorn County for many farmers, ranchers, residents, and sportsman. Field activities began again March 1, 2007 and remain active until June 30, 2013. This activity is conducted following direction of the Bighorn 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).

The purpose of this activity is to improve the pheasant populations and to reduce damage for agricultural producers and residents of Bighorn County. By removing striped skunks, raccoons, feral cats, red foxes, and coyotes, our goal is to enhance the wildlife resources and reduce the damage caused by predators for farmers, livestock producers, and residents. As predators are removed, samples are collected for plague, tularemia, and rabies which provide information on zoonotic disease.

Success of the activity is determined from analysis of information gathered by WS specialists in the field and Wyoming Game and Fish Department information collected from sportsmen and field studies conducted in Bighorn County. Damage information is tracked by the MIS program (WS Database) as problems were reported with damage confirmed where control actions are taken. Control actions are carried out using the best and most humane tools that provided 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 areas.

A countywide program has developed due to the great success identified from wildlife projects conducted in the Otto and Byron areas over the last few years. Due to the demands and requests for this assistance by land and livestock owners, residents, and sportsman throughout Bighorn County the Bighorn County Predator Management District

(PMD) has adopted this activity to help and assist where requests are made and problems are confirmed. Disease samples are collected and sent to the State Veterinary Laboratory for testing. As results are obtained they are released to the PMD and disease concerns are dealt with through the Centers for Disease Control and public health agencies. During the January PMD meeting in 2012, the program was reviewed voted for renewal.

The Bighorn County PMD has received positive feedback from numerous constituents with varying interests for this programs activity. There have been numerous reports from farmers and sportsmen about the positive impacts the project has had with reducing crop damage and improving pheasant production in all areas. Many farmers in the project areas have commented that since the first year this activity has been initiated they were able to raise a quality crop of sweet corn without extensive damage and have observed a noticeable decrease in the amount of damage and consequent maintenance to irrigation systems. Farmers and sportsmen have noticed more pheasant broods in the areas where activities have taken place throughout the summer and into the hunting season. For all these reasons, the Bighorn County PMD feels the projects is very beneficial to farm production and wildlife protection in Bighorn County.

As project personnel worked in specific areas initially, they have documented damage to residences, livestock feed buildings, bird feeders, pet food storage areas, irrigation systems, agricultural crops, and numerous private property complaints county wide. The total monetary value of documented damage by the targeted predators is significant. Damage and value has been documented and tracked using the MIS system.

Project personnel were able to remove a considerable number of target animals from confirmed problem areas using a variety of methods and techniques. This type of work becomes very labor intensive and time consuming due to the sensitive nature of these activities in close proximity of residences and surrounding urban areas.

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 were documented from the Bighorn Basin. Due to the increase in positive rabies samples collected in Campbell, Johnson, and Natrona counties; Bighorn 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 Nobuto 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 Bighorn 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 fifth year of the Bighorn County Wildlife Enhancement Projects. Results of the project have made this type of activity a necessary part of the workload for USDA- Wildlife Services requested by the PMD to provide assistance to the producers and sportsmen of Bighorn County. Wildlife Services will continue to provide services 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 Bighorn County Wildlife Enhancement projects 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. We have continued to add quality personnel to meet the increasing requests for assistance with this small predator damage and pheasant enhancement project throughout Bighorn County.

Campbell County –

The Campbell County Predatory Board has been actively working to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations. Our two trappers, Calvin Taylor and Andy McKinney who were employed through the Wildlife Service have kept busy with the demands of the livestock producers. Our trappers have spent over 2650 hours in the field while covering 1,380,356 acres in Campbell County. Our trappers worked with 1396 individuals over the year as they provided predator control.

Calvin Taylor, County Trapper, continues to be very beneficial in Campbell County. Calvin mostly works with livestock producers in the Southern part of Campbell County while Andy McKinney works directly with livestock producers in the Northern part. The North and South area of Campbell County is very different. The Northern part of the county is primarily cattle producers, which in turn equates to lower rancher participation according to landowner agreements. The Northern part is also a more rugged terrain so more aerial is needed in that area, wildlife population is affected more in this area as well. The Wyoming Game and Fish has made Deer area 19 and Antelope areas 17, 18, 19 and 24 a higher priority for predator control. All of these areas are in the Northern part of Campbell County. The southern part of the county is comprised mainly of sheep producers so Calvin deals more with problem coyotes. The Southern part of the county is flatter and has better vehicle access.

Our trappers also assisted the Game and Fish on a bear that traveled into the city limits of Gillette and they also spent time tracking and hunting two wolves that were harming livestock in Campbell County.

In March, the Campbell County Predatory Board decided to hire contract trappers on an individual basis. The Board felt they could utilize the trappers better, not be restricted by Federal mandates and the Board would not have to pay the Administration fee that Wildlife service's charged. The Board terminated their contract with Wildlife Services and hired Calvin and Andy as Contract Trappers. The Board kept the Wildlife Service's aerial

contract. The two trappers started as personal contract trappers on May 1, 2012. We have had one month of that reporting. Their hours totaled 428 for the month of May, they harvested 146 coyotes and 22 fox. At the June meeting, the Board offered a third trapper a position on a part-time basis. This position will be effective as of July 1, 2012. This third trapper will coordinate with Calvin and Andy and will work in both areas of Campbell County as needed.

Jesse Lujan, Wildlife Biologist, dealt with the skunk/human public safety issues and monitored rabies until January 2012. Since Campbell County has continued in the methane industry, our skunk population continues to grow. This is due to the fact that every methane hut and building provides a nesting habitat. This also applies to all small animals and rodents. Jesse had been busy with the public regarding nuisance calls. He eliminated 69 skunks, 23 raccoons, 6 porcupines, 36 pigeons, and 6 badgers. After many complaints regarding the biologist, the Board terminated the position. The Board voted to continue being proactive with the rabies program. Over the years the board has been financing the position out of the livestock fees after the rabies grant money, and the county and city reimbursement is used. The Board is working with the County Commissioners and the City Council to reach an amount that would help the board rehire the nuisance/rabies program position. The Board feels they can hire an individual for this position and it not have to be a higher salaried wildlife biologist. At the last meeting in June, the board offered the position to an individual from Gillette, this position will be reinstated July 1, 2012.

The Wyoming Game and Fish is concerned with the sage-grouse populations. They would like help in predator control targeting red fox, raccoons and skunks in nesting and brood rearing habitat surrounding sage-grouse lek sites. Removal of potential nest predators would benefit the sage-grouse populations.

Wildlife populations have remained stable except in the areas mentioned in the above narrative due to the efforts of our county trappers.

Carbon County –

Mission: Prioritize the management of predators/non-predators and address any concern/problem. Maintain consistent levels of predator control through a cooperative service agreement with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS') on the 8,000 square miles of Carbon County.

Human Health & Safety Issue: Guarantee public safety from predators and non-predators as needed or requested by municipalities.

Wildlife Issue: 1) Maintain a sustainable population of mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk and sage grouse for years to come. 2) Prepare WS Specialists for possible county invasion of wolf. 3) Begin Big Creek Pronghorn project with WGF. 4) Possibly reinstate intensified control in Seminoe Big Horn Sheep at WGF request.

Livestock Issue: Insure the current level of control is not compromised causing the local economy to suffer through loss of agricultural sustainability and livestock predation.

Human Health & Safety: Respond appropriately to requests for assistance of control or protection of any predator/non-predator or game species as needed. Test for plague and tularemia in several species and rabies in skunks.

Wildlife: Continue to identify and concentrate management efforts in units within Carbon County that are below objective, as determined by counts furnished through coordinated efforts with local Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. (WGFD) personnel. WS Specialists will provide assistance for any request received from municipality and/or agency.

Livestock: Conduct management using all available aerial and ground methods. Emphasis on using these methods will be intensified during February, March and April before the coyotes have a chance to den and conditions are favorable for flying.

Total land acres under agreement worked by Carbon County WS' personnel:

BLM lands	1,193,428
US Forest Service lands	63,472
Other Federal Lands	1
Other Public Lands	10,240
Private lands	1,487,330
State lands	110,787
Total acres	2,865,258

Carbon County has a cooperative agreement with 91 ranches or properties. Of those, 90 received work in the 2011-2012 year. This amounted to 1174 person-day-visits. In addition to our three full time and one part time Wildlife Service specialists, we get help from pilots, gunners, biologists and other specialists. Total hours worked by 11 WS' personnel in Carbon County:

Aerial (Fixed Wing) hunting	168.5
Aerial (Helicopter) hunting	0
Field work	3,972.0
Outreach	23.5
Total hours spent	4,164.0

Two bats and ten striped skunks were tested for rabies, and ten coyotes were tested for plague and tularemia. No positive results were found.

In 2011 the Carbon County Predator Management District (CCPMD) began the Big Creek Pronghorn Recruitment Project in cooperation with WGFD and WS'. Fawn ratios in the Big Creek Herd Unit (Hunt Area 51) have been well below the desired goal of 65 fawns per 100 does during the past 5-years. Severe winters and predation are suspected to be the cause of the low fawn recruitment rate.

The goal of the project is to improve fawn survival by reducing coyote predation in important fawning areas in the Big Creek Herd Unit.

Coyote removal efforts are being conducted by CCPMD/WS' personnel stationed in Carbon County, and the WS' District Supervisor and pilot stationed in Casper. Both aerial and ground methods have been employed on two of the larger ranches in the herd unit. Specifically, removal takes place on lands owned/leased by Big Creek Ranch and the Munroe Ranch. The area is a cow/calf production ranching area adjacent to the Medicine Bow National Forest. Private lands lay in the main valley which is interspersed with many irrigation ditches for hay production and several small creeks. Hwy 230 generally travels through the valley in a north/south direction. Due to the proximity of the Colorado state line and the land in which these ranch holdings encompass, removal activities are not taking place over all of the area within Hunt Area 51.

Removal efforts were delayed until late May of 2011, due to late winter storms. Although removal efforts in 2011 were successful, no significant increase in the fawn ratio was observed during WGFD's September pronghorn classification surveys. However, overall 2011 fawn production may have been already depressed due to the severe late winter conditions. WS'/CCPMD personnel were able to continue removal efforts into 2012 with continued ground work and very timely spring aerial work. These continued removal efforts, coupled with a mild winter and spring, will hopefully produce the desired increase in pronghorn fawn recruitment, anticipated for 2012.

Seminole Deer herd: after discussions with the WGF, reinstatement of intensified control in the Seminoes for Big Horn Sheep protection was not resumed.

Big Creek Pronghorn: work continues in the area to improve fawn survival by reducing coyote predation in important fawning areas in the Big Creek Herd Unit.

Sage Grouse Raven/Sage Grouse: although not directly involved with the study, Wildlife Services' Specialists from Carbon County provided data on raven, magpie and crow harvests from 2007 to 2011 in the Atlantic Rim and Stewart Creek areas of Sweetwater and Carbon Counties between Bairoil and Baggs.

Dr. Michael Conover and Jonathan Dinkins at the Jack Berryman Institute Wildland Resources Department of the Utah State University, studied the effects of removing ravens on sage-grouse nesting success in southwest and south-central Wyoming during the summers and falls of 2008 through 2011. Results were recorded by the University of Wyoming.

Platte Valley Mule Deer: a partnership between the WGFD, private landowners, WS' and the CCPMDB has begun to address the mule deer herd in the Platte Valley because of decreasing populations. Improving habitat was discussed at meetings over the past 6 months as the public was asked to provide input on issues and challenges the Platte Valley mule deer face.

As a result of setting the \$1 per head fee in Carbon County, we received \$118,124 towards our budget this past year. However, we also received requests for refunds from thirteen different ranchers — four in-state and nine out-of-state for a total of \$31,628 — thus losing 27% of funds received from the head tax. As refunds are a natural reoccurrence in our county, our board has moved forward with the “rule making process” to establish a defensible policy of returning only 5% of fees received

Converse County –

CCPMD contracted with Wildlife Services once again in fiscal year 2011 for the bulk of our predator management efforts. We employ two full time trappers with WS providing their vehicles and some equipment. Included in the contract are 300 hours of fixed wing flying time.

As of June 1 we had used 244 hours of flying time. In addition, our trappers took various coyotes, fox, problem raccoons, and a few beaver, porcupines, and skunks by firearm, snares, traps, calling, and M-44's. Our trappers also collected tissue samples from 14 coyotes and 3 skunks with no positive results for rabies, roundworm, tularemia, canine parvovirus, or plague. These two individuals gave us a total of over 2900 hours of field work and gunning time.

In spite of all these efforts our ranchers reported losses of 445 sheep, mostly lambs, to coyote predation. These sheep were worth nearly \$10,000. There were also 8 baby calves that would have been conservatively worth \$7,200 this fall, lost to coyotes. So, you can imagine what our losses would be like if we didn't have the wherewithal to employ the trappers and contract for flying time. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there were more mule deer fawns by mother's side last summer and fall.

Crook County –

The Mission of the Crook County Predator Management District (PMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within 2800 square miles in northeastern Wyoming containing 65,000 beef cows/calves and 15,000 breeding sheep including goats.

Crook County has two trappers working with Wildlife Services (WS) full time and an additional trapper part time. They work with the approximate nearly 1000 active Cook County agreements between livestock producers and Wildlife Services. July 2011 through April 2012; 615,476 acres (including 14,040 BLM, 31,620 State, and 11,300 Forest Service) were covered by County trappers, reflecting 640 day visits.

Predation on cattle herds, most commonly occur during spring months, when new calves are born. Predating animals find this a prime time to catch a birthing mother helpless or a new calf still weak.

Sheep herds are primarily hit in the spring when young lambs are first turned out to pasture or during lambing on the early green grass of May. Predatory mothers have pups to feed. They kill heavily again in mid-summer when the predators (primarily coyotes) begin

teaching their young how to kill.

Ranchers suffer economic losses from wounded or dead livestock, as they are a primary source of income for these agricultural families. Many cattle and/or sheep ranchers have also looked to hunting of wildlife, such as deer and turkey, for a means of income on their properties. Predating animals on wildlife herds also affect family income and the economic stability of WY rural communities.

Predatory/ damage animals for our district include, but are not limited to: coyotes, fox, badgers, raccoons, bobcats, mountain lions, skunks, porcupines, free range (feral) cats, wild (domesticated) dogs, and occasionally muskrats and beavers.

Key Successes Include:

The first six months of the grant process back in 2006, resulted in an even number of land owner/operators contacted as occurred in the whole of the previous calendar year. 2011 to 2012 contracts hit an all-time high with 958 cooperative agreements. Cooperative agreements decline slightly this last year due to management/ acreages controlled by the same producer has increased

With this large of an increase one would think that overall predator animal numbers would decrease. However, sightings and tracking, along with unofficial pack count reports reflect little to no decline. These numbers do show that the program efforts are beneficial to management of both wildlife numbers and prove positive to agricultural producers in the district we serve.

The program has allowed trappers to upgrade equipment which has increased efficiency and improved results.

Health issues such as rabies plague and tularemia have been addressed through 21 lab samples of possible carriers so far in 2011/2012. These activities have become a constant to the program.

Trappers take samples for canine heartworm, as part of a nationwide surveillance program to detect highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). No positive results in have been found this fiscal year. This service has been made available to the public more readily since program implementation.

Livestock producers in the sheep and cattle industries have benefited from the current program. Economic losses were reported for July 2011 to April 2012: 32 animal units with a value estimated at \$25,450 00. This compared to 2006 when 26 animal units were lost; proving predatory animal management must continue!

Fremont County –

Actions taken with 2011-2012 funding:

Fremont County has two full time trappers. Since we are one of the largest counties, they are necessary. When they fly, one works as a gunner and the other does ground work, which studies have shown increases aerial hunting take by 30%.

We have had trouble for the last several years getting air time with planes. However, we received a new plane and updated it for the trapper program, and trappers have been flying during these critical spring months. This has been a great help to ranchers and also to wildlife in the county. The money received from ADMB has greatly helped our aerial hunting program.

Most predator work was done on the coyote population this year. However, trappers also worked with badgers, beavers, crows, cats, raccoons, skunks, ravens, wolves, and flickers. This is a diverse population of predators, and the work has benefited both the livestock and wildlife industries as well as human health and safety.

Fremont County continued to work on their ongoing wildlife projects. The sage grouse/mule deer project finished its sixth year and showed great improvement in numbers of mule deer. The Board would like to continue predator work in that area to have a long term study of maintaining numbers. The Whiskey Mountain Big Horn Sheep Project has been in effect for several years, and has also shown a dramatic increase in the numbers of surviving newborns. Working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, we also have the project on enhancing pheasant population in the Ocean Lake area. Trappers and board members would like to continue all of these projects with ADMB monies. They were originally designed to run for five years, but the Board would like to establish results for a ten year project since there haven't been results kept for that long in the past.

Fremont County has tried a bounty project for two years. There was a large interest in this project last year, and funds were quickly used up. No ADMB funds were used for this work. The Board continued with the bounty again this year, but changed the dates from winter to spring through summer. Part of the allocated funds was used, but not as much interest was shown in the project.

The two trappers work the entire county as well as specific trouble spots. Trouble spots vary from year to year, however, coyotes continue to hit ranchers hard in the Jeffery City - Gas Hills area. Wolves caused damage to calves in the Sweetwater region three years ago, the Dubois area for the last two years, and are appearing in different areas this year. Our trappers work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on wolf control. We also have signed agreements to perform predator work on the Wind River Indian Reservation and do quite a lot of work in that area.

USDA, APHIS was told that they would not receive wolf monies in this budget year. This took away part of our matching funds toward one trapper. That means that we may have to pay all of both trapper expenses in the upcoming year. They also charged us \$25

more per flying hour and 10% more on the trapper cost share. ADMB funding is of critical importance to us as the USDA, APHIS funding is uncertain every year.

Since we do not receive a full cost share on the one trapper, we are using some of past year's carry over monies. We try to have a contingency fund that would pay expenses for our program for one year. As we expect that fund to go down quickly, we are very appreciative of ADMB funding. Our program depends on you.

Thank you for your continued support of our programs.

FREMONT COUNTY SAGE GROUSE/MULE DEER PROJECT REPORT 2012

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 2012 trail cams were once again put out on artificial nests in both the "control" and the "treatment" area. This is the 7th 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. Here is the breakdown of nest depredation by species:

Common raven - 24 damaged nest
Magpie - 2 damaged nests
Coyote - 2 damaged nests
Striped skunk - 3 damaged nest
Unverified - 2 damaged nests (eggs missing).

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. 380 field hours have been worked and 73.3 fixed wing hours have been flown. This is all in line with project costs and goals.

In early late December 2011 we did our yearly mule deer count. 508 total deer were counted in the treatment portion of hunt area 90 and adjoining reservation land. Taking into consideration that there were 125 mule deer licenses issued (up from previous years), that would put the population over 600 animals, which is twice the amount we started with at the onset of the project.

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.

Tracy Frye
USDA Wildlife Services/Fremont County PAB

OCEAN LAKE ADMB PROJECT REPORT 2012

This project takes place yearly in the Ocean Lake recreation area northwest of Riverton, WY. This project is in cooperation with the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. WGFD releases pheasants in the area prior to hunting season. Predators are targeted prior to this time to enhance the number of birds that are available for hunters season long. Many local sportsmen have given positive feedback as to the number of birds available during the season after the initial release when compared to previous years and to less predators being observed. The breakdown of predators removed is as follows:

Red Fox - 10 removed
Feral house cat - 6 removed
Raccoon - 8 removed
Striped skunk - 3 removed

A total of 38 ground hours were worked during the month of September.

Removing these predators also allows for possible nesting of released birds that make it through the hunting season and winter.

Thank you ADMB for your continued support

Dave Fowler
USDA Wildlife Services/Fremont County PAB

Goshen County –

Goshen County PMD (GCPMD) responsibilities and mission:

To provide services to individuals, corporations, state and federal agencies and municipalities located in Goshen County and surrounding areas with the following issues: Human Health & Safety Issues, Livestock Protection, and Wildlife Recruitment.

GCPMD has the desire to respond to all of the above issues that deal with the removal or manipulation of specifically predators and any other wildlife deemed necessary. This involves partnering with USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS') as the lead agency to provide any actions/services needed.

Goshen County is home to a variety of pertinent issues relevant to the responsibilities of the GCPMD and demand and variety of services requested has the ability to change drastically from year to year.

Identifiable and measurable actions:

Lands worked by WS' in Goshen County and surrounding areas.

BLM Lands 3,000 ac.

Private Lands 413,350 ac.

State Lands 17,180 ac.

Total Lands 433,530 ac. worked under WS' agreement.

5 individual WS' personnel worked in Goshen County during FY period.

51.3 hrs. of aerial hunting was spent.

2,127:15 hrs. WS' field work.

The current program administered by GCPMD is primarily targeted at removing offending predators from depredate on livestock, feed and wildlife.

GCPMD currently has two on-going wildlife enhancement projects; a pheasant enhancement project started in May 2007 to present and a mule deer enhancement project started in May 2009 to present. Both enhancement projects have had a good deal of success, with an increase in wildlife numbers and strong public support.

Pheasant Enhancement Project

According to pheasant crow count results conducted by WS' and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) there has been a steady population increase in trapped areas. From the spring of 2008 to the spring of 2011 the crow count results for pheasants increased by 190% in one area and 110% in another (see graph #1). In the controlled area of the graph trapping efforts were performed in 2011 for the skunk density project and continued for damage control. This should provide a good judge of the trapping efforts in relation to pheasant counts. In addition, we have found a significant reduction in property and crop damage in the treated areas as well. The primary targeted predator is the raccoon which is responsible for a considerable amount of property damage to corn fields, buildings, stored grain, and irrigation equipment.

In 2009 a corn damage study was conducted with the help of the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) in Fort Collins, CO.. The corn damage study consisted of ten selected areas. Five inside the pheasant enhancement areas “trapped” and five outside the project areas “not-trapped” (control). These areas were also selected by habitat ranging from dry land corn with very little habitat to areas with significant water and abundant habitat. This gave a wide range of habitat types to get well rounded results. In most trapped areas, we found damage to corn caused by raccoon decreased by 65% - 90% estimating an increased revenue of \$425 per 100 acres. This is a significant potential economic gain to corn producers.

Nesting Depredation Study

In the spring of 2011 WS’ conducted a nest depredation study in Goshen County. The study consisted of making ten nests. Five viewed with trail cameras and five without. The nests were made with surrounding grasses and placed in heavily covered habitat areas natural to pheasant nesting. The nesting study resulted in considerable destruction on our simulation nests. In the time frame of one week seven nests were destroyed, in two weeks the rest of the nests were destroyed. Depredations by species were as follows: bull snake one nest, opossum one nest, coyote one nest, raccoon four nests, and the remainder unknown. Continuation and intensity of this study will continue for comparative results.

Mule Deer Enhancement Project

The Mule Deer enhancement project is targeting designated areas that the deer population is below quota (WGFD), primarily in the Goshen Hole Rim area. WS’ has increased the flying time in this area and has concentrated time spent on the ground when fawns are most vulnerable to predation. WS’ has coordinated this time spent with livestock protection activities to better utilize time and money spent. We are documenting data on coyotes such as stomach contents, sex, age, and GPS locations of where coyotes are taken. In our stomach content analysis we found that 13.3% of coyotes had evidence of Mule Deer fawns and 26.7% had evidence of Pronghorn Antelope fawns. In late summer of 2010 and 2011, aerial counts for deer and antelope were performed. The total numbers of deer and antelope showed a slight increase from our 2010 to 2011 data.

WY. Game and Fish records indicate numbers are below objective in the mule deer population. The objective numbers for hunt areas 15, 16, 55 and 57 are 25,000 animals. The estimated herd size is 16,500-17,000. Post-season classifications are hard in this area due to rough terrain and access. Harvest reports have shown a gradual decrease. Unfortunately, the harvest reports are very wide spread and it is difficult to make comparative results in relationship to the mule deer project area.

Skunk Population Density Studies

The Skunk Population Density Project is a new project for Goshen County. WS’ is assisting the WS’ National Rabies Program in determining population densities for striped

skunks. This is accomplished by trapping an area 3km² about 750 acres with 50 traps set for 10 nights for a total of 500 trapped nights, moving traps every 2-4 days if no captures result. Data collected consists of date, species, sex, age, GPS locations, and micro and macro habitats. Every tenth skunk captured was submitted for rabies. This project has tied in nicely with our other wildlife projects and brought relief to areas that suffered from vast amounts of raccoon damage. This was our second consecutive year and the project will be concluded with the following 2012 fall season. GCPMD continues to submit skunks for on-going rabies surveillance.

Livestock Protection/Nuisance Animal Work

With the advent of additional state funding, GCPMD/WS' has been able to hire an additional employee, increase flying time, and acquire more equipment. This has led to greater diversity in the GCPMD program. Increased funding also allows for greater effectiveness in responding to livestock depredation issues and WS' personnel in Goshen County spent a considerable amount of time working in Laramie County under contract with Warren Land and Livestock and the Laramie County PAB. Work is planned again to begin in April FY 2012.

WS' in Goshen County is also doing a great deal of European Starling work in feedlots. This is a very timely procedure and starling migratory patterns create a genuine obstacle. Persistence and hard work has been able to slow down the damage caused by the vast amounts of starlings that populate the feedlots. The additional help is essential in success slowing the damage caused by the large amount of starlings that populate the feedlots. WS' has good communications with the feedlot managers and owners that feel our efforts are making a difference. Another ongoing problem is with the roosting Turkey Vultures in the City of Torrington. The vultures are causing damage to yards, sidewalks and trees. With the cooperation of the city and use of the proper vulture effigies, WS' has been able to manage the situation.

Additional:

WS' has recently been asked to help with gathering information on Virginia Opossum for Steven Buskirk of the Zoology and Physiology department at the University of Wyoming.

Summary:

GCPMD plans to keep moving forward with all of the projects and responsibilities already mentioned. WS' plans to spend more time doing ground work in the mule deer enhancement area. This is primarily due to bad weather conditions and rougher terrain. Additional ground time spent may prove beneficial. We also plan to continue assisting the WS' National Rabies Program in determining population densities for striped skunks.

Hot Springs County –

In FY 2011-2012 the Hot Springs County PMD provided service to 52 properties/agreements (including the town of Thermopolis and Tribal lands). This resulted in 1,587 person/day/visits by our three predator control agents and other Wildlife Services personnel. The methods used by our agents included snaring/trapping, calling/shooting, M-44s and aerial gunning.

The HSCPMD has two special projects on-going at this time, an Upland bird project and a Sage grouse project, which receives ADMB assistance. Our 5-year Mule Deer project has ended, with the comparative start/end statistics:
2008—411 deer counted 2012-- 664 deer counted

The Upland bird project has shown an increase in the population of Pheasant in the target area. This is a farm/ suburban home type of habitat, so live traps are used to aid in the release of non-target animals. Also, a random sampling of animals was sent to the Wyoming Analytical Laboratory for Rabies and disease testing. No positive tests have been confirmed in Hot Springs County.

The Sage grouse project is a multi-county Big Horn Basin project. This is the first year of participation by the HSCPMD, but it is hoped that the study will continue for several years. In March of 2012, 15 birds were captured and fitted with Argos and GPS tracking collars and leg banded. One of our control agents was trained to help in this process. Also, trail cameras and nest cameras were set to verify the causes of any mortality that may occur. The telemetry tracking is done by hand-held units and an aircraft mounted system that allows multiple species to be tracked. At this time our agents monitor Wolves, Grizzly bears, and Sage grouse. The ability to track these animals with our aircraft during multiple-use flights cuts down on costs and time spent doing specific aerial tracking. Even with this overlap in tasks our agents have logged almost 200 hours of control, GPS tracking and ferry time.

The HSCPMD received funding from the following in this fiscal year; Hot Springs County, the Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture(WDA),the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB),and the Wyoming Brand Board. After the final billing for the last quarter of FY2011-2012, it is expected that all grant funds received from the ADMB and the WDA will be expended.

Johnson County –

The Johnson County Predator Management District continues to be very active carrying out our general management plan of providing a predation reduction in county livestock and wildlife herds as well as the protection of human health and safety to all residents of Johnson County.

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 were taken just before or during the denning season, thus population control was achieved by good timing. Private

helicopters and planes as well as Wildlife Services fixed wing planes were used the majority of the time. Less coyotes were taken with higher dollar helicopter hours thus a close look will be taken at the level this practice. Aerial hunting is not only advantageous to livestock producers, but great for the wildlife populations, county-wide. As funding become tighter, this is where the cuts are often made.

We continue to “Contract for Services” with three control officers and employ part-time and bookkeeping personnel. A few changes to the contracts were made. Contracts were change to fit our fiscal and funding year instead of calendar year and bounties will be dropped on July 1 and replaced with a contract dollar adjustment. A stringent reporting program and data collection is in place to verify needs and funding

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 opportunity. This year we co-sponsored with the Wyoming ADMB, a seminar on new wolf legislation and rules as well as sage grouse predation. 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 and Wyoming Game & Fish personnel continue and are invited to our annual meeting. Predation for bear, mountain lions, and wolves continues in our district and is important to keep all producers and employees up to date on protocol in recognizing and handling these cases in the field.

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. Buffalo city officials are very satisfied with the success of this program and have contributed financially to the program. Our rabies control officer spent some time helping the City of Buffalo with a muskrat problem in its wetland area. This is a great step for PR for predator control to our urban population.

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 –

Lincoln County has not been billed yet for the last two quarters so we do not know for sure how much, if any, carry-over we will have. We had to pay all of the first quarter because of budget constraints by W.S. In addition we now are paying to equip trucks for trappers and a new radio system to give better coverage to report bear damage to the WG&FD and wolf problems to the Fish & Wildlife Service. Currently, ranchers have difficulty in reporting losses by trophy game animals especially bear because of time delays and preserving evidence in the heat of summer and remoteness of back country.

For example, last summer one herder of ours counted 32 lambs that bear had killed; we were paid for about 12 using the 3 to 1 multiplier. Other permittees have the same problem with confirmation of losses.

Two of our trappers spend all winter on snow machines. They ground crew for aircraft and have M-44s, trap lines and snares set on lambing and calving areas. They drive about 1500 miles/winter depending on snow conditions. These machines start having a multitude of problems at about 2400 miles. We need to get on a trade- in schedule at about 2000 miles to avoid this expense. The Board used a budget amendment to trade for two new machines. Because of snow conditions, we never used all of our flight time so we used some to cover the new machines. We need to get on a trade schedule every two years. The Board will probably spend the rest of the flying monies during the calving and lambing season flying hot spots for ranchers and fawn survival of antelope and deer.

Our trapper has done a lot of work on the ravens this past winter. Hopefully this will aide in reduced livestock losses and leads to more sage grouse chick survival. We hope to be able to work with the Lincoln County Commissioners on the county dumps that seem to keep the ravens around, well fed an carriers of various diseases that are spread to other animals.

Our new trapper has caught, shot and trapped more coyotes the past 11 months than his previous predecessors did in the past 5 years. He seems to get everywhere he is needed and does an excellent job provided we keep him supplied with good equipment.

The LCPMD would like to emphasize the importance of a predator animal program in Lincoln County. The Bridger National Forest, Kemmerer and Afton Districts are some of the few USFS lands that still have active sheep allotments. In fact the majority of the sheep that use public lands are found in Southwestern Wyoming. In addition one of the largest migratory deer herds in Wyoming winters in Lincoln County. We also have large elk, antelope and moose populations. Perhaps, the most important wildlife species found in Lincoln County is a large population of sage grouse. If you have heard a presentation by Dr. Conover or read the Worland Big Horn Basin studies on sage grouse you would know the importance of predator and raven control which perpetuates the species and keeps them off the endangered species list. If sage grouse are listed, Wyoming's economic future will be greatly impacted.

The LCPMD believes we have a very good program and have been able to benefit wildlife and the livestock industry. The AMDB financial support is imperative if we are going to continue to offer this service.

Natrona County –

I. **Actions Taken:** The mission of the Natrona County Predator Management District (NCPMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Natrona County. The number of ravens, crows, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes in Natrona County are at healthy levels. The NCPMD would like to facilitate an increase in 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. Gene Heckel will work deer unit 66 in Southeast Natrona County, which is the Stinking Creek/Bates Hole area and its tributaries. The predator control work in the Stinking Creek/Bates Hole mule deer wintering area was requested by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The purpose of requesting predator control in deer unit 66 was to attempt to bring up mule deer numbers. In addition to the wintering areas, the predator control will extend into this deer herds summer range. See attached map delineating project area.

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 game and fish has requested this is because for over 10 plus years, mule deer numbers have been dramatically below herd objective. The NCPMD had previously not worked this area of the county because land owners did not request or desire our services. Prior to receiving grant money from the ADMB, we lacked the personnel necessary to work this part of Natrona County. The Wyoming Game and Fish helped us secure access to these ranches for predator control to assist the mule deer population. Below are the deer numbers provided by the Game and Fish Department in this specific area:

**Mule Deer – Per 100 Doe's (collected in Nov/Dec each year-postseason)
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	26	84
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	29	65
2009	8	15	23	57
2010	9	11	20	45
2011	7	14	21	67

2011 postseason Population Estimate of 6,121 (49% below herd objective)

The Sportsman's Representatives for the NCPMD meet annually with the Wyoming Game and Fish to review the productivity by the NCPMD on the Stinking Creek/Bates Hole project. In addition to the mule deer project, we report all coyotes taken throughout the year

to the Wyoming Game and Fish by antelope hunt unit. It's our desire to continue working closely with game and fish for the benefit of wildlife populations throughout Natrona County.

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

II. **Public Relations:**

The NCPMD continues to participate and display its booth at various venues within Natrona County to promote predator control. The booth has pictures of sheep and antelope killed by predation, and other predators, various traps used by the trappers, statistics and predator method control. The booth is also displayed at the Wyoming Game and Fish Expo in September.

III. **Current Financial Statement:** The end of the fiscal year leaves the NCPMD with no carry-over in the grant account. We have a livestock tax account balance of \$75,583.23 and a refund savings account in the amount of \$2,500.72. For a total of \$78,083.95 remaining until June 30, 2012.

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

Niobrara County –

The Niobrara County PMB continues to direct operations according to our original Management Plan. We implement a cyclical program of general control through the fall and winter, and then work the calving areas before shifting the focus to preventing lamb losses and over predation of fawns. We consider ourselves to be a “first line of defense” of Wyoming's predator battle. Our border is under constant infiltration of uncontrolled coyote populations in South Dakota and Nebraska as well as some of our neighboring counties who leave their side of our border untended. We always try to be as efficient as possible; typically 97% of expenditures are for field operations.

We feel that in 2011 our district did a very good job of predator control. There was almost no loss reported by livestock producers. We are hearing from our producers and our trappers that mule deer seem to be more scarce than usual, but we are confident that it is not due to predation. It is odd that the numbers are down, especially with the mild conditions this winter.

Our program is built around two independently contracted full-time trappers. We are so fortunate to have two individuals with such excellent abilities. They are very professional, experienced, and are very good to work with. Never has our program had trappers with such proficiency in ground methods. As aerial services have become more and more limited, it is important to know that ground equipment is productive.

In addition to our full-time contract trappers we also utilize special contractors. These individuals work primarily in the wildlife emphasis areas, and receive what amounts to only a partial reimbursement of expenses. Obviously this is a very low-cost way to provide extra work in the wildlife areas. We also have hired some additional help during denning season. This serves a two-fold purpose. A veteran trapper from Lusk has agreed to come out of retirement on a limited basis. We have paired him with a young man who provides “young legs” while learning from the experienced elder. We feel it is a good investment in the future as well as covering more ground during denning.

The foremost goal of the Niobrara County Predator Management District Board has always been to use the funding provided by our producers to implement a program of livestock protection through predator control. With the addition of funding provided by the state, we have been able to enlarge our program to include wildlife concerns. Although there is increased administration required by state funding, prudent spending allows us to send about 95 cents of each dollar to field operations. Predator removal is of mutual benefit to livestock and wildlife, and operations are timed to provide control at critical times and places to maximize those benefits. The trappers are directed to focus on calving grounds in early spring to reduce calf losses due to predators. Later the focus shifts to lambing and fawning areas. States on our eastern border and neighboring no-control counties provide a steady supply of coyotes, so we are never afraid of running out of them.

So, for the year, we had two full-time trappers, one part-time denner, one aerial hunter who is paid per coyote taken, and one part-time trapper who works the Rawhide Project area during the winter and receives a partial reimbursement of expenses from the board. The privately-contracted trappers were given a lofty set of objectives for the year, and these goal were met. Producers in the county reported of little or no loss of livestock last fall which was the primary objective. We hope this summer will turn out well in spite of the extremely tough conditions we are experiencing.

The trappers are taking far more predators using ground methods than has been the case for many years. It eases the reliance on aerial hunting a bit. Aerial hunting is an excellent tool, but is extremely difficult to get enough aerial hours given the shortage of airplanes and abundance of windy weather. We currently contract with three private pilots as well as with Wildlife Services.

Our annual deer count was conducted in November, 2011. We now have multiple years’ data on populations and fawns per doe ratios in the targeted mule deer areas. We continue to show excellent ratios in the Rawhide area and improved ratios in the north project area.

Park County –

Park County Nuisance Predator Report

Field activities began March 15 - September 2011 and resumed March 14, 2012 and will continue through September 2012. Due to success and positive results from the Wildlife Project conducted to reduce damage and increase pheasant populations around the Powell area in northern Park County nuisance predator removal has been expanded county wide where request for this service is made and damage is confirmed.

All activity is 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 are to enhance the wildlife resource, and to reduce the damage caused by predators for farmers, livestock producers, and residents. As predators are removed, samples are collected for plague, tularemia, and rabies which provide information on zoonotic disease.

Success of the project is determined by analyzing information gathered by WS specialists in the field and field studies conducted in the same area. Damage information is tracked by the MIS program (WS Database) as problems are reported with damage confirmation where control actions are taken. Control actions are 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.

The Park County Predator Management District (PMD) decided to expand nuisance predator activities across the county as requests for assistance are made to deal with the impacts of these species. Control actions are best received where the PMD feels wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts will benefit the most, as well as where damage is confirmed and known to be a significant issue. Disease samples are collected and sent to the State Veterinary Laboratory for testing. As results are obtained they are released to the PMD and disease concerns are dealt with through the Centers for Disease Control and public health agencies.

During the January 2011 Annual PMD meeting, activities and results will be discussed for renewal.

There have been numerous reports from farmers and sportsmen about the positive impacts of this activity for reducing crop damage and improving pheasant production in all areas. Many farmers in the 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 decrease in the amount of damage and consequent maintenance to irrigation systems. Farmers and sportsmen noticed and report seeing more pheasant and sage grouse broods in the area throughout the summer and into the hunting season. However, specialists have yet to interview a single sportsman whom went to the field to harvest sage grouse due to the

sensitive nature of this species portrayed in the media and agencies. For all these reasons, the Park County PMD feels this activity has been very beneficial to farm production and wildlife protection and will continue county wide where damage is reported and confirmed.

After June 30, 2012 this particular project has become part of the duties of Park County Specialists and project reports will consist of take and pheasant crow count surveys to track success.

The following summary outlines WS nuisance predator activities around Park County. As WS personnel worked in Park County they documented damage to residences, private property of many types, livestock feed buildings, irrigation systems, crops, leaf cutter bee hives, bird feeders, pet food storage areas, and threats of disease. 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.

Project personnel were able to remove a considerable number of target animals from the all areas requesting assistance using a variety of methods and techniques. This type of work becomes very labor intensive and time consuming due to the sensitive nature of these activities in close proximity of residences and surrounding urban areas. The most damage confirmed for farmers is caused by raccoons. Raccoons and skunks are effective at raiding bird nests and can cause a significant reduction in the wild bird population as well. As mentioned previously, captured animals were sampled for diseases such as rabies, plague, and tularemia. 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. 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 Nobuto 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 Bighorn 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 third year of nuisance predator activities in Park County. 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 nuisance predator activities 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.

Sheridan County –

1 The mission of the Sheridan County Predator Management District (PMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Sheridan County.

2 Sheridan County is located in the north central part of the state and has a land mass of just over 2,500 square miles. According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service, Sheridan County livestock numbers in 2011 total approximately 4,000 sheep and 42,000 beef cattle.

3 **A) *Wildlife Issues*** – The numbers of ravens, crows, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes in Sheridan County are at healthy levels. Many of the livestock producers in the county also receive additional income from wildlife activities, i.e. hunting.

B) *Wildlife Goals* – The Sheridan County PMD would like to facilitate an increase in numbers of wild game through effective management of those predator species having the most impact on numbers.

C) *Proposed Actions* – The Sheridan County PMD proposes the following:
Expanding the use of aerial hunting to better manage predator numbers in specific areas within the county. The PMD has designated six areas for concentrated aerial control using the helicopter:

AREA 1 – From Ucross, WY along Hwy 14/16 east to the Campbell Co. line and south of 14/16 to the Johnson Co. line. Primary purpose will be to depopulate coyotes from the target area, helping sage grouse recovery on spring leks and nesting areas, as well as control on spring lambing grounds. 500 hrs

AREA 2 – From Sheridan, WY to Wyarno. Southeast along Ulm County Rd. to the junction with Hwy 14/16, then south to the Johnson Co. line. From there, west on the county line to the face of the Big Horn Mountains and back to Sheridan. Area of concentration will be spring calving grounds. 250hrs

AREA 3 – From Wyarno, east to Passic Rd, following Buffalo Creek Rd east and Ulm County Rd southwest to Hwy 14/16. Everything east of Ukm County Rd and everything south of Buffalo Creek Rd to Hwy 14/16. The control will be directed at helping sage grouse on spring leks and breeding grounds, as well as lambing grounds. 250 hrs

AREA 4 – North along Leiter and Passic County Rd's to the Montana state line, east to the Campbell County line, south to Hwy 14/16. Primary purpose is to remove coyotes

from the Powder River area, for mule deer recovery and calving grounds. 250 hrs

AREA 5 – From Sheridan, north along Interstate 90, then east along Buffalo Creek to Passaic County Rd as the east and southern border. From there, north to the Montana state line. Primary purpose is mule deer recovery. 500 hrs

AREA 6 – West of Sheridan and north of Banner, WY along the Big Horn Mountains, then north to the Montana state line. Primary purpose is mule deer recovery. 250 hrs

AREA 1 & 3 – Due to the request from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department we will be increasing predator control work targeting red fox, raccoons, and skunks in nesting and brood rearing habitat surrounding sage grouse lek sites. We will focus on an area within a couple miles of the lek. Also at their request we will be stepping up efforts to control coyotes in deer hunt area 23 and antelope hunt areas 17 and 109. This is to increase the fawn to doe ratio.

4 **A) Livestock issues** – Sheridan County is experiencing regular depredation to livestock as a result of a healthy coyote population.

B) Livestock goals – The Sheridan County PMD is dedicated to minimizing the loss of livestock to predation, thereby enabling viability of local producers.

C) Proposed Actions – The addition of the aforementioned flying time will have a tremendous impact on prevention of livestock losses, as this method is often one of the best tools for coyote control. The PMD is also budgeting for part-time and a full time contract hunter to help the current full time trapper. This help is necessary to relive some of the burden from our trapper, and some of the funds may be used to compensate Wildlife Services for any wolf work they do in the county. Sheridan does not participate with Wildlife Services in cost sharing. As such, all labor is on a contract basis. The flight time mentioned above, as well as the hours of fixed wing flying and continued ground work will improve effectiveness in minimizing livestock losses.

5 **Pre-and post work monitoring:** The PMD board, with the help of Alan Plummer, the full time trapper, will seek to provide data on deer and sage grouse populations in relation to aerial hunting and ground work locations. The before and after wildlife numbers for these areas will be solicited from the Game and Fish Department, in combination with Mr. Plummer's inventories. The board does not anticipate any additional costs associated with these activities.

TRAPPERS REPORT FOR 2011-12

Area 1

Predation on lambing grounds was down. Had more eagle predation on lambs and grouse. Grouse numbers were down.

Area 2

We did more aerial hunting in this area to alleviate pressure on the calving grounds.

Area 3

We have seen slight decreases in the numbers of grouse. Not sure the lower numbers are due to predation by coyotes or eagles. Eagles show up on the leks in large numbers in this area.

Area 4

In this area we put a high emphasis on trapping and snaring as well as aerial hunting. The mule deer numbers are holding steady. Fawn numbers are up slightly.

Area 5

We continued work in this area the same we are doing in area 4. Again the mule deer numbers are holding steady and the fawn numbers are up slightly.

Area 6

We mainly do aerial hunting in this area from Fall to late Spring. In the summer we work this part of Sheridan county on the ground with calling and dogs. We have a large population of lions in this area. What we have seen is a drop in coyote numbers and a increase in mule deer.

Area 4, 5, & 6

In the past year we have increased our efforts along the Montana border on coyote control. Our damage calls for this area are down from the past year. We still have bear killings on the Bighorn Mountains, which Wildlife Services are trying to take care of.

All Areas

With the unseasonably warm weather we are seeing a resurgence of skunk numbers, above what we saw last year. Also our skunk problem calls are up this Spring.

Sweetwater County –

1. The mission of the Sweetwater County Predator Management District has been and is to provide predator control throughout the county for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Sweetwater County.
2. Sweetwater County encompasses 10,500 square miles and provides winter range for about 52,000 sheep and winter and summer range for about 14,000 cattle. This is also one of the best areas in Wyoming for antelope, deer and elk populations.
3. a) *Wildlife Issues* - The numbers of predatory animals in Sweetwater County have been at healthy levels. Areas south of Rock Springs have experienced a decline in deer and pronghorn fawning ratios, due to the fact that the sheep production, that used to exist in the area, is now gone and subsequently predator control has basically been non-existent for many

years. However, last year and again this year we have increased predator control by having a full time trapper within the county and dedicated more funds to aerial control through the use of a helicopter to supplement the aerial control program throughout Sweetwater County.

b) *Wildlife Goals* – The Sweetwater County Predator Management District is committed to increasing wildlife reproductive rates through effective management of those predator species have the most negative impact on wildlife reproduction and survival.

4. *Proposed Actions* – We are working on protecting wildlife within Western Wyoming and our county and have entered into two projects (cooperatively funded by Lincoln and Sweetwater County Predator Management Districts) to study the effects of predators and their control on big game species (deer and pronghorns) and the effects of predators, including ravens on sage grouse within the two counties. (A summary of these projects have been provided to the Department of Agriculture as we received them from our project managers at the Berryman Institute of Utah State University.)

5. *Livestock Issues* – Predators have always been a great problem for livestock producers and our Board is dedicated to minimizing the loss of livestock due to predation, thereby enhancing Sweetwater County and its ability to produce livestock and their by-products.

a) We are presently using tools that have proven to be selective and effective in the past. We are using more helicopter services, especially in the rugged areas of the county where fixed winged aircraft is somewhat limited, we may expand the helicopter effort as it seems to be very effective, especially in some of the wildlife areas.

6. We have a very active Board made up of concerned ranchers, sportsmen and the public. We believe there have been some dramatic results and benefits evident for both wildlife and livestock within this County.

We are preparing for the delisting of the wolves in the fall and have concerns of how this will affect our management area. Since this will be the first time we will have to face this predator, we hope that our planning efforts to deal with wolves will be sufficient.

Uinta County –

This year we again tried to utilize some of the same methods employed last year. The trappers made an attempt to clear designated areas of coyotes before the sheep were moved into the specific areas. We have found that pre-emptive work before the livestock arrives, is one of our most beneficial methods.

This last fall we worked the standard areas where our producers normally utilize. We had a slight increase in trouble calls. We were able to work some of these areas with our contract trapper and he was able to use the ultra-lite plane with good weather conditions to

limit our producer's losses. Some pre-emptive work was accomplished late in the fall before the snows on the winter ranges.

This winter we experienced abnormally low snowfall. The winter herds were able to cover basically all of the winter sheep range available. There were a number of trouble calls during the winter. The trappers were able to respond and a number of problem animals were taken. The increased number of predators was probably a result of the heavy snow last year and sheep being fed near the highways and accessible roads.

Helicopter flying time was again used primarily during the spring time this year. Limited snow cover made it more difficult to take animals from the chopper but we did have some success. We again covered 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.

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

During the lambing season, we were able to put both fulltime trappers and our contract trappers covering the lambing herds. As opposed to last year, limited snow conditions this winter made it easier to access the spring lambing and calving areas to accomplish this pre-emptive work.

We have continued with some limited raven control projects which have benefited the producers in the area. We have had some problems to both cattle and sheep producers resulting from the ravens. Our efforts have provided an additional measure of control.

WILDLIFE ISSUES- Our Sage Grouse study with the Berryman Institute is ongoing, with results on file with the district. The state has decided instead of funding three separate counties with monies for the study, they will fund the remainder, as this will be more cost effective while reducing the cost of the study. They have expanded the study to include a study area near Rawlins. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is continuing with the study on Mule Deer in the county and they have requested the help of the Uinta County Predator Management District with this endeavor. They have received funding to collar mule deer in the district. The predator control efforts by the district have been beneficial to the wildlife populations. They are also coordinating with the district to begin some efforts in some of the fawning areas near Cedar Mountain.

LIVESTOCK ISSUES- Livestock losses have again remained relatively static or slightly reduced levels. There have been instances of increased losses in certain areas but not beyond tolerable levels. Concentrated efforts in the eastern portion of the county have provided reduced levels of predation to producers. The open winter conditions have enabled an increased level of work conducted on the winter ranges.

EFFICIENCY- The take numbers are comparable to that of the five year average with no significant deviations. Our private trapper noted slightly increased coyote populations. We

have experienced notable increases in efficiency with the addition of our recent capital equipment acquisitions. Our personnel are better able to respond in a more timely and effective manner. Our aerial efficiency has also increased with the renovation of Government fixed wing.

Washakie County –

Washakie County Predator Management District's (PMD) management plan is established to provide reasonable and prudent solutions to damage caused by wildlife, provide disease testing and monitoring of zoonotic wildlife diseases which can risk human health and safety, and conduct projects to ensure the protection and conservation of natural resources.

Washakie County's plan involves a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (WS) who has signed national Memorandums Of Understanding with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, and many other state wildlife, agricultural, natural resource, and public health and safety agencies to assure Washakie County has positioned itself to deal with nearly any request for assistance made to our professionally trained personnel.

Our plan is to provide service or respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after our personnel have been contacted. Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, and lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage problems along with technical advice for best practices to reduce or avoid future damage by wildlife species. Lethal control will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Special consideration will be given to Threatened and Endangered Species of wildlife and control actions will be conducted as directed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to minimize the impact to private property and livestock as well as the species of wildlife confirmed to have caused the damage.

Washakie County will plan to provide additional help to not only deal with the increasing number of requests for assistance to protect federal property, private property, irrigation, and crops from predators and protected species of wildlife but to also conduct ongoing wildlife and human health and safety projects in the county.

Washakie County's plan is to continue to assist Johnson County with their trophy game damage activities and also support the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predator Research Project with "in kind" funds for field personnel and aerial support. Washakie County PMD plans to add additional personnel for more efficient cooperation with Wildlife management agencies to deal with trophy game species and address gray wolf damage as Wyoming continues towards delisting. We feel it is our responsibility to be prepared to deal with wolf damage for livestock and wildlife species as our county is located in the predator zone and has a history over the last ten years of wolf damage on private property south of, and including, the Bighorn Mountain range.

Our plan will continually make sure that all interests are taken into considerations while wildlife damage management control actions are performed. We plan to assess all requests for assistance, decide proper action to be taken, and monitor all results.

In conclusion, Washakie County Predator Management District plans to meet all challenges to solve wildlife damage in the most cooperative, efficient, cost effective, and expeditious manner.

The Washakie County Nuisance Predator Project is a two year project. Field activities began March 1, 2010 - September 2011 and have continued through June 25, 2012. This project is conducted under the direction of the Washakie County Predator Management District (PMD) with the cooperation of the United States Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services (WS), the State Veterinary Laboratory, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD), and the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB).

This project's purpose is to improve the pheasant population and to reduce damage for agriculture producers and residents. We have documented positive results from the project by removing striped skunks, raccoons, feral cats, red foxes, and coyotes.

Our goals are to enhance wildlife resources, reduce the damage caused by predators for farmers, livestock producers, and residents. As predators are removed, samples were collected for plague, tularemia, raccoon roundworm, and rabies which provide information on zoonotic disease that can affect human populations and are a concern in the Bighorn Basin.

Success of the project is determined by analyzing information gathered by WS specialists in the field and Wyoming Game and Fish Department information collected from sportsmen and field studies conducted in the project area. Damage information is tracked by the MIS program (WS Database) as problems are reported with damage confirmation where control actions are taken. Control actions are 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 when there is a presence of pets and hobby animals in areas.

A predetermined project area has been delineated by the Washakie County Predator Management District (PMD) where WS concentrated their efforts to deal with the impacts of these species. These areas are where the PMD feels wildlife and wildlife enthusiasts would benefit the most, as well as where requests for assistance with crop and irrigation damage has been confirmed or known to be a problem.

Disease samples were collected and sent to the State Veterinary Laboratory for testing. Results of testing are sent to the Centers for Disease Control. During the January PMD meeting 2012, the project was reviewed and, due to positive results, Washakie County PMD accepted this project for renewal.

Due to the urban nature of this area, trapping efforts were limited to areas where landowners requested predator removal. Specialists targeted areas providing pheasant nesting habitat and where chronic irrigation and crop damage occurred.

Our requests for assistance with nuisance predator damage have increased every year into more areas of Washakie County. To handle the increased workload we have agreed to share an employee with Hot Springs County to work the Bighorn River corridor where the majority of requests are received by specialists. This individual will also supply assistance to the expanding and ongoing Sage Grouse Predation Project in the Bighorn Basin

Park and Washakie County Cooperative Wildlife Project

The Park and Washakie County Cooperative Wildlife Enhancement Project designed to improve mule deer and antelope recruitment in deer hunt area 125 has proven positive result for the third straight year. We are very excited to see results following this year's activities due to it being the first year 2008 doe/fawns will potentially produce fawns themselves.

Although many environmental stresses affect this wildlife population, only a relative few can be manipulated. Predator management can and has been used to help limit mortality in this ungulate population and enhance fawn recruitment, improve doe survival, and help increase the portion of breeding bucks in this area. 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 has been to help boost ungulate populations towards a more self sustaining level. This project has progressed into the fourth year, and due to positive results to wild ungulate populations it has been agreed the project and activities will continue at least one more year. This population will continue to be monitored very closely by the WGFD and United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services (WS).

As a recap, the project area encompasses WGFD 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 WGFD 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 WGFD 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.

Placental scar data were collected from female coyotes removed from the project area (table 3). This data showed litter numbers ranging from four to seven which is down from twelve, with an average of 5.4 pups per liter. WS specialists observed signs of other potential ungulate predators in the project area including mountain lions, golden eagles, bobcats and Wolves.

Weston County –

1. The Weston County Predator Management District (WCPMD) is created under Wyoming State Statute. The mission of the WCPMD, in cooperation with Wildlife Services (WS) and the Wyoming ADMB, is to provide predator management for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Weston County and to assist in Rabies Control when possible.

2. The WCPMD currently has two wildlife specialist employed through contract with Wildlife Services. Predator control work is conducted on public lands as well as private. The Brown Community Pasture, Osage Community Pasture, Cellers Community Pasture, and the Six Mile Basin are all important deer and antelope areas which are major public lands area used by sports people and are identified for control work which are covered by our specialists. Cattle are the dominate livestock class in the county and coyote predation has become a serious economic concern with some producers during calving season. The majorities of the sheep in the county are mainly located in the northwest quadrant of the county; therefore, this allows more concentrated control in that area. Ground work, as well as aerial work is conducted by the WS Specialists. Both technicians work to educate landowners, on the benefits of predator control work for wildlife, beyond the scope of livestock protection. Spring calving starts generally in March of each year and is complete

generally by late May. Lambing generally occurs from February to April for confined operations and in May for range operations in Weston County. As in most any typical lambing operations, lamb loss generally coincides with whelping of the coyotes.

3. Funding: In FY2012, WCPMD requested funds from the Weston County Commissioners and the Weston County Commissioners granted an amount of \$2000.00 to the WCPMD. WCPMD will again request funds from the county for the FY2013 budget year. ADMB grant funds requested will be used to fund approximately 80 percent of the district budget with the balance coming from local revenues. The District has increased the requested aerial time request by 30 hours with the anticipation of aircraft becoming more available. WCPMD is very aware of increasing costs and limited revenues and is making every effort to contain costs, and be prudent with their budget each year. The goal of the district is to maintain the program in place, provide predator management, county wide to benefit livestock and wildlife. WCPMD strives to find a level of funding that does not over inflate the budget nor have budget shortfalls.

4. Equipment: Due to issues with one ATV that the district owned, an unanticipated major equipment purchase was made during Fiscal 2012 for one new 4x4 ATV, trading in the old one. This equipment purchase was funded by using depreciation reserve that the district had set up in previous years. The district is asking for funds in the budget to rebuild that reserve account over the next 3 years.

5. The WCPMD is budgeting \$4000 in funds to purchase field equipment in Fiscal 2013. No major vehicle equipment items are being looked as equipment is in good condition.

6. The WCPMD is budgeting 175 total hours of fixed wing flying including ferry time, for Fiscal 2013, up from the 145 budgeted FY2012.

7. Human Health and Safety – Skunk removal and assistance in removal continues as calls come in. Box traps are used mainly to trap skunks and have greatly enhanced the district's ability to assist with this problem.

8. Pre- and post-work Monitoring -- Monitoring wildlife is being done by wildlife counts. Sighting counts are being done for Sage Grouse monitoring. Stomach content analysis continues on coyotes as the situation provides.

9. The WCPMD is assisting the Wyoming Game and Fish with the Elk Mountain Bighorn Sheep project. Funds for flying have been received by WCPMD from the ADMB for this project and are being tracked separately. The Wyoming Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has allowed a reimbursable grant of \$2500 for this project and has been billed. The \$2500 from WFNAWS will be used to increase the funds for the Elk Mountain project once received. We have not budgeted the anticipate receipt of the \$2500 since WCPMD does not have a funding contract with WFNAWS. The WCPMD has agreed to ground work by the WS Specialist as needed on this project without further funding requests from the ADMB for time or equipment. Both fixed wing and helicopter time had

been planned for this project, however, only fixed wing has been used at this point. Some of the funds received on this project were used in FY2011, some have been used in FY2012, and any unused funds will carry over to coming fiscal years. Accounting for the Elk Mountain Sheep Project is on a separate spreadsheet.

10. WCPMD also works in conjunction with the Wyoming Game Warden in checking on Mountain Lion reports in the towns and the county for possible removal for trouble animals. No Lions have been removed by any WS Specialists in the county.

