

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

2017 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: F qwi 'O k{ co qvq, ADMB Co-Chair
Scott Talbott, ADMB Co-Chair

DATE: November 27, 2017

SUBJECT: 2017 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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2015 Major Issue Overview

Gray Wolf Relisting

In late September 2014, the federal judge in Washington D.C. ruled against the Wyoming Wolf Management Plan and relisted wolves in Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act. This action took away the ability for the ADMB to manage the gray wolf in the established predator zone and the flex zone, during March 1-October 14 each year. The ADMB had been working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USDA-Wildlife Services, and county predator district board members on this new management. The State Legislature and Governor provided funds to the ADMB to manage gray wolves in the predator areas, but with this ruling that funding has not been used. With the relisting, all state activity in the predator and flex zones is now on hold.

2015 Overview

1. **Meetings:** The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) met four (4) times over the course of the calendar year January 14, May 6-7, June 10, and November 2. 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 \$4.10 million. On May 7, the ADMB granted \$3.335 million for those districts.
3. **Projects:** Twelve different research/special project proposals were evaluated by the ADMB that totaled \$255,505. The ADMB approved \$212,821 in funding for 10 projects (6 new, 4 renewing multiple year,) this past year. Project synopses are included with this report. Complete project reports are available upon request.
4. **Rabies Management:** Renewed the state-wide wildlife rabies management plan with a modified budget. Maintain a Wyoming rabies website at www.wyorabies.org. Continued a state-wide rabies surveillance program, with laboratory validation of rabies prevalence. Four 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 has changed the printing of the stamp. Because of production costs exceeding the income for a number of years, the ADMB is using an electronic stamp that can be purchased at the Game and Fish license outlets. Since starting three years ago, income has exceeded expenses.
7. **Public Relations:** Members and staff participated in the Wyoming State Fair, Wyoming Wool Growers annual convention and plan to participate in the Wyoming Stock Growers meeting in December. Staff also worked with the Wyoming Association of County Predatory Animal Boards on a day of predator board in-service training.
8. **Legislative:** There were not any additions or changes to predatory statutes during this last legislative session.
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 14, 2016 at the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. Headquarters in Cheyenne, 5400 Bishop Blvd.
2. Project applications for consideration at the January 14, 2016 meeting will be accepted until January 8, 2016.
3. Project applications for the June 2016 meeting will be accepted from March 15 to May 15, 2016.

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WYOMING

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Game & Fish Commission

FROM: Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board
Scott Talbott, Co-Chair
Doug Miyamoto, Co-Chair

DATE: August 24, 2015

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 10, 2015 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 '15-16 ADMB Projects

Standing Projects:

- 1) Large Carnivore Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – Funding \$25,000

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

- 2) Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain – Funding \$10,000

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: Uinta County Predator Management District

- 3) Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range – Funding \$50,000

Synopsis: This project will quantify the effects of predation on young mule deer, which will 1) identify key regions where predation is a main limiting factor and thus, would benefit from targeted predator control, 2) characterize what key habitat features may lead to reduce risk of predation, 3) understand the role that predators have played in reducing population performance of Wyoming Range mule deer. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

New Projects:

- 4) Bear Trap for Green River Region – Funding \$5,750

Synopsis: The objective of this project is to purchase a new box style culvert trap for the Green River region to deal with bear/human conflicts in the area. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

- 5) Bear Trap for Sheridan Region – Funding \$5,750

Synopsis: The objective of this project is to purchase a new box style culvert trap for the Sheridan region to deal with bear/human conflicts in the area. Submitted by: Wyoming Game and Fish Department

6) Impact of raven removal and eagle management on sage grouse populations in Wyoming—Funding \$30,000

Synopsis: The purpose of this project is to determine the winter movements of ravens among landfills and roosts located in Sweetwater, Lincoln, and Uinta counties, mainly during the spring and summer. They also want to assess whether they can relocate ravens and golden eagles by removing carcasses in areas where they are causing problems and placing carcasses in areas where they are not causing problems. Submitted by: Utah State University

7) Duck Creek Predator and Habitat Improvement Project—Funding \$18,055

Synopsis: The purpose of this project is to conduct a high level of predation control and increase water availability for big game species in the Duck Creek drainage north of Gillette in Campbell County. Submitted by: Campbell County Predator Management District

8) Ferris Mule Deer Coyote Control in Selected Fawning Areas—Funding \$8,000

Synopsis: The purpose of this project is to assist in coyote control in fawning habitats of the Ferris Mule Deer herd (Area 87) in northwestern Carbon County. Submitted by: Carbon County Predator Management District

9) Wyoming Livestock Predation Trends and Mitigation Survey—Funding \$15,266

Synopsis: The purpose of this project is to survey Wyoming ranchers on predator activity and management to move beyond the federal survey gaps. Submitted by: University of Wyoming

Note: All projects were approved for G&F Commission funds. These approved projects total \$152,555. If Commission funds are approved, projects will be funded from the \$100,000 provided, in addition to funds from the regular ADMB account.

***A continuing project related to sage grouse predation in the Bighorn Basin was funded after this letter was provided to the Game and Fish Commission. The delay was created as the project goals and direction had to be clarified to the ADMB. The project “Assessing and Reducing Common Raven Impacts on Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Ecology” Stephen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District, was subsequently funded with \$45,000 at the November 2, 2015 ADMB meeting. This project is a Control-Impact field experiment to 1) evaluate a targeted method for reducing raven impacts on sage-grouse nesting ecology, 2) quantify spatio-temporal interactions between raven and mammalian predators and sage-grouse hens, and 3) monitor sage-grouse hen movement, spatial ecology, and nesting ecology in the Bighorn Basin.*

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ADMB Meeting State Game and Fish Headquarters Meeting Room Cheyenne, WY

Agenda

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Talbot)
 - Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of November 3, 2014 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. - Review of ADMB Funding Applications and Remaining Funds
- 9:15 a.m. - Review of Southwest Wyoming Sage Grouse research projects, Mike Conover, Utah State University, and Jonathan Dinkins, University of Wyoming
- 10:15 a.m. - Break
- 10:30 a.m. - Discussion on current Gray Wolf status, Mike Jimenez, Wyoming Gray Wolf Project Leader, USFWS
- 11:30 a.m. - Follow-up discussion on Golden Eagle Status, Depredation, and Falconer Issues, Clint Riley, Asst. Regional Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Mountain-Prairie Region, USFWS
- 12:30 p.m. - Public Comment
- 12:45 p.m. - Adjourn

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

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Scott Talbott

Sy Gilliland

Gene Hardy

John Kennedy representing Co-chair Talbott

Dennis Saville

Bill Taliaferro

Kevin Kisicki

Kim Dickerson representing Mark Sattelberg

John Espy

Rod Krischke

Shaun Sims

Board Members Absent:

Amanda Hulet

Dale Leatham

Richard Klouda

WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake

Hank Uhden

Justin Williams

Public present:

Amy Hendrickson, Mike Conover, Jonathan Dinkins, Gary Lithower, Jason Succo, Mike Barker, Matt Fry, Mike Jimenez, Clint Riley

The meeting was called to order by Hank Uhden, who was filling in for the WDA (Wyoming Department of Agriculture) Director Co-chair position, at 9:07 a.m..

The agenda was reviewed.

Kent noted one item that was not on the agenda regarding legislation. During the board meeting last May, a veterinarian in Converse County wrote a letter to Senator Anderson questioning the ability of Wyomingites to own predators when no rabies vaccine is approved and labeled for them. The WDA worked with Senator Anderson to develop a bill for this current legislative session. The bill is Senate File 63 and copies were distributed to ADMB members. There was an issue that was noted on the last page, regarding livestock board promulgating rules. Rod Krischke stated that if any few permits are given to own predators, he thinks there will be people requesting to keep coyotes to collect urine for various baits. A question was brought up concerning wolf ownership. Scott Edberg, Wy. G&F, said that Game and Fish statute prohibits any private ownership (own, import, or possess) of wolves, which includes a wolf hybrid, and any animal produced by crossing species or sub-species. A question was asked about coyote/dog hybrids. Game & Fish has no authority or regulations for this, as it falls under the predatory animal statutes under the WDA.

The Board reviewed the minutes from November 3, 2014. John Kennedy noted that on page one, paragraph six, line one, that grey was misspelled and requested to change it to gray. Kent said he would make that correction. Bill Taliaferro moved to approve the corrected minutes. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

Kent Drake provided a review of ADMB funding applications and remaining funds. There is currently \$165,000 for research left and the Board has used half of the funding for predator boards. We are going into grant application season in April, which is the deadline for districts. Kent hasn't received a reply from the Attorney General regarding use of wolf funding. If we can use it to help pay Wildlife Services it will alleviate costs that will fall on predator boards. The predator boards may need to get more funding to cover those costs if the WDA is not allowed to use the wolf funds.

Mike Conover, Utah State University, and Jonathan Dinkins, University of Wyoming, gave a review of the sage grouse/avian predator research projects that they have conducted in Southwest Wyoming from 2008-2013.

Kent Drake provided copies of "Protecting and Enhancing Wyoming's Wildlife and Livestock Resources" that was completed through contract with Bryce Reece. Gene Hardy and Amy Hendrickson, Wyoming Association of County Predator Animal Boards, printed the publication and distributed it to legislators and predator districts. Kent has more copies if needed, just let him know.

Mike Jimenez, USFWS, gave an update on the current gray wolf status. Mike stated that they have reverted back to the 1994 10 J provisions. Currently, there are depredation incidences occurring and Mike has been working with Rod Krischke in these situations. Since wolves are back on the endangered species list, the allowance for the public to take wolves is due to human safety. If the wolf is on private land and caught in the act of attacking livestock, the owner is allowed to shoot the wolf. The definition of livestock is cattle, sheep, horses, or mules. Dogs or any other domestic animal are not included in this definition. The USFWS may allow Wildlife Services to take wolves if there has been chronic depredation, at least two in a calendar year, and the livestock owner has exhausted other non-lethal methods. If a guard dog is attacked while defending a herd the livestock owner is not allowed to take the wolf. Accidental take of wolves, through the use of M-44s, etc., must be reported to the USFWS. The USFWS can't issue shoot on site permits anymore. Mike stated that the Wyoming G&F did an outstanding job of managing the wolves when they were under state management. Mike also stated that with human management through various methods of harvesting, the wolf population seems to have increased, where as in Yellowstone where no human management is involved, numbers have stabilized.

Clint Riley, USFWS, gave a follow up discussion on Golden Eagle Status, Depredation, and Falconer issues.

Rod Krischke announced his retirement at the end of April.

The meeting was opened up for public comment. There was no public comment.

Hank Uhden adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

ADMB May 6-7, 2015

Call to Order 9:00 a.m, Welcome, Interview Process, Approval of last minutes

Start Time	End Time	Interview	Request
9:30	10:00	Goshen	\$165,271
10:00	10:30	Carbon	\$235,583
10:30	11:00	Weston	\$200,000
11:00	11:30	Albany	\$146,868
11:30	noon	Campbell	\$321,050 rabies \$53,000
noon	1:30	Lunch	
1:30	2:00	Uinta	\$222,750
2:00	2:30	Big Horn	\$286,178
2:30	3:00	Park	\$248,818
3:00	3:30	Crook	\$200,000
3:30	4:00	Sheridan	\$102,847 rabies \$10,000
4:00	4:30	Fremont	\$234,220
4:30	5:00	Public Comment	
Wednesday	May 8		
8:00 a.m.	8:30	Natrona	\$293,160
8:30	9:00	Converse	\$244,140
9:00	9:30	Johnson	\$225,000 rabies \$30,000
9:30	10:00	Hot Springs	\$212,544
10:00	10:30	Niobrara	\$160,000
10:30	11:00	Washakie	\$212,500
11:00	11:30	Sweetwater	\$150,000
11:30	noon	Lincoln	\$241,391
Noon	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	3:00	Discussion	
3:00	3:30	Public Comment and Adjournment	

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 6, & Thursday, May 7, 2015
Game & Fish Regional Office, Casper, Wyoming

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto	Co-Chair Scott Talbott	Craig Acres
Richard Klouda	Kevin Kisicki	Sy Gilliland
Gene Hardy	Amanda Hulet	Dale Leatham
Bill Taliaferro	Mark Sattelberg (May 7)	

Board Members Absent: John Espy Shaun Sims

WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake Jessica Jones Hank Uhden

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Scott Talbott at 9:03 am.

Minutes from the January meeting were presented. Bill T. moved to accept the minutes as presented and Gene H. seconded the motion. Motion carried. The board was informed that the next meeting is set for June 9 and 10, in Rock Springs, with a tour on the 9th and full meeting on June 10. When details for the meeting are finalized, the board will be notified. Co-chair Miyamoto provided an update and details on the April 21 letter he sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director and the U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services Deputy Administrator regarding the need for Wildlife Services to have adequate federal funding to alleviate livestock predation by offending grey wolves that are under the protection of the endangered species act. Craig stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working on getting funds to help with an initial \$30,000.

County presentations commenced:

Goshen-They continue to work on a mule deer project showing good success with higher doe-fawn ratios. Gene H. asked about the status of rabies in their county. Last year there were a lot of rabid animals, this year has been pretty typical. Last year, 45 skunks tested positive. 23 dogs and 1 cat quarantined or euthanized. The predator board did a good job informing the public. 11 humans had post exposure shots. Good starling control keeps the feedlots paying the predator fee. No predator refund requests in the past, one small one this year.

Carbon-This county has a history of completing various wildlife projects. They are just finishing up 3 year project in Platte Valley mule deer herd. They anticipate starting a new project with the Ferris Mtn. mule deer herd. Refund requests come mostly from out of state cattle owners.

Weston- Their program is stable with 2 trappers. The new military aircraft flying zone is affecting counties aerial hunting in NE Wyoming. They would like to see one of their trappers move up in government pay scale.

Albany- Instead of leasing vehicle for trapper, they are purchased their own. They plan to continue mule deer project and working with the local G&F on problem areas that need predator work.

Campbell-They surveyed their sheep producers and said that lamb death loss is down below 2.5 percent. They have 3 trappers in the county and have one that is near the city that is partially funded by the city and county that deals with skunk and small animal problems in and around the

city and helps the other trappers in the county when he has time. They will submit an application to help with deer project north of Gillette.

Sweetwater- They have one full time trapper and continue to fly for the benefit of mule deer, when weather cooperates. Raven control has been working in SW Wyoming. Not sure how much ravens have been reduced and would like to see more studies on raven numbers now with control measures in place. Bill T. stated that this is the first spring he has seen meadowlark nests in a long time.

Uinta-They continue to carry out a stable program for the benefit of livestock and wildlife. Wildlife numbers are up.

Big Horn- They continue to contribute plenty of time and effort to the Big Horn Basin sage grouse project. Along with usual predation problems, crows and raven problems are increasing. They have worked for close to 10 years on raccoon removal for the benefit of pheasants and farmers.

Between county presentations, Jim Price Jr. was recognized by Co-chair Miyamoto for his time serving on the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

Park- They continue to deal with borders with Montana and Yellowstone that don't have predator control programs. They have paid for wolf work done while wolves are under federal protection and believe these costs are going to increase. Through the Game and Fish, they will be submitting an application for the carcass management program.

Crook- They typically operate with 2 trappers, but one has left and they have one trapper on the ground. They are looking at whether they will go private or continue with Wildlife Services contract.

Sheridan- Wildlife numbers seem to be coming back and they have one full time trapper. They have used rabies funding to buy traps that are checked out to people that want to trap skunks and they have a part time trapper that is in charge of the traps and taking care of skunks that people don't want to deal with.

Fremont- They have had a mule deer study, sage grouse predation study and Ocean Lake pheasant project for many years. They also do raven control at the Riverton landfill. They cover the county with 2 specialists.

Co-chair Talbott called for public comment and there was none.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

May 7

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Natrona- They continue to carry out county wide livestock and wildlife program with 3 trappers and an active bounty program. They continue to work on Bates Hole mule deer project. Raven numbers have increased in parts of the county.

Converse- They have 3 full time trappers and one part-time trapper. They would like to establish agreement with Forest Service to allow aerial hunting to protect livestock on the Thunder Basin national grasslands, but it has been a very slow process. They had a sheep producer provide testimony that the district program has really helped reduce his ewe losses to allow him to continue in the sheep business.

Johnson- They have 3 full time trappers and are concerned that they need to increase the costs of the trapper contracts due to the trapper increased costs and competition from neighboring counties. A large ranch is now open for predator management which has increased their aerial hunting funding request. Rabies program continues to work well with very few skunks in Buffalo.

Hot Springs- They continue to work heavily in the Big Horn Basin sage grouse project. Skunks and raccoons have been submitted for rabies testing and no positives in the last year. Raccoon numbers seem to be under control.

Lincoln- by confence call. Lincoln PMD President Truman Julian was recovering from back surgery and wanted to let the board know that their board wants to help with Wyoming Range mule deer study and requests more flying time to help with monitoring for this study.

Niobrara- They have two trappers that are doing a great job in reducing livestock depredation. They continue with the Rawhide mule deer project. They would like some help in finding and training young trappers.

Washakie- They work a lot with the Big Horn Basin sage grouse project and conduct normal district activities. More work has been done on reducing raccoon populations.

Kent gave funding recommendations, as directed by the Co-chairs.

Bill T. moved to accept recommendations provided by Kent. Dale L. seconded. Sy G. moved to amend the motion to reduce Crook PMD recommendation by \$10,000 and increase Natrona PMD recommendation by \$10,000, reduce Fremont PMD recommendation by \$10,000 and increase Converse PMD recommendation by \$10,000, reduce Niobrara PMD recommendation by \$10,000 and increase Johnson PMD recommendation by \$10,000, and reduce Uinta PMD recommendation by \$10,000 and increase Sheridan PMD recommendation by \$10,000. Amendment second by Kevin K. Amanda H. moved to amend the amendment to reduce Johnson County proposed \$10,000 increase to zero increase and increase Hot Springs PMD recommendation by \$10,000. Richard K. seconded the amendment to the amendment. The amendment to the amendment was voted on and passed.

Co-chair Talbott opened up the meeting for public comment. Bark K., Niobrara PMD, stated that originally PMDs were told that their reserves, that they had prior to state funding, would not be affected by this board. Hank agreed with Barb that the board did discuss this issue and asked Kent to research the past ADMB minutes for more information and report back to the board.

The amended amendment was voted on and passed. The original amended motion was voted on and passed.

Kent gave rabies funding recommendations as directed by the Co-chairs. Kevin K. moved to accept the recommendations provided by Kent. Dale L. seconded. Motion carried.

Kent gave an update on predator education trailer. The donated wolf pelt has been mounted by a taxidermist in Dubois and needs some final work before it is finished. Kent asked for guidance and Co-chair Talbott offered assistance in getting other predator pelts. Kent asked if a committee could be formed and Co-chair Talbott asked for volunteers to a trailer committee. Kevin K. volunteered to help. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Bill T. informed the board that skunks could be designated as a designated pest for local weed and pest boards. He encouraged board members to talk to their weed and pest boards about such a designation.

Sy G. moved to have the Director of the Department of Agriculture request an Attorney General's opinion on the ability of predator boards to pay for wolf work done by Wildlife Services, while wolves are under federal protection. Gene H. seconded the motion. Co-chair Miyamoto stated that he has already crafted a request to the Attorney General on this question and is collaborating with the Governor's office on the correct wording. Co-chair Talbott stated that the Attorney General opinion provided to Director Miyamoto is protected under client/lawyer privilege and it is up to Director Miyamoto if he wants to share that information with the board or not. Co-chair Talbott did not want the board to interfere in legal parameters requiring Director Miyamoto sharing the opinion. Sy G. stated that he chooses to withdraw the motion.

It was moved and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m..



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ADMB Meeting Western Wyoming Community College Rock Springs, WY

Agenda

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

- 8:00 am - Call to Order – (Miyamoto, Talbott)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of May 7-8, 2017 Minutes
- 8:15 am - Project Reports (15 min each)
- * Removal of coyotes from mule deer partrition habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit – C. Acres
 - * Thermopolis Bear Trap – L. Ellsbury
 - * Enhanced Electric Fence Sheep Protection - Upper Green River Area – M. Thoman
- 9:00 am - Project Proposals- Renewals w/Updates (20 minutes each)
- * Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain – J. Short
 - * Large Carnivore- Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – S. Edberg
 - * Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range – G. Fralick
- 10:00 am Project Proposals – New (20 min. each)
- *Impact of raven removal and eagle management on sage grouse populations in Wyoming – M. Conover
 - *Ferris mule deer coyote control in selected fawning areas – B. Frude, G. Hiatt
 - *Green River Region Bear Trap – S. DeCecco
 - *Laramie Region Bear Trap – R. King
 - *Sheridan Region Bear Trap – D. Lasseter
 - *Mountain lion traps – D. Lasseter
 - *Wyoming livestock predation trends and mitigation survey – J. Scasta
- 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
- Project Proposals – New (20 min. each)

*Duck Creek Predator and Habitat Improvement – T. Edwards, R. Franzman

- 1:40 pm - Break
- 2:00 pm - Discussion of grant awards criteria
- 2:30 pm - Determination of Grant Awards
- 3:00 pm - Public Comment / Board Comment
- 3:30 pm - Adjourn

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 10, 2015
Western Wyoming Community College, Rock Springs, Wyoming

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto	Co-Chair Mark Nelson (fill-in for Scott Talbott)	
Craig Acres	Richard Klouda	Dennis Saville
Sy Gilliland	Gene Hardy	Amanda Hulet
Dale Leatham	Bill Taliaferro	Mark Sattelberg

Board Members Absent:

Shaun Sims	Kevin Kisicki	John Espy
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WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake	Jessica Jones	Hank Uhden
Dylan Smith		

Public Attendees:

Amy Hendrickson	Mary Thoman	John Derek Scasta
Michael Conover	Robert Lewis	Nelle Johnson
Greg Hiatt	Gary Fralick	Brian DeBolt
Chris Wichmann	Eric Berg	Jeff Short
Steve Jones	Dudley Mackey	Scott Huber
Steffen Connell		

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto at 8:01 am.

Co-chair Miyamoto recognized and thanked retiring board members John Espy, Amanda Hulet, and Dale Leatham. He also thanked Bill Taliaferro for providing the tour and his hospitality. Kent Drake gave an updated that the funding available for projects is \$197,550 and the survey does qualify for a different line item in the ADMB budget. Richard Klouda moved to approve the May 7&8, 2015 ADMB meeting minutes. Seconded by Bill Taliaferro. Motion carried. Dale Leatham moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Amanda Hulet. Motion carried. Kent wanted to note that since Rod Krischke has retired, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services is interviewing 6 applicants next week and would like any input from the board since he will be on the panel.

A progress report was provided by Craig Acres, USDA/APHIS/WS, on the Removal of coyotes from mule deer parturition habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit.

A final report was provided by Brian Debolt, WY G&F, on the Thermopolis Bear Trap.

A final report was provided by Mary Thoman, rancher, on Enhanced Electric Fence Sheep Protection - Upper Green River Area.

A progress report was provided by Jeff Short, WY G&F, on Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain. Jeff asked for \$10,000 in continued funding of the project through the Uinta County Predator Management District.

A progress report was provided by Brian Debolt on Large Carnivore- Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control. Brian asked for \$25,000 in continued funding of the program.

A progress report was provided by Gary Fralick, WY G&F, on the Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range. Gary asked for \$50,000 in continued funding for the study.

Dr. Michael Conover, Utah State University, requested \$49,975 in funding for a new study, Impact of raven removal and eagle management on sage grouse populations in Wyoming.

Greg Hiatt, WY G&F, requested \$8,000 in funding for a new project, Ferris mule deer coyote control in selected fawning areas. He stated that the project would be financed through the Carbon County Predator Management District.

Co-chair Miyamoto provided an award to Jim Hodder for his long time service as a board member on the Wyoming Board of Agriculture.

Brian Debolt requested \$5,750 in funding for the Green River Region Bear Trap, \$5,750 for the Sheridan Region Bear Trap, \$5,750 for the Laramie Region Bear Trap, and \$2,454 for Mountain Lion Traps.

Dr. Derek Scasta, University of Wyoming, requested \$15,266 for a new study, livestock predation trends and mitigation.

Break for lunch at 11:23 a.m.

A progress reported was provided by Steve Jones and Steffen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District, on the study, monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of Sage Grouse in the Bighorn Basin. Steve requested \$45,000 for continued funding of the study.

Dudley Mackey and Scott Huber, Campbell County Predator Management District, requested \$32,560 in funding for a new project, Duck Creek Predator and Habitat Improvement.

The board discussed the projects and funding available.

Sy Gilliland moved to fund \$25,000 for Livestock Depredation and Control, \$50,000 for Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range, \$45,000 for Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of Sage Grouse in the Bighorn Basin, and \$10,000 for Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain. Seconded by Dale Leatham.

Bill Taliaferro amended the motion to wait on funding Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of Sage Grouse in the Bighorn Basin, until they had a new researcher. Richard Klouda seconded the amendment.

Due to timeline and funding concerns, Bill withdrew his amendment and Richard withdrew the second to the amendment.

Bill then amended the motion to withhold the \$45,000 from Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of Sage Grouse in the Bighorn Basin for up to two months so they could provide a new project proposal that clarified the direction of the project. Richard seconded the amendment.

The amendment carried. The main motion carried.

Sy moved to fund \$8,000 for Ferris mule deer coyote control in selected fawning areas. Amanda Hulet seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Richard moved to remove livestock predation trends and mitigation survey from consideration until next year. Bill seconded the motion. Motion carried.

After reconsideration of the study, Richard moved to fund \$15,266 for the livestock predation trends and mitigation survey out of the 900 ADMB budget line rather than out of research/special project funds. Amanda seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Amanda moved to fund \$5,750 for the Sheridan Region Bear Trap and \$5,750 for the Green River Bear Trap. Sy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Richard moved to fund \$30,000 for the Impact of raven removal and eagle management on sage grouse populations in Wyoming study. Dale seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Amanda moved to fund \$18,055 for the Duck Creek Predator and Habitat Improvement study. Sy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board took public comment.

Amanda Hulet moved to adjourn the meeting. Gene Hardy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m..



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

6607 Campstool Road, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

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

ADMB Meeting Ag Resource and Learning Center Casper, WY

Agenda

Monday, November 2, 2015

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Miyamoto, Talbott)
➤ Introductions of board, guests, & public
➤ Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
➤ Approval of June 10, 2015 Minutes
- 9:15 a.m. Setting Price of Wildlife Management Stamp
- 9:20 a.m. Update on Grey Wolf relisting activity and update on Wildlife Services Raven Management in Western Wyoming, Mike Foster, Wildlife Services State Director
- 9:40 a.m. Livestock Guardian Dog Improvement Project, Amy Hendrickson, WWGA and Cat Urbigkit
- 10:00 a.m. Assessing and Reducing Common Raven Impacts on Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Ecology, Stephen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District
- 10:20 a.m. Experimental Raven Control to Reduce Greater Sage-grouse Nest Loss, Jimmy D. Taylor, Ph. D., National Wildlife Research Center, Oregon Field Station
- 10:40 a.m. Presentation on Alternative Budget in District Funding Applications for 2016-17 budgets, Kent Drake WDA
- 11:15 a.m. Set 2016 meeting dates
- 11:30 a.m. Public Comment / Board Comment
- Noon Adjourn

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

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Monday, November 2, 2015
Ag Resource and Learning Center
Casper, WY

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Scott Talbott	Representing Co-chair Miyamoto – Hank Uhden	
Sy Gilliland	Bill Taliaferro	Garret Falkenburg
Gene Hardy	Ron Cunningham	Kevin Kisicki
Bob Phillips	Shaun Sims	Mike Foster

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Saville	Richard Klouda	Mark Sattelberg
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WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake

Public:

Kitson Bolden	Ray Bogen	Cat Urbigkit
Seth Harju	Steve Jones	Steffen Cornell
Dusty Southworth	Scott Cotton	Tim Morrison

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Scott Talbott at 9:01 a.m.

Board Members were polled for attendance and introduction of new board members was completed.

The agenda was reviewed.

The Board reviewed the minutes from June 10, 2015. Bill Taliaferro moved to approve the minutes. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

Shaun Sims moved to set the price of the wildlife damage management stamp at \$10 for the next calendar year – 2016. Kevin Kisicki seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Foster, Wyoming Director USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services provided an update on Wildlife Service activity over the last year concerning wolf depredation and control under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. So far in 2015, 59 cattle and 61 sheep were killed by wolves in Wyoming. Wildlife Services has removed 55 wolves in response to requests by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been reimbursing Wildlife Services for their wolf work and they have a current carryover balance of approximately \$10,000. Mike indicated that more funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is anticipated. It was suggested to invite Mike Jimenez to the January ADMB meeting for further details and update.

Mike also shared that Wildlife Services has spent 152 hours on raven control work in Southwest Wyoming and results have been positive with reduced raven numbers. Exact reduction numbers were not known.

Mike indicated that the Wyoming wolf Environmental Assessment is out for public comment and the Wyoming predator Environmental Assessment is out for agency review. Their office is also starting the process for a Wyoming bird Environmental Assessment.

The following presentations were given for the \$45,000 research project funding available:

Livestock Guardian Dog Improvement Project, Cat Urbigit and Amy Hendrickson, WWGA

Assessing and Reducing Common Raven Impacts on Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Ecology, Stephen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District

Experimental Raven Control to Reduce Greater Sage-grouse Nest Loss, Jimmy D. Taylor, Ph. D., National Wildlife Research Center, Oregon Field Station

The board discussed the proposals. Gene Hardy moved to provide \$45,000 to the project, "Assessing and Reducing Common Raven Impacts on Greater Sage-grouse Nesting Ecology", Meeteetse Conservation District. Bill Taliaferro seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Kent Drake, WDA Predator Management Coordinator, presented a new budget process and spreadsheet that was developed by the Wyoming Department of Audit and meets the districts requirements for state budgeting statutes for special districts. This would be a new budget form, replacing the current budget and cash flow worksheet forms that the ADMB requires for consideration for ADMB funding. Kevin Kisicki moved to adopt the new Department of Audit budget form to replace the current budget and cash flow worksheets, required to be submitted by districts for consideration of state funding. Sy Gilliland seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting dates for 2016 were set: **January 14**, Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, Cheyenne, **May 17-18**, Regional Game and Fish Office, Casper, **June 7-8**, location TBD, **November 1**, location TBD.

The meeting was opened up for public comment. There was no public comment.

Co-chair Talbott adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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September 2015

PREDATOR MANAGEMENT 1501	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 15 - 16		YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED 62.50%	
<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>	100.00	\$189,456	\$119,387		\$70,069	63.02%	
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	200.00						
Equipment Repairs & Mtn	202.00	749	0		749	0.00%	
Utilities	203.00	840	1,203		(363)	143.18%	
Freight and Postage	204.00	2,500	394		2,106	15.77%	
Employee Development	207.00	2,500	502		1,998	20.06%	
Advertising/Promotions	208.00	0	0		0		
Travel In State	221.00	20,000	3,818		16,182	19.09%	
Travel Out of State	222.00	17,500	1,044		16,456	5.96%	
Permanently Assigned Vehicles	223.00	20,000	11,578		8,422	57.89%	
Office Supplies/Printing	231.00	19,000	3,881		15,119	20.43%	
Other Repair Supplies	239.00	5,000	0		5,000	0.00%	
Office Equipment	241.00	0	189		(189)		
Real Property Rental	251.00	5,507	0		5,507	0.00%	
Equipment Rental	252.00	1,750	311		1,439	17.80%	
200 SERIES TOTAL		\$95,346	\$22,920	\$0	\$72,426	24.04%	
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	400.00						
Telecommunications A&I	420.00	2,033	672		1,361	33.07%	
400 SERIES TOTAL		\$2,033	\$672	\$0	\$1,361	33.07%	
<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i>	600.00						
Grants	626.00	6,655,100	6,345,000	310,100	0	100.00%	
600 SERIES TOTAL		\$6,655,100	\$6,345,000	\$310,100	\$0	100.00%	
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT TOTAL		\$6,941,935	\$6,487,979	\$310,100	\$143,856	97.93%	

		YTD Transfers	
General Funds	6,941,935	6,798,079	98%
TOTALS	\$6,941,935	\$6,798,079	98%

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0317	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 15 - 16		YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED	
Fund 047							
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	200.00						
Equipment Repairs & Minc	202.00	0	0		0		
Utilities	203.00	750	0		750	0.00%	
Freight & Postage	204.00	2,100	0		2,100	0.00%	
Board Travel In State	228.00	17,600	4,054		13,546	23.03%	
Supplies/Printing	231.00	3,424	1		3,423	0.03%	
Equipment Rental	252.00	150	9		141	5.95%	
200 SERIES TOTAL		\$24,024	\$4,064	\$0	\$19,960	16.91%	
RESTRICTIVE SERVICES							
<i>RESTRICTIVE SERVICES</i>	300.00						
Cost Allocation	301.00	72	72		0	100.00%	
300 SERIES TOTAL		\$72	\$72	\$0	\$0	100.00%	
DATA PROCESSING							
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	400.00						
Telecommunications - A&I	420.00	0	0		0		
400 SERIES TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
GRANTS & AID PYMTS							
<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i>	600.00						
Grants	626.00	633,404	200,281	208,207	224,916	64.49%	(200,000 waives)
UW Grants & Aid Payments	667.00		0	15,266	(15,266)		
600 SERIES TOTAL		\$633,404	\$200,281	\$223,473	\$209,650	66.90%	
CONTRACTUAL SRVS.							
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS.</i>	900.00						
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	25,000	0		25,000	0.00%	
900 SERIES TOTAL		\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	0.00%	
ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0 TOTAL		\$682,500	\$204,417	\$223,473	\$254,610	62.69%	

		YTD Revenue YTD %	
General Funds	475,000	475,000	100%
Other Funds			
Livestock Brand Fee-5353			#DIV/0!
Wildlife Damage Stamp-2634			#DIV/0!
Landowner Coupons-6204	7,500	8,266	110%
Predator Boards - 6301	0		
Game & Fish - 5040	200,000	100,000	50%
TOTAL	\$682,500	\$583,266	85%
	0		
Cash Balance	833,519.35		

DISCUSSION ITEMS
 Reduced by 315,996 to account for revenues not collected

ADMB - RABIES 0313	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 15 - 16	YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED	62.50%	
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	200.00						
Equipment Rep & Mtnc	202.00	0	0	0			
Utilities	203.00	0	0	0			
Freight & Postage	204.00	100	0	100	0.00%		
Supplies/Printing	231.00	0	0	0			
Equipment Rental	252.00	0	0	0			
200 SERIES TOTAL		\$100	\$0	\$0	\$100	0.00%	
<i>Grants and Aid Payments</i>	600.00						
Grants	626.00	129,900	113,761	11,003	5,137	96.05%	
0600 SERIES TOTAL		\$129,900	\$113,761	\$11,003	\$5,137	96.05%	
<i>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES</i>	900.00						
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0	0	0		
0900 SERIES TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
ADMB - RABIES 03.13		\$130,000	\$113,761	\$11,003	\$5,237	95.97%	

	YTD Revenue		YTD %	DISCUSSION ITEMS
General funds	130,000	124,763	96%	
	0	0		
	\$130,000	\$124,763	96%	

September 2015

RODENT & PREDATOR 0315	BUDGETED	EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 15 - 16	YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED 62.50%	
<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>	100.00	\$0	\$0	\$0		
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	200.00					
Equipment Rep & Mtn	202.00	0	0	0		
Utilities	203.00	0	0	0		
Freight & Postage	204.00	50	756	(706)	1511.88%	
Employee Develop & Training	207.00	0	0	0		
Miscellaneous	210.00	0	0	0		
Travel In State	221.00	0	0	0		
Travel Out of State	222.00	0	0	0		
Supplies/Printing	231.00	690	15	675	2.23%	
Medical/Lab Supplies	235.00	0	0	0		
Other Repair Supplies	239.00	0	0	0		
Equipment Rental	252.00	0	107	(107)		
200 SERIES TOTAL		\$740	\$878	\$0	(138)	118.71%
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	400.00					
Telecommunications - A&I	420.00	0	0	0		
400 SERIES TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i>	600.00					
Grant Payments	626.00	0	0	0		
600 SERIES TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
<i>NON-OPERATING EXP</i>	800.00					
Purchases for Resale	801.00	360	0	360	0.00%	
800 SERIES TOTAL		\$360	\$0	\$0	\$360	0.00%
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS.</i>	900.00					
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0	0		
900 SERIES TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
RODENT & PREDATOR 031: TOTAL		\$1,100	\$878	\$0	\$222	79.86%

118.71% excluding 600 and 800 series expenditures

	YTD Revenue	YTD %
General Funds	0	0 0%
Other Funds		
Rodent Control - Sales 5421	1,100	398 36%
TOTAL	\$1,100	\$878 80%

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reduced budget by 32,281 for sales funding



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNOR
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SCOTT TALBOTT

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CHARLES PRICE – President
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PATRICK CRANK
KEITH CULVER
RICHARD KLOUDA
DAVID RAE

November 20, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

FROM: *MW* Meredith Wood, Chief Fiscal Officer

COPY TO: Scott Talbott, Director; File

SUBJECT: Animal Damage Management Board 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 ADMB for fiscal year (FY) 2015.

Landowner coupons designated and transferred to ADMB	\$ 4,288	
Wildlife damage management stamp		
Sales deposited 7/1/2014 through 6/30/2015		\$ 800.50
(License agent reports through 6/30/2014)		
Costs of program administration		
Management stamp:		
Printing	\$ 0.00	
Administrative time	\$ 495.20 (10 hours)	
Total administrative costs for FY 2015		<u>(\$ 495.20)</u>
FY15 collections over expenditures		\$ 305.30
Deficit collections previous years		(\$3,751.97)
Amount due to be transferred to ADMB for FY2015	=	<u><u>\$ 0.00</u></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. Total deficit to date exceeds collections and therefore, no funds will be transferred this year.

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

MW

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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
2010-2017**

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 depredated 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.			
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
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 depredated animals to livestock, agricultural crops, wildlife, property and human health and safety.			
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
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><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>
1. Accept project proposals with measurable outcomes.	1. ADMB, staff
2. Foster relationships between PMBs and ADMB.	2. ADMB
STRATEGY 2.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(viii): Consider recommendations received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for projects funded by respective agencies.	
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>
1. Project proposals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Requests submitted annually ➤ Wildlife projects will be reviewed by G&F and approved by the Commission. 	1. ADMB
2. 1501 budget monies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Requests submitted annually 	2. ADMB
	1. Annually
	2. 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).

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

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

OBJECTIVE 4.1

W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313

Establish broad based, comprehensive plan directed towards the public.

STRATEGY 4.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313): Determine needs and expectations of various audiences.		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>
1. Develop a marketing strategy for the ADM program. Strategy should include who to contact; method of contact; when to contact; and who will be contacted. 2. Timely updating of the ADMB web site 3. Promote successes of ADMB through news articles. 4. Continue to market the ADMB program and educate the public through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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 5. Hire a WDA intern to assist with marketing efforts and other duties associated with ADM program.	1. ADMB 2. WDA staff 3. ADMB 4. WDA staff and ADMB board 5. WDA	1. On-going 2. update as information changes 3. & 4. On-going and as opportunities arise. State Fair and Expo are annual events. 5. Annually (as funds are available)

**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.

OJECTIVE 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, \$3.357 million has been awarded to the nineteen qualified districts in the past year. In 2017, the ADMB received \$4.32 million 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.

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. Funding provided for management of wolves in the predatory area of the state served the livestock producers well while wolves were under state management. Tj tgg years of control measures on ravens has also lowered predation on livestock, along with other benefits to the citizens and businesses in Southwest Wyoming.

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 , 201	\$9 ,000.00
Big Horn County PMD	May , 201	\$183,000.00
Campbell County PMD	May , 201	
Carbon County PMD	May , 201	\$210,000.00
Converse County PMD	May , 201	2 5,000.00
Crook County PMD	May , 201	\$150,000.00
Fremont County PMD	May , 201	1 ,000.00
Goshen County PMD	May , 201	1 ,000.00
Hot Springs County PMD	May , 201	1 ,000.00
Johnson County PMD	May , 201	1 5,000.00
Lincoln County PMD	May , 201	2 ,000.00
Natrona County PMD	May , 201	\$2 0,000.00
Niobrara County PMD	May , 201	1 ,000.00
Park County PMD	May , 20	\$, 00.00
Sheridan County PMD	May , 201	10 ,000.00
Sweetwater County PMD	May , 201	14 ,000.00
Uinta County PMD	May , 201	1 ,000.00
Washakie County PMD	May 201	1 ,000.00
Weston County PMD	May , 201	18 ,000.00
	Total	\$3,3 , 00.00

By July 1, 2017, 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 and wildlife related management efforts.

Annual Report 2014-2015

Mission Statement

The mission of the Albany County Predator Management District (ACPM) is to protect the wildlife and livestock interest in Albany County from predation by implementation of sound management practices within Albany County.

Board Members

- **President**
Roger Newkirk
307.378.2544
- **Vice President**
Don Willis
307.322.4715
- **Secretary/Treasurer**
David Kalco
307.761.0957

Members

Todd Heward
307.356.4612

Brett Moline
307.721.7711

Ryon Alexander
307.760.9727

Cody Schlager
307.760.5982

Todd Schlager
307.760.0151

Eric Anderson
307.760.4448

Trapper

Joel Modey
307.761.016



Albany County has one full-time trapper working with Wildlife Service (WS) in Albany County for a total of 1678 hours worked in 2014-2015. A total of 190.8 hours of fixed wing aerial hunting hours were spent with 318 coyotes taken. A total of 28 hours of helicopter time was spent for a total of 50 coyotes taken.

In 2014-2015 this individual provided 543 days visited to work 56 different agriculture agreements serving 948,804 acres of private land. This also includes

5,240 acres of Forest Service, 205,600 BLM acres and 70,977 acres of State land.

ACPM has maintained a good working relationship with all the livestock producers and Government entities throughout the years.

The total losses due to predation for Albany County Livestock Producers for 2014-2015 were \$1,752.00; sheep & lamb. Losses due to predation were down

considerably from the 2013-2014 of 35 losses, to 17 losses.

4 head of sheep to coyotes

6 head of sheep to free range dogs

7 head of sheep to red fox



ACPMMD has reported that the trapper has effectively removed:

- Badgers = 8
- Beavers = 18
- Bobcats = 3
- Coyotes = 511
- Red Fox = 6
- Raccoons = 8
- Ravens = 7
- Skunks = 16
- Porcupines = 5

Board Meetings
Are Held Quarterly

Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Recruitment Project

The Sheep Mtn. Mule Deer Recruitment Project, which ACPMD is working with Wyoming Game and Fish; is funded by ACPMD solely. This project has consisted of three years of work, January 2013-December 2015 and is a cooperative effort aimed at removal of coyotes within Wyoming hunting areas 61, 74, 75, 76, 77 and adjacent lands. These removal efforts are aimed at increasing the viability of the mule deer herd that form in these areas. For more information, please read the Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Recruitment Project report which is included with this newsletter.

The Wyoming Game and Fish came to the ACPMD for financial assistance in the near future for the Sheep Mtn. Deer Project. Their proposal is to put GPS collars on a specific amount of does and fawns.

Human Health and Safety Issues

The Albany County trapper's time and resources have been allocated to assist endeavors thought to be potentially harmful in the manner of predators/pests, along with a certain amount of animal management control fitting with their overall objectives in Albany County.

ACPMMD offers, on an on-

going basis, live traps to municipalities and concerned citizens for the use of trapping and removing potentially harmful animals.

ACPMMD tested 4 skunks from March 2014 to April 2015 with no positive results. Since 2006 we have worked with WS to continually test and monitor rabies. Over the few years no positive tests have

been reported. However, a new strain has been identified, coming out of Nebraska that has surfaced new concerns, especially to horses. APHIS has removed funding for their testing program. Cooperation continues with local municipalities for removal of skunks, raccoons, porcupines, feral cats, and rogue dogs, etc. for removal

Pre & Post Work Monitoring

Livestock numbers and monitoring will be easily attainable as we have been doing that in the past. We monitor the loss of livestock and also the numbers of predators taken. As for the monitoring of the wildlife numbers, Albany County

PMD will work with the associations, departments, companies, etc. as to the times, methods and cost of the monitoring that needs to be done to measure the effects of the predator control on the wildlife population. We will work

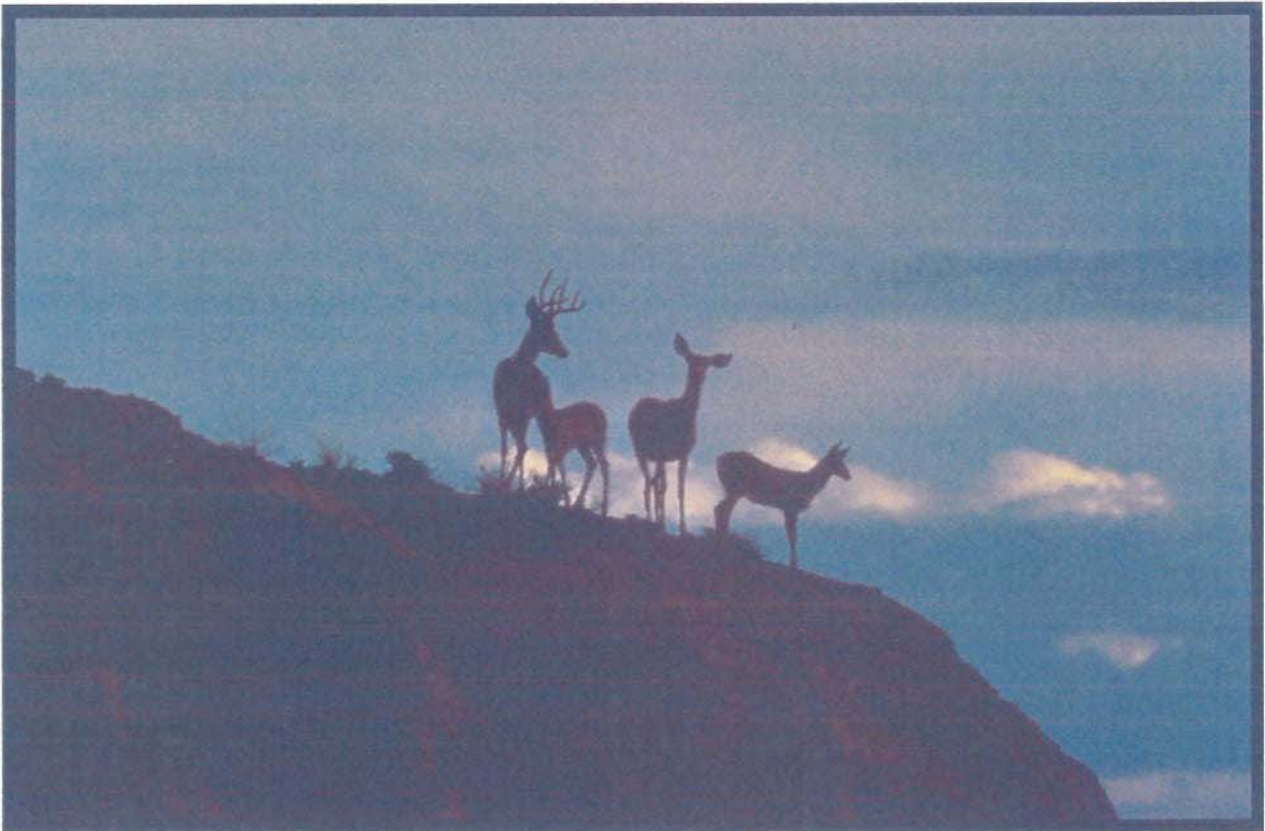
closely with the ADMB as to what the costs will be and seek their input on this matter also.



Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Recruitment Project

Albany County Predatory Management District (ACPM), USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS'),
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD)

01/01/2013-12/31/14



The Sheep Mtn. Mule Deer Recruitment Project consists of a 3 yr. (01/01/2013- 12/31/2015) cooperative effort aimed at the removal of coyotes (*Canis latrans*) within Wyoming Hunt Areas 61, 74, 75, 76, 77 and adjacent lands. These removal efforts are aimed at increasing the viability of the mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) herd that fawn in these areas. These areas lay Easterly adjacent to the Medicine Bow National Forest (USFS) and run generally North and South. This area is mainly used for cow/calf production, recreation, and grass cattle ranching. It is interspersed Private, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service, and State of Wyoming lands. The goal of this project is to validate that coyote removal will prove beneficial to mule deer fawn recruitment.

The effort to remove coyotes from the hunt areas and adjacent lands began on 01/01/2013 and continues as the project moves towards the third year. Both ground and aerial hunting methods

will continue throughout the project time frame as funding, weather, recreational hunting use of lands, and time demanded by other WS' Albany County duties allow.

01/01/2013-12/31/2013 (1st year of 3)

A total of 89 coyotes within 18 different agreements were removed from the project area. When GPS waypoints of coyotes taken within the project area could be obtained, they were plotted as GPS points (squares) on the attached topographic map. Also, of the 89 coyotes, 24 were retrieved for comprehensive data collection.

Below is a series of operational, budget and coyote related to the data for the 1st year of the project time period (01/01/2013-12/31/2013).

30.9 hrs.	(\$6,573.00 ACPMD)*	Aerial hunting time only (fixed and rotor wing).
96.0 hrs.	(\$2,337.00 ACPMD, \$51.62 WS)*	Ground work time only.
26.0 hrs.	(\$1,342.12 WS)*	Administrative time only.
89		Coyotes removed from project area.
3		USDA/APHIS/WS personnel involved.

** (approximate costs incurred by ACPMD \$8,910.00 and WS' \$1,393.74)*

24 of 89 total (27%) coyotes taken verified for sampling and analysis below:

11	Adult male coyotes verified.
11	Adult female coyotes verified.*
1	Pup (female) coyote verified.
1	Pup (male) coyote verified.

** 1 adult female coyote showed evidence of 4 pups whelped.*

Stomach content occurrences on 24 verified coyotes.

10 Rodent 2 Empty 14 Pronghorn 3 Deer

1/1/2014-12/31/2014 (2nd year of 3)

A total of 116 coyotes and 1 den within 17 different agreements were removed from the project area. When GPS waypoints of coyotes taken within the project area could be obtained, they were plotted as GPS points (squares) on the attached topographic map. Also, of the 116 coyotes, 29 were retrieved for comprehensive data collection.

Below is a series of operational, budget and coyote related to the data for the 2nd year of the project time period (01/01/2014-12/31/2014).

54.0 hrs.	(\$13,446.00 ACPMD)*	Aerial hunting time only (fixed and rotor wing).
138.0 hrs.	(\$3,563.06 ACPMD, \$200.72 WS)*	Ground work time only.
39.0 hrs.	(\$1,957.02 WS)*	Administrative time only.
116/1 den		Coyotes removed from project area.
3		USDA/APHIS/WS personnel involved.

** (approximate costs incurred by ACPMD \$17,009.08 and WS' \$2,157.74)*

29 of 116 total (25%) coyotes taken verified for sampling and analysis below:

12	Adult male coyotes verified.*
13	Adult female coyotes verified.**
3	Pup (female) coyote verified.
1	Pup (male) coyote verified.

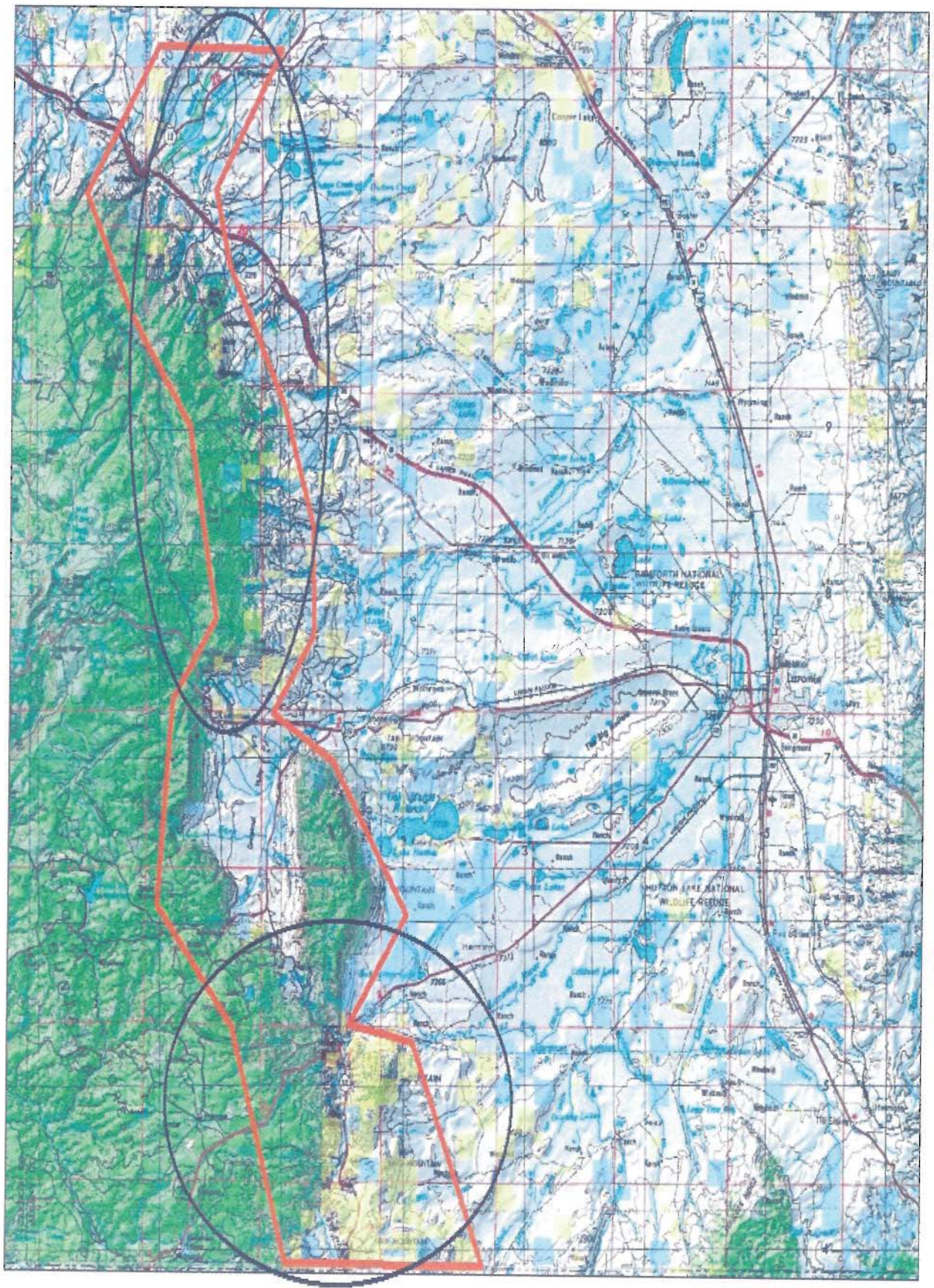
** 1 adult male exhibited signs of mange mite. **1 adult female showed evidence of 3 pups whelped. 1 adult female showed evidence of 6 pups whelped.*

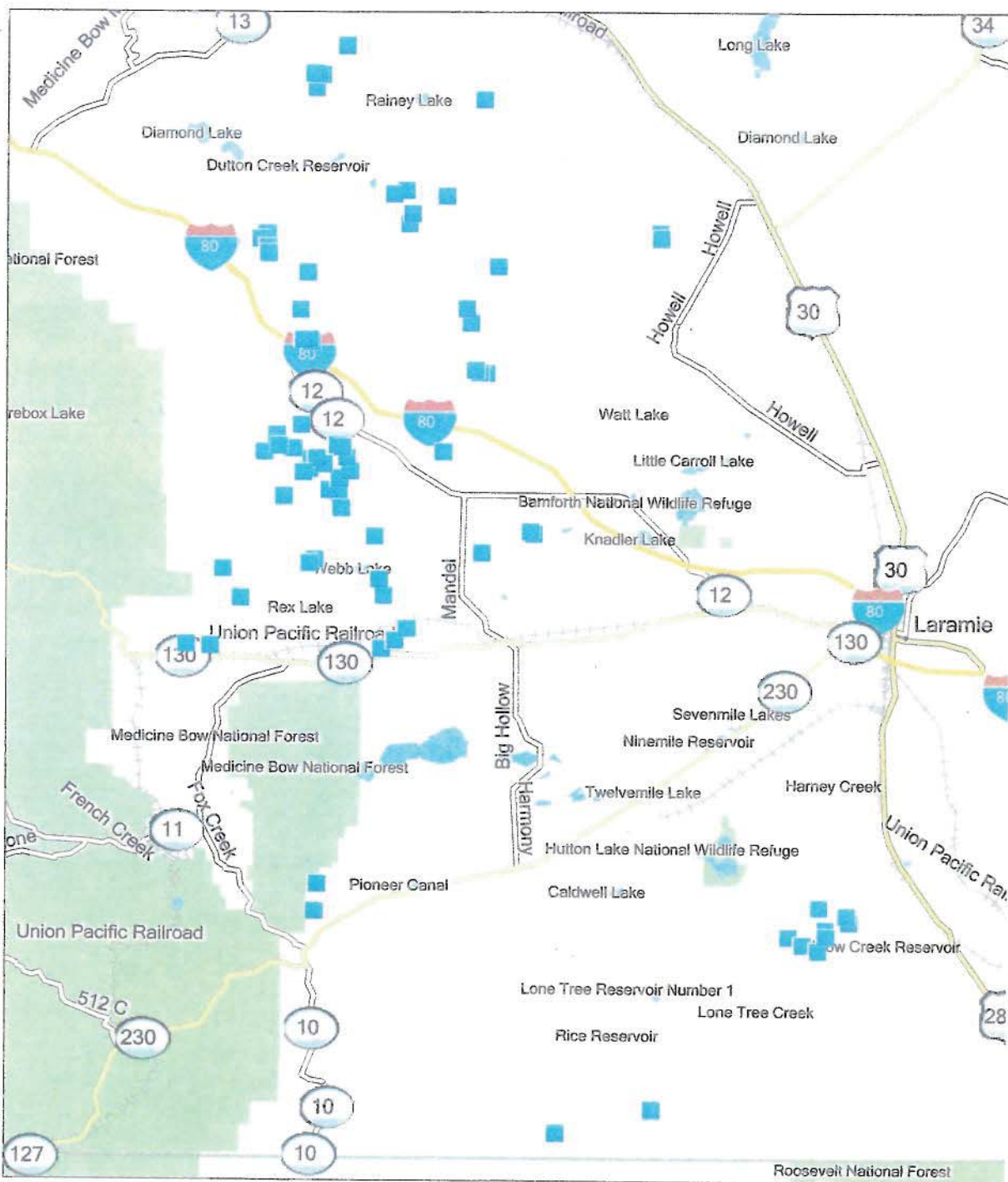
Stomach content occurrences on 29 verified coyotes.

15 Rodent 3 Empty 14 Pronghorn 4 Deer 2 Bird

****The following, in sequence, are attached maps/graphs to project report.**

1. Sheep Mtn. Hunt Areas/Fawning Areas. Hunt Areas-orange lined area, Fawning Areas-black circles.
2. Coyote Removal Map (01/03/2013-10/01/2013).
3. Coyote Removal Map (10/2/2013-12/31/2014).
3. WGFD Mule Deer Doe/Fawn Ration Graph and Report .





TOPO U.S. 100K
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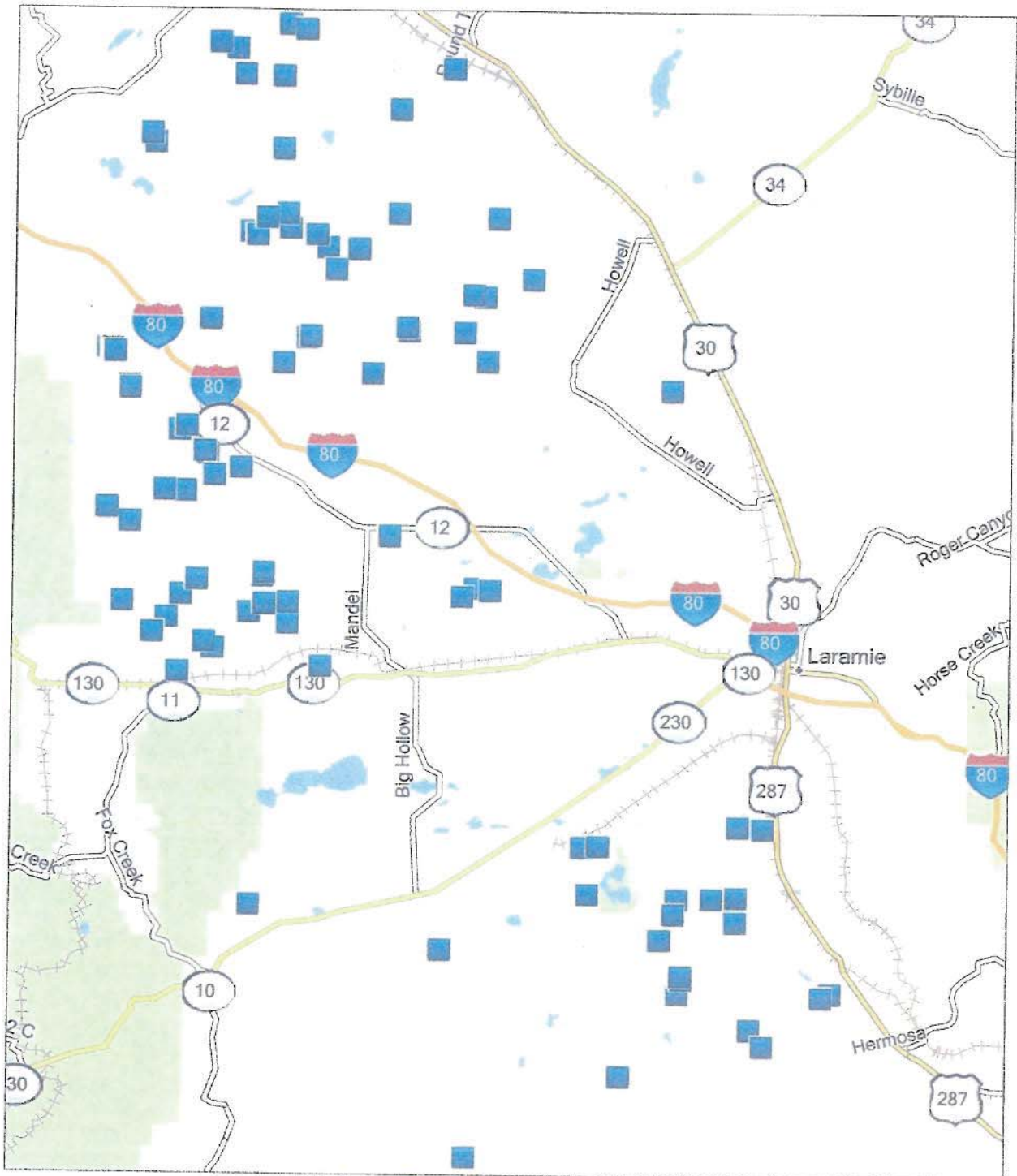


TN 4 MN
 9.7
 1/1/2010

My Collection

Coyote remark 01/03/13 - 10/01/13

GARMIN



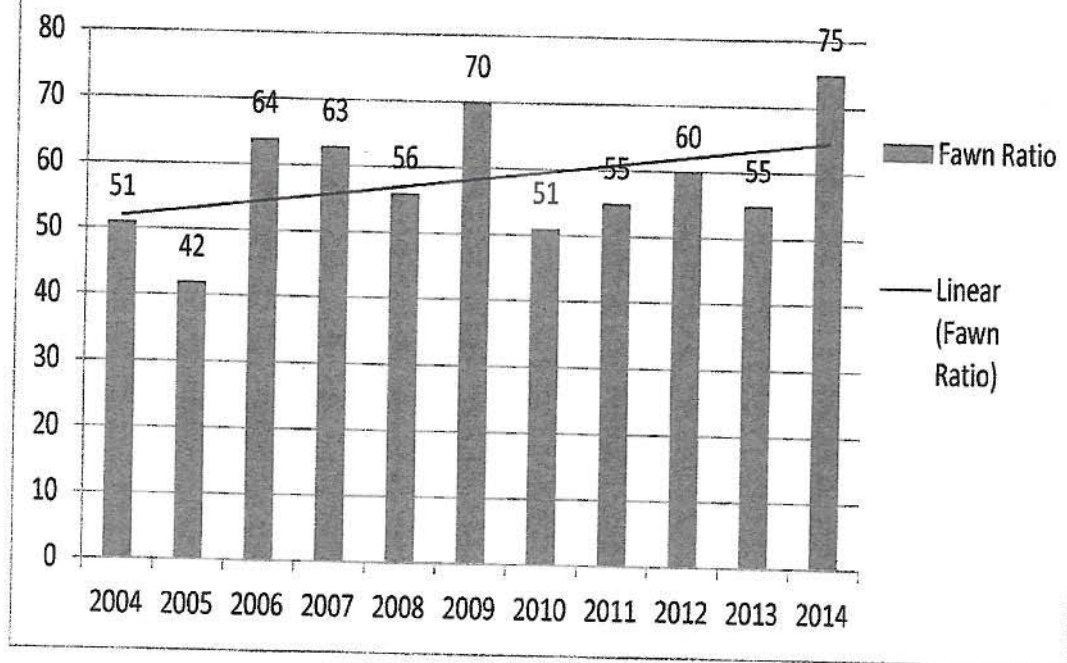
TOPO U.S. 100K
 © Garmin Ltd. or its Subsidiaries 1995-2009

Coyote Removal 10/2/13-12/31/14

My Collection



Fawns Per 100 Does In The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit (2004-2014)

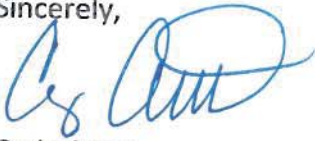


The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit encompasses Hunt Areas 61, 74, 75, 76 and 77. Fawn ratios have varied over the last 10 years but they seem to be trending up. During the winters of 2007, 2009 and 2010 we experienced an increase in winter mortalities especially in younger age classes which may also have had an effect on fawn recruitment. Severe drought persisted in the spring of 2012 through the spring of 2013 and may have led to the decrease in the 2013 fawn ratio. Mild winter, above average spring moisture, and 2 years of coyote removal on parturition range has led to the highest fawn ratio in over a decade for this herd in 2014.

As stated on the cover sheet, ground and aerial activities will continue until 12/31/2015 as time and conditions permit. Very few mule deer were observed during the 1st years' work on the project. It appeared that the weather conditions during the last few years are impacting the population. Quite a few mule deer were observed during the 2nd years' work in the same project areas as the previous year. It is our hope that by removing coyotes in this project area coupled with the increase in moisture, the mule deer population will be able to increase or sustain its numbers over the next year/years.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Craig Acres

Staff Biologist USDA/APHIS/WS'

Cc: Files

1/7/2014

Big Horn County Predator Management District

In the time frame from April 1, 2014 to March 27, 2015 Wildlife Services employees worked 3,633 hours and 49 minutes on 1,454,135 acres and 91 cooperators/ranchers within Big Horn County. 151.7 hours of aerial hunting was performed within the county in request for coyote depredations on cattle and sheep producers. There was no wolf or black bear damage this past grazing season on the north end of the Big Horn Mountain. There was a small amount of mtn. lion damage on a single producer above Shell, WY and was dealt with primarily by WY Game & Fish. The two full-time employees and split county employee of Big Horn County assisted the Park, Hot Springs, and Washakie county employees with the Bighorn Basin sage grouse project as much as possible after considering primary duties within their own county this time donated to the project accounted for 769 hrs and 8 minutes. The take and losses for the county were as listed:

Coyotes – 297

Raccoons – 746 (22 samples collected for canine parvovirus, leptospirosis, plague, and tularemia)

Skunks – 86 (31 samples collected for rabies surveillance)

Ravens – 10

Crows-86

Pigeons- 51

Reported Losses \$14,562 -\$10,000 Crows and \$4,462 coyotes

Verified Losses \$10,624 - \$8,778 Crows, \$167 Ravens, \$84 Mtn Lion, \$167 Red Fox, \$251 Feral Dog, \$977 Coyote

The amount of crow and raven work in Big Horn County and the entire Big Horn Basin is very large, and could become a full-time position; due to the extremely time consuming nature of the work, if the need for it continues. But in the past 2-3 years we have begun to deal with it more often and more effectively. But, as more producers hear about our activities we are asked to do more each year. Our predator losses have dropped significantly and our coyote take has been very consistent for the past 3 years. Our raccoon damage is mostly dependent on how much corn is planted in the county each year. We need to do a better job of gathering a number that we can attribute to the loss/damage that we mitigate and what raccoons cost the farmers each year.

Year End Report

Campbell County Predatory Board

June 29, 2015

The Campbell County Predatory Board has been actively working to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations. Along with the predator control we are also very proactive in the control of skunks in the city of Gillette and surrounding rural areas

Last year our reporting went through the month of May. We have attached the financial report for the month of June for 2014 so our financial ending balance match to our beginning balance for this fiscal report. For the last year, our three contract trappers have spent over 7104 hours in the field while covering 1,380,356 acres in Campbell County. Our trappers worked with 107 individual landowner agreements over the year as they provided predator control. We budgeted \$61,100.00 for fixed wing aerial time and helicopter time. We were able to utilize our flying time more this year as weather permitted more flying time. We spent \$52,367.14 for aerial. The number of animals that were harvested using aerial hunting were 251 coyotes and 1 fox. We still are expecting a bill from Wildlife Services for the remaining quarter of the fiscal year.

Calvin Taylor, County Trapper, continues to be very beneficial in Campbell County. Calvin mostly works with livestock producers in the Northern part of Campbell County while Scott Huber and Kory Study works directly with livestock producers in the Southern part. The North and South areas of Campbell County are very different. The Northern part of the county is primarily cattle producers. Calvin has been very successful in getting new ranchers to sign agreements with us. 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 southern part of the county is comprised mainly of sheep producers so Scott and Kory deal more with problem coyotes. The Southern part of the county is flatter and has better vehicle access. Scott Huber, is very good at responding to trouble calls for our ranchers. Kory started with the Campbell County Predatory Board as our Rabies personnel. But when Andy McKinney retired last the end of last fiscal year, he has been very busy taking over Andy's position.

All of our trappers are very knowledgeable and are very precise when it comes to gathering information. The board has asked the trappers to start recording GPS locations of traps, snares and actual harvest location of the coyotes. Scott has contacted the sheep producers and compiled results regarding their production. In his report he notes that sheep loses are DOWN 31%. Docking numbers on sheep seem to be at a higher percentage than other years. Per the sheep producers report, shipping numbers are good and profitable. He also notes that coyotes are down, litters are smaller, due to the current predator control system and the prey base is smaller. Eagles are starting to multiply and they are attacking the rabbit and mice population, making food sources scarce for the coyotes. Kory has been very successful in obtaining mine access for predator control.

Our three trappers have harvested 1126 coyotes, 83 fox, 43 bobcats, 32 raccoons, 23 badgers, 26 skunks, 1 bat and 2 porcupines. They have answered to 85 trouble calls and have been proactive in getting the "trouble" and most damaging predators. Our trappers have noticed that they are harvesting many female coyotes that are not pregnant. We believe that is because the trappers are doing an excellent job in trying to control the population and coyotes do not have mates. Also the coyotes are looking like they are lacking nutritionally. This may be due to the small animal prey base being diminished from the eagle population.

When our trapper, Andy McKinney retired and Kory Study took his position, the Campbell County Board hired Duke Campbell as the Rabies Personnel. Duke deals with the skunk/human public safety issues and testing for rabies in "questionable" animals. Campbell County continues to deal with skunks coming into the city limits since there are so many small rural plots close to town. Duke does an excellent job in the control of skunks in the city and surrounding rural areas. Duke is also very public oriented and the clients are very happy with his results and pleasant character. Duke has been busy with 71 trouble call from the citizens. As of the end of June, he has harvested 194 skunks. The Board has been still been working with the County Commissioners and the City Council to reach an agreeable amount that would help the board continue their proactive stand with the nuisance/rabies program position. The board and Duke have been working with Chuck Deaton, Police Department Lieutenant, in developing a MOU (Mission of Understanding) for the City Council. Duke and bookkeeper, Kenda Ford has attended many County Commissioners meeting and City Council meetings and both boards are very pleased with our proactive Rabies program. The Animal Control department does not want to handle the skunk control trouble calls, so they help Duke whenever they can so we can maintain our program. Duke has been dealing with trouble calls of ALL nuisance animals. Duke has tested 12 "questionable animals for rabies and fortunately they have all come back negative. He has answered 71 trouble calls that are dispatched through the City and County dispatchers. He has also been busy with the public regarding nuisance calls. Duke has eliminated 23 feral cats, 43 raccoons, 1 badger and 1 rattlesnake, 2 bobcats, 348 pigeons, 40

muskrats and has trapped 5 domestic rabbits that people have been setting free in the city. Duke's priority is always a call that involves a possible rabid animal, but the board has asked him to help the city and county with nuisance animals as well. There has been a lot of damage to county and city buildings due to the pigeons and their nesting.

The financial statement that is attached shows a net loss of \$35,438.27. We have billed the last quarter of Rabies program to the City and County and should receive. If approved, another \$9,215.00 reimbursed to us for Duke's salary and expenses. This amount will decrease our net loss to \$26,223.27. Our livestock brand fees were down a bit this year, making us use reserves for our program.

We received \$235,000.00 from ADMB grant; we utilized that money to pay for trappers and part of the aerial which as totaled \$264,243.42. The expenses for the Rabies program are \$69,653.55. As you can see we are utilizing 100% of the Grant money and Rabies money that we are receiving. The rest of the money is coming from our Livestock Predatory fees and then using our reserves for the remaining Predator Control expenses.

The Campbell County Predatory Board has been very diligent in trying to maintain a good faith effort to minimize our budget each and every year. Campbell County has a strong predator effective control program.

Carbon County Predator Management District

July 1, 2014

to

June 30, 2015

2015 Annual Report

BOARD MEMBERS

• CATTLEMEN

Josh Peterson,
Chair, Walcott
George Williams,
Saratoga
J Stratton
Rawlins
John Hansen,
Rawlins

• SHEEPMEN

Sharon O'Toole,
Savery
Scott Kerbs,
Saratoga

• SPORTSMEN

Robin Blake-V Chair
Encampment
Garry Goergen
Treas., Rawlins
Larry Knoch
Rawlins

• AT LARGE

John Strand
Rawlins

• Secretary

Charlene Abbott,
Rawlins

• WS' Specialits

Tracy Villwok
Hanna—Full
Luke Spanbauer
Baggs—Full
Troy Aleshire
Rawlins—Full
Dan Braig
Rawlins—Part

Management Plan

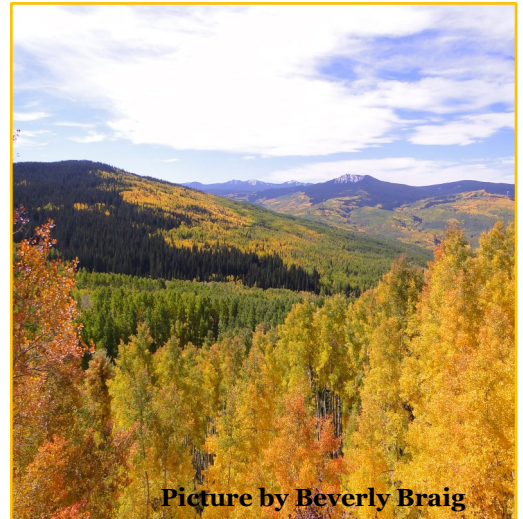
Our goals for 2014-15 were:

1. Work with local municipalities and other agencies on safety concerns for the general public where predators may be present.
2. Work with Wyoming Game and Fish and other agencies on wildlife issues and facilitate an effective predator management program where implementation would most positively impact wildlife species.
3. Maintain the current level of predator population control to protect livestock within our boundaries.

Three full and one part time WS' specialists maintain professional relationships with livestock producers, wildlife agencies and county municipalities. They were aided by 7 pilots, gunners, biologists and other WS' personnel to achieve a total of 4,012.33 hours on 87 of our 90 active cooperative agreements on 2,742,724 total acres. We used 245.50 hours of fixed wing and 14.7 hours of helicopter flying.

The following animals were removed by WS' personnel in response to conflicts with wildlife, livestock predation, nuisance, private property damage or human and safety issues.

Badgers	5	Beaver	17	Feral Cats	2
Coyotes	753	Black Bear	1	Porcupine	1
Bobcat	1	Red Fox	8	Coyote Dens	8
Skunks	18	Red Fox Den	1	Bobcat	1
Magpies	38	Pelicans	4	Porcupine	1



Picture by Beverly Braig



Picture by Beverly Braig

After multiple requests from landowners, municipalities and energy industry representatives, Carbon County received approval to begin raven control on all municipal landfills. At the request of Wyoming Game and Fish game wardens, bear problems were also addressed as were health and human safety concerns from several municipalities. Carbon County again had no positive rabies tests.

Platte Valley Mule Deer Recruitment

A cooperative project between Carbon County Predatory Management District, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

3/01/2013-7/01/2015

Our involvement in the "Platte Valley Mule Deer Recruitment Project" consisted of a 3 year cooperative effort aimed at the removal of coyotes within the PVMD initiative area. Removal efforts took place within Wyoming hunt areas 78, 79 and 81. These efforts were aimed at increasing the viability of the mule deer herd fawning in these areas. The goal was that enhanced coyote removal would prove beneficial to mule deer fawn recruitment."

Platte Valley Mule Deer Recruitment			
	2013	2014	2015
Rotor Hours	4.6	9.55	14.7
Fixed Wing Hours	39	45.2	52.8
ADMB Donation	\$10,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$21,500.00
Wildlife Services	\$4,093.05	\$924.88	\$1,248.77 plus
Carbon County PMD	\$3,959.73	\$4,155.81	\$2,236.49 plus
WG&F	\$11,200	\$11,200	\$11,200 Approx.
Total Other Donations	\$19,252.78	\$16,280.69	\$14,685.26 plus
Coyotes Harvested	85	78	101 plus
Dens Taken	2	6	?
Agreements	15	14	12
Data Collected	19 (22%)	45 (58%)	Not yet complete
Personel			
Wildlife Services	5	6	6
WG&F	1	1	1

Some of June 2015 figures are not included in this report. A final report including data from the coyote collections (stomach contents), and a mule deer survey report will be compiled in the final report by Wyoming Game and Fish biologist, Will Schultz and Wildlife Services' Craig Acres in December 2015 and will be included in our annual report next year.



Picture by Beverly Braig

Cooperative Wildlife Projects

Energy Industry Invitation



Sage Grouse Eggs

Picture by Beverly Braig

In March of 2014, Warren Energy & Production (WEP) approached us with an offer of funds for mitigation of ravens in the Atlantic Rim, Wamsutter, Continental Divide and Desolation Flats areas.

As deer, antelope and sage grouse populations in these areas are below objectives, Tony Mong, WGF biologist, was invited to our July meeting. The WEP representative, Chris Herold, had contacted Tony, but indicated the funds could also be used for flying the mule deer area. Since the BLM area in question is not presently covered for livestock control, and the Platte Valley Mule Deer project had one year left, the CCPMDB felt unable to give the man power and added funding to add a project in a new control area.

In September, WEP agreed their money could be used for both ravens and flying the Red Rim/McCarty area, as it is also in their area of production, where cooperative agreements are already in place.

The \$4,000 from WEP will be added to the funds of the CCPMD to aid in raven control and some flying hours will be added to the above mentioned area.

Since 2005 the Carbon County Predator Management District has participated, in varying degrees, in six wildlife projects. Cooperation has been the key to success!

Ferris Mountain Mule Deer Project

This year we will begin the three year Ferris Mountain Mule Deer project that has been on hold for two years. We anticipate the Bighorn Sheep released in the Seminoes in the past couple years will benefit from the project as well. This will again be a cooperative project between, CCPMD, WS', WGF and ADMB. Cooperative agreements have already been established with all area producers.

Over the past several years, the Rawlins BLM has implemented prescribed burns in the Seminoe and Ferris Mountains, partially to address conifer encroachment while also rejuvenating decadent mountain mahogany and bitterbrush stands. These prescribed burns and the recent wildfires should ultimately benefit mule deer productivity in the long term with the return of young vigorous shrub complexes, but in light of the recent wildfires, this mule deer herd will respond more quickly with targeted coyote control.



Ferris Mountain Range

Picture by Beverly Braig

Who Achieves our Goals?

There are five men essentially responsible for fulfilling the goals of Carbon County. Our board believes we have possibly the best and most cohesive group of WS' specialists in the state. Although all of them began hunting as young teens, they actually have a total 88 years of professional experience between them in the trapping industry. Over those years, they learned "tricks of the trade" that put them heads above local hunters. As Carbon County is geographically very large, each has a general area to control, but more likely than not, a joint effort is used.

Troy Aleshire came to Rawlins in 2008 from Ohio where he was a trapper for 25 years. His area runs south of Rawlins to the Miller Hill/McCarty Canyon area, west to the Baggs highway, north to the Sweetwater dessert . He spends much of his summer helping Luke in the forest.

Tracy Villwok became a professional 15 years ago when he moved to Hanna. His handles everything east of the Platte River for Hanna, Elk Mountain, Medicine Bow, south to Saratoga, Riverside and Encampment and north to the Leo area.

Luke Spanbauer trapped in Oregon for 12 years before making the Little Snake River Valley his home and joining our team in 2007. His area includes all of the LSRV and extends north to Powder Rim in Sweetwater. Most of his summers are spent with sheep bands in the forest.

Dan Braig has volunteered or worked for Carbon County for 23 years. His area is everything west of the Platte river to the Red Dessert and I-80 north to Sweetwater. He used to work wolves and bear in the Upper Green River lakes region of Sublette County and also worked some in Sheridan County.

Rod Merrell served as a Carbon County trapper from 1997 to 2004 before being transferred to another district. He is now our area supervisor and continues to be a valued member of our team.

Boundaries are not set in stone, as all help in other areas when needed. Since we began collecting stomach contents for wildlife projects, two trappers do ground crew duties while Troy, our gunner, is in the plane. Ground crews know where coyotes or dens were last seen and help direct the plane. Cooperation is the key, and they are aided by other professionals—pilots, biologists, wardens, and specialists. Special kudos to Craig Acres who handles accountability of special projects at the state office.

Our specialists all do their part at "Ag in the Classroom", using materials provided by WS' and ADMB. Raven, bear, coyote, skunk, fox and even an occasional wolf call keep our trappers busy. Hanging ravens in effigy on solar panels and windmills to deter live ones from returning, or helping Game Wardens trap or kill a rogue bear are just part of their day.

They have all been asked to "control" various types of animals and situations—such as the skunk that came into a kitchen through the doggie door; or the Black Footed Ferret which was actually a rock chuck; or the call from their wife to "get that skunk head out of my freezer"; or "what is that smell" — smell, what smell— Rotting coyotes and bait smell like VICTORY to them!

Our thanks to these men, without whom we would not accomplish ANY of our goals!



CONVERSE COOUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2014-2015 MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

The Converse County Predator Management District's (CCPMD) mission will be to manage all predators and nuisance animals that affect our wildlife, livestock, and human health and safety.

We are fortunate to still have a bounty system for coyotes and fox which is funded by the predator assessment on brand inspections done in the county. The total amount received from these fees has shown a downward trend, probably due to decreases in livestock numbers because of range conditions. We contract with three local airplanes and a helicopter that are paid an enhanced bounty per coyote.

For the 2014 – 2015 fiscal year CCPMD will not be utilizing the two Wildlife Services' (WS) trappers that we have for the past several years. We will be contracting with WS for the use of their airplane, gunner, and pilot as we have in the past. The CCPMD Board (the Board) will be asking the ADMB for funds for this expense as well as for three full time and one part time trapper. These trappers will be contract workers and answer directly to the Board. While all the details remain to be worked out, the Board feels they will have more control with better results.

Converse County is split by the North Platte River. The bulk of the county's area lies North of the river and is generally less steep and with little timber. The vast majority of the county's sheep herds are in this area as well as antelope and sage grouse habitat. For trappers, it is a huge area to cover effectively. Last year the Board hired two part time trappers for the spring and summer in an effort to more efficiently manage the coyote population that was preying on the livestock and wildlife. This allowed the full time trappers to spend time as needed south of the river where the bulk of the cattle and mule deer live. The extra manpower proved to be very successful, but not sustainable for our budget.

With the increased use of aircraft, both from WS and private entities, many coyotes have become extremely "aircraft wary" and virtually impossible to take by aircraft alone. While we have always realized that ground crew working with the aircraft is absolutely essential, we are finding out that a good trapper can get the coyotes that the aircraft cannot. Generally these coyotes are the ones doing the damage to sheep. Folks on the ground are also the only way to take care of dens.

The Board will continue to work with city and county officials to control skunks and raccoons. Crow and raven numbers continue to increase with reports of damages to baby calves. Since poisoning these birds is only authorized for WS personnel we will be monitoring the situation closely so we can decide if and when to ask for their assistance.



Crook County Predatory Animal District

PO Box 344 Hulett WY

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

BOARD MEMBERS:

President:
Jerry Ista
467-5518

Vice President:
Larry Folks
307.467.5596

Treasurer:
JW Nuckolls
307.467.5590

Dennis Williams
307.756.9350

Jim Dacar
307.896.6274

John Moline
307.896.9135

Bob Gilbert
307.283.2375

Mike Smith
307.290.0241

Dallas Rolf
307.283-1920

Mike Idler
307.283-4303

Secretary:
Darla West
307.467.5609

MISSION

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 north-eastern Wyoming.

Crook County has two full-time trappers working with Wildlife Services (WS) an additional trapper-gunner private contract working part-time and one contracted trapper working part-time for denning.

Over the current fiscal year these individuals provided nearly 1000 day visits to work with over 600 different Crook County agricultural producers, and land-owners; serving just under 700,000 acres (including 13,000 BLM/Federal, roughly 32,000 State, and 5000 Forest Service.)

Crook County has maintained regular depredation to livestock as a result of predator populations. This includes, but is not limited to: coyotes, fox, bears, badgers, raccoons, bobcats, mountain lions, skunks, porcupines, eagles, free range (feral) cats, wild (domesticated) dogs, and occasionally muskrats and beavers.



Crook County's Predator Management Program focuses on three objectives:
1) Livestock Issues
2) Wildlife Issues
3) Human Health and Safety Issues

All three can be linked together when it comes to economic viability, our environment, and sustainability the communities in which we serve.



Bears have been added to Crook County's list over the last two years. Unconfirmed sightings of wolves and unconfirmed kills have become a new concern in the area. Mountain Lions and bobcat predation impacts are becoming more significant.

Control efforts for healthy numbers of predatory animals. Is maintained. It is not desired to eliminate coyotes, skunks, raccoons, fox or other such animals unless they become problematic.

Total losses to agricultural producers for their livestock must also be weighed. The Wyoming Statistical Reporting Service numbers for sheep and lamb losses in Wyoming in 2013 to be 17,300 head, with 61% being taken by coyotes. At a non-official average of \$145.00 per head equals 2.5 million in value. Cattle numbers not available.

Sheep



Wyoming sheep producers' lost 17,300 sheep and lambs to predators in 2013 ; 2014 numbers not available yet.

Profit margins for producers are slight and with predation the margin for loss continues to shrink. Even with current market value appearing to be on the increase, the result when compared to large increases in expenditures, their overall

net return has not increased for many of the agricultural producers. There is greater incentive for total herd liquidation amongst livestock owners, especially sheep producers. WY Statistical Reporting Service shows 2014 sheep numbers at 355,000 head and the January 2015 numbers at 345,000 head. Numbers have declined dramatically, but consistently since 1969 when there was 1,904,000 head.

Predation in livestock occurs in the few sheep herds left in our county. However, as sheep numbers dwindle, cattle and wildlife have become targets of these predators. With 12 to 14 pups in each of their litters control measures are needed, still. This is an increase over the 2 to 4 pups trappers were seeing just two years ago.



Along with agricultural impacts, sportsmen (and women) are also affected because of predatory animals feeding on turkeys, deer, elk, antelope, small game birds, and other small wildlife. All these factors lay on the agricultural producer in hunt licenses/ hunters on their private property and have an effect on their economic bottom line.

Cattle

The number of cattle and calves on Wyoming farms and ranches on January 1, 2013, was 1,290,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The Statistical reports show January 2015 cattle and calves numbers at 1,300,000 head; a two percent reduction in numbers from 2013. There has been a steady decline in herd numbers since 1998 with 1,660,000 head. Predator caused losses and lost revenue for 2013 Wyoming cattle pro-

ducers lost an estimated 41,000 head of cattle and calves tory of beef cows decreased to 694,000 head.

Although management methods are implemented year around they are intensified March through July when control of coyotes is ground hunting, call-

ing and denning. This time frame coincides with the need to protect new born lambs and calves as well as fawns and kids thus the requirement of additional manpower in the field.

The Bottom Line

Profit margins for producers are slim, and with predation the margin for loss continues to tighten. Even with current market value appearing to be on the increase, the result when compared to large increases in expenditures, most especially fuel, the overall net return has not increased. If anything, the effect has greater incentive for total

herd liquidation amongst agricultural producers. Continued control is essential to maintain healthy predation packs while assisting the operators of produc-

CCMPD Board Reports that 2014-2015 FY local trappers effectively removed: 370

- Badgers—2
- Beavers—6
- Bobcats—1
- Coyotes—355
- Fox—37
- Porcupines—2
- Raccoons—9
- Skunks—21



Calf buried by a mountain lion for later consumption.

(Dens are counted as one)

Wildlife

Upland game birds, sharp tail grouse, and turkey populations have become inconsistent. Bird numbers seem to be maintained in areas of the County and in others their numbers are declining sharply. In the Sundance area and upper elevations of the Black Hills, numbers seem to be holding. This may be contributed to natural cycles while there are areas where declining numbers are a direct result of

predation. Eagle numbers have increased over the last three winters and are impacting turkey numbers from Moorcroft to Rocky Point and around Hulett.

Sharp tail grouse have been seen the last couple years in areas not previously prone to be their habitat, but their numbers are still few.

Porcupine sightings in the Black Hills (eastern part of Crook County), or rather a reduction of sightings was brought to the Board as a concern amongst

some County residents since 2010. (The porcupine is regarded as one of the favorite foods of mountain lion.) There is room for some decline in the porcupine, as long as they are not diminished beyond a healthy level.

Rabbits are increasing and are a 'first-choice' food source for coyotes.



Whitetail and Mule Deer as well as antelope seem to be on the rise. A mild winter 14-15 should increase the numbers through at least fall 2015. WY Game and Fish have lengthened the hunting season in Crook County and have increased their overall target number of these species as well.

Elk herds have increased in the Black Hills and the WY Game and Fish Department has addressed

these increases through changes to the hunt/management season(s) as well.

Elk movement, management, and impacts on landowner/operators in the County has effected our trappers time and ground efforts. The CCPMD Board feels that more calls have been fielded. Areas where predation on these herds has not been a concern in the past, are being ad-

dressed with more anticipated in 15-16 FY.

Three bears were removed in Crook County in 2013 and one in 2014; due in the act of killing domesticated livestock; one this spring. More have been sighted and have caused damage to property. CCPMD has address bears and their management plan.

Producer concerns are validated with increased sightings of mountain lions, with Wyoming Statistics reports showing significant losses to domesticated livestock from this predator and serious concerns that management target of 125 lions in the Black Hills has been surpassed and readily having direct impact to wildlife, especially deer numbers that are depressed anyway.

Human Health and Safety Issues

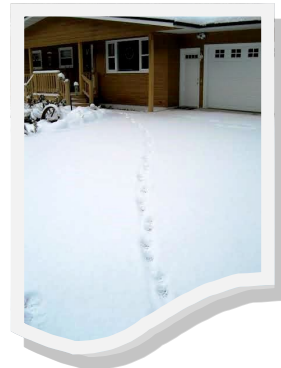
Trappers time and resources have been allocated to assist endeavors thought to be potentially harmful in the manner of predators/pests, along with a certain amount of animal management control fitting with their overall objectives in Crook County.

CCPMD offers, on an on-going basis, live traps to municipalities and con-

cerned citizens for the use of trapping and removing potentially harmful animals.

Crook County PMD tested nine mountain lions for disease and five skunks from July 2012 to April 2013 with no positive results. *Funding for these tests were removed due to budget.* Since 2006 we have worked with Wildlife Services to continually test and

monitor rabies. Over the few years no positive tests have been reported. However, a new strain has been identified, coming out of Nebraska that has surfaced new concerns, especially to horses. APHIS has removed funding for their testing program. Cooperation with local municipalities for removal of skunks, raccoons, porcupines, ferret cats, and rogue dogs, etc. for removal and/or disposal is ongoing.



Mountain Lion Tracks leading to the front door.

ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

Crook County Predatory Animal
District
Box 344
Hulett WY 82720

Trappers:
Federal—Kelly Huseby,
Aaron Freund from July till
March, and George Ridinger;
Nick Smith—starting June 20th
Contract Trappers:
Mark Huseby;
Seasonal Den Crew:
Mike Hooper

**Board Meetings held in December,
March and one during summer .**

Weather, disease and predation continue to have a significant impact upon some regional wildlife species.

The need to active manage predation upon affected species continues to be critical in the effort to preserve healthy populations of livestock and wildlife including predatory animals in Crook County.



The Predator Board is comprised of three representatives for sheep, three for cattle, three are appointed sportsmen by County Commissioners, and one representative is appointed as “at large”.
Meetings are held in

Key Successes Include:

APHIS Cooperative agreements have not significantly changed over the three years, maintaining a stagnant number of 227 to 231. WS provided 901 day visits to 106 different landowners in Crook County. However, the trappers have worked to update agreements that are considered “expired.” There are many verbal agreements, which allow our trappers to provide ground hunting as well as aerial hunting and access and management measures. Private contract denning crew served 32 additional landowners in FY 14-15 with 610 man hours.

2006 reported 348 predatory animals taken compared to the current fiscal year data reflecting 433 through WS and private contracted trappers; down only 1 from the 434 animals taken last FY. This shows the ongoing need for the continued predatory control. This equates to 3.49 man hours per take at a cost of approximately \$390 per animal for FY 14-15.

Unofficially, numbers reflect little to no decline in coyotes in Crook County despite the numbers taken each year. These reports show that the program efforts are crucial to maintaining healthy management levels. Since wildlife (deer, antelope, turkeys) numbers have declined in the last few years due to weather and illness there is evidence that predators are being seen more in their search for additional food sources. Meanwhile livestock numbers are also declining which leads to the need for identifying problematic predators quicker and removing the threat faster.

Grouse, sage hens, pheasants and turkey populations, show management levels are satisfactory to meeting goals, even though their numbers are down in comparison to just a couple years ago.

Trappers have upgraded equipment (g.p.s. systems, range finders, and binoculars) which has increased efficiency and improved results.

Health issues such as rabies plague and tularemia have been addressed in the past, but due to budget limitations no tests were done in 2014-'15. No positive results returned the previous year.

Season den crew in 2013, 2014, and 2015 has provided additional time working with land owner/operators improving customer service, education and awareness of services provid-

Serving the Community Since 1940

Crook County has had a predatory management program since the mid 1940's. Since the inception of the granting process with Wyoming Department of Agriculture through Legislative action in 2006 the program has proven itself. Successes are determined by analyzing information gathered by Wildlife Service specialists as well as on-the-ground information collected from sportsmen and agricultural producers.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department numbers are also tracked in order to assess goals & objectives against outcomes and identify future target areas.

Positive working relationships with Wildlife Services and with WY Game and

Fish Department are crucial to on-going efforts of the County Predator Management Board.

The current contract/ grant system with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture has allowed additional man hours, help with quantitative/ quality reports for identifying issues and measuring successes. The program has allowed testing for diseases to address health and human safety. Program benefits help the local board to meet their objectives and serve our communities.



Fremont County Predatory Management District

ADMB Report

Actions taken with 2014-2015 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 access to an airplane and are able to use it when needed and have a pilot in Riverton, WY. Flying during these critical spring months 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 ninth year and showed great improvement in numbers of mule deer. 70% of the depredation on sage grouse is caused by ravens. The Board would like to continue predator work in that area to have a long term study of maintaining numbers. The Whiskey Mountain BigHorn Sheep Project was in effect for several years, was discontinued one year, and then was reinstated last year and has 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 five years. There was a large interest in this project the first year, and funds were quickly used up. No ADMB funds were used for this work. The Board continued with the bounty again last year, but changed the dates from winter to spring through summer. Part of the allocated funds were used, but not as much interest was shown in the project with the March 1 – October 1 change.

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 five years ago, the Dubois area for the last four 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.

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

The Fremont county sage grouse/mule deer project is in it's 9th year. This year was unique as USDA Wildlife Services personnel were allowed once again to do control of the common raven at the landfill sites in the county. Previous years' project results have produced overwhelming evidence that the raven is the main predator on our artificial nests. Prior to putting out artificial sage grouse nests, approximately 150 ravens were taken in 2013 and 2014 prior to artificial nests being put out. Nest depredation has been significantly down overall in the last 2 years.

As with previous years, 10 artificial nests were placed for one week, then rotated to different areas in the spring of 2013. Small brown chicken eggs were used with care taken to mimic the actual nesting habits of the grouse. Given that the nests and trail cams were moved 4 times, we have a total once again of 40 overall nest sites to gather information.

Of the 40 nest sites, only 7 were depredated in 2013. This compares to previous years with 15 to 23 nests depredated.

The totals for the year were as follows:

Common raven 5 nests depredated

Coyote 1 nest depredated

Magpie 1 nest depredated

In the spring of 2014 the same protocol produced 6 nest sites being raided by predators/predacious birds.

Common raven 4 nests depredated

Skunk 1 nest depredated

1 nest undetermined

The average nest depredation in prior years to our Raven removal averaged around 14 per year to the Common Raven. We find this highly significant.

On the mule side of the project, poor weather hampered our efforts to do our annual deer count in late December. Only 318 total deer were counted.

We hope to use a different aircraft this fall for our count. Hopefully, this is not a trend and we will be able to better document deer numbers in 2014/2015.

Thanks to ADMB board for help in making this project a success.

Tracy Frye
USDA Wildlife Services

DUBOIS BIGHORN SHEEP PROJECT 2014

This project started almost 10 years ago to enhance wild sheep lamb recruitment numbers on the Whiskey Mountain and Spring Mountain bighorn sheep lambing areas. In the past, coyote depredation has been documented by way of stomach food content analysis. Although there doesn't seem to be an extremely large coyote population in this area, stomachs analyzed from coyotes taken close to the sheep herds showed that those animals used bighorn sheep as a significant food source during lambing time. Studies in the past have shown that each bighorn ram that makes it to adulthood is worth at least \$10,000.00 to the state of Wyoming.

Although things and times have changed since implementing the project, our main goal is still the same: help more bighorn sheep lambs live to adulthood. Initially FNAWS was the main financial supporter with Fremont County P.A.B./A.D.M.B helping. At this time Fremont County P.A.B has decided to fund the project to keep it going.

21 adult coyotes have been taken on the sheep lambing grounds. 15 flight hours have been used by W.S. personnel. We will continue to work the area until the start of sheep season in the fall. Population surveys are performed by the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept.

Once again, we would like to thank the ADMB for their continuing support.

Tracy Frye USDA Wildlife Services/Fremont County PAB

OCEAN LAKE PHEASANT PROJECT

The ocean lake pheasant project was started in cooperation with the Fremont County PMD and the Wyoming Game and Fish commission. Ocean lake lays west of Riverton, Wyoming and is a public land resource owned by WGFD. An array of public activities take place there. Boating, fishing, hunting, camping etc. In the fall, WGFD releases pheasants for bird hunters on the property at different times. The projects aim is to reduce predators just prior to the open bird season. This helps to keep more birds in the field for hunters. Red foxes are the dominant predator in the area. Coyotes, raccoons, skunks and feral house cats are also present.

Due to a family illness, W.S. personnel was unable to work this project in September. Work on the project will be ongoing again starting prior to the pheasant hunting season.

Thank you for your support of this project.

Dave Fowler
USDA Wildlife Services

**Goshen County Predatory Management
District**

Annual Report and Management Plan

2014 –2015



GCPMD Members

Brodie Mackey (Pres.)

Miles Daily

Jason Norris

Ron Miller (V. Pres.)

Travis Grosz

Larry Lippincott

Tom Lee

Jennifer Scheer

Stan Smith (Sec./Treas.)

Dan Heilbrun,

Goshen County, Wyoming:

Founded in 1911.

Seat – Torrington (also largest city).

Population – 13,249 (2010 census). Density – 6/sq mi (2.3/km²).

Area – 2,232 sq mi (5,781 km²) total. Land – 2,225 sq mi (5,763 km²),

Water – 36 sq mi (93 km²).

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 measureable actions:

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

BLM Lands 2,880 ac.

Private Lands 442,836 ac.
State Lands 19,780 ac.
Total Lands 465,496 ac. worked under WS' agreement.

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

77.9 hrs. of aerial hunting was spent.

2,998:32 hrs. WS' field work.

Summary of operational activities including damage/loss values:

Losses reported:

Livestock \$250.00

Livestock Feed \$100.00

Property \$0.00

Losses verified:

Livestock \$8,890.00

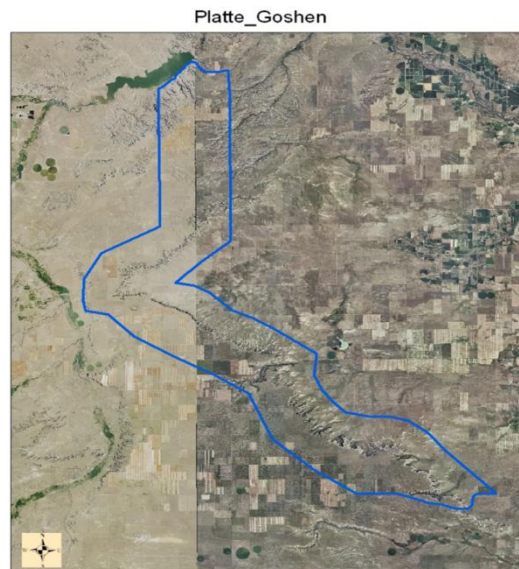
Livestock Feed \$200.00

Property \$500.00

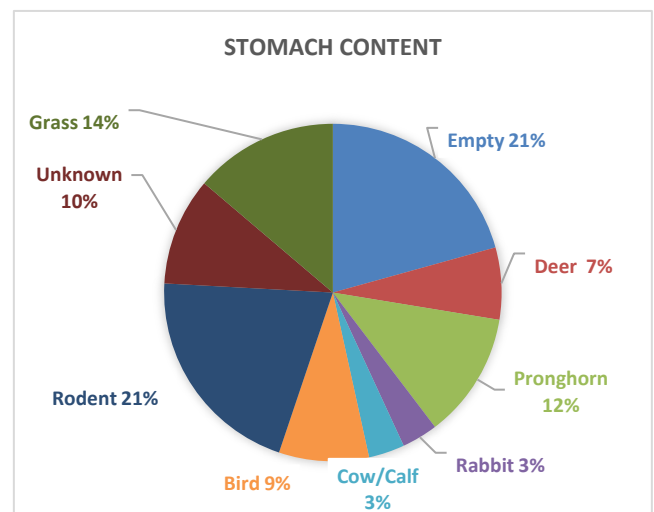
The current program administered by GCPMD primarily targets removing offending predators from depredating on livestock, feed and wildlife.

GCPMD has concluded the game bird enhancement project that was started in May 2007 and finished in September 2012. The mule deer enhancement project, which began in May 2009, has been dramatically enhanced in 2013, additional aerial hunting time and ground time will be spent in this enlarged area. These activities will be conducted within mule deer hunt area 55.

Mule Deer Enhancement Project



The Mule Deer enhancement project is continuing to target increased areas that the deer population is below quota (WGFD), primarily in the Goshen Hole Rim within mule deer hunt area 55. WS' has increased the fixed wing flying time in this area; in addition, some helicopter time has been added. Time spent on the ground will continue to be concentrated on 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. (See pie chart right to examine stomach content results.) In 2013, the project area was expanded to get a broader range of predator control. This was done to help a larger span of historical mule deer fawning areas. The expansion was done in cooperation from Game and Fish personnel who felt predator control in these areas would benefit the mule deer population. The expanded area mule deer project is now in its third year of efforts.



Coyotes Removed from Project Area

Coyote dens removed	6	4	10
Verified adult male coyotes	19	15	34
Verified adult female coyotes	15	15	30
Verified juvenile female coyotes	3	6	9
Verified juvenile male coyotes	5	4	9
Total number of verified coyotes	42	40	82
Total number of unverified coyotes	63	33	96
Over all number on coyotes removed from project area.	105	73	178
	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	Total

Postseason Classification Report

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department annually conducts a postseason (November-December) ground survey in the Goshen Rim Mule Deer Herd Unit. The annual fawn to doe ratio is determined from

Note: Above is a breakdown of coyotes removed from the project area.

survey's data. Generally, mule deer populations are considered to require a fawn ratio of at least 65 fawns per 100 does in order to maintain population size. During the past ten years, the fawn ratio for the Goshen Rime Mule Deer Herd Unit has been struggling at approximately the 65 fawn per 100 doe's ratio. (Figure 1). There are numerous factors that are assumed for poor fawn recruitment which include but are not limited to: 1) poor habitat conditions, 2) weather/drought, 3) Chronic Wasting Disease, and 4) predation. The severe drought conditions experienced in this herd unit during 2012 left most mule deer entering the winter in very poor physical condition. In addition to predation this placed the doe fawn ratio in 2012 to well below objective. (Figure 1). This would mark the beginning of the expanded mule deer

enhancement project. The 2013 winter deer surveys showed an increase in doe to fawn ratios. The 2014 surveys showed an increase by 31% when compared to 2012 and the highest they have been in over a decade. An increase in predator control most likely helped to increase fawn survival.



Rabies work in Goshen County



In Goshen County, there has been a huge upswing in rabies activity in the past year. GCPMP/WS' has responded to this situation with a wide range of assistance. Public notification was a big part of our involvement. We worked with the Torrington Town Council to inform the public about where to go and who to call for reporting rabies related instances. This was done thru radio ads, local paper, and information handouts. WS' provided services at many levels. Some of these include addressing calls, collecting specimens to be tested, assisting the state vet with pet and livestock exposure cases and surveillance trapping. Goshen county WS' specialists have been working with Amy Gilbert, a research biologist from National Wildlife Research Center, to gain virus genetics and geography information associated with this outbreak. *Attached is NWRC information collected so far with the assistance of WS'.* There will be a continuation of this involvement by collecting samples for the NWRC in the 2015 physical year. Skunks will be collected in diverse areas of Goshen County to get a wide range of samples. In Goshen County from November 2013 to current, 45 skunks, 2 cats, 1 fox have tested positive for rabies. Six skunks tested positive in Laramie County and one skunk tested positive across the state line in Nebraska. Approximately another 30 to 40 skunks where not tested but were most likely positive due to the high volume of skunks (if there was no pet or human exposure they were not tested). Twenty-three dogs and one cat were either quarantined or euthanized after being exposed to rabid animals. Eleven humans have taken post exposure shots due to being exposed to potentially rabid animals.

Livestock Protection/Nuisance Animal Work

With the advent of additional state funding, GCPMD/WS' has increased flying time and acquired more equipment. This has led to greater diversity in the GCPMD program. Increased funding has allowed for greater effectiveness in responding to livestock depredation issues. **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.**

Goshen County WS' is also doing European Starling work in feedlots. This is a very timely procedure and starling migratory patterns create a unique obstacle. Persistence and hard work has resulted in slowing the damage caused by the vast amounts of starlings that populate the feedlots. WS' has good communications with the feedlot managers and owners and they 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.

Future Management plan

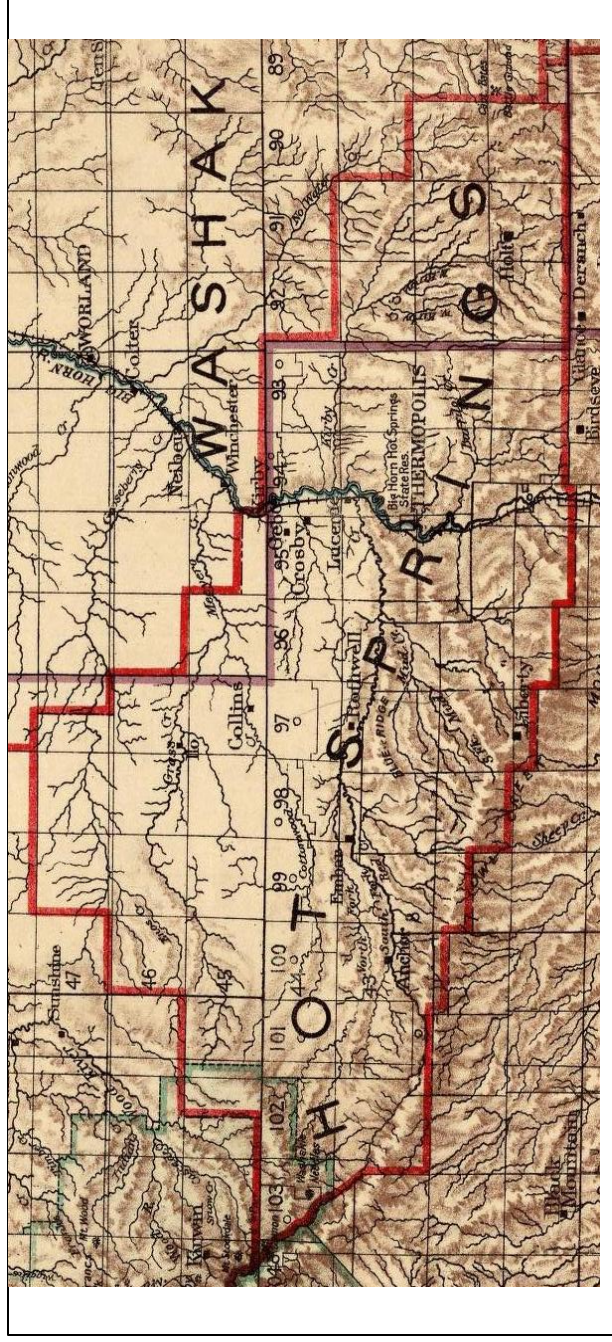
GCPMD plans to keep moving forward with all responsibilities. WS' will continue efforts for the mule deer enhancement project. WS' will utilize the helicopter and in the deer project area and focus work during the fawning period. Cooperation with Wyoming Game and Fish will continue to help this be as productive as possible. This project will be in its third and final year; we hope the final year will produce comparable success to the last two years.

We will perform any duties necessary for the rabies issues of Goshen County. Extended trapping efforts will be conducted to monitor the movement and the presence of the rabies virus. Cooperation will continue with the NWRC to help track virus genetics and geography. WS' will also continue to address all rabies related issues and work with the state vet lab handling pet and livestock exposure instances.

Work in Laramie County will continue under the contract with Warren Land and Livestock. Starling work in the feedlots will continue, as well as the Turkey Vulture work in the county. We are also continuing to conduct trapping efforts for crop and property damage caused by raccoons, skunks, and feral cats. GCPMD prides itself in having great project diversity, proficiently managing livestock depredation, beneficial wildlife projects, and efficiently handling human health and safety issues.

Hot Springs County Predator Management District

Annual Report 2014 - 2015





Hot Springs County

There are 1,294,080 acres of land in HSC. These acres are split approximately 48% private land and 62% public land and are owned/controlled by the Bureau Of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, the State of Wyoming and private landowners.



HSCPMD PERFORMS MORE THAN 5,000 HOURS OF ANIMAL CONTROL WORK

The HSCPMD has 2 full time control agents and shares one agent with Washakie County our neighbor to the north. These agents are employed through Wildlife Services a branch of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Their control efforts address all predators that impact our wildlife populations.



HSCPMD provides animal damage control to 75 co-operators and the municipalities within HSC.

Aircraft use for aerial gunning telemetry/monitoring (snow conditions allowed for additional flying days) and ferry time increased this year. Flight hours logged were 198.6 , with 24.2 hours of ferry time. It is anticipated that some of the Wolf and Sage Grouse work will be adjusted and that the ending hours will be below the budgeted 200 hours.



146 Raccoons and 47 Skunks removed utilizing live traps purchased by HSCPMD board for use in populated areas.

INCREASING SUCCESS

The HSCPMD is attempting to increase nesting success of pheasant, turkey, partridge, chukar, sage grouse, ducks and geese. Most of these species are preyed upon by canines, but some have additional pressure from raccoons, skunks, feral cats, crows and ravens.

Methods of controlling these predators include shooting, trapping and using EPA registered chemicals.



RABIES



Animal Control Work

Animal control work consisted of removing/euthanizing problem animals, destroying beaver dams along irrigation infrastructure, collecting and shipping random samples to the State Laboratory for Rabies testing, capturing and collaring Wolves and Sage Grouse and air and ground telemetry/monitoring.

- 12 random skunks tested this year – No Positive Results
- 2 bats tested this year – No Positive Results

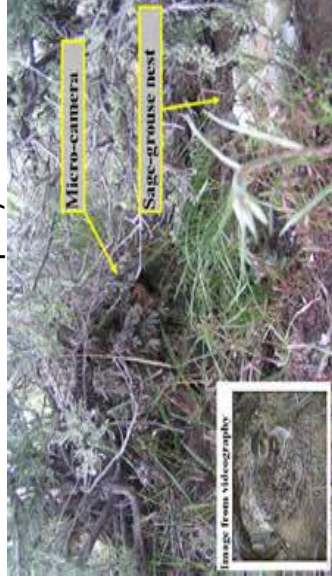


SAGE GROUSE STUDY

HSCMD begins third year of the Wind River Basin Sage Grouse Study.

This study is monitoring predation, nesting success and bird survival utilizing :

- Argos and VHS tracing collars ((done in March)
- Leg banding
- Trail and nest cameras (set up in April)



Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Project

Land Type

- BLM – 968,640 acres
- Private - 198,650 acres
- State – 99,920 acres
- Forest Service – 1200 acres
- Unassigned - 0



Documented Hours by

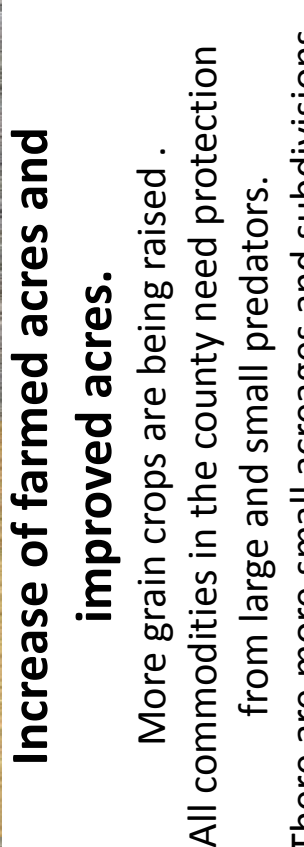
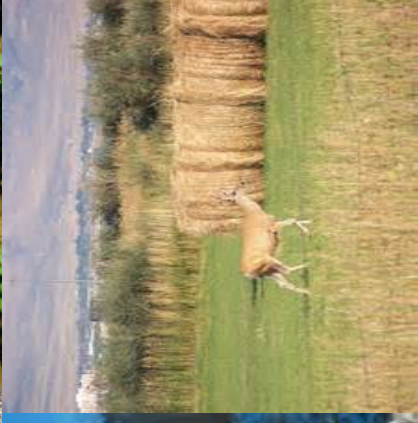
- HSCMD Personnel
- 354 Field Hours
- 40 Aerial Hours

* This is about 1/3 of the total hours that will be logged by July 1,2015.



Person – Day - Visits

- BLM – 220
- Private – 379
- State – 304
- Forest Service - 1
- Unassigned - 11



Increase of farmed acres and improved acres.

More grain crops are being raised .

All commodities in the county need protection from large and small predators.

There are more small acreages and subdivisions each year. Many of these landowners keep chickens, goats and other small types of livestock which attract predators.



Recent increases in cattle herds.



Recent increases in sheep flocks.



HSCPMD addresses ongoing human/predator conflicts.

*All field personnel assist in disease prevention as a result of normal day to day activities.

*All field personnel are on call for immediate safety issues that may arise.



Note: In dense cover it is important to know if you have a grizzly bear closing in on your location at night. This equipment has proved to be a big help in the safety factor for personnel working at night in these situations.



Specialized thermal imaging equipment provides level of safety to our field personnel when doing control work in grizzly bear, lion and wolf areas.

HSCPMO continues to try to address any control situation and has added equipment to be able to meet that challenge.

Our field personnel report to us that specialized thermal imaging equipment allowed them to:

- Remove a depredating coyote at night. Several hours of aerial time was spent trying to remove this animal – with no success due to the dense river bottom cover.

This resulted in a savings of many man hours to the Predator Program and lamb crop to the livestock producer.

- Thermal imaging was used several other times locating specific predators in an area that had several species killing at the same time (red fox, coyotes wolves, mountain lions, black bears and grizzly bears).



Budget

2014 – 2015

The 2014 – 2015 budget was set at \$251,650.00.

Funds from WDA/ADMB: \$174,827

Funds were received from the following:

- Hot Springs County
- Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture/ADMB
- Predator assessment fees (brand fees)
- Fur sales

Mission

The Hot Springs County Predator Management District (HSCPMD) by statutory authority, assumes the responsibility to the citizens of Hot Springs County to protect agriculture game birds and animals and human health and welfare.

Hot Springs County Predator Management District

Board Officers

President: Jack Baird

Vice President: Don Harvey

Secretary/Treasurer: Brett Belden

HSCPMD continues to try to address any control situation and has added equipment to be able to meet that challenge.

In certain areas of Hot Springs County the coyote and raccoon populations have been kept in check, but increased control measures were needed on most species specifically for wolves, grizzly bears , lions, and black bears.

The HSCPMD expects this to continue.

New and upgraded equipment provided by HSCPMD has been utilized. This along with specific/specialized training of personnel is imperative to the success of our program.

Jack Baird President

Date: _____

Johnson County Predator Management District
FY 2014-2015 Year-end Report

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 expenditures and has been 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. We have added a private fixed winged pilot and a private helicopter in southern Johnson County which allows quick access when conditions are right. We have done extensive analysis of our flying program and its cost per coyote costs. Adjustments may have to be made as to which aircrafts can be used in certain locations and at certain times. With funding cuts this budget line is where the cuts are often made, although it remains a vital part of our control program. .
- We continue to “Contract for Services” with three control officers and employ two part-time persons in the rabies program and bookkeeping personnel. As personnel request more dollars for their services, the district struggles to continue the level of protection the residents have come to expect. As more counties go to the contract method, we are pressured to keep up with a higher contract structure and are in a position where raises are necessary. This spring coyote numbers are spiking, thus notice to us that control must, somehow, be accelerated. A stringent reporting program and data collection has shown that we have excellent control in the interior of the county while the exterior boundaries show incoming predator from lesser control by our neighboring districts.
- We’ve had a few requests for refunds of predator fees collected. We continue to educate and inform our producers about our program at every chance and feel that they understand the need and value of the control program. Each year with the annual meeting notice, a report of coyotes taken 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. Continued meetings regarding kill confirmations and timely control activity are planned. 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. We have completed the Wyoming Game & Fish and Big Horn Environmental Consultants sage grouse nest predation study. We are now beginning a project to mark each predator 'take' with a GPS. These will be mapped and the data shared with others, such as Wyoming Game & Fish and sage grouse working groups to prove the worth of predator control.
- The District has adopted an electronic payroll and bill paying system that will save time as well as postage and mailings.

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

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

Dave Hall
Secretary/Treasurer
Johnson County PMD

Lincoln County Predator Animal Report

April 10, 2015

The Lincoln County PAB had a busy year as usual. We started spring by hiring a new trapper or I should say Wildlife Services moved a trapper from Texas. The county did not have any say in this decision and as far as we are concerned the jury is still out on whether he works out for our needs. Wyoming and the predator problems are quite different from Texas. We hired a temporary employee for the summer to work the northern part of the county. He did an excellent job and we would like to have kept him on permanently but could not because of the Texan. Unfortunately he got a job in Utah.

Coyote losses over-all seem to be less than the previous year. I think this is directly connected to our winter-flying program. The main problem for us range lambers is during spring lambing. We have ewes and lambs scattered for miles. This is the time that the lambs are most vulnerable and a den of coyotes or foxes have a banquet. When the deer and antelope start to drop their fawns, generally, the killing of lambs slows. The reason being is that coyotes start consuming wildlife. After docking, summer herds are made up and losses decrease because Guard Dogs are able to protect the herds.

Bear damage in the county was low compared to past years. That was the result of a good wild bear production. In addition, the white bark and limber pine produced a good pine-cone production where it is not dying from blister rust. It was nice not to worry about large bear losses.

Wolves—need I say more? One wolf was shot last spring by a WS employee in the Smith Fork area. Counting the pair that was taken from Hamsfork, that made three removed. Wolves were not a real big problem until the day the Washington DC judge ruled against Wyoming. Believe it or not that afternoon we had a herder run a wolf out of his herd. We called the trapper and he said he just received word that he had been put back on the protection list. About the middle of October we had several kills on the Little Colorado desert and had the herder sight and hear wolves howling. We had many kills confirmed and the herd was short 25 ewes that we could not find after gathering the sheep where the wolves had chased them.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service was not prepared to take care of problem wolves again so it took about three weeks to get a kill permit and naturally they were gone to Timbucktoo or back to Canada. The permit was only good for the area where the kills took place and for only a short period of time then it would be cancelled. The DC Judge caught the Service with their pants down. They were not prepared to manage the wolves again. Unless we get a legislative fix we are doomed. Between the US Department of Labor, wolves, grizzly bears and mountain sheep, sage grouse and range sheep operations will become extinct. What a shame, our own Government is our biggest nemesis. What will ten billion people eat 30 years from now?

Our sage grouse population in Lincoln Co. is robust and is on an upward trend due to the poison program of WS and the taking of fox and coyotes in the strutting and nesting areas. Unfortunately, we have no control of Golden Eagles. Ravens affect both sheep and cattle. Last spring ravens caused the death of five calves in the Cokeville area. They peck holes to get at the bone marrow in the calves hind leg joints rendering the calves helpless and unable to stand and nurse and could not travel resulting in destroying the calves. Since the serious alternative to control ravens, sheep ranchers have experienced less raven kills on sheep, especially lambs.

The Lincoln Co. PAB takes responsibility to protect domestic animals and wildlife serious in addition to human health and safety. An example of this is the removal of ravens at the Exxon Gas Plant. They create an unhealthy environment by defecating and scattering dead animal remains where they roost. In one year we lost some ram lambs from some type of disease. We took some of them to Utah State at Logan to be cryopsied.

The results came back indicating diseases the Veterinarian had never even known. Additional research indicated these diseases were spread by birds. The ravens were coming to the feed rolls for the lamb feces thus spreading diseases to the lambs. We moved the lambs into a bigger pasture which allowed using a different feed roll and corn ground each day and were able to stop the sickness spreading to the lambs. This cost our ranch 15 to 20,000 dollars which was a direct result of raven action. In addition, every year we find animals with one eye missing which is also a monetary loss because most buyers will not buy a one-eyed ewe or ram. Ravens remove one eye and in some cases will peck the animal to death. People cannot imagine what impact they have on wildlife. We do have data on their impact on sage grouse but what about on other species? What about waterfowl, duck, geese and cranes. There are also blue, ruff and sharp-tail grouse as well as pheasants, chukars and partridges. Any wildlife that build nests and lays eggs is at the mercy of the raven and crows. From my experience of being on the range, I see fewer numbers of blue and ruff grouse that occupy Southwestern, WY. The raven poisoning project has greatly reduced the population and livestock losses and increased the sage grouse numbers. The LCPAB will continue to push for some type of control especially for sage grouse to attempt to keep them from being listed by the USFWS. We need to push for some type of control or management of the Golden Eagle. They are at the top of the food chain and have an impact on adult bird population. They are intelligent and really work the strutting grounds; in some cases causing the birds to move to a different area.

During the summer of 2014 permittees using the Bridger-Teton National Forest for a long time experienced the least loss of sheep to black bears. Even though we were and still are in a drought situation, the mountains got occasional rain showers and had one of the wettest Septembers and Octobers in recent years. The forage stayed green and fresh with excellent regrowth. The berry crop was

phenomenal. Huckleberries, currents, raspberries, strawberries and other forbs and shrubs were abundant. In addition tail-white bark and limber pine had good production of pine nuts where die-offs of these species had not occurred. As a result of these factors bear losses declined. The bear had more natural food production to utilize and consequently ate less lamb.

Finally for those of you who have been on the state ADMB for a while you have heard me complain about deer mortality on their winter ranges. The LC PADMB has an opportunity to participate in Phase II of the Wyoming Range mule deer project. Rather than discuss the agreement in this report I will attach an outline of the study that was addressed to Mr. Kent Drake from Mr. Gary Fralick. I told Mr. Fralick and Dr. Onteith that we could not outright put in dollars but could participate with aerial time in locating and tracking these tagged animals and locating dead fawns as we fly most of these areas already. This work would happen on livestock lambing areas which are also deer wintering area. This first year I am anticipating about \$20,000 extra in helicopter time. We will have enough money in our budget request if we receive the \$100,000 for helicopter time. If the board cuts our flying budget then we would like to use the \$20,000 that we pay for the Rover. Our PAB does not believe we are getting \$20,000 worth of work from him. He does not talk to our trappers or board members to determine where he is needed. As you will recall, last year Rod Krischike stated that it was a breakdown in communication and probably still is.

Hopefully with a new director of WLS for Wyoming we will be able to get the Wyoming Helicopter and Ed Nichols the owner certified to fly WS employees. This would be very important for wolf work if FWS issues a kill permit the helicopter can go in the rough mountains where a fixed wing cannot. The key to success is a fast response and with no reimbursement for wolf kill we need to be able to get where the problems arise quickly.

Respectfully Submitted,

Truman Julian, President

Natrona County
Predator Management District
P.O. Box 1462
Casper, WY 82602

2015-2016
District Management Plan

Outline:

- I. Actions Taken
- II. Identifiable or Measurable Results
- III. Grant Monies expended
- IV. Current Financial Statement

District Management Plan

- 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 the 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. (Clint Cummings, Will Roberts, Rock Buckingham.)

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.

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 Game and Fish, we lacked the funding and 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. The Game and Fish provided \$30,000 for this program. The NCPMB, through

other funding mechanisms has continued to employ a full time trapper in this area and will continue to share data with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. Clint Cummings will work deer unit 66 in Southeast Natrona County, which is the Stinking Creek/Bates Hole area and its tributaries and his area will also be expanded to deer area 87, 88, 97 and the northern part of area 89.

Below are the deer numbers provided by the Game and Fish Department in this specific area: (Area 66 only)

**Mule Deer – Per 100 Doe’s (collected in Nov/Dec each year-postseason)
Herd Unit: MD 757 – Bates Hole/Hat Six (Hunt Area 66 only)**

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
2012	4	13	17	60
2013	10	10	20	56
2014	12	17	29	82

A Sportsman’s Representatives for the NCPMD (Donald Garrison) meets annually with the Wyoming Game and Fish personnel to review various opportunities and projects that may be mutually beneficial to them and the NCPMB. 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 held its third annual Bounty Program for coyotes. This program was opened to all Natrona County residents. The purpose for paying bounties was to reward recreational hunters for their efforts in killing coyotes.

The board designated three dates to gather sets of ears and to pay a bounty of \$25 per set of ears turned in. The board worked with Sportsman's Warehouse for the designated locations. At each bounty program, the NCMPD had at least 3-4 board members to accept the ears from the resident hunters and gather feedback and answer questions from hunters. The residents of Natrona County are excited about the program and the feedback has been extremely positive.

III. **Identifiable or Measurable Results:** From July 1, 2014 to date, the three trappers and aerial flying have killed **822** coyotes, not counting the bounty program that accounted for an additional **331**. Weather is a main factor for the aerial program. We are hoping that there are favorable weather conditions so our trappers can fly. The aerial program has proven to be extremely beneficial with coyote harvesting.

The following is a breakdown of the coyotes taken per calendar year by the trappers and aerial program:

Coyotes taken for the following calendar years:

Calendar Year	Coyotes Taken
2008	2,658
2009	1,493
2010	2,186
2011	1,788
2012	1,568
2013	1,355
2014	1,219

Fixed Fly Time:

The following flight time has been conducted to date for the aerial removal of coyotes for July 1, 2014-present:

USDA-APHIS: **3.2 hours (4 coyotes harvested)**
Reno Air Service: **51 hours (144 coyotes harvested)**

Total for fixed fly time is **54.2 hours**
Total coyotes harvested: **148**

Helicopter Fly Time: **None to date fiscal year to March 1, 2015**

Fly Log for Aerial Program for the following fiscal years:

Fiscal Year	Fly Log for Aerial Program
2008	298.4 hours
2009	369.43 hours
2010	295.2 hours
2011	269.9 hours
2012	192.4 hours
2013	49.2 hours
2014	84.2 hours
2015 (from July 1-present)	54.2 hours

IV. Grant Monies expended for Fiscal Year 2014:

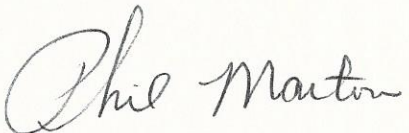
Fly Time:	\$ 16,628.47
Office Supplies:	\$ 404.50
Postage and Delivery:	\$ 99.82
Contract Services:	\$146,449.00
Bonus:	\$ 6,000.00
Office Furniture: (Chairs & Table)	\$ 293.70
Meeting expenses:	\$ 364.35
Mileage for Board Members:	\$ 1,409.84
Liability Insurance:	\$ 300.00
PO Box Fee:	\$ -0-
Preparation of tax forms:	\$ 871.88
Membership:	\$ 500.00
Attorney Fees:	\$ -0-
Livestock Predator Fees:	\$ 485.00
Gift:	\$ 75.00
Bounty Program:	
11/22/14 (2 sets of ears)	\$ 50.00
12/20/14 (87 sets of ears)	\$ 2,175.00
1/24/15 (242 sets of ears)	\$ 6,050.00

Total Expenses Incurred: (7/1/14-Present) **\$182,156.66**

- V. **Current Financial Statement:** For the current Fiscal Year 2015, NCPMD has a grant account balance of **\$103,468.71**. We have a livestock tax account balance of **\$84,360.52**. A Refund Saving Account was setup which has a balance of **\$2,504.98**. For a total of **\$190,334.21**. Anticipated expenditures through July 1, 2015 are **\$155,746.46**. This will leave us a balance of **\$34,587.75**. There may be less if the weather holds out for our flying program.

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.

Dated this 19 day of March, 2015.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil Marton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Phil Marton, President NCPMD

Niobrara County PMD Grant Activities Report Narrative

June 30, 2015

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 for the past several years we have been able to enlarge our program to include wildlife concerns. Prudent spending allows us to spend over 95 cents of total dollars on 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. April and May are vital denning months. Coyotes are becoming smarter and wiser to are ways of eliminating them allowing them to still reproduce and survive giving us no shortage of coyotes in our county. It seems they are always moving from eastern states and southern counties as they do not control at all, so we are never afraid of running out of them.

We again had two full-time trappers this year, 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. This trapper took a total of 118 coyotes this winter, 25 of which were in Niobrara County. The rest were either in the portion of Goshen County that was in the original Rawhide Recovery project boundary or along our borders with Goshen and Platte counties. We urged Goshen County to join in this very inexpensive control but they did not. They do no predator control in northern Goshen, and Platte County does no control at all, so we believe the trapper's work helps to provide our county with a beneficial cushion against predator problems.

The privately-contracted trappers took a good number of predators this year, it's not as many as were taken last year but still an impressive number. Due to the high rodent population this year we believe the coyotes haven't bothered the livestock as bad. The trappers did not have as many trouble calls this year from ranchers as last year. Our aerial program consists of two private contract pilots as well as a contract with Wildlife Services. They have been able to fly more hours this year than last but just haven't seen or taken the amount of coyotes they did last year. The grass this spring has made it hard to see coyotes from the air.

Our 2014 annual deer count was conducted in November as usual. Total deer count numbers are up. 2014 was an exceptional grass year and deer were fairly scattered and numbers may be better than the deer count even reflected. Also, there is a very high rodent population this year which may decrease the predation on fawns.

**2015
Annual
Report**

Park County Predator Management District

July 1, 2014

to

June 30, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS

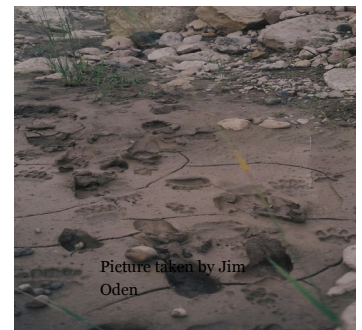
- **President**
Todd Stutzman,
Powell, Wy
- **Vice President**
Ken Beers
Meeteetse, Wy
- **Sec/Treasure**
Regan Smith
Powell, Wy
- William Johnsey
Cody, Wy
- Rori Renner
Meeteetse, Wy.
- Shane Smith
Powell, Wy.
- Zane Bryant
Cody, Wy.
- Lloyd Thiel
Powell, Wy.
- Allan Hogg
Meeteetse, Wy.
- Lee Lingston
Cody, Wy.

Contact :
**USDA/APHIS/
Wildlife
Services State
Office if more
information is
needed.**

Mission:

Park County Predator Management District's (PMD) management plan is to contract with United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (WS) to provide high-quality wildlife damage management services for all entities located in Park County that result in the protection of agriculture, wildlife and other natural resources, private and federal property, and human health and safety. Our goal is to cooperate with all land and wildlife management agencies to ensure there will be protection for all wildlife and domestic species. By working with WS who have Memorandums of Understanding (MOU'S) with all land and wildlife management agencies the Park County PMD will be assured to have put ourselves in a position to best deal with all species and localities of our county regardless of state and federal protections with professionally trained personnel. Our Mission is to provide service or respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after our personnel are 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.

Wildlife related issues for Park County Predator Management District



Picture taken by Jim Oden

Park County Predator Management District Program and its cooperation with Wildlife Services reached 63 different landowners in Park County (1,181,543 acres) and many others in neighboring counties in Northwest Wyoming including State Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Private lands . We offered assistance with a large variety of wildlife



wildlife projects that benefit all entities and publics in Park County as well as all counties in the Bighorn Basin.

Park County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 11 WS employees during this last year to cater to the increasing requests to our program for assistance involving such wildlife species as: beavers, coyotes, fox, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, feral dogs, badgers, grey wolves, mountain lions, sagegrouse, pigeons, ravens, golden eagles,

and American crow complaints. The majority of the Park County Specialist's time since July 1st, 2014 was spent answering the following complaints in Park County: 1,022 total daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation on calves, sheep, swine, pheasants, sage grouse, mule deer, antelope, and livestock guarding animals.

52 beaver calls for private property and irrigation damage.

192 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving human health and safety, property damage on residences or out buildings.

3 feral dog tasks for livestock damage.

16 mountain lion tasks for lamb damage or threat of damage.

39 daily tasks for grey wolf complaints involving cattle and buffalo.

129 daily tasks for fox complaints with sage grouse, lambs, pets and chickens.

45 daily tasks associated with badger damage to sage grouse.

458 raccoon tasks for assistance with damage to buildings, corn, irrigation pipe, sage grouse, feed human health and safety and livestock.

23 tasks in relation to damage caused by feral cats.

39 tasks in relation to sage grouse caused by bobcats.

48 daily tasks for golden eagles in reference to sage grouse.

118 various tasks for ravens, pigeons, owls, starlings, blackbirds, and crows. All these species were worked on because of various types of damage related to airports, sage grouse, buildings, cemeteries, utilities, and sunflowers



Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Park County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Park County has provided additional help by co-operating a full-time position with Bighorn County PMD who has allowed us to provided 915.5 hours in park County towards field activities and 85 hours of aerial time for the project. As of 2014-2015 Wildlife Specialists have handled over 409 sage



grouse for the sage grouse project. We are currently following colored sage grouse in the Park County area for the project. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement, and habitat selection. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University has taken the position of Lead Researcher to further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



05-19-2011



Wolf Depredation Management

Park County Wildlife Specialist's assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with lethally removing 10 wolves in 2014-2015. These wolves were removed in response to livestock harassment or depredation complaints. In Park County Wildlife Services verified predation of 2 calves in the Park County area. Wyoming Game and Fish Department made a great effort to report the

majority of the damage caused by wolves this year. Wildlife Services personnel reported to 39 daily activities regarding complaints involving cattle, and buffalo by gray wolves.



Crop, Irrigation, Pheasant Enhancement, and Human Health and Safety Activities



Park County Wildlife Specialists have 650 separate daily activities for assistance dealing with damage complaints and requests for assistance with raccoons and striped skunks to chickens, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, leaf-cutter bee hives, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns. Wildlife Specialists have previously conducted pheasant crow-count surveys to

document the benefits to the populations as a result of this project activity. Specimens were sent for disease testing by the State Veterinary Laboratory from animals thought to possess human health and safety concerns throughout Park County. Numerous species such as red fox, striped skunks, badgers, feral cats, beavers, and ravens also have been reported and confirmed as wildlife related damage culprits in our area.

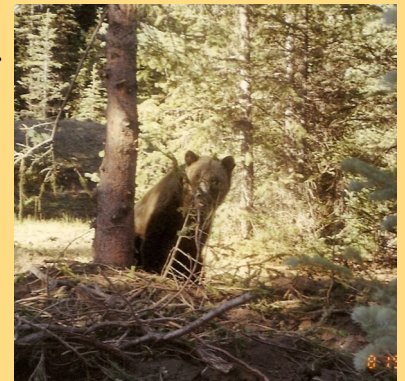


Trophy Game Assistance to Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Park County Wildlife Specialists responded to trophy game damage complaints and provided field work for mountain lions. Requests for assistance from specialists involved damage/possible damage to lambs. With the growing number of large predators and decreasing prey base in northwestern Wyoming, the Park County Predator



Management Board has made it their goal to continue to support our wildlife specialists with their effort to respond to the increasing number of requests for wildlife damage assistance and human health and safety concerns in the Bighorn Basin.



**ALAN PLUMMER
67 UPPER Rd.
SHERIDAN, WY 82801**

JUNE 30, 2015

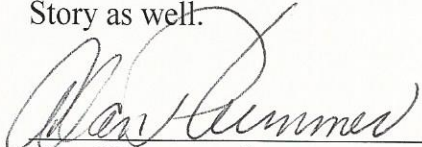
RABIES MITIGATION REPORT

From July 2014 thru June 2015 we have shot or live trapped 63 skunks in Sheridan County. They were taken from all parts of Sheridan County. They were from subdivisions, ranches, along county roads and around culverts.

Dayton, Ranchester and Clearmont were provided traps to do the trapping themselves. We picked up one skunk from Dayton, which tested positive for rabies

There were a total of 1 rabid skunks that was sent in for testing.

As stated above we do all skunk control for the city of Sheridan and the County, excluding Dayton, Ranchester and Clearmont. We have done work in the community of Story as well.



Alan Plummer, County Trapper

TRAPPERS REPORT FOR 2014-15

Area 1

Coyote predation on lambing grounds was down. Most of our predation on lambs and grouse was from eagles. Grouse numbers remained steady. Eagle numbers were down from last year, possibly due to a milder winter.

Area 2

We did more aerial hunting in this area to alleviate pressure on the calving grounds. The beaver creek hills have shown a large decrease in predation for the past three years due to a increase in aerial hunting. The problems on the calving grounds are down this spring. Deer numbers are way up along with antelope.

Area 3

We have seen slight decreases in the numbers of grouse. Eagles show up on the leks in large numbers in this area. We have stepped up our aerial hunting in this area. Overall in this area the sage grouse seem to be holding their own. The eagle numbers are still up dramatically 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. The coyote numbers have again increased this past year due to coyotes coming across the Montana and Campbell County line.

Area 5

We continued work in this area the same as we are doing in area 4. Again the mule deer numbers are holding steady and the fawn numbers are up slightly. Coyote numbers have steadily increased due to no control work to speak of on the Montana side of the border.

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 an increase in mule deer. We feel all

the aerial work that has been done in this area has made a big difference from a year ago. This year we have killed less coyotes in this area than in previous years. The coyote numbers in this area is caused by a growing coyote population on the Crow Reservation.

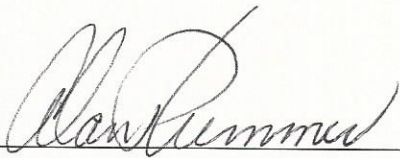
Area 4, 5, & 6

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 mainly because of more calling in the summer and trapping & snaring in the winter.

All Areas

We are seeing a resurgence of skunk numbers, above what we saw last year. Also our skunk problem calls from the ranchers outside of the towns are down this spring. We are assisting the City of Sheridan on more skunk calls. The Towns of Dayton and Story Wyoming are becoming hot beds of skunk activity.

The Wyoming Game & Fish Department has provided data showing the doe-fawn ratio is way up. They also said they have never seen the ratio this high before.



Sweetwater County Predator Management District

March 30, 2015

Mr. Kent Drake – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

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. However, last year and again this year we have increased predator control by having a full time trapper within the county during the winter/spring months 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 have received information from the Game and Fish Department on areas that they are concerned with low fawn numbers and have targeted these areas to help improve these ratios.
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, and we plan to 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.
7. The board has partnered with the Mule Deer foundation to help in some areas they feel were a concern. This additional emphasis on these areas hopes to improve deer/fawn ratios. We will continue to help support their efforts again this year.
8. We plan on additional aerial control of coyotes this spring to help with the predation on both domestic animals and on our wildlife. We feel we had some positive impacts on both the last year and plan on doing some more this spring or fall depending on the information we receive from producers and/or wildlife groups.

William R. Taliaferro - Chairman

**PREDATOR MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT OF UINTA COUNTY
ANNUAL REPORT**

ACTIONS TAKEN

The mission of the Predator Management District of Uinta County is to provide control of depredation to livestock and wildlife populations and also to provide a measure of health and human safety to the citizenry of Uinta County. For the fiscal year July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015, the district contracted with the United States Department of Agriculture- Animal Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS) Wildlife Services Agency for specialists to provide predator control work for Uinta County. They employed two full time specialists and one "roving" specialist to work the necessary areas within Uinta County. The roving trapper is part of a four county program (Uinta, Sweetwater, Lincoln and Sublette) to primarily provide protection from gray wolf predation and augment the increased needs of the quad-county area. Wildlife Services also provided aerial fixed wing support for the County based out of Rock Springs and Bridger Airports. The district also contracted private aerial ultra-lite work and private helicopter work from two local pilots. The private helicopter work was performed on Mule Deer fawning grounds prior to fawning and this work also benefitted some of the local producers calving and lambing areas.

The Berryman Institute with Utah State University is also continuing with the Raven Studies being performed by the graduate students under the direction of Dr. Mike Conover.

INDENTIFIABLE AND MEASURABLE RESULTS

Livestock producers reported increased lambing percentages this spring. Most reported significantly lower predation on livestock. This is a direct result of the pre-emptive work policy our district has been conducting over the last several years. As previously noted, the district believes that work in areas prior to use by both wildlife, and livestock, is a major reason the amount of loss to predation is within acceptable parameters. It is interesting to note however, that our producers have noticed a “rotating loss” effect. Producers having losses one year seem to report little to no losses the next year, while those with low losses are experience somewhat higher losses the subsequent year. A summary of the work by Wildlife Services is as follows:

- 27 Agreements worked
- 2672 Man hours in the field
- 123.9 fixed wing aerial hours for the calendar year
- 16 coyote dens
- 193 coyotes taken by all methods
- 3 fox dens
- 31 common ravens (confirmed)
- 4 striped skunks

This year the local sheep producers privately funded some aerial helicopter flying time by the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources along the Utah-Wyoming state line. This work was done in mid January to provide some pre-emptive work for producers this summer (2015). These results are included.

The district also contracted with a local ultra-lite pilot for work in problem areas. This is the same contractor that has been employed for the last several years and has provided an extra line of defense for difficult predation on short notice. This has been particularly effective, as there is very little response time and he is able to get to the trouble calls quickly, increasing the success ratio. These results are on file with the district.

WILDLIFE PROJECTS

The district has been working with Dr. Michael Conover and his graduate students from Utah State University and the Jack Berryman Institute on Raven populations and their migration paths. The graduate students have been surveying and documenting raven population numbers at specific sites. They have located six sites that they are using to make population counts. The sites are:

- Shute Creek gas plant
- Kemmerer train trestle
- Bridger Valley landfill
- North Rock Springs CDP
- Green River landfill
- Big Piney landfill

The graduate students are capturing then attaching radio and satellite collars to the ravens to monitor their flight and migration paths. Included are the population counts at two of the above mentioned sites and a map detailing the movement of the ravens collared in the study, provided by Dr. Conover and his graduate students.

LOSSES

Losses experienced by producers in the district were at or slightly below levels from the prior year. The district's senior specialist reported less trouble calls during the spring (2014) and attributed that to the coyote calling contest during March 2014. Losses were also slightly lower due to successful denning activities during the months of April, May and June. There was some black bear predation early in the summer on some producers after reaching the summer ranges but then subsided.

The "roving trapper" reported losses slightly higher for one producer on the eastern side of the county. This area was worked on by Wildlife Services fixed wing which stopped the losses.

The specialist out of Utah working the summer ranges on the North Slope of the Uinta Mountains reported slightly lower losses to producers compared to last year. He reported taking 28 offending animals which significantly reduced losses to producers.

The district's private contract ultra-lite specialist reported a reduction in predators over the last decade. This has contributed significantly to the reduced losses to county producers. He noted that in areas that have not had predator

work, the wildlife populations were at considerably lower levels. This indicates greater wildlife losses in these areas and was corroborated by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department spokesman at the district annual meeting. Loss statistics from Wildlife Services reported \$26,992.00 last reporting year and \$23,895.00 in reported losses this reporting year. Also of interest, there were 2 horses injured due to mountain lions this year. A detailed loss report is on file with the district and Wildlife Services.

**2015
Annual
Report**

Washakie County Predator Management District

July 1, 2014

to

June 30, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS

- **President**
Rolly Redland
Ten Sleep, Wy
- **Vice President**
Mark Dooley
Worland, Wy
- **Sec/Treasure**
Chris Scheltzer
Worland, Wy
- Kent Hensman
Worland, Wy
- Larry Hieser
Worland, Wy.
- Mark Brewster
Tensleep, Wy.
- Jeff Stocklin
Ten Sleep, Wy.
- Kirt Toleman
Worland, Wy.
- Joe Winkler
Worland, Wy.

**Please contact
USDA/APHIS/
Wildlife Services
State Office if
more information
is needed.**

Mission:

Washakie County Predator Management District's (PMD) mission is 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 goal 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 attention will be given to Threatened and Endangered species of wildlife and control actions directed by the Wildlife Services. Lethal control of meso predators on private property will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Special attention will be given to Threatened and Endangered species of wildlife and control actions directed by the Wildlife Services. Lethal control of meso predators on private property will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Special attention will be given to Threatened and Endangered species of wildlife and control actions directed by the Wildlife Services.



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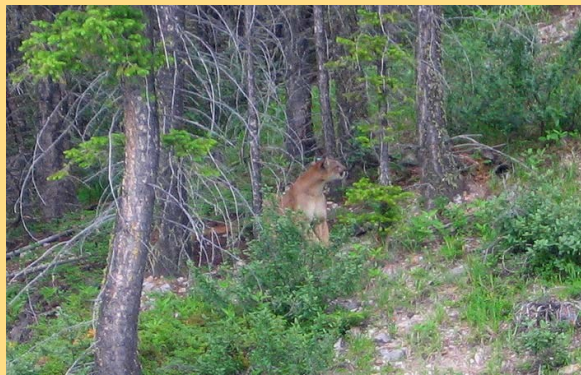
Washakie County's plan is to continue to assist Johnson County with their trophy game damage activities and also support the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predator Research Project with "in kind" funds with field personnel and aerial support. Washakie County PMD plans to add additional personnel for more efficient cooperation with Wildlife management agencies to deal with trophy game species and address gray wolf damage as Wyoming continues with delisting criteria. 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.

Wildlife related issues for Washakie County Predator Management District



Washakie County Predator Management District Program and its cooperation with Wildlife Services reach 59 different landowners in Washakie County (1,011,103 ac.) and many others in neighboring counties in Northwest Wyoming including State, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Private lands. We offered assistance with a large variety of wildlife damage issues, human health and safety concerns and conducted wildlife projects that benefit all entities and public in Washakie and Johnson County as well as the rest of the Bighorn Basin.

Washakie County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 11 WS employees during this last year to cater to our program for assistance in species as: black bears, beavers, skunks, feral cats, feral dogs, mountain lion, sage grouse, ravens, and crow complaints. The majority of the Washakie County Specialist's time since July 1st, 2014 was spent answering the following complaints and providing assistance to:



the increasing requests to involving such wildlife species: coyotes, fox, raccoons, porcupine, badgers, mountain golden eagle, and American

2,013 daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation on calves, sheep, horse colts, pheasants, sage grouse, mule deer, and livestock guarding animals.

376 daily tasks dealing with raccoons on chickens, sheep, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, and human health and safety concerns.

283 beaver calls for damage to private property, irrigation systems, trees stands, and county roads etc...

104 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving chickens, sage grouse, pheasants, calves, livestock



feed, human health and safety, and property damage on residences or out buildings etc..

5 complaints for black bear damage on sheep ranges in Washakie and 20 complaints in Johnson County.

26 Mountain Lion tasks for cattle and sheep damage in Johnson and Washakie County.

2 daily tasks for gray wolf complaints in Washakie County and 7 in Johnson County involving sheep.

140 daily tasks for red fox complaints with sage grouse, chickens, calves and sheep etc...

Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Washakie County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Washakie County has cooperated personnel whom has provided 839.18 hours towards field activities for field data collection for the Sage Grouse Project and plans to continue until its conclusion. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement and habitat selection, and how human activity has affected sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University has provided direction as the Lead Reasercher to



Further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



Further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



Wolf Depredation Management

Washakie County Wildlife Specialist's diligently assisted livestock producers with wolf complaints and damage threats in Washakie and Johnson County. Specialists reported to 9 complaints involving cattle and sheep as a result of gray wolves.



complaints involving cattle and sheep as a result of gray wolves.



Crop, Irrigation, Pheasant Enhancement, and Human Health and Safety Activities



Washakie County Wildlife Specialists have reported to 480 requests for assistance dealing with damage caused by raccoons and striped skunks to chickens, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, leaf-cutter bee hives, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns. Specimens were sent for

disease testing by the State Veterinary Laboratory from animals thought to possess human health and safety concerns throughout Washakie County. In addition, numerous species such as red fox, porcupines, feral cats, beavers, and ravens also have been reported and confirmed as wildlife related damage culprits in our area.



Trophy Game Assistance to Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Washakie County Wildlife Specialists responded to 50 trophy game damage complaints for a total of hours under the direction of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for black bears and mountain lions in Johnson and Washakie County. Requests for assistance from specialists involved cattle and sheep depredation and human health and safety concerns. With the growing number of large predators the Washakie County Predator Management District Board has made it their goal to

continue to support our wildlife specialists with their efforts to respond to the increasing number of requests wildlife damage assistance and human health and safety concerns in the Johnson and Washakie County as well as the rest of the Bighorn Basin.



Weston County Predator Management District

Annual Report

June 24, 2015

1. Weston County Predator Management District (WCPMD), created under Wyoming State Statute

The mission is to provide predator management for the benefit of county livestock producers and wildlife populations and to assist in rabies control when appropriate. The District cooperates with Wildlife Services and the Wyoming ADMB, as well as, Wyoming Game and Fish.

2. General Operations

Predator control work is performed on both private and public lands by two wildlife specialists employed through contract with Wildlife Services. Public land multiple use areas are used by sports persons, as well as livestock producers, and are subject to predator control. These areas include the Brown Community Pasture, Osage Community Pasture, Allers Community Pasture and Six Mile Basin which are important wildlife habitat. Cattle are the dominate livestock and coyote predation has become a concern for some producers during calving. Sheep are mainly located in the northwest quadrant of the county, therefore this allows more concentrated effort in that area. A combination of ground and aerial work is done by the Specialists. Additionally a public awareness effort is made to demonstrate the benefit of predator control for both livestock and wildlife. Calving usually starts in March, ending by late May or early June, and lambing occurs from February to late May. Livestock losses to predators tend to occur during this period, which coincides with the whelping of the coyotes. Again this spring, an abundance of rabbits and mice are present which may alleviate some livestock predation.

3. Funding

There may be a slight increase in predator fee revenue this year due to more forage availability and producers ramping up to take advantage of this. WCPMD did not request funding from the Weston County Commissioners this year. The district is aware of declining revenues, increasing costs and the desire by the commissioners to be fiscally responsible. The goal of the District is to the current program: providing county-wide predator management to benefit livestock and wildlife as well as skunk control as necessary. The specialists salvaged \$ 2775 in furs this year to help with funding. WCPMD requested \$200,000 for fiscal year 2016, but was allocated \$180,000 by ADMB.

4. Equipment

WCPMD is not anticipating any equipment acquisitions at this time.

5. Aerial

WCPMD budgeted for 250 hours of fixed wing work, but due to the reduced allocation of funding, this will probably be less. Ferry time is included in the budget and is usually one hour per day when flying.

6. Human Health and Safety

If necessary and appropriate, assistance with skunk control may be done. This is usually done with box traps.

Weston County Predator Management District

Annual Report

June 24, 2015

7. Pre and Post Work Monitoring

Monitoring wildlife is being done by routine wildlife observations and watching migratory behavior. Where possible, stomach content analysis is done on coyotes. Also, communications with the resident Game and Fish personnel is important.

8. Mountain Lions

The Wildlife Specialists investigate any mountain lion reports and coordinate with the Game and Fish on this. No mountain lions have been removed during FY2015.

9. Operation Expenses

WCPMD owns and maintains ATV's, trailers and support equipment. This means fuel, tires, repairs, small tools, gloves, ammunition and reloading supplies, as well as miscellaneous items, are purchased to support the program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Shepperson, President