

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

2018 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 2; , 2018

SUBJECT: 2018"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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2016 Major Issue Overview

Predator Management District Funding

Due to budget reductions by the legislature, and later, Governor agency budget reduction requests, the biennial funding to local predator management districts was reduced from \$6.65 million to \$4 million, a 30% reduction. In addition, the \$4 million for the current fiscal year budget is \$1.5 million (29%) less than the original funding provided to the ADMB in 2006.

The ADMB and local predator management districts have been working together to manage this reduction in funding. Districts have used nearly all the reserve cash they have and have reduced personnel dedicated to reducing predator depredation in the state. For the current fiscal year, ten contracted personnel positions have been eliminated and for the upcoming fiscal year, if no additional cuts are made, it is forecasted that another 7 positions will be eliminated. This is a 33% reduction in positions across the state dedicated to predator management.

This comes at a tough time in which these personnel are used and needed to manage gray wolves for the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, in a year where we are witnessing the largest livestock depredation to Wyoming livestock producers

2016 Overview

1. **Meetings:** The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) met four (4) times over the course of the calendar year January 14, May 17-18, June 7, and November 1. Agendas and meeting minutes are included in this report.
2. **Predator District Funding:** The ADMB received applications from 19 qualifying predator management districts across the state that totaled \$3.75 million. On May 18, the ADMB granted \$2.1 million for those districts.
3. **Projects:** Twelve different research/special project proposals were evaluated by the ADMB that totaled \$338,208. The ADMB approved \$210,000 in funding for 12 projects (6 new, 6 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 Teacher Rendezvous and the Stewardship project curriculum development. In addition, the ADMB is developing a predatory animal education trailer that should be ready for use in 2017.
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 for continued board training.
8. **Legislative:** There were not any additions or changes to predatory statutes during this last legislative session. Outside of the ADMB, staff did complete emergency and regular rules for the Gray Wolf Depredation Compensation program.
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 3, 2017 at the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. Headquarters in Cheyenne, 5400 Bishop Blvd.
2. Project applications for the June 2017 meeting will be accepted from March 15 to May 15, 2017.

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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 4, 2016

SUBJECT: Request for Funds

In accordance with Wyoming Statute 11-6-307, the ADMB is requesting \$100,000.00 (one-hundred thousand dollars) from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. A synopsis of the projects selected for funding by the ADMB at the June 8, 2016 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 '16-17 ADMB Projects

Standing Projects:

1) Large Carnivore Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – Funding \$15,000

Synopsis: Funding up to a maximum of \$15,000 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.

4) Impact of raven removal and eagle management on sage grouse populations in Wyoming–Funding \$40,000

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.

5) Ferris Mule Deer Coyote Control in Selected Fawning Areas–Funding \$12,000

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.

6) Assessing and Reducing Common Raven Impacts on Greater Sage Grouse Nesting Ecology-Funding \$25,400

Synopsis: 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; thus continuing 5 years of prior project work supported by ADMB. Submitted by Meeteetse Conservation District.

New Projects:

7) Mountain Lion Traps – Funding \$2,600

Synopsis: To purchase four box traps to be used to trap mountain lions that are causing conflicts. These types of traps are especially beneficial for multiple mountain lions and in residential situations. Submitted by Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

8) Bear Trap for Laramie Region – Funding \$5,000

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

9) Range Camp Trailer Purchase – Funding \$15,000

Synopsis: The camp trailer will be used primarily in the Pinedale Region by the Large Carnivore Section to provide a more timely response to large carnivore conflicts with livestock and increase human safety. Submitted by Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

10) Natrona County Raven Removal –Funding \$15,000

Synopsis: Remove ravens in Natrona County to decrease raven densities to enhance sage-grouse nest success and chick survival. Submitted by Natrona County Predator Management District.

11) Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival-Funding \$10,000

Synopsis: Remove coyotes in the Stove Gulch area through aerial gunning and ground removal to decrease coyote densities and thereby improving mule deer fawn survival. Submitted by Natrona County Predator Management District.

12) Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer-Funding \$10,000

Synopsis: To provide coyote removal when it is most beneficial to protect mule deer fawns in Deer units 35, 39, and 40. Submitted by Washakie County Predator Management District.

Note: All projects were approved for G&F Commission funds. These approved projects total \$210,000. If Commission funds are approved, projects will be funded from the \$100,000 provided, in addition to funds from the regular ADMB account.

The ADMB recommends the following projects for Commission Funds:

- 1) Large Carnivore- Livestock Depredation and Control, \$15,000
- 2) Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range, \$43,000
(Total project is \$50,000. ADMB intends to fund the \$7,000 balance.)
- 3) Removal of Coyotes from Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain, \$10,000
- 4) Ferris Mule Deer Coyote Control in Selected Fawning Areas, \$12,000
- 5) Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival, \$10,000
- 6) Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer, \$10,000

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

Agenda

Thursday, January 14, 2016

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Talbott)
 - Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of November 2, 2015 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. - Review of ADMB Funding Applications and Remaining Funds
- 9:15 a.m. - Request for Funding from Wyoming Ag in the Classroom, Jessie Dafoe, Executive Director
- 9:40 a.m. - Request for Funding for Public Education on Wildlife/Human Disease, Brian Sabade, UW Extension Educator, Albany County
- 10:10 a.m. - Break
- 10:20 a.m. - Review and Discussion of ADMB Strategic Plan, Lucy Pauley, WDA Mediation Coordinator
- 11:15 a.m. - Public Comment
- 11:45 a.m. - Adjourn
- 1:00 p.m. - Tour and Discussion on Rabies Testing, Myrna Miller, Wyoming State Veterinary Lab, Laramie

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

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Thursday, January 14, 2016
State Game & Fish Headquarters Meeting Room, Cheyenne, WY

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Scott Talbott

Kevin Kisicki

Sy Gilliland

Mike Foster

Richard Klouda

Gene Hardy

Mark Sattelberg

Dennis Saville

Ron Cunningham

Garret Falkenburg

Board Members Absent:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto

Shaun Sims

Bill Taliaferro

WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake

Jessica Jones

Public Attendees:

Amy Hendrickson

Jessie Dafoe

Dusty Southworth

Andrew Hogan-News Channel 5

Brian Sabade

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Scott Talbott at 8:59 a.m.

Board members were polled for attendance and introduction of new board members was completed. The agenda was reviewed and approved; Mark moved, and Richard seconded. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the minutes from November 2, 2015. Garret moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Ron. Motion carried.

Kent reviewed the ADMB funding applications and the remaining funds. He explained the different lines of funding: Predator Board funding has been distributed, and Special Projects and Research Projects funding has been distributed for FY15. There is a line item in the 900 series that there are funds available to use. There is approximately \$9,000 left that the ADMB can distribute.

Jessie Dafoe presented her \$5,000 request for funding for Wyoming Agriculture in the Classroom. Their project is a professional development opportunity for educators to experience firsthand agriculture and natural resource issues and provides lessons for the classroom. Garret moved to fund the project in full, Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Briand Sabade presented his \$1,000 request for funding for public education on wildlife/human disease interactions. This project is a continuation of a program that reaches the general public of Wyoming via the “Exploring the Nature of Wyoming” video campaign. Articles would also be produced for the UW Extension publication “Barnyards and Backyards” and the Casper Star-Tribune “Open Spaces” newspaper column. Garret moved to fund the project in full, Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Lucy Pauley, the WDA Mediation Coordinator, led the ADMB in a discussion and review of the ADMB Strategic Plan for 2016-2021. The Strategic Plan changes will be made and sent out to the ADMB. Ron moved to approve all changes and adopt the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, seconded by Gene. Motion carried, and plan is adopted.

Co-Chair Scott Talbott adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

ADMB May 17-18, 2016

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	\$130,000
10:00	10:30	Carbon	\$210,000
10:30	11:00	Weston	\$200,000
11:00	11:30	Albany	\$125,963
11:30	noon	Campbell	\$263,525 rabies \$25,000
noon	1:30	Lunch	
1:30	2:00	Uinta	\$214,867
2:00	2:30	Big Horn	\$245,460
2:30	3:00	Park	\$258,207
3:00	3:30	Crook	\$160,000
3:30	4:00	Sheridan	\$121,015 rabies \$10,000
4:00	4:30	Fremont	\$135,000
4:30	5:00	Public Comment	
Thursday	May 7		
8:00 a.m.	8:30	Natrona	\$280,000
8:30	9:00	Converse	\$248,353
9:00	9:30	Johnson	\$200,000 rabies \$30,000
9:30	10:00	Hot Springs	\$210,000
10:00	10:30	Niobrara	\$150,000
10:30	11:00	Washakie	\$218,306
11:00	11:30	Sweetwater	\$152,000
11:30	noon	Lincoln	\$231,142
Noon	1:00	Lunch	
1:00	3:00	Discussion	
3:00	3:30	Public Comment and Adjournment	

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting
May 17-18, 2016
Wyoming Game and Fish Regional Office
Casper, Wyoming

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto	Co-Chair Scott Talbott	Bob Phillips
Richard Klouda	Gene Hardy	Garret Falkenburg
Shaun Sims	Sy Gilliland	Mike Foster

Board Members Absent:

Bill Taliaferro	Ron Cunningham	Kevin Kisicki
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WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake	Michelle MacDonald	Stacia Berry
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The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Doug Miyamoto at 9:01 am.

Co-chair Miyamoto spoke about the Department of Agriculture budget cuts and how it pertains to the ADM Board. He stated the legislature desires to cut budgets down to 2005 spending levels and this presents a serious budget picture. He recommended the ADMB board propose \$2.1 million for allocation. The funds held in reserve by various boards were discussed with Co-chair Miyamoto stating there are scenarios that take into account different reserve situations across counties. The audit report and F-32 sheets from 2015 were discussed. Kent D. explained the proposed approach for cuts in the 1501 budget handout. He also stated the handout does not include special projects. Rabies requests were discussed.

Action: Changes to the agenda – Shaun S. moved to approve the agenda and Garret F. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes from the January 14th meeting - Richard K. moved to approve the January minutes as presented and Mike F. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Teleconference minutes on March 31st – Richard K. moved to approve the March minutes as presented and Garret F. seconded. Motion carried.

County presentations commenced:

Goshen – Wiley Cross, Stan Smith

The mule deer project was slated to come to a close this fall but, due to popular demand and livestock depredation, it is continuing. The district utilizes a wildlife service plane and a helicopter for the deer project. The helicopter is a cost share. The rabies situation has been a big issue and the plan for this year is to do a broad trap for skunks and test 25 for rabies. They've seen livestock depredation losses in cattle and sheep, mostly farm flocks. Loss has been about 4x more than all of last year and scattered all over the county. Much of the coyote population is coming from Nebraska. No raven issues have been observed. They continue to do vulture work in town and starling work on feed lots. Last year there was a huge increase in coyote pup counts. The proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Carbon- Josh Peterson

The district would like to continue predator control with towns and livestock producers. Overall, the program is strong. There is a lot of raven work due to damage at water tanks. Raven depredation is difficult to prove. DRC-1339 for control of ravens is utilized in areas like Pathfinder Ranch. They are continuing work with Game & Fish on mule deer projects and antelope projects. They are asking for special project funding for the Ferris Mountain mule deer project. They are a big program with most trappers in the state. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Weston- Donley Darnell, Mike Davis, Brad Troftgruben

The program has expanded in areas of youth projects and beaver work. There is a pigeon removal program in place with the refinery which benefits the downtown area and schools. Coyote work is the main focus of the district and is a proactive program utilizing all tools available to the county. Aerial work is done when necessary and only during peak effectiveness. Proactive measures are effective in birthing areas and fawning areas. Last winter there were three confirmed mountain lions near the Campbell county line. Wolf sightings have been called in but not confirmed. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Albany- Don Willis, Joel Modiff

The program continues to be successful – working with landowners. They are also helping Game & Fish with deer programs and will continue to assist where it fits into the general program. They finished up a successful wildlife project for Game & Fish. The project was on Sheep Mountain west of Laramie – the results show the fawn count up and the general public has seen more deer. The increase in population can also be seen when flying. Some work is done in town with skunk and raccoon removal. Rabies has not been found other than Wheatland and Cheyenne. Some lambs have been lost due to ravens. No big raven populations other than the asphalt plant. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Campbell-Ted Edwards, Ken Ford, Scott Heward, Kenda Ford

The district is maintaining the same program as last year and have already made cuts to future budgets, using as much as their reserves as possible. The district currently operates with three trappers. They have increased coyote work with help from sportsman groups. The rabies program is losing city support but they plan to maintain the rabies program from reserves. Lamb losses are averaged at below 2.6% of 29,000 sheep. Sage-grouse counts are trending upwards in part due to coyote control. 76% of coyote takes were done on the ground last year. The rabies program is very important to Gillette and is reducing rabies in the county overall. Helicopter work is targeted and recently saw success with 57 coyotes taken in an area that would normally be inaccessible. No real issue with raven calls, but seeing more ravens overall. There were four bear calls last year. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Uinta- Joe Hickey, Wade Larson, Vance Broadbent

The predator program has worked with Game & Fish in fawning areas resulting in an increased deer harvest from 300-500. Deer hunter numbers are also up from 800-1100. After the annual spring hunt in deer areas it was reported that deer numbers are up. Trappers have good support from wildlife services. The district is working closely with Utah and splitting costs with producers for helicopter work. Aerial work has been cut back. Ravens are a large issue. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Big Horn- Kay Neves, Todd Jones, Brandon O'Brien, Mike Burell

The district is currently operating with 2.5 trappers. Coyote work is picking up. The county is so diverse with many small feedlots which keep the trappers busy with bird work. Distemper has been prevalent beginning in southern Big Horn county and spreading. Distemper has made a big difference in the raccoon take. The sage-grouse project is complete and there is a new 1-2 year study to research raven nest destruction in Park county. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Park- Shane Smith, Rory Renner, Mike Burell

The district continues to provide predator management with two full-time trappers and one part-time trapper. There were three confirmed cases of the plague in domestic cats. There will be two peer-reviewed articles on sage-grouse published. The livestock carcass removal program is funded primarily by park county predator management district with some conservation groups contributing money to this program as well. It was stressed that they are on the front-lines of the wolf and grizzly bear issue. They continue to deal with the borders of Montana and Idaho that don't have predator control programs and the resulting influx of predators. Specialists are working with wildlife services to collar wolves due to lack of collars. There are three depredeating wolf packs at this time. In 2015 there was \$190,000 paid for wolf depredation in the park county trophy game area. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Crook- John Moline, Darla West, J.W. Nuckolls, Jim Dacar

The district has a contract with APHIS that includes a trapper and a gunner. They have one full time trapper on the ground. They do part-time aerial work. The primary focus is coyotes, though mountain lions take a considerable amount of time. There has been a problem with bears in the past few years. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Sheridan- Cole Benton, Mike Connell, Alan Plummer

The district operates with one full-time trapper who is a gunner. Coyote kills are way up this year. All of the work is helicopter. Sheridan county is a hotbed for rabies and there were 5-6 positive skunks this year. The skunks were coming from the Dayton/Ranchester area. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Fremont- Garvice Roby, Tracy Fry

The district is continuing the sage-grouse predation study which utilizes artificial sage-grouse nests and trail cams and have found the common raven has been depredating nests. The mule deer enhancement study is continuing to take coyotes out of the deer area which has tripled the deer population. The district is open to consider another project and has approached Game & Fish in Lander for a cooperative project to start. Wolves were taken out of the Dubois area. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

May 18

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Doug Miyamoto at 8:04 a.m.

Natrona- Mary Owens, Bob Harlan, Glen Taylor, Brian Olson, Justin Binnett

The district operates with 2.75 trappers and a bookkeeper. Trappers took 1624 coyotes last year. There is a bounty program which took over 300 coyotes and there is also raven control. Any extra funding was used for aerial control. 59% of all coyotes taken were from trappers on the ground. The priorities for the district are their trappers and bookkeeper, then flying time and raven control. There is a mule deer initiative in the Bate's Hole region and direct benefits on the ground show fawn survival and high post season fawn ratios. The district applied for special project funding for raven expansion work. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Converse- Tim Pexton, Jeff Bonner, Tim Tillard

The district operates with three full-time trappers, one part-time trapper, and a private pilot. They have a robust bounty program from predator fees. Ranchers have seen significant reduction in losses due to the program. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Johnson-Pete Camino, Dave Hall

The district operates with three full-time trappers and two part-time skunk trappers. They run a general program for large predators and a rabies mitigation program that is especially important for the urban population. The rabies program is at risk due to funding shortfalls. There hasn't been positive rabies tests in the last two years, but they continue to be proactive and test. The district's flying program continues to be very important. GPS has been utilized for coyote kills and the coordinates overlaid on the sage-grouse core areas, leading to interesting results. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Hot Springs- Jack Baird, Mike Burell, Josh Longwell, Mike Rowe, Chuck Bunch, Don Harvey, Shannon Walker

The district operates with 2.5 trappers, sharing one with Washakie County. The district encompasses two breeding grounds for wolves and bears and there is no predator control on the Indian reservation. Wolf predation in the area is extensive. Take numbers in Hot Springs: 19 coyote dens, 491 coyotes, 12 red fox dens, 40 red fox, 8 grey wolf. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Co-chair Talbott spoke about matters scheduled to be taken up during the Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife, and Cultural Resources legislative interim committee meeting June 16th.

Niobrara- Barb Kilmer, Kitson Boldon, John Graham, Brian Olson

The district utilized a wildlife services trapper who worked aerial control, but the program has changed due to the airplane no longer being stationed in Lusk. They have transitioned to a private trapper program with two private trappers. Half of their perimeter is against uncontrolled areas. Their program is cyclical with general control in winter, control of calving grounds in spring, and the next priority being sheep. County-wide takes for the year: 717 coyotes (aerial), 8 coyote dens equaling 48 pups, and 439 unborn pups. Landowner participation is high and landowners are very cooperative. Lack of airplanes is the weak point in the program. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Washakie- Rolly Redland, Mike Burell

The district runs a cooperative program with Hot Springs and Big Horn counties. There were 648 coyotes killed last year and wildlife numbers are up. Wolves and black bears continue to be a problem. Elk numbers seem to be holding up, but the herd is constantly moving. They will attempt a mule deer enhancement project and also attempt to obtain funding for it. Ravens are an increasing problem and are as yet uncontrolled. They still conduct raccoon and skunk work via the part time specialist. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Sweetwater- Bill Taliferro (joined via conference call)

The district has done quite a bit of helicopter work in deer areas. On ground raven work will continue. The raven situation is improving from an industry perspective, but this year was not a good year from a control perspective. They have been in contact with coyote hunting clubs and plan to use active hunters as a way to help supplement the budget. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Rabies Funding

Co-chair Miyamoto reported there is an allocation of \$39,500 for rabies funding. Co-chair Tallbot gave a weighted average of the amount of money available compared to requests. Kent D. stated the requests, compared to past requests, are pretty similar and seem consistent. A point of discussion raised by Shaun S. focused on the counties that do not have positive rabies tests at this time. Kent D. stated that rabies isn't totally eradicated in those counties. Co-chair Miyamoto suggested asking the districts to see if they can make a viable program out of the proposed funding. Garrett F. asked if each county uses specific staff to address rabies. Kent D. stated Johnson county has two part-time trappers who get paid by the hour. Sheridan county has a part-time person who handles calls. Campbell county has a full-time person whose funding is combined with city and county funding and that person concentrates around the Gillette area. Garrett F. stated that both Johnson and Sheridan not having rabies in the past two years is concerning and that money could possibly be spent somewhere else. Gene H. asked if the money could be built up by saving it. Kent stated that this is strictly general funds that will revert back to the state. Mike F. suggested to concentrate on where rabies is currently a problem. Kent touched on the history of rabies in the Powder River Basin. Campbell county has historically had the highest rabies count in the state.

Action: Bob P. moved to accept the co-chair recommendations provided for the rabies funding and Shaun S. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lincoln- Truman Julian

The district has seen wolf predation on lambs and grizzly problems as two big issues projected to get worse. Coyotes are always an issue. The district operates with 2.25 trappers and does a lot of helicopter work in the mountainous areas. Star Valley is historically hard to fly, so there is a lot of ground work done. There is a raven problem on Fontenelle Creek and in Cokeville. They are looking to partner with Idaho for sheep summer range work. Helicopter time in the winter is valuable. Proposed budget was reviewed and discussed.

Discussion of Funding Recommendations

Sy G. praised Kent D. for the hard work putting together the options for funding. Shaun S. mentioned the changes to the district programs and how it would be good to have an update report to see what the priorities of the individual boards will be. Co-chair Miyamoto stated the funding model is so depressed there will be huge programmatic changes and they may not be able to complete the funding models. He requested to review the

annual report next year for program priorities and to monitor how districts with drastic changes manage their changes. Sy G. requested that next year's packet include this year's proposed breakdown of funding for each district.

Action: Sy G. moved to accept funding proposal as recommended and Shaun S. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public comment

Co-chair Miyamoto opened the floor to public comment. Amy Hendrickson requested the June meeting in Douglas address the issue of domestic dogs attacking sheep and how to deal with it from a public relations standpoint. Producers have lost sheep due to dog depredation. Co-Chair Miyamoto stated the board will take that agenda item under consideration.

Action: Shaun S. moved adjourn the meeting and Mike F. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 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
Wyoming State Fairgrounds, Upper Meeting room above Director's Office
Douglas, WY

Agenda

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

- 8:00 am - Call to Order – (Miyamoto, Talbott)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of May 17-18, 2016 Minutes
- 8:15 am - Project Final Reports
- * Green River Region Bear Trap – S. DeCecco
 - * Sheridan Region Bear Trap – D. Lasseter
 - * Wyoming livestock predation trends and mitigation survey – J. Scasta
- 8:40 am - Project Proposals- Renewals w/Updates (20 minutes each)
- * Large Carnivore - Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – S. Edberg
 - * Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range – G. Fralick
 - * Impact of raven removal and eagle management on sage grouse populations in Wyoming – M. Conover
 - * Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain – J. Hickey and J. Short
 - * Ferris mule deer coyote control in selected fawning areas – Carbon County PMD
 - * Adon Big Game Predation Study – T. Edwards
 - * Assessing and reducing raven impacts on sage grouse nesting ecology- S. Cornell
- 11:00 a.m. - Project Proposals – New (20 min. each)
- * Bear Boxes – D. Lasseter
 - * Mountain Lion Traps – D. Lasseter
 - * Range Camp Trailer Purchase – Z. Turnbull
 - * Wyoming Stewardship Project – J. Dafoe
- Noon Lunch

- 1:00 pm - Project Proposals – New (20 min. each) continued
- * Laramie Region Bear Trap – R. King
 - * Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning grounds to protect SW Big Horn Mule Deer – C. Schmeltzer
 - * Natrona County Raven Removal – M. Owens, D. Garrison, B. Olsen
 - * Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival - M. Owens, D. Garrison, B. Olsen
 - * Comparison of Avian and Mammalian Predators in Sage Grouse Core and Non-core areas – J. Dinkins
- 2:40 pm - Break
- 2:50 pm - Discussion of grant awards criteria
- 3:15 pm - Determination of Grant Awards
- 3:30 pm - Discussion on Predation/Damage caused to sheep producers from Dogs Running at Large
- 4:00 pm Public Comment / Board Comment
- 4:15 pm - Adjourn

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Wednesday, June 8, 2016
Wyoming State Fairgrounds, Douglas, Wyoming

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto
Richard Klouda
Sy Gilliland
Sims)
Garret Falkenburg

Co-Chair Scott Talbott
Dennis Saville
Gene Hardy
Bill Taliaferro
Ron Cunningham

Mike Foster
Bob Phillips
Amanda Hulet(for Shaun
Kevin Kisicki

WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake

Public Attendees:

Amy Hendrickson
Michael Conover
Ken Mills
Scott Huber
Steffen Connell
Jeff Short

John Derek Scasta
Chad Olson
Mary Owens
Jonathan Dinkins
BJ Clark
Jessie Dafoe

Justin Binfet
Kenda Ford
Bob Harlan
Mike Burell
Calvin Taylor
Stacia Berry WDA

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Scott Talbott at 8:03 a.m.

Co-chair Talbott had ADMB members introduce themselves and the agenda was approved after the additions of (1) Discussion of wolf damage compensation and (2) Wildlife Service Indirect Cost Waiver.

Richard Klouda moved to approve the May 17-18, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Mike Foster seconded. Motion carried.

Kent Drake gave an update that the funding available for projects is \$210,000 and the proposed Wyoming Stewardship Project does qualify for 900 series line item in the ADMB budget. He also distributed copies of the draft emergency rules, investigative report, and livestock producer affidavit to address the newly passed law on wolf damage compensation. Kent asked for feedback on these proposed rules that will go into effect July 1, 2016.

Mike Foster, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services State Director gave an update on the waiver request for indirect costs charged to predator management districts by his agency. Mike stated that the policy passed by the ADMB, regarding indirect costs, had helped him secure a waiver of the 16.15% indirect cost charge. It will now be 0%. The districts will have to pay the 11% pooled job costs as it is a direct cost and he hopes to return 2% or more of it back to the county predator districts. The waiver on indirect costs is only good for one year and he will have to reapply next year.

A final report was provided by Ken Mills, WY G&F, on the Green River Region Bear Trap and the Sheridan Region Bear Trap.

A progress report was provided by Derek Scasta, UW Cooperative Extension Service, on Wyoming Livestock Predation Trends and Mitigation Survey. Derek asked for a one year no-cost extension on the contract to finish the study. Bill Taliaferro moved to grant a one year no-cost extension to the

Wyoming Livestock Predation Trends and Mitigation Survey contract. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

A progress report was provided by Justin Binfet, WY G&F, on Large Carnivore – Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control. Justin asked for \$15,000 in continued funding of the project. This is \$10,000 less than what had been awarded in the past.

A progress report was provided by Justin Binfet, WY G&F, on Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range. Kevin Monteith was going to provide a more extensive report but was unable to attend due to illness. Kevin will develop a written update that will be distributed to ADMB members. Justin requested \$50,000 in continued funding of this project.

A progress report was provided by Dr. Michael Conover, Utah State University, on Impact of Raven Removal and Eagle Management on Sage grouse Populations in Wyoming. Dr. Conover asked for \$50,000 in continued funding of the project.

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.

Justin Binfet, WY G&F, discussed the continuing project, Ferris Mule Deer Coyote Control in Selected Fawning Areas. Justin asked for \$12,000 in continued funding of the program through the Carbon County Predator Management District.

A progress report was provided by Scott Huber, Calvin Taylor and BJ Clark, Campbell County Predator Management District, on Adon Big Game Predation Study. They asked for \$25,645 in continued funding for the study.

A progress report was provided by Steffen Cornell, Meeteetse Conservation District, and Chad Olsen, Hayden-Wing Research, on Assessing and Reducing Raven Impacts on Sage Grouse Nesting Ecology. They asked for \$40,000 in continued funding of the study.

Ken Mills, WY G&F, requested \$12,975 in funding for a new project, Bear Boxes for South Shoshone National Forest, \$2,588 in funding for a new project, Mountain Lion Traps, and \$25,000 in funding for a new project, Range Camp Trailer Purchase.

Jessie Dafoe, WY Ag in the Classroom, requested \$5,000 in funding for a new project, Wyoming Stewardship Project.

Jonathan Dinkins, Oregon State University, requested \$50,000 in funding for a new project, Comparison of Avian and Mammalian Predators in Sage Grouse Core and Non-Core Areas.

The ADMB took a break for lunch at noon and then reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Ken Mills, WY G&F, requested \$5,000 in funding for a new project, the Laramie Region Bear Trap.

Mike Burell, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, on behalf of the Washakie County Predator Management District, requested \$10,000 in funding for a new project, Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Grounds to Protect South West Big Horn Mule Deer.

Mary Owens, Bob Harlan, and Glen Taylor, Natrona County Predator Management District, requested \$15,000 for a new project, Natrona County Raven Removal and they requested \$10,000 for a new project, Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival.

The board discussed the projects and funding available.

Sy Gilliland moved to fund \$15,000 for Livestock Depredation and Control, \$10,000 for Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch Mule Deer Fawn Survival, \$10,000 for Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain, \$12,000 for Ferris Mule Deer Coyote Control in Selected Fawning Areas, \$10,000 for Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Grounds to Protect South West Big Horn Mule Deer and \$50,000 for Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range. Bob Phillips seconded. Motion carried.

Amanda Hulet moved to designate the above 6 projects to be designated for the Wyoming Game and Fish funds, with complete funding of all projects, except for \$43,000 of the Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range to equal the \$100,000. Ron Cunningham seconded. Motion carried.

Richard Klouda moved to fund \$5,000 for the Wyoming Stewardship Project from 900 series funds. Kevin Kisicki seconded. Motion carried.

Garret Falkenburg moved to fund \$15,000 for the Natrona County Raven Removal project. Richard Klouda seconded. Motion carried.

Bill Taliaferro moved to fund \$40,000 for the Impact of Raven Removal and Eagle Management on Sage Grouse Populations in Wyoming project. Sy Gilliland seconded. Motion carried.

Richard Klouda moved to fund \$5,000 for the Laramie Region Bear Trap and \$2,600 for the Mountain Lion Traps. Kevin Kisicki seconded. Motion carried.

Sy Gilliland moved to fund \$15,000 for Adon Big Game Predation Study. The motion died for the lack of a second.

Mike Foster moved to fund \$35,000 for the Comparison of Avian and Mammalian Predators in Sage Grouse Core and Non-core Areas project. Bob Phillips seconded. Motion failed.

Gene Hardy moved to fund \$15,000 for the Range Camp Trailer Purchase. Sy Gilliland seconded. Motion carried.

Bob Phillips moved to fund \$25,400 for Assessing and Reducing Raven Impacts on Sage Grouse Nesting Ecology study. Garret Falkenburg seconded. Motion carried.

Amy Hendrickson, Wyoming Wool Growers provided the board with information on depredation of sheep across the state, especially close to municipalities, by dogs running at large. Stacia Berry, WY Dept. of Agriculture, distributed a list of state statutes that are concerned with dogs running at large. Stacia explained that it can be difficult to receive a favorable court judgment because extensive evidence of specific dog depredation may be needed. Amy Hendrickson plans to go to county commissioners to strengthen statutes.

Bill Taliaferro moved to adjourn the meeting. Ron Cunningham seconded. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 2:33 p.m.



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

6607 Campstool Road, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100

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**ADMB Meeting
Teleconference
Call 877-278-2734 PIN 811882
Emergency call Kent 640-1205**

Agenda

Tuesday, November 1, 2016

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Miyamoto, Talbott)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of June 8, 2016 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. Setting Price of Wildlife Management Stamp
- 9:15 a.m. Update on Grey Wolf in Predator Area and New Rules for Wolf Depredation Compensation Program, Mike Foster, Wildlife Services State Director, Kent Drake, WDA
- 9:25 a.m. Update on Predator Educational Trailer, Kent Drake, WDA
- 9:35 a.m. Preliminary Discussion on 2017 PMD Funding
- 9:45 a.m. Set 2017 meeting dates
- 9:50 a.m. Public Comment / Board Comment
- 10:00 a.m. Adjourn

Times are tentative.

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 1, 2016
Teleconference

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Scott Talbott
Garret Falkenburg
Gene Hardy
Bob Phillips

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto
Kevin Kisicki
Ron Cunningham
Richard Klouda

Tyler Abbott
Mike Foster

Board Members Absent:

Sandy Henning
Bill Taliaferro

Sy Gilliland

Shaun Sims

WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake

Public:

Amy Hendrickson

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

Board Members were polled for attendance

The agenda was reviewed. Garret F. moved to accept the agenda. Gene H. seconded the motion. Motion carried

The Board reviewed the minutes from June 8, 2016. Ron C. moved to approve the minutes. Kevin K. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Gene H. moved to set the price of the wildlife damage management stamp at \$10 for the next calendar year – 2017. Garret F. 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. From Oct 1, 2015 to Sept. 30, 2016, 91 cattle, 61 sheep, and an adult horse and foal, were killed by wolves in Wyoming. Wildlife Services has removed 111 wolves in response to requests by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In the Predator area of the state from July 1, 2016 to October 31, 2016, total livestock loss to wolves has been 2 adult cows, 19 calves, 15 adult sheep, 29 lambs and 2 injured lambs.

Co-Chair Talbott commented that 2016 may be a record year for wolf livestock depredation in Wyoming.

Kent Drake, WDA, gave an update on the final rule for the Livestock Depredation Compensation program that provides funding for livestock losses in the Predator area of the state. For livestock losses from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 there is \$15,000 to pay for losses. With the numbers Mike provided for livestock losses in the Predator area, there will be more financial loss than \$15,000 so the funds will probably have to be prorated out to livestock owners.

Kent gave an update on the ADMB educational trailer by sharing photos of the new 7 x 14 enclosed trailer and full taxidermy mounts of a gray wolf, coyote/pheasant, porcupine, raccoon, red fox, and skunk. Kent

informed the board that a jackrabbit was in the process and he decided against doing a feral cat. Tentative plans are to complete the trailer by the end of the calendar year.

Co-Chair Miyamoto said he would write a thank you letter to Lynn Stewart, Stewart Taxidermy, Dubois for completing the wolf mount at his cost.

Co-Chair Miyamoto provided an update on PMD funding for the next fiscal year and said there has been no changes since the last meeting and he would be presenting his department budget to JAC in early December.

Meeting dates for 2017 were set: **January 3**, Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, Cheyenne, **May 9-10**, Regional Game and Fish Office, Casper, **June 6-7**, location TBD, **November 1**, location TBD.

The meeting was opened up for public comment.

Amy Hendrickson discussed the proposed legislation that would remove the sales tax exemption on aircraft and aircraft equipment purchases. This has the potential to increase costs of aerial hunting for county PMDs significantly.

Kevin K. moved to adjourn the meeting. Gene H. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Co-chair Miyamoto adjourned the meeting at 9:39 a.m.

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PREDATOR MANAGEMENT 1501	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 17 - 18	YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED	12.50%	
<i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i>	<i>100.00</i>	\$205,590	\$23,060		\$182,530	11.22%	
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i>	<i>200.00</i>						
Equipment Repairs & Mtn	202.00	749	0		749	0.00%	
Utilities	203.00	840	175		665	20.83%	
Freight and Postage	204.00	1,750	26		1,724	1.47%	
Employee Development	207.00	1,750	0		1,750	0.00%	
Advertising	208.00	0	95		(95)		
Travel In State	221.00	7,500	521		6,979	6.94%	
Travel Out of State	222.00	4,625	0		4,625	0.00%	
Permanently Assigned Vehicles	223.00	19,500	1,372		18,128	7.04%	
Office Supplies/Printing	231.00	8,000	4		7,996	0.05%	
Educational Supplies	236.00	0	750		(750)		
Other Repair Supplies	239.00	3,000	0		3,000	0.00%	
Equipment Rental	252.00	1,000	0		1,000	0.00%	
<i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$48,714	\$2,942	\$0	\$45,772	6.04%	
<i>DATA PROCESSING</i>	<i>400.00</i>						
Telecommunications A&I	420.00	734	42		692	5.66%	
<i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$734	\$42	\$0	\$692	5.66%	
<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i>	<i>600.00</i>						
Grants	626.00	4,000,000	1,752,423		2,247,577	43.81%	(\$1,224,868 supplemental reduction)
<i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$4,000,000	\$1,752,423	\$0	\$2,247,577	43.81%	
PREDATOR MANAGEMENT TOTAL		\$4,255,038	\$1,778,466	\$0	\$2,476,572	41.80%	

		YTD Transfers	
General Funds	4,255,038	1,778,466	42%
TOTALS	\$4,255,038	\$1,778,466	42%

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0317	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 17 - 18		YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED 12.50%	
Fund 047							
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES 200.00</i>							
Equipment Repairs & Mtn	202.00	0	0		0		
Utilities	203.00	0	0		0		
Freight & Postage	204.00	600	0		600	0.00%	
Board Travel In State	228.00	4,725	0		4,725	0.00%	
Supplies/Printing	231.00	1,424	0		1,424	0.00%	
Equipment Rental	252.00	150	0		150	0.00%	
<i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$6,899	\$0	\$0	\$6,899	0.00%	
<i>RESTRICTIVE SERVICES 300.00</i>							
Cost Allocation	301.00	72	0		72	0.00%	
<i>300 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$72	\$0	\$0	\$72	0.00%	
<i>DATA PROCESSING 400.00</i>							
Telecommunications - A&I	420.00	0	0		0		
<i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
<i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS 600.00</i>							
Grants	626.00	420,830	0		420,830	0.00%	
UW Grants & Aid Payments	667.00	0	0		0		
<i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$420,830	\$0	\$0	\$420,830	0.00%	
<i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS. 900.00</i>							
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	25,000	0		25,000	0.00%	
<i>900 SERIES TOTAL</i>		\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$25,000	0.00%	
ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0 TOTAL		\$452,801	\$0	\$0	\$452,801	0.00%	

	YTD Revenue	YTD %
General Funds	244,301	0%
Other Funds		
Livestock Brand Fee-5353	0	#DIV/0!
Wildlife Damage Stamp-2634	0	#DIV/0!
Landowner Coupons-6204	8,500	688 8%
Predator Boards - 6301	0	#DIV/0!
Game & Fish - 5040	200,000	0%
TOTAL	\$452,801	\$688 0%

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reduced by 288,948 to account for revenues not collected

Cash Balance 601,121.93

ADMB - RABIES 0313	BUDGETED		EXPENDED		PERCENT OPTIMUM		NOTES
	FY 17 - 18		YTD	ENCUMBERED	BALANCE	EXPENDED 12.50%	
<i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES 200.00</i>							
Equipment Rep & Mtn	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 600.00</i>							
Grants	626.00	111,455	39,500		71,955	35.44%	(\$10,000 supplemental reduction)
0600 SERIES TOTAL		\$111,455	\$39,500	\$0	\$71,955	35.44%	
<i>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES 900.00</i>							
Professional/Consulting Fees	901.00	0	0		0		
0900 SERIES TOTAL		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
ADMB - RABIES 03.13		\$111,555	\$39,500	\$0	\$72,055	35.41%	

		YTD Revenue	YTD %	DISCUSSION ITEMS
General funds	111,555	39,500	35%	
	0	0		
	\$111,555	\$39,500	35%	



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

5400 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, WY 82006

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

wgfd.wyo.gov

GOVERNOR
MATTHEW H. MEAD

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SCOTT TALBOTT

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PATRICK CRANK
RICHARD KLOUDA
CHARLES PRICE
DAVID RAEI

November 18, 2016

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

FROM: 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) 2016.

Landowner coupons designated and transferred to ADMB	\$ 4,048
Wildlife damage management stamp	
Sales deposited 7/1/2015 through 6/30/2016	\$ 885.00
(License agent reports through 6/30/2015)	
Costs of program administration	
Management stamp:	
Printing	\$ 0.00
Administrative time	\$ 0.00
Total administrative costs for FY 2016	<u>(\$ 0.00)</u>
FY16 collections over expenditures	\$ 885.00
Deficit collections previous years	(\$3,446.67)
Amount due to be transferred to ADMB for FY2016	= <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.

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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 36, 2018

**WYOMING ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD (WyADMB)
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
2018-2043**

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

GOALS:

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

ACRONYMS USED IN STRATEGIC PLAN

ADMB – Animal Damage Management Board

ADM – Animal Damage Management

APHIS – Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

G&F – Wyoming Game and Fish Department or Commission

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

PMB – Predator Management Boards

PMD – Predator Management Districts

WDA – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

WS – USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

WAIC – Wyoming Ag in the Classroom

WLB - Wyoming Livestock Board

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

**OBJECTIVE 1.1
 W.S. 11-6-304(a)**

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

STRATEGY 1.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage.			
<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 depreddating 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. ADMB co-chairman "	1. 13/32 each year 1. Annually 1. Annually	

<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>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
1. Accept project proposals with measurable outcomes.	1. ADMB, staff	1. On - going	
2. Foster relationships between PMBs and ADMB.	2. ADMB	2. On-going	
STRATEGY 2.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(viii): Consider recommendations received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for projects funded by respective agencies.			
<i>ACTION</i>			
1. Project proposals.	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
➤ Requests submitted annually	1. ADMB	1. Annually	
➤ Wildlife projects will be reviewed by G&F and approved by the Commission.			
2. 1501 budget monies	2. ADMB	2. Annually	
➤ Requests submitted annually			

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

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

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

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

STRATEGY 3.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(vii): Develop memorandums of understanding between the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Wildlife Services (USDA/APHIS/WS) to accommodate funding sources and administrative guidelines for the program.			
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and amend MOUs as needed. 2. Explore options for grants and/or pass through funds. 3. Complete projects and assure that they are measurable and accountable through the proposal and reporting process. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. ADMB 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As needed 2. On-going 3. On-going and as projects are submitted and being implemented 	
STRATEGY 3.1.2: (W.S. 11-6-307): The Board will request one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to be expended for wildlife priorities.			
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>RESPONSIBILITY</i>	<i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i>	<i>DATE COMPLETED</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB will maintain a relationship with the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. 2. ADMB will submit a letter of request for funding to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. 3. ADMB will assure Game and Fish federal aid criteria are maintained through WGFD review of submitted projects. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. G&F 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-going 2. By 8/1 of year before funding is to be expended. 3. By 7/1 of year before funding is to be expended. 	

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

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

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

OBJECTIVE 4.1

W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313

Establish broad based, comprehensive plan directed towards the public.

STRATEGY 4.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313): Determine needs and expectations of various audiences.		
ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DATE TO COMPLETE <i>DATE COMPLETED</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.

OBJECTIVE 6.1

W.S. 11-6-313

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

STRATEGY 6.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313)	ACTION	RESPONSIBILITY	DATE TO COMPLETE	DATE COMPLETED
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue a strategy to ensure program continuation. 2. Continue to develop and utilize performance measures for program. 3. Identify and include citizen groups, county boards, predator districts, legislators and stakeholders to support the ADMB program. 4. Increase visibility efforts 5. Re-evaluate the statutes and programs to be included in legislation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Voluntary sources ➤ Annual Report 6. Maintain an open dialogue with the Governor 7. Develop economic benefits analysis of program to State of Wyoming 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ADMB 2. ADMB 3. ADMB 4. ADMB 5. ADMB 6. ADMB 7. ADMB 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. On-going 2. On-going 3. On-going 4. On-going 5. On-going 6. On-going 7. Completed and will update when necessary. 		

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Annual Report 2015-2016

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 with in Albany County.

Board Members

- **President**
Roger Newkirk
307.378.2544
- **Vice President**
Don Willis
307.322.4715
- **Secretary/Treasurer**
David Kalco
307.761.0063

Members

- Todd Heward
307.356.46
- Ryan Willson
307.761.1522
- Ryon Alexander
307.760.9727
- Cody Schlager
307.760.5982
- Todd Schlager
307.760.0151
- Eric Anderson
307.760.4448
- Trapper**
- Joel Modey
307.761.0126



Albany County has one full-time trapper working with Wildlife Service (WS) in Albany County for a total of 1667 hours worked in 2015-2016. A total of 135.1 hours of fixed wing aerial hunting hours were spent with 309 coyotes taken. A total of 14 hours of helicopter time was spent for a total of 41 coyotes taken.

In 2015-2016 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.

ACPMD 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 2015-2016 was \$752.00; sheep & lamb. Losses due to predation was down

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

2 head of sheep to coyotes

1 head of sheep to free range dogs

2 head of sheep to red fox



ACPMO has reported that the trapper has effectively removed:

- Badgers = 3
- Beavers = 11
- Bobcats = 5
- Coyotes = 509
- Red Fox = 9
- Raccoons = 4
- Ravens = 33
- Skunks = 42
- Porcupines = 3

Board Meetings

Are held in

December

March and one

During the

summer

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 on 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.

ACPMO offers, on an on-

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

ACPMO 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 have surfaced new concerns, especially to horses. APHIS has removed funding for their testing program. Co-operation with local municipalities for removal of skunks, raccoons, porcupines, feral cats, and rogue dogs, etc. for removal and/or disposal.

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

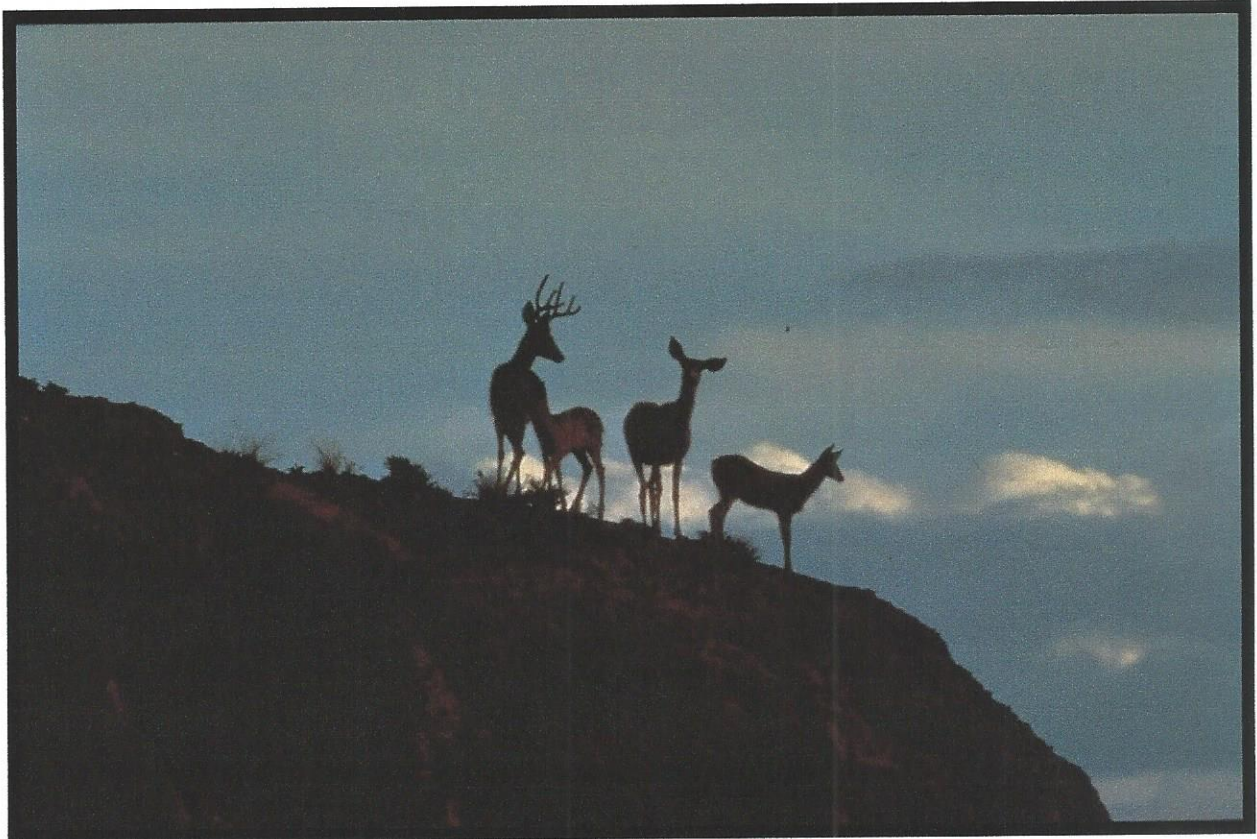
closely with the ADMB as to what the costs will be and seek their input on this matter also.



Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Recruitment Project

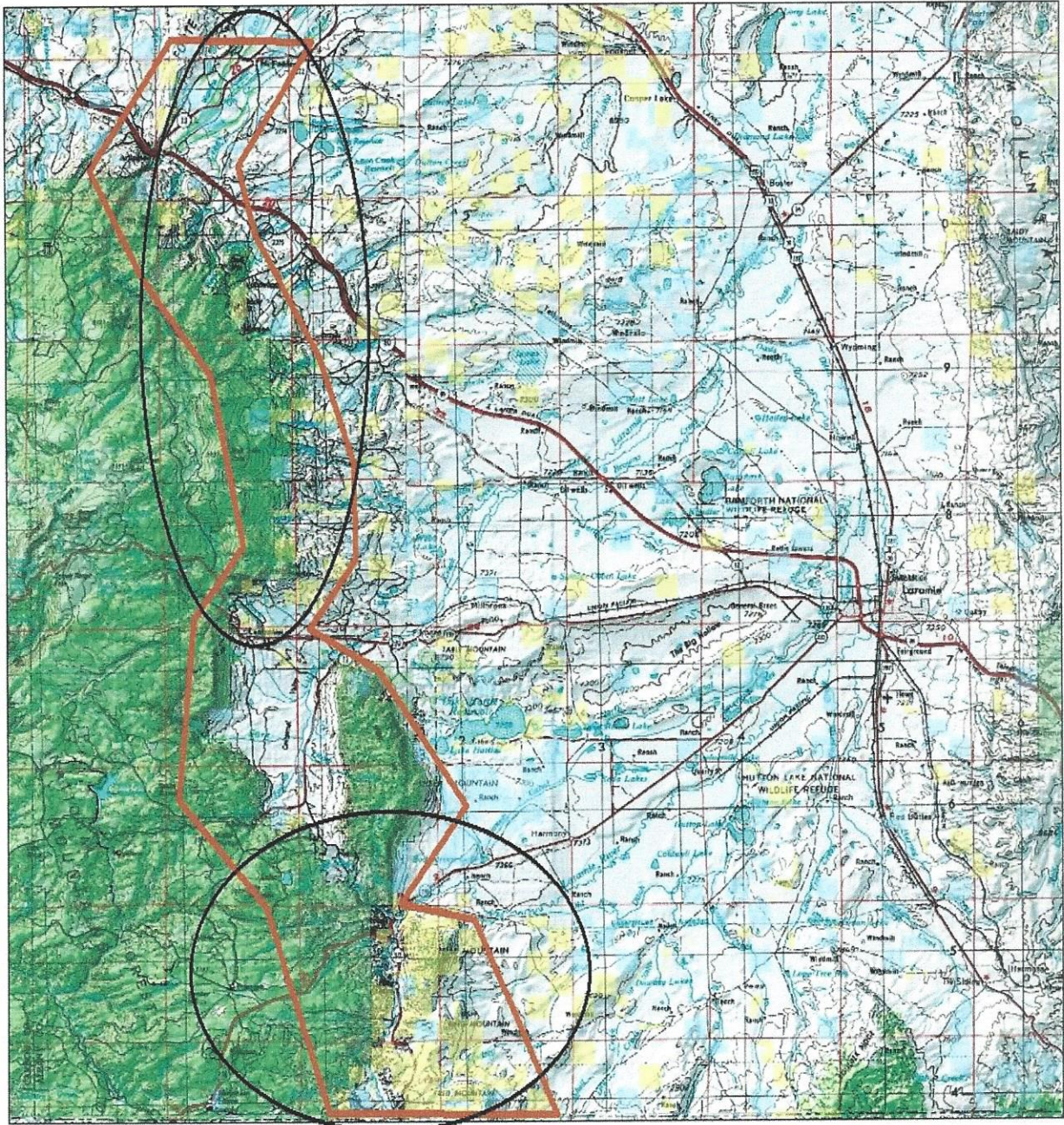
Albany County Predatory Management District (ACPM), USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services (WS'),
Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD)

01/01/2013-12/31/2015



The Sheep Mtn. Mule Deer Recruitment Project consisted 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 were 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 by Private, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service, and State of Wyoming lands.

The work to remove coyotes from the hunt areas and adjacent lands began on 01/01/2013 and continued until the end of calendar year 2015. Coyote removal efforts (ground/aerial hunting) continued throughout the project timeframe as funding, weather, recreational hunting use of lands, and time demanded by other WS'/ACPM duties allowed.



Sheep Mtn. fawning areas (black circles) and initially proposed coyote removal areas (orange areas). Please notice that the removal areas were extended considerably on the following yearly GPS coyote removal maps.

01/01/2013-12/31/2013 (Year 1 of 3)

A total of 89 coyotes 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 following 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 year 1 of the project time period (01/01/2013-12/31/2013).

30.9 hrs.	(\$6,573.00 ACPMD)*	Aerial hunting time only (fixed/rotor wing and assoc. costs).
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)*

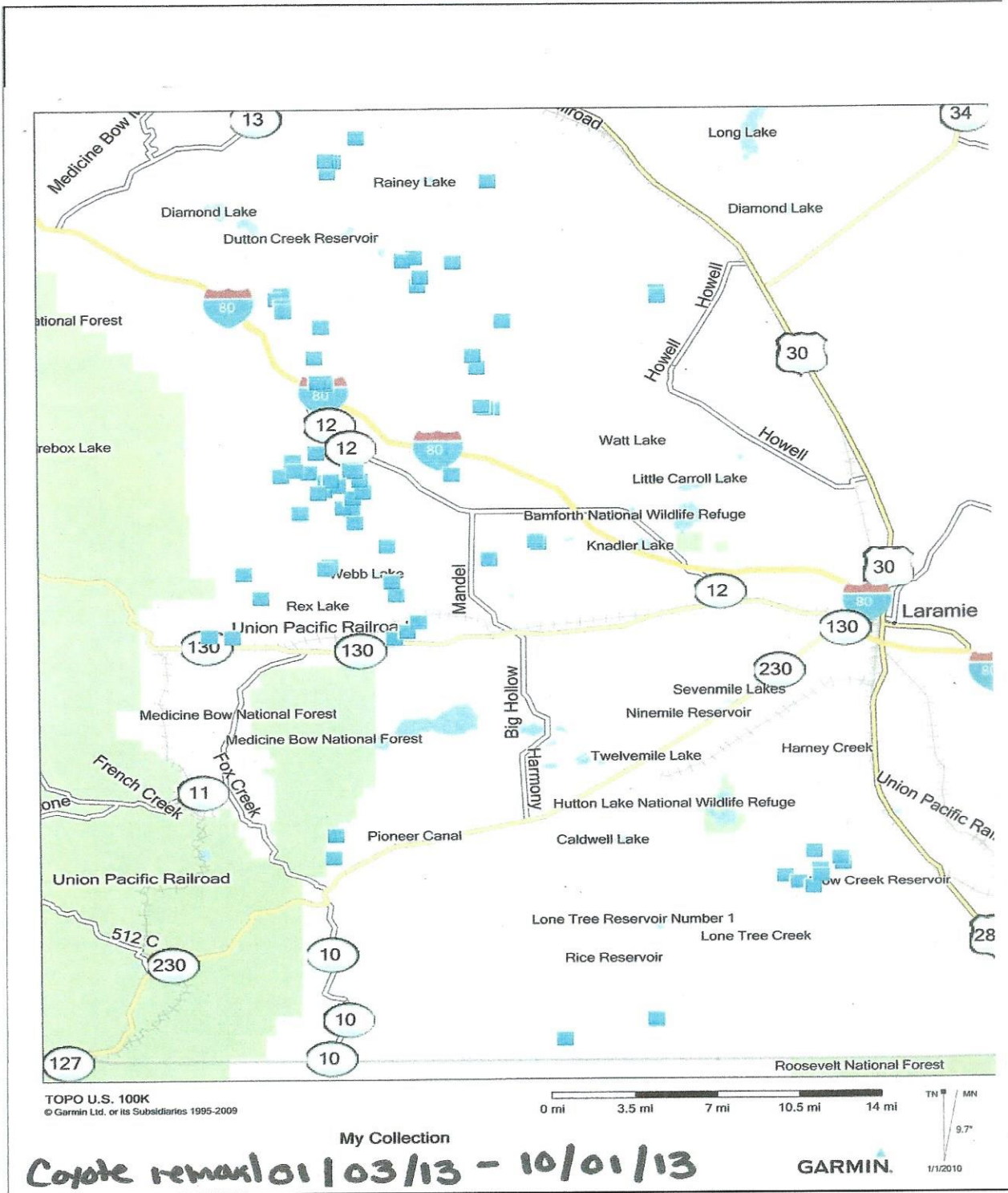
24 of 89 total (27%) coyotes taken verified for sampling and analysis below:

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
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Coyote removal map 01/01/2013-12/31/2013

Square indicates location on map where individual coyote was taken.

1/01/2014-12/31/2014 (Year 2 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 following 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 year 2 of the project time period (01/01/2014-12/31/2014).

54.0 hrs.	(\$13,446.00 ACPMD)*	Aerial hunting time only (fixed/rotor wing and assoc. costs).
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)*

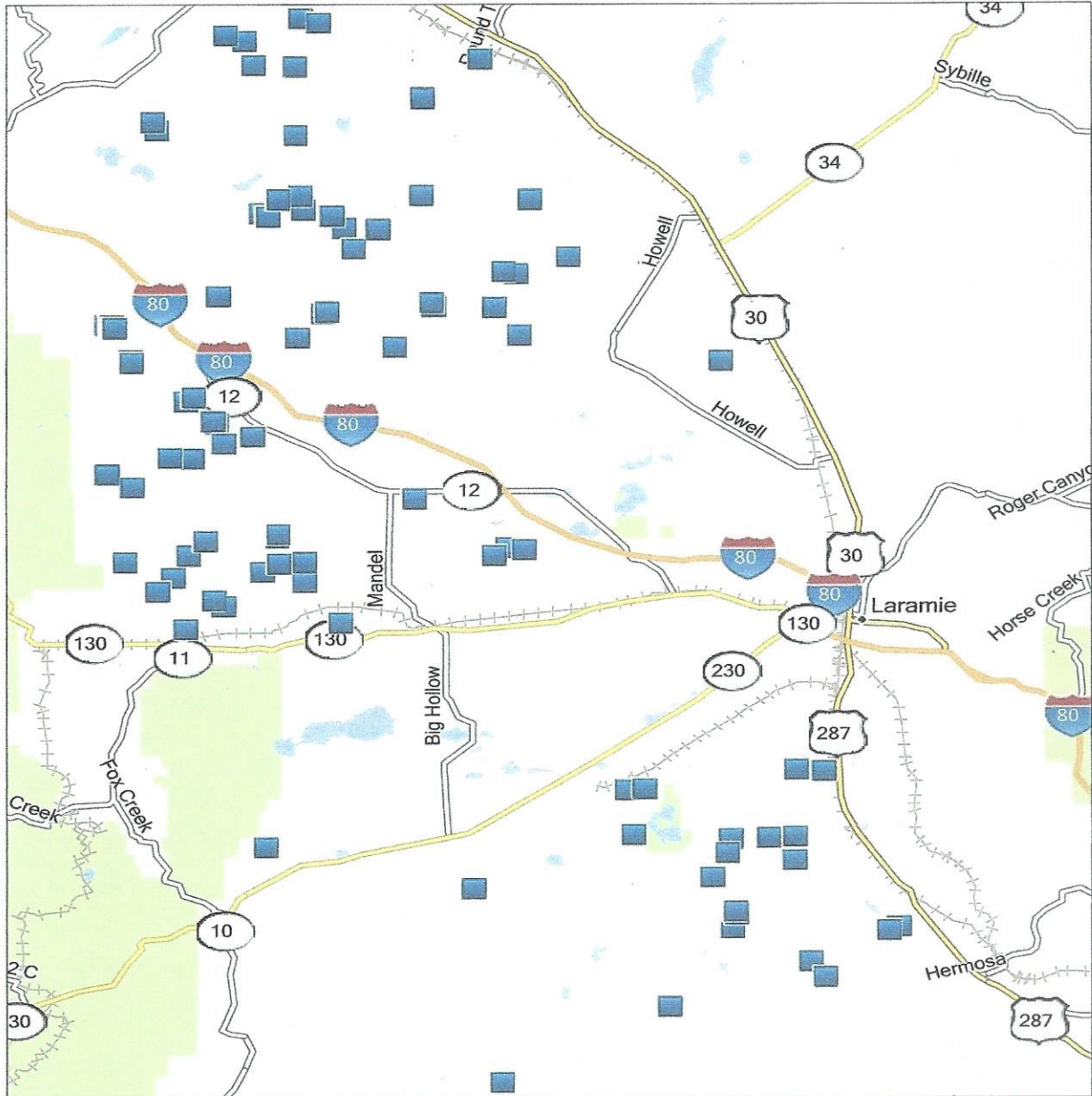
29 of 116 total (25%) coyotes taken verified for sampling and analysis below:

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



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

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

My Collection

GARMIN.

Coyote removal map 01/01/2014-12/31/2014

Square indicates location on map where individual coyote was removed.

01/01/2015-12/31/2015 (Year 3 of 3)

A total of 148 coyotes and 1 den within 16 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 (dots) on the following topographic map. Also, of the 148 coyotes, 18 were retrieved for comprehensive data collection.

Below is a series of operational, budget and coyote related to the data for the 3rd and final year of the project time period (01/01/2015-12/31/2016).

55.0 hrs.	(\$11,933.50 ACPMD)*	Aerial hunting time only (fixed/rotor wing and assoc. costs).
130.5 hrs.	(\$4,296.50 ACPMD, \$205.56 WS)*	Ground work time only.
24.5 hrs.	(\$ 1,259.05WS)*	Administrative time only.
158/1 den		Coyotes removed from project area.
3		USDA/APHIS/WS personnel involved.

* (approximate costs incurred by ACPMD \$16,230.00 and WS' \$1,464.56)

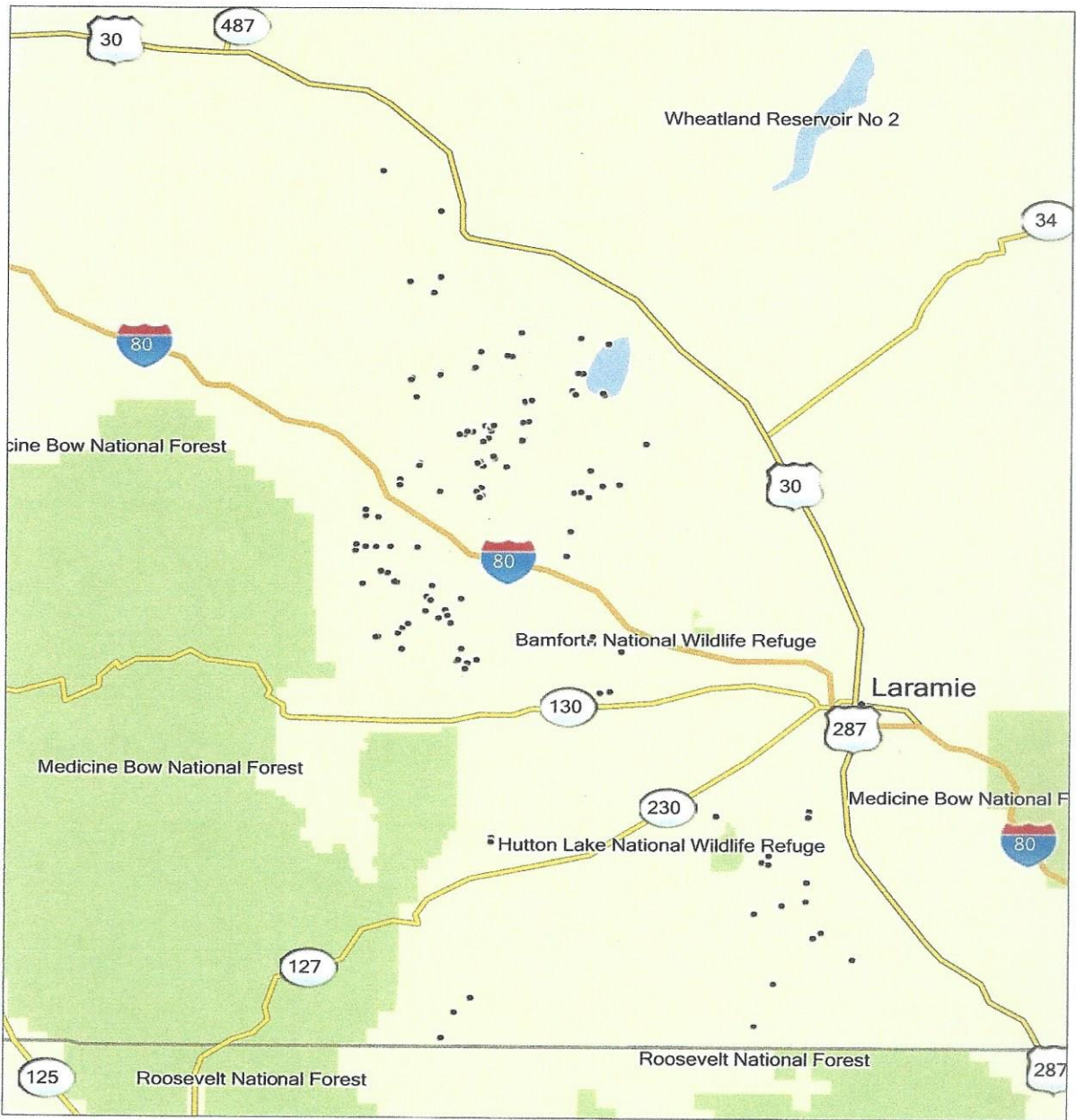
18 of 148 total (12%) coyotes taken verified for sampling and analysis below:

8	Adult male coyotes verified.
7	Adult female coyotes verified.**
1	Pup (female) coyote verified.
2	Pup (male) coyote verified.

*1 adult female exhibited signs of mange mite. **1 adult female contained 5 unborn pups.*

Stomach content occurrences on 18 verified coyotes.

8 Rodent 1 Empty 7 Pronghorn 1 Deer 1 grass 2 Livestock (cow)



TOPO U.S. 2008
 © Garmin Ltd. or its Subsidiaries 1995-2007

My Collection

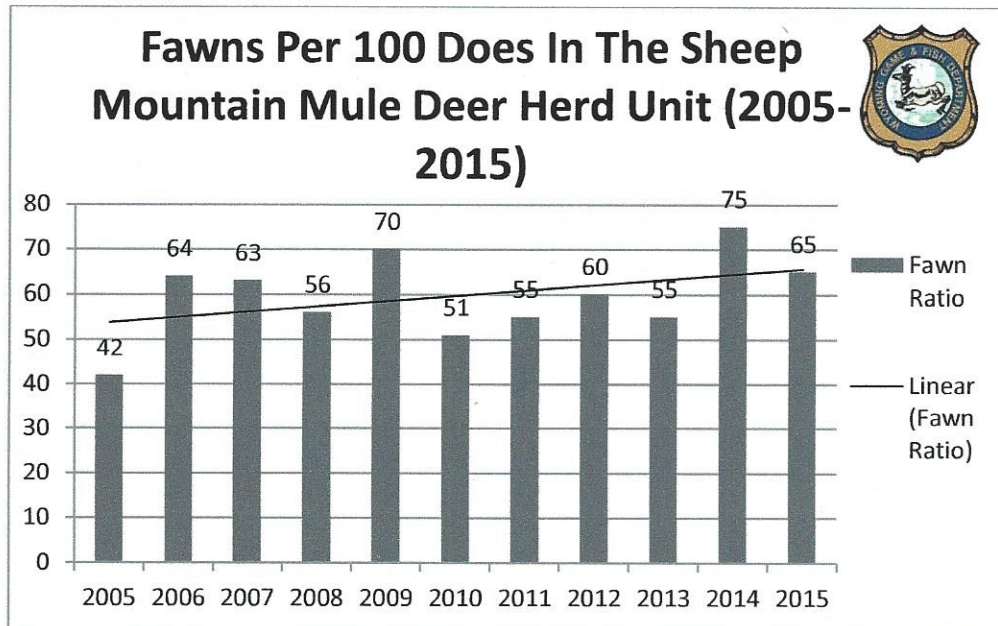
GARMIN

Coyote Removal map 01/01/2015-12/31/2015

Dot indicates location on map where individual coyote was removed.

WGFD Mule Deer Doe/Fawn Ratio Graph

(Provided by Lee Knox, WGFD Senior Biologist)



The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit encompasses Hunt Areas 61, 74, 75, 76 and 77. Fawn ratios have varied over the last 10 years but 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. The severe drought during the summer of 2012 was hard on wildlife and appears to have caused a poor fawn crop in 2013 as well. In 2014 and 2015 we saw an increase in the fawn crop possible due to the coyote removal project with the ADMB as well as good spring and fall habitat conditions. After the large successful fawn crop in 2014 we expected a slight decrease in fawn ratios in 2015 due to the abundance of yearling does in the population. Current fawn ratios indicate the herd is stable to increasing in population.

In conclusion of this 3 yr cooperative study, it is of opinion that the removal of coyotes, coupled with other favorable influencing conditions, can have a positive effect in the increase of mule deer fawn recruitment.

Special thanks to:

ACPMD Members, WGFD Lee Knox Senior Biologist, USDA/APHIS/WS Joel Modey (Wildlife Specialist) and Jerry Hyatt (WS Pilot), and Sky Aviation (Helicopter Services).

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

Sincerely,

Craig Acres

USDA/APHIS/WS' Staff Biologist (ret.)

Cc: Files

01/11/2016

Big Horn County Predator Management District

PO Box 613
Greybull,
Wyoming
82426



Board Members

President

Randall Jones, Otto, Wy.

Vice President

Lisa Kimsey, Manderson,
Wy.

Secretary/Treasurer

Todd Jones, Hyattville, Wy.

Kay Neves, Emblem, Wy.

Carl Nielsen, Hyattville, Wy.

Greg Flitner, Shell, Wy.

Keith Hamilton, Hyattville,
Wy.

George McGregor, Emblem,
Wy.

Mike Patton, Greybull, Wy.

WS Specialists

Brandon O'Brien, Full-time

Matt Hotovec, Full-time

Jim Angal, Half-time

The Big Horn County Predator Management District contracts with the United States Department of Agriculture, Wildlife Services (WS) to respond and resolve wildlife damage issues throughout Big Horn County.

Two full-time and one half-time WS trappers are assigned to Big Horn County, as well as additional WS help from 1 pilot, additional trappers, and biologists, when needed. In the time frame from March 1st, 2015-February 29th, 2016 (the most recent 365 day period to generate activity data), the total hours worked in Big Horn County was 4036 man hours on 83 different properties totaling 2,469,393 acres.

In Big Horn County, 166 hours were flown by fixed-wing, and 7 hours flown in helicopter during the reporting period.



The table below is a report of animals taken during the reporting period, in response to conflicts with livestock, wildlife, property, nuisance, or human health and safety.

- American Crow*: 44
 - Beaver: 1
 - Common Raven: 127
 - Coyotes: 372
 - Coyote Dens: 11
 - Porcupines: 3
 - Raccoons: 485
 - Red Fox: 44
 - Red Fox Dens: 4
 - Striped Skunk: 50
- * Crow and Blackbird estimated take with DRC-1339 not included in take



Big Horn County focuses on protecting 4 categories of resources from wildlife damage: 1) Livestock 2) Crop and Other Property 3) Wildlife, and 4) Human Health and Safety



Livestock: There was \$3,472 dollars in calf and sheep damage verified by WS in Big Horn County, including a wolf-killed calf in the Bighorn Mountains. Other predators that caused livestock damage include coyotes, free-range dogs, mountain lions, American crows, red fox, raccoons, and common ravens.

- WS responded 10 times to reported wolf depredations within Bighorn County
- WS made 1,632 visits to protect livestock (cattle, sheep, horses, and goats) from coyotes.
- WS made 477 visits to protect livestock from red fox.
- WS responded 116 times to raven/crow damage to lambs and cattle.



Crop and General Property: Corn, Irrigation systems, Buildings, Poultry, Landscape and Gardens would be some of the resources that fall under this category.

- WS responded 233 times to crop damage. Damaged was caused by raccoons, striped skunks, porcupines, and crows, in descending order of significance.
- WS responded 471 times to protect irrigation/ditch systems.
- WS made 90 visits to protect buildings, both residential and non-residential from raccoons and porcupines.
- WS made 36 visits to protect poultry from coyotes, raccoons, and skunks.



Wildlife: Big Horn WS spent 389 hours capturing and monitoring sage grouse on the Bighorn Basin sage grouse project.

WS responded 131 times to gamebird protection from raccoons, red fox, skunks, and coyotes.

WS has removed over 1,000 raccoons in the ag-lands of Big Horn County in the last two years, as well as hundreds of skunks and other egg-eating predators. These removals have augmented gamebird production, especially the ring-neck pheasant.



Human Health and Safety: Big Horn County offers a large inventory of live traps to trap and remove potentially diseased mammals, including raccoons and skunks.

- During this reporting period, 7 skunks, 14 raccoons, and 10 coyote samples were submitted for canine distemper, leptospirosis, plague, tularemia, and rabies. One raccoon tested positive for canine distemper.
- WS has been requested to reduce blackbird/crow infestations in and around livestock operations throughout Big Horn County. These bird species directly impact livestock feed and, even more serious, create a major health risk as they can transmit diseases to livestock such as coccidiosis, transmissible enteritis virus (TGE), and tuberculosis. Humans exposed to the feces of these bird species are also at risk of histoplasmosis and salmonella.



District Management Plan 2016-2017

Big Horn County Predator Management District's goal for 2016-2017 is to provide a professional wildlife damage management service through USDA's WS. The priorities and mission is to continue protecting the 4 resources outlined in this report.

1) **Livestock:** Through effective coyote removal, livestock depredations have been minimal. Overall, coyote numbers are up and the need to maintain a strong removal program is crucial. Wolf presence in the county is real and we may be facing some wolf issues this upcoming season, as well as black bear and mountain lion. We also plan on continue working on crow and raven infestations where they have caused damage to cattle and lamb mortalities.

2) **Crop and General Property:** There has been a reduction in raccoon take this past reporting season, which has been a combination of effective removal and distemper that swept through the population. Corvid (crow and raven) numbers continue to be a big problem in parts of the county. We plan on using a combination of crow traps, DRC-1339, and shooting to alleviate bird problems.

3) **Wildlife:** Big Horn County's involvement in the Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse project is finished. Big Horn County looks forward to seeing the published results from the 5-year study. There will be a continuation of

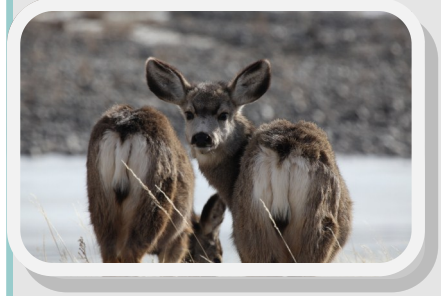


game bird protection in ag-land throughout the county.

While there is no doubt the amount of coyote removal county-wide directly benefits local wildlife populations, there is interest in the near future to identify a predator/wildlife project within the county where measures of success could be measured.

Human Health and Safety: With some disease outbreaks this past year, including a case of human-contracted tularemia in a Big Horn county resident, we plan on taking samples from captured animals county-wide in 2016-17.

We strive to continue learning the most effective, efficient way to resolve corvid and blackbird disease threats to livestock and humans in the county with today's most updated science. We've come leaps and bounds this past season with good success and look forward to an even better upcoming season.



Year End Report
Campbell County Predatory Board
June 30,2016

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.

We have attached our financial report for the fiscal year of July 2015 – June 2016. For the last year, our three contract trappers have spent over 7343 hours in the field while covering 1,380,356 acres in Campbell County. Our trappers worked with 115 individual landowner agreements over the year as they provided predator control. We budgeted \$42,000.00 for fixed wing aerial time and \$13,000.00 helicopter time. We were able to utilize our flying time more this year as weather permitted more flying time. We spent \$35,314.17 for fixed wing aerial and \$10,264.00 in helicopter expenses . The number of animals that were harvested using aerial hunting were 457 coyotes and 2 fox. We still are expecting a bill from Wildlife Services for the remaining quarter of the fiscal year.

All three of our predator control trappers continue to be very beneficial in Campbell County. Calvin Taylor 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. All of our trappers are very good at responding to trouble calls from our ranchers. Our trappers responded to 107 trouble calls where the calls were regarding problem coyotes that have caused livestock losses.

All of our trappers are very knowledgeable and are very precise when it comes to gathering information. The board has asked the trappers to continue recording GPS locations of traps, snares and actual harvest location of the coyotes. Scott has continued to be in close contact with the sheep producers and compiled results regarding their production. 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 even though coyote numbers are still steady, he has been working to keep the problem coyotes down. More coyotes seem to be moving into the southern half of the county and seem to be coming from the east. We don't know if that means that the counties to the east of us is having trouble controlling predators, possible lack of man power in these counties is the probable cause. All three trappers have been very successful in obtaining mine access for predator control. The trappers also had to attend MSHA training to access mine property.

Our three trappers have harvested 1324 coyotes, 107 fox, 19 bobcats, 7 raccoons, 14 badgers, 8 muskrats, 16 skunks, and 7 porcupines. They have answered to 107 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 with the average litter size being 6.5 pups.

Our Rabies personnel, Duke Campbell has been busy with City and County calls. 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 132 trouble call from the citizens. As of the end of June, he has harvested 330 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. Unfortunately for the coming fiscal year we lost our funding from the City. In years past when we have not had the funding to continue our present control, the number of skunks have almost doubled. Along with the economic situation in Gillette and over 2000 jobs lost with the coal mines, many people are moving out of Gillette. This will also provide more skunk habitat around abandoned buildings. We anticipate that the skunk population in two years will explode. Duke and bookkeeper, Kenda Ford has attended many County Commissioners meeting and City Council meetings and both boards are very pleased with our past proactive Rabies program. The County Commissioners are still funding the full amount that we have requested. The Animal Control department does not want to handle the skunk control trouble calls, so they are trying to help Duke whenever they can so we can maintain our program. Duke has also been dealing with trouble calls of ALL nuisance animals to keep a good working relationship with the City and the County. But due to funding issues with the City, the board has sent a letter outlining that Duke will only be doing work regarding animals that are possible rabies threat. Duke has tested 5 "questionable animals for rabies and fortunately they have all come back negative. He has answered 132 trouble calls that are dispatched through the City and County dispatchers. Along with the 330 skunks, Duke has eliminated 29 raccoons, 3 badgers

and 3 rattlesnake, 1 bobcat, 497 pigeons, 11 muskrats and 5 porcupines. 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. Pigeons will be one of the animals that will not be on Duke's list come next fiscal year.

The financial statement that is attached shows a net profit of \$13,165.75. We received \$10,500.00 from a local sportsman group that we have reserved \$ 9,495.88 for next year to continue our habitat project in our wildlife area. So if you take that money out of the net profit, we budgeted our fiscal year within \$ 3,669.87.

We received \$240,000.00 from ADMB grant; we utilized that money to pay for trappers and part of the aerial which as totaled \$266,141.44. The expenses for the Rabies program are \$72,939.28. 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 from the City and County for our rabies program.

The upcoming fiscal year will prove to be more of a struggle due to budget cuts. 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 very strong predator effective control program.

**PREDATOR MANAGEMENT
DISTRICT**

MANAGEMENT ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Board Members:

Cattlemen

- Josh Peterson
- J Stratton
- George Williams
- John Hansen

Sheepmen

- Sharon O'Toole
- Scott Kerbs

Sportsmen

- Robin Blake
- Garry Goergen
- Larry Kmoch

At Large

- John Strand

Secretary

- Charlene Abbott

Our mission remains: to maintain a consistent level of predator control through a cooperative agreement with USDA/APHIS/WS' (Wildlife Services) and cooperate with game management entities with predator removal for the betterment of wildlife species in Carbon County. Our 2015-2016 issues were: 1) to provide service to Carbon County residents on health and safety issues caused by predators; 2) help facilitate sustainable populations within wildlife species of particular concern through predator control management throughout the entire county; and 3) assist in predator control insuring the Agricultural community remain prosperous and continue to support the local economy.

The following animals were removed by our 4 WS' specialists, aided by 6 pilots, gunners, biologists and other WS' personnel with a total of 4,083 hours on 87 of our 89 active cooperative agreements on 3,299,004 total acres. We used 221 aerial fixed wing hours and no helicopter time.

Badgers	17	Beaver	14	Raccoons	44
Coyotes	1127	Coyote Dens	12	Porcupine	4
Red Fox	29	Black Bear	1	Skunks	39
Magpies	116	Pelicans	4	Crows	130
Ravens	68	Jack Rabbits	19	Ferel Cats	1

Our specialist have worked for several municipalities on a wide range of issues including skunks in a kitchen, pelicans eating planted fish in lakes, coyotes attacking 4-H member's animals, raccoons in yards eating from bird feeders and pigeons roosting and leaving droppings around the building of a pre-school in Hanna. Ravens remain a big concern to area producers, energy companies and municipalities throughout our entire county.



Picture by Dan Braig, WS' Specialist

WILDLIFE SPECIALITS

- * Troy Aleshire
- * Dan Braig
- * Tracy Villwok
- * Luke Spanbauer
- * Rod Merrell, Super.

FERRIS MOUNTAIN MULE DEER PROJECT



Picture courtesy of WS'

The Caron County PMDB began a proposed three year Ferris Mountain Mule Deer Project in conjunction with Wyoming Wildlife Services and Wyoming Game and Fish.

Rod Merrell, District Supervisor, WS' states, "We originally intended to start coyote removal operations via fixed wing aircraft in March of 2016 to utilize good snow cover over tall brush. The aim was to remove adult pairs of coyotes to preclude having to hunt for dens later on, which entails a lot of man-time on the ground and avoid timing of work load conflicts with calving and lambing operations later in the spring. WGF requested that we wait until closer to fawning time in late May and early June to target coyotes in close vicinity to fawning areas. We began operations on April 11, 2016. We did 7 aerial operations for a total of 44.4 Hobbs hours (plus ferry time) and 54

man-hours on the ground. We removed 79 coyotes with \$8,000 aerial costs and \$4,130 man hours of crew-member time and hazardous duty. We have completed our obligation to WGF and expended the entire amount funded by ADMB for the first year of this project."

Greg Hiatt, WGF adds, "In the summer of 2012, two large wildfires in the Seminoe Mountain and the eastern Ferris Mountains burned thousands of acres, including crucial mule deer winter habitat as well as year round habitats. Deer numbers in this area have slowly declined over the last decade or more, concurrent with the lack of significant habitat treatments, several severe winters and drought conditions.

The mule deer population is currently more than 45% below objective. The bighorn sheep in the Ferris Mountains are newly introduced and using these habitats for the first time in many years.

Our primary objective is to produce mule deer fawn ratios at or above 65 per 100 does. Our secondary objective is to improve lamb survival of recently transplanted bighorn sheep in the Ferris

Mountains with predator control in identified fawning areas.

Our Goal: Recent history has shown this mule deer herd will not increase to objective size without improvement in fawn production and survival. Large scale habitat/burn projects have already occurred, with others planned in future years. Predator control is intended to improve fawn recruitment into this struggling population until habitat treatments reach full effectiveness.

In addition to the benefits for mule deer, bighorn sheep were transplanted into the east end of the Ferris Mountains in February 2016. With the small number of ewes available in this portion of the herd, affording some protection from predation seems prudent until sheep numbers become established."



Picture Courtesy of WGF

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS?

This past year, the Carbon County Commissioners requested a document which they could give persons seeking their appointment to our board. The following was produced and made our legal job description for a board member of the Carbon County Predator Management District. As you will see, we maintain a very active, interested board which oversees the actions of our four specialists.

Title

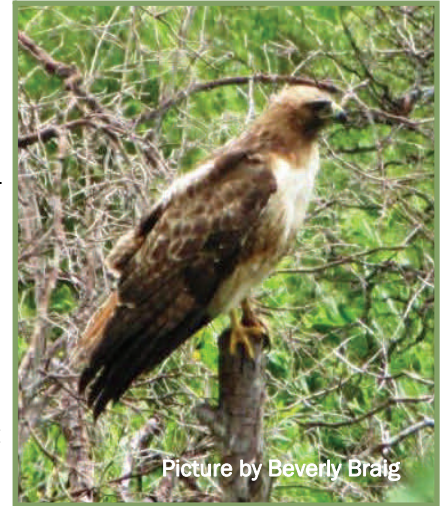
Member, Carbon County Predator Management District Board of Directors

Board Make-up

Six (6) directors are elected livestock owners who paid predator management fees on sheep or cattle in the year preceding election.

Three (3) directors are appointed sportsmen or hunters from the district.

One (1) director is an appointed member-at-large from electors in the county.



Picture by Beverly Braig

Appointed Terms

Appointed to a three (3) year term (except when filling an unexpired term). No appointed member may serve for a consecutive period of more than six (6) years.

Criteria

Three (3) directors will be appointed to represent sportsmen and hunters from the district. They shall be bona fide residents of the district NOT engaged in raising sheep or cattle and shall hold or have held either a valid Wyoming fishing or hunting license or a Wyoming wildlife damage management stamp within the preceding twelve (12) month period.

County Commissioners, to the greatest extent practical, shall select sportsmen and hunter representatives to ensure representation from as broad a geographic distribution of the district as possible.

One (1) director will be appointed as a member-at-large from electors in the county NOT engaged in raising sheep or cattle.

Serve as an active voting member at the seven meetings per year.

Members of the board will receive no compensation for serving as a member (except mileage).

Willing to accept and promote the mission, goals and objectives of CCPMDB.

Demonstrate significant leadership capability in the community and is willing to provide that expertise to the operation of the Board and its committees.

Able and willing to serve effectively as a public representative of the organization.

CARBON COUNTY
PREDATOR
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

814 Illinois St
Rawlins, WY 82301
307-324-3161

General Responsibility

The ten (10) elected and appointed board members have the authority and responsibility for the development of policies, continuing review of the conduct of business, setting the mission and goals, and input on hiring and firing of employees. They have the responsibility to work with and authority to sign contracts with agencies such as Wildlife Services, the Animal Damage Management Board, Wyoming Game and Fish, US Fish and Wildlife or any other entity deemed necessary to accomplish the goals of the CCPMDB.

General Duties of the District

- Exercise general supervision over the control of predatory animals and predacious birds that prey upon and destroy livestock, other domestic animals and wildlife.
- Devise and put in operation those methods that best manage or control damage caused by predatory animals or predacious birds.
- Administer funds received from predator management fees and from other sources to carry out the predator management program.
- Coordinate with affected individuals and entities to develop a comprehensive predator management program.



Specific Tasks

- Participate regularly by attending scheduled board meetings and special meetings as appropriate.
- Spend time studying and evaluating issues to become informed and prepared to discuss and vote on issues facing CCPMDB. Tasks which will require preparation and a vote by Board members include:
 - Decisions on issues, policies, priorities, goals and objectives, projects and budgets;
 - Nomination and election of members and officers of the Board;
 - Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the projects and programs and assure these projects and programs are progressing toward achieving stated objectives; and,
 - Approval and monitoring of the operation, property, and equipment budgets.
- Support the resolutions and actions of the Board of Directors irrespective of personal opinion as to any such resolution or action.
- Promote the mission, goals, and objectives of CCPMDB to increase public awareness, understanding and support of the organization.

Time Demands

Meetings

- All meetings are held at 1pm in Room 368 of the Carbon Building in Rawlins.
 - Regular meetings - 3rd Wednesday of every other month beginning in January
 - Annual meeting - 2nd Wednesday of December

Two of our specialists were chosen to be audited by the USDA Office of the Inspector General. Auditors accompanied them into the field, scrutinized their methods and paperwork and questioned our cooperators. We are pleased to announce that Luke Spanbauer and Tracy Villwok passed with flying colors. They both received a letter of commendation from William H. Clay, Deputy Administrator, WS” who stated, “The effort you made to demonstrate the challenges we face in the office and the field, and the professionalism and effectiveness with which you carry out our mission was obvious to the investigators. The auditors were highly complimentary of the specialists that aided in their investigation and appreciated the effort put forth to help them conduct a thorough review. We received no criticism of the humaneness and effectiveness of our methods, non-target avoidance and justification of the service we provide.”



CONVERSE COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2016-2017 MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

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

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. We contract with three local airplanes and a helicopter for aerial hunting which are paid an enhanced bounty per coyote.

For the 2016 – 2017 fiscal year, CCPMD will again plan to employ three full time and one part time trapper. We will contract with WS for the use of their airplane, gunner, and pilot for up to 50 hours. With the increased use of our private pilots, we have not had to use the WS plane as much, but we do need to have it available for hunting on Federal lands and in case of breakdowns. The WS plane along with our private trappers ground crewing was a very effective way to target problem coyotes. The CCPMD Board (the Board) will be asking the ADMB for funds for this expense as well as for the salaries of the trappers.

The trappers are contract workers and answer directly to the Board with detailed monthly reports. They account for every predator taken, where and methods used. The trappers are required to have landowner permission and do not work on that land without notification. Ears from the predators taken are presented and counted at CCPMD's monthly meetings.

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.

Our personnel, trapping and snaring as well as working with the airplanes are extremely effective and are taking care of problem coyotes that had become educated and were very difficult to find. They also address other problem animals like beaver, skunks, and raccoons that require ground time to target. Our trappers along with the private aircraft have been instrumental in the success we had in last two years. Their contracts are reviewed annually and will be renegotiated in June before the start of the fiscal year. In the event we do not receive the requested funding and the shortfall is too much to take from our savings we will need to make some hard decisions regarding salaries and/or number of employees.

With prices for both cattle and sheep still doing well, along with what appears to be adequate moisture at this point, producers should be able to maintain their numbers. At a

time like this, it is imperative to keep predation to a minimum. The reduction in losses to predation last year was very impressive and we would like to keep the momentum going.

Livestock producers are not the only ones to reap the benefits of predator management. Hunters and outfitters have noticed a rise in the number of Mule Deer. With drought and disease taking its toll on Converse County's wildlife, we feel it is imperative to keep predation to a minimum.

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 have also concluded 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 and other nesting birds including Sage Grouse. Since poisoning these birds is only authorized for WS personnel, we will be monitoring the situation closely to further decide if and when to ask for their assistance.

Crook County Management Plan

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Summary:

- The Crook County Predatory Management District Board (CC PMD) has worked with **Wildlife Services** (APHIS) to supply **two full time trappers** since 2009 when the Wyoming Department of Agriculture (WDA) first implemented its grant program.
- **Two additional contract trappers are used**; one year around for hunting by air, the other an on-the-ground trapper.
- Both report directly to the Board.
- Our trappers work with cooperative agreements between land owner/operators and Wildlife Services or cooperative agreements between the local Board and land owner/operator.
- Coordinating beyond APHIS has provided additional time working with land owner/operators improving customer service, education and awareness of services.
- Moving into 2016 -2017 fiscal year, the Board has prepared a budget with the overall concept of continuing the contract with APHIS. *However, they **reserve the right to move all or a share of appropriated funds from received grant funding to contract individually with trappers and aerial hunters should the decision be made to operate independently.***
- Currently, APHIS reports 227 actively served cooperative agreements for Crook County. Landowner agreements remain relatively stable over the last three years.
- **July 1, 2015 to present**, 90 of those landowner/operators have been served with 679 person-day visits on private ground, and 624 day-visits recorded on public including state.
- APHIS trappers report since July 1st taking 268 coyotes, 89 fox, 1 raccoon, 11 skunks and 1 problematic bear.
- Contracted aerial hunter has resulted in 79 takes since July 1 2015.
- July of 2015 – present private contractor ground crew has taken 44 coyotes, 14 skunks, 8 fox, 1 bobcat on 26 properties covering an estimated 87,500 acres.
- APHIS trappers report since July 1, 2015 Crook County losses include 21 calves, 38 sheep, 21 deer, and 6 antelope taken from predators.

- Private Trappers report additionally since July 1, 2015 Crook County losses (not all confirmed) to include 12 calves, 24 sheep, 15 deer, 4 antelope, and three domestic dogs (taken by mountain lion(s)).
- **Private Aerial Contract for 2014-2015 was an expenditure of \$10,112. Current year expenditure (actuals not bank) for July 1, 2015 to present is \$7232 with a take of 61 coyotes & 5 fox.**
- **APHIS aerial for July 2014 through June 30 2015 was 108.2 Hrs. @\$150.00/hr. = \$ 16,230 (not including administrative) with 139 coyotes and 1 fox. July 1 of 2015 through Dec. 31st of 2015 the tally is 61.8 hrs or \$9270.00 with 78 coyotes. July 2015 through March 31 (present FY) the tally is 98.2 hrs. with 137 coyotes for \$14,730.00.**
- Crook County is located in the northeast corner of the state, bordered by South Dakota and Montana, with a land mass of just over 2800 square miles.
- Crook County Predator Board began the cyclical grant program with Wyoming Department of Agriculture Grant Program with roughly \$160,000 in reserves. The Board wishes for these funds to be kept separate from current assets - these funds are targeted as “reserve” funds for program sustainability for one-year (with livestock sales assessed fees) should program funding be depleted.
- CCPMD Board has projected that \$37,000 will have to be pulled from reserves in order to complete the obligations of the current program year should billing from APHIS come timely.
- The CCMPD Board has presented a budget requesting 20% less than it asked for last year at the same time we have decreased the APHIS contract flight hours from 225 hours to 150 hours reducing the budget line item from \$33,000 to \$24,000. And we have increased our denning crew contract to a full-time, year-round contract. More than doubling this trappers hours within the parameters of keeping the overall budget inline of last year’s proposal.

Three issues continue to be targets for the CC PMD; wildlife issues, livestock issues; 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.

A - I- Wildlife Issues

- Weather, disease and predation continue to have a significant impact upon some regional wildlife species. In the previous few years, 2011-2013, the loss of deer and antelope proved more significant due to fewer overall numbers. The last two winters have changed the cycle and the weather conditions have been less detrimental on the herds; resulting an increase in overall deer numbers. Antelope numbers appear to remain

relatively stagnant. Wyoming Game and Fish have increased their management target levels in northeastern Wyoming for deer and antelope herds. Wyoming Game and Fish intend to let out additional licenses in 2016 for deer, antelope, and elk.

- Wyoming Game and Fish Department has attempted to address some of the deer, antelope and elk issues through changes to season and licenses. However, with Crook County having a season for deer a month later than other counties in the area has only drawn a larger crowd with the “must kill” mentality that has reflected in the taking of more animals and more fawns. Shortening of the season to three weeks, coinciding this hunt season with the elk season, impacted public lands in Crook County with a significant increase of people in such a short time frame, locals feel that herd management was not achieved. The take numbers, according to the WY Game and Fish continues to reflect that 20% of the state’s kills still come from Crook County the last week of hunt season.
 - Other species, such as black bear and mountain lion, have better withstood natural weather and disease cycles over the last five to ten years. The result: increase in the animals coupled with increasing concerns and standing need to manage their populations and minimizing negative impacts. Ongoing effort to increase legalized mountain lion hunting quotas persist and even with the increase three years ago, local agricultural producers and fellow residents believe it is not enough based on sightings, tracks, and kills (confirmed and non-confirmed.)
 - Data indicates constant or growing numbers across the full spectrum of predatory species and decline in natural predatory food sources. For example, porcupines are a mountain lions staple and their populations appear to be in decline. Mountain lions, and eagles appear to be thriving at the expense of wild turkey populations. Additionally, reports of wolves moving through the area present a new and growing threat to wildlife and livestock.
 - Bears have been added to Crook County’s list over the last two years. Unconfirmed sightings of transient wolves and unconfirmed kills have become a new concern in the area. Three bears were removed in Crook County two years ago due in the act of killing domesticated livestock. One bear was removed in 2015 with several more sightings and personal property losses.
 - 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 on the rise. Some of 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 two winters and are impacting turkey numbers from Moorcroft to Rocky Point and around Hulett.
 - Past funding to address concerns relating to rabies has ceased and to our knowledge, no rabies tests were reported in Crook County over the past year. Concerns and the need to rapidly address issues

associated with rabies remain. Skunks, heavy carriers of the virus, are being seen more frequently this past winter and thus the potential for a spread of this disease increases as well. Livestock in nearby Goshen County, WY have contracted a strain of this virus with an extended incubation period and for which treatment has been determined to be futile. This strain has primarily affected horses over the past two years. (Removal of funding for their rabies testing program occurred prior to the 2014 FY. Cooperation with local municipalities for skunks, coons, feral cats, and rogue dogs, etc. for removal and/or disposal is ongoing.)

A - II- Goals

Crook County PMD Board will strive to achieve and maintain healthy numbers of common predators. Support constituents of Crook County regarding hunt areas and wild life numbers (hunt quotas).

A - III - Action Steps

- a. Provide proactive and immediately reactive responses to predator management to preserve wild life and livestock to a growing number of sportsmen, producers for the benefit of the citizens of Crook County and Wyoming.
- b. To utilize standardized methods to record and assess data relating to field activities in order that numbers can be monitored and evaluated. Federal air time has been adjusted to 150 hours.
- c. Provide constant predatory control measures through strategic flying time, ground work, and denning crew/private contracted trapper availability to producers.
- d. Provide our trappers with the tools needed for predatory control methods such as leg hold and cage traps, foot snares, neck snares, shooting, trail and decoy dogs, aerial hunting and M-44 devices.

B - I – Livestock Issues

- Profit margins for producers are slight and with predation the margin for loss continues to shrink. For a variety of reasons there is a trend toward total herd liquidation amongst livestock owners, especially sheep producers. State-wide numbers have declined dramatically, but consistently since 1969 when sheep numbers peaked at 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. Much of the County is covered in

timber which increases the difficulty of hunting. The last two years, the sweet clover has hindered hunting for several spring/summer months; providing excellent cover for coyotes to encroach upon their prey without being detected. This has, in turn, provided for healthier packs and females carrying 12 to 14 pups in each of their litters. This is an increase over the 2 to 4 pups trappers were seeing just a couple years ago.

- Although management methods are implemented year around they are intensified March through July when control of coyotes is ground hunting, calling 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.
- 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 local producers' economic bottom line.

B - II – Goals

To maintain or enlarge our presence on the ground and in the air in order that trappers working cooperatively with owner/operators in Crook County will provide protection of livestock and wildlife, increasing their profitability and viability.

B – I I- Actions To Be Taken

- a. Build upon current programs in order to keep current and/or obtain landowner/operator cooperative agreements. Provide constant predatory control measures through strategic flying time, ground work, and denning crews along with control methods of leg hold and cage traps, foot snares, neck snares, shooting, trail and decoy dogs, aerial hunting and M-44 devices.
- b. ATV/Four-wheeler usage and snowmobile allowance as necessary for field work minimizing footprints. Federal air Time will be maintained at 225 hours.
- c. Offer special invitations to key officials to attend CC PMD Board Meetings to discuss current relative issues.
- d. Support for dogs used by the trappers and the management of these dogs will be maintained.
- e. To provide landowner and agricultural producers' assistance and support in establishing and amending regulatory and legal issues associated with the functions of the Board.

- f. To utilize standardized methods to record and assess data relating to field activities in order that numbers can be monitored and evaluated.

C - I- Human Health and Safety

- 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 concerned 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 for health concerns.
- The Board recognizes the contracting trappers' on-going issue of access to properties in order to do their assigned duties. Ownership changes and most especially absentee landowners and foreign ownership that is increasing has reduced acres accessible to them. Lands are also being taken out of the agricultural sector and being sold in small parcels. This too creates issues of management of predatory animals, while providing habitat for the increase in nuisance animals such as skunks and raccoons. This logistic transition in Crook County has increased time spent by contracting trappers to address.

C - II- Goals

Offer trapper time and resources to assist endeavors thought to be potentially harmful in the manner of predators; along with a certain amount of animal management control, fitting with overall objectives in Crook County.

C - III - Actions To Be Taken

- a. To offer, on an on-going basis, live traps to municipalities and concerned citizens for the use of trapping and removing potentially harmful animals.
- b. To utilize standardized methods to record and assess data relating to field activities.

D - Pre- and Post-Work Monitoring

- a. Strive to increase the number of cooperator agreements signed in Crook County, the number of acres served, along with data for animals taken and/or tested for disease will continue to be reported to and monitored (by Wildlife Services (APHIS) system as long as the MOU with APHIS

- continues). The Board is requesting these reports be provided to them, as well as APHIS. Numbers for animals taken and tested for disease are kept separately from private contracting trappers and ground crew.
- b. Wyoming Game and Fish numbers and trends in wildlife are used as third party source for trends in deer, antelope, and turkey populations.
 - c. Crook County PMD Board meets at least twice annually; every December for election of officers and in March to address refund requests. The December meeting provides public information on financials as well as election of officers for the following year. All meetings are open to the public, but not necessarily advertised in the three county newspapers unless they are the December election meeting or the July public budget hearing. The Board may or may not meet in July specifically for funding/budget hearing. If held, this meeting will be advertised.
 - d. The Board receives trapper reports at each of their meetings in order to monitor progress. This includes but is not limited to air time and ground time, information on agreements with landowner/operators, successes and problematic areas in accomplishing their tasks. Trapper reports between meetings are received and should be tallied by trappers on a month-to-month basis and available upon request.
 - e. Budget expenditures are examined at each meeting and evaluated through the State Department of Audit once annually. Minutes and budgets are provided to County Commissioners according to State Statutes. Minutes are available upon request to the general public.
 - f. Annual Reports (prepared more than annually) include a Calendar year report which is provided to the County Commissioners; financial Audit report is provided to the Wyoming Department of Audit based on a July 1 through June 30th Fiscal Year, Wildlife Services (APHIS) reports are generated on both a fiscal year and on a calendar year.
 - g. A report to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture gives progress of the previous grant applications successes every grant cycle ending June 30th of each year.
 - h. A contracted Secretary, bookkeeper, and grant assistant is part of the team and records meeting minutes, budget records, and assists the Board with other assigned tasks.

FREMONT COUNTY SAGE GROUSE/MULE DEER PROJECT

In the summer of 2005, the Fremont County Predator Animal Board applied for funding for a sage grouse and mule deer project through the Animal Damage Management Board. The available funding was for grouse projects only and we were only partially funded. This funding allowed us to buy the equipment we would need (trail cameras) and do a preliminary mule deer count. We were fully funded in 2006. The goal of the project has been 3-fold:

To identify which predators/animals depredate sage grouse nests. This has been accomplished using infrared motion sensing trail cameras on artificial sage grouse nests.

Measure, if possible, the differences in nesting success of sage grouse in areas of low predator control verses areas with intense predator control.

To enhance a struggling mule deer population.

The project has been conducted in Wyoming Game and Fish deer hunt area 90. The Kirby creek portion of Wind River Indian Reservation was also included. USDA Wildlife Services (WS) and Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) personnel selected this area because it contained excellent habitat and viable populations of sage grouse. This area was also an excellent choice as the Gas Hills Highway (Wyoming State 136) provides an almost identical split of the area letting us have both “treatment” and “control” portions of the project area. The treatment area simply means that this area received intense predator control and the control area limited predator control. This area of central Wyoming consists of mostly sagebrush covered rolling hills. Although the area seems relatively “desert like” at first glance, it contains abundant water, cover and food for an array of animals. It is a very popular big game hunting area for elk, deer and antelope. It is approximately 80% BLM with private ranches, reservation and state land accounting for the remaining 20%.

Sage grouse-

Considerable interest has developed in recent years regarding the biology of sage grouse. Because of a proposal to list a T&E species, the sage grouse has been the focus of considerable concern, debate and speculation in regards to habitat, predation and the future of healthy populations. Many studies have been done in regard to habitat manipulation, effects of controlled burns, sagebrush height and density and chaining. Little has been done on the effects of predation and its effects on sage grouse populations. Some argue that predation has little effect on grouse populations while others argue that predation is the main factor in the decline.

As mentioned above, the first part of the project was to use infrared, motion sensing trail cameras on artificial sage grouse nests to determine predation on eggs. Care was taken to model the artificial nests after actual grouse nests. Studies have shown that most sage grouse nest within 3 miles of the spring lek locations. This was not a problem as there was even distribution of leks in the project area. Gentle sloping sagebrush draws with adequate sage canopy, distribution and heights were selected. Most nest sites contained active grouse "sign". Sage grouse prefer 6-10" of grass in front of nesting sites. Whenever possible, these were the areas/conditions we set up our nest sites in. Nests were created using small, brown chicken eggs. Each cam was stationed at a nest site for a week and then rotated to a different site. Each cam was placed at 4 different nest sites, giving us a total of 40 different nest sites. The cameras were checked twice weekly for activity, picture downloading and maintenance during the entire month of May. The results and findings are as follows:

2006-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 13 were raided/predated. 4 of these 13 sites had re-occurring damage, giving us 17 actual damaged nests (42.5%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven – 3 damaged nests (17.6%)

Magpie – 11 damaged nests (64.7%)

Red fox – 2 damaged nests (11.8%)

Other (wild horse) – 1 damaged nest (5.9%)

2007-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 18 were raided/predated. 5 of these had re-occurring damage, giving us 23 actual damaged nests (57.5%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven – 14 damaged nests (61%)

Magpie – 6 damaged nests (26.1%)

Coyote – 1 damaged nest (4.3%)

Red fox – 1 damaged nest (4.3%)

Other (domestic cow) – 1 damaged nest (4.3%)

2008-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 14 were raided/depredated. 3 of these had re-occurring damage, giving us 17 actual damaged nests (42.5%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven – 15 damaged nests (88.2%)

Magpie – 1 damaged nest (5.9%)

Red fox – 1 damaged nest (5.9%)

2009-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 7 were raided/depredated (17.5%).

*Due to inclement weather (late spring blizzard), trail cams were under snow for approximately half of the time frame.

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven – 7 damaged nests (100%)

2010-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 20 were raided/depredated. 7 of these had re-occurring damage, giving us 27 actual damaged nests (67.5%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven - 21 damaged nests (77.6%)

Magpie – 2 damaged nests (7.4%)

Coyote – 3 damaged nests (11%)

Badger – 1 damaged nest (4%)

2011-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 16 were raided/depredated. 2 of these had re-occurring damage, giving us 18 actual damaged nests (45%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven - 14 damaged nests (77%)

Magpie - 1 damaged nests (6%)

Coyote - 3 damaged nests (17%)

2012-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 26 were raided/depredated. 4 of these had re-occurring damage, giving us 30 actual damaged nests (75%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven - 21 damaged nests (69%)

Magpie - 2 damaged nests (7%)

Coyote - 2 damaged nests (7%)

Striped skunk - 3 damaged nests (10%)

Unverified - 2 damaged nests (7%)

2013-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 7 were raided/depredated (17.5%).

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven - 5 damaged nests (71%)
Magpie - 1 damaged nest (14.5%)
Coyote - 1 damaged nest (14.5%)

2014-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 6 were raided/depredated (15%)

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven - 4 damaged nests (67%)
Skunk - 1 damaged nest (16.5%)
Unverified - 1 damaged nest (16.5%)

2015-

Of the 40 artificial nest sites, 11 were depredated (27.5%)

The species responsible were as follows:

Common raven - 6 damaged nests (55%)
Red fox - 2 damaged nests (18%)
Unverified - 3 damaged nests (27%)

2016-

To be determined May/June 2016

Over the course of our project (excluding 2016 which does not yet have data available) of 400 artificial nest sites, 157 of them had damage/predation, which is equivalent to 39%. The breakdown of species over the same time frame shows that the common raven damaged the most nests with 110 (70%). Magpies damaged 24 nests (15%). Coyotes damaged 10 nests (6%). Red foxes damaged 6 nests (4%) and the "other/unverified" category had 8 damaged nests (5%).

It is of interest that in 2013, WS started a raven control program at landfills in several Wyoming counties. Fremont County was one of them. Starting in that same year, raven predation on the artificial nests dropped fairly significantly.

The second part of the proposed project was to determine whether intense predator control (mammalian) could enhance sage grouse nesting success. Given the opportunity to study the species and related percentages of damage on artificial nest sites, it is obvious to see that the most abundant predator in the project area, the coyote, is taking a relative low numbers of nests. Given the fact that there has been a much higher coyote population

in the “control” area, coyotes should have had ample opportunity to raid/damage the nest sites. This information makes the second part of our project somewhat “moot” as there simply is not enough data to make any type of comparison. Coyotes may very well be taking a percentage of chick and adult grouse in the area as our coyote stomach analysis shows, but that objective is not part of this project. One thing that has been observed during the project is coyote tracks around nests after they have been raided by birds. It is quite possible that with the high raven population, the birds simply beat other animals to the nests.

Mule deer-

WGFD deer area 90 has been struggling to increase deer numbers to department objectives. The harsh winters of 1991 and 1992 decimated populations of big game animals in central Wyoming. It is our belief that when a population of big game animals is down and predator numbers are high, it becomes extremely hard for that population to rebound. Whereas, if a big game population is high and predator numbers are high, predation has a smaller impact on herd populations. This part of the project has been to try and reduce predation on deer in the “treatment” portion of the project area allowing doe/fawn ratios to rise enough to rebound the population. WS personnel have done yearly (late December/early January) aerial deer counts in the “treatment” (southern) portion of the project area. In December 2005, we did our first population survey prior to any control work. 232 total mule deer were counted. After this first deer count, it became clear that although the fixed wing would provide an excellent and accurate count of deer in the area, trying to separate fawns and yearling does from adult does would be an extremely time consuming and probably an inaccurate task. It was decided that we would count total number of deer. This system has allowed us to be much more effective.

2006-

289 field hours were worked
69.8 aerials hunting hours were flown
323 coyotes removed
316 mule deer aerial surveyed

2007-

381 field hours worked
74.8 aerial hunting hours flown
374 coyotes removed
489 mule deer aerial surveyed

2008-

347 field hours worked
87.6 aerial hunting hours flown
410 coyotes removed
598 mule deer aerial surveyed

2009-

178 field hours worked
61.9 aerial hours flown
239 coyotes removed
652 mule deer aerial surveyed

2010-

316 field hours worked
60.2 aerial hours flown
171 coyotes removed
518 mule deer counted

2011-

350 field hours worked
78 aerial hours flown
131 coyotes removed
366 mule deer surveyed

2012-

326 field hours worked
84 aerial hours flown
149 coyotes removed
508 mule deer surveyed

2013-

354 field hours worked
82 aerial hours flown
193 coyotes removed
356 mule deer surveyed

2014-

319 field hours worked
82 aerial hours flown
101 coyotes removed
318 mule deer surveyed

2015-

394 field hours worked
87 aerial hours flown
194 coyotes removed
588 mule deer surveyed

2016-

Data pending year end results

A look at the totals from 10 years of work on the mule deer project shows the following:

3,254 field hours worked.

767.3 aerial hunting hours flown.

2,285 coyotes removed.

Averaging the deer population over the life of the project, the number comes to 523 animals.

*Special thanks to Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board, Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. and USDA Wildlife Services personnel for assisting in this project.

**Pictures and data from this project are available on Power Point. I will be available to give presentations to any interested parties.

Tracy Frye
USDA Wildlife Services
Riverton, WY

Goshen Co. PMD

Annual Report

FY 2015-16

6-28-16

With the grant monies received from the WY ADMB , Goshen County has been able to maintain and improve service to our cooperators and the public. With lean times ahead we are very thankful for the carryover funds the ADMB allowed us to have. This money will help greatly over the next couple of years.

We have concluded the mule deer project but will continue the work in that area that we have been doing so the progress that was made will be maintained. As the report in the packet shows, fawn survival was increased. We did not get the helicopter this year because Carbon and Albany Counties did not use it this year and we could not share costs. We will try to fly more aerial hours in the project area to make up the difference.

There was an increase in starling numbers at the feedlots this winter. We baited them three times with good results along with numbers that Casey and Wiley took with firearms.

Skunk numbers are really down after the rabies outbreak in 2014. We had very few reports of abnormal skunk behavior and no positive test results for rabies. Wiley sent in three skunks and has nine more that he sent in and is waiting for results. We will continue to trap skunks and monitor for rabies.

We have continued the vulture work in Torrington and have been able to keep them from roosting in trees in town and splattering the lawns and sidewalks.

We have worked in Laramie County with Warren Livestock again this year. They started experiencing losses this spring and Casey and Wiley responded quickly on the ground and in the air. They got quite a few coyotes, including those who were killing sheep and lambs. This resulted in Warren's loss being a low number instead of thousands of dollars.

Coyote numbers in the County had been down because of the mange. The mange has appeared to run its' course so coyote numbers have increased quite a bit. Pup numbers were up quite a bit last spring and this spring so they are adjusting their numbers back up.

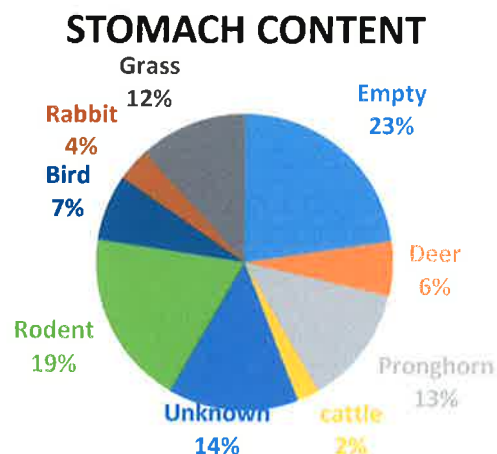
The increase in coyote numbers brought a corresponding increase in livestock losses. Casey and Wiley have done a good job of responding to these losses and kept additional losses from occurring. They have done a good job of hunting and aerial work to keep livestock losses and health and human safety issues in the County to a minimum.

Mule Deer Enhancement Project



The Mule Deer enhancement project has drawn to an end as of the fall of 2015. The project's main objective was to target areas that the deer population was below quota (WGFD), primarily in the Goshen Hole Rim within mule deer hunt area 55. Wildlife Services (WS') increased the fixed wing flying time in this area; in addition, some helicopter time was added. WS' has coordinated this time spent with livestock protection activities to better utilize time and money spent. We documented data on coyotes such as stomach contents, sex, age, and GPS locations of where coyotes were 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 with Game and Fish personnel who felt predator control in these areas would benefit the mule deer population.



Postseason Classification Report

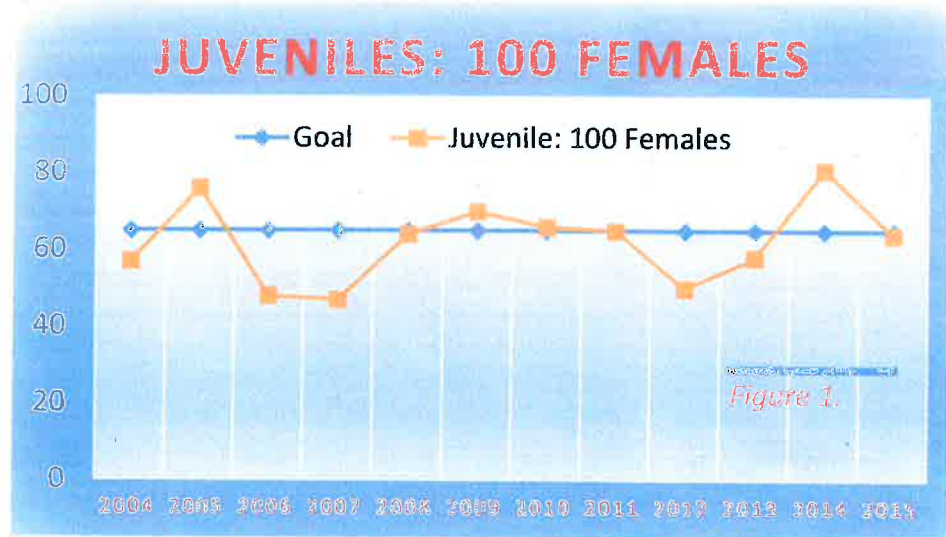
The Wyoming Game and Fish Department annually conducts a post-season (November-December) ground survey in the Goshen Rim Mule Deer Herd Unit. The annual fawn to doe ratio is determined from the survey's data. Generally, mule deer populations are considered to require a fawn ratio of at least 65 fawns per 100 does in order to maintain population size.

Coyote dens removed	6	4	6	16
Verified adult male coyotes	19	15	14	48
Verified adult female coyotes	15	15	17	47
Verified juvenile male coyotes	5	4	8	17
Verified juvenile female coyotes	3	6	11	20
Number of unverified coyotes	63	33	31	167
Overall number of coyotes removed from project area.	105	73	81	259
Year	2013	2014	2015	Total

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. In 2015 the ratio dropped slightly. There was also a noticeable increase in coyote litter size in the spring of 2015. This spring there was an increase in coyote depredation to livestock. This may have the same impact on wildlife depredation.



The picture on the left shows a fawn deer ear removed from the coyote stomach. The picture on the right illustrates a coyote removed from the project area while caring the remains of a freshly killed antelope fawn.

Hot Springs County Predator Management District

Final Report 2015-2016

In FY 2015-2016 the Hot Springs County Predator Management District (HSPMD) maintained 2.5 control agents, sharing one man with Washakie County, our neighbor to the north. These agents were contracted with Wildlife Services/APHIS and performed more than 3,000 hours of animal control work. This 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 air and ground telemetry/monitoring.

The 2015-2016 budget was set at \$230,000.00 and funds were received from the following: Hot Springs County, Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture/ADMB, Predator assessment fees (brand fees), and fur sales. All funds received from WDA/ADMB (\$198,000.00) will be expended by 6/30/2016, with the understanding that the final Wildlife Services bill and payment will not be received/made until after the fiscal year has ended.

Rabies testing was performed on 4 skunks. There were no positive samples.

Aircraft use for aerial gunning, telemetry/monitoring, and ferry time was shared with Washakie County this year. Flight hours logged were 200.6.

The HSCPMD increased its capital equipment purchases in 2015-2016 by only \$1000.00 with the purchase of a laptop computer with associated office software. No other new equipment was acquired.

Increased control measures were needed on most species, specifically for wolves, grizzly bears and black bears. The HSCPMD anticipates this trend to continue.

Hot Springs County Predator Management District

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

Mission:

Hot Springs County's mission involves a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (WS) who has signed national Memorandums of Understanding with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, 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 Hot Springs 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 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. Hot Springs County will plan to provide additional help to not only deal with the increasing number of requests for assistance to protect federal property, private property, irrigation, and crops from meso predators and protected species of wildlife but to also conduct ongoing wildlife and human health and safety projects in the county. Hot Springs will assist the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with their trophy game damage activities. Hot Springs County PMD has cooperated additional personnel with Washakie County PMD for more efficient response to wildlife management agencies to deal with trophy game species and address gray wolf damage due to management lines dissecting Hot Springs County. 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.

Wildlife related issues for Hot Springs County Predator Management District

Hot Springs County Predator Management District Program and its cooperation with Wildlife Services reach 55 different landowners in Hot Springs County and many others in neighboring counties covering 1,326,326 acres 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 publics in Hot Springs County as well as the rest of the Bighorn Basin.

Hot Springs County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of WS employees during this last year to cater to the increasing requests to our program for assistance involving such wildlife species as: grizzly bears, black bears, beavers, coyotes, fox, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, feral dogs, porcupines, badgers, grey wolves, mountain lions, sage grouse, pigeons, ravens, golden eagles, muskrats, ravens, and American crow complaints. The majority of the Hot Springs County Specialist's time since July 1, 2015 was spent answering the following complaints and providing assistance:

2,316 daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation on calves, sheep, goats, sage grouse, and livestock guarding animals;

643 tasks dealing with raccoons on chickens, sheep, pheasants, chukars, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed & buildings, and human health & safety concerns;

Several calls for assistance for grizzly predation on cattle;

57 beaver calls for damage to private property and irrigation systems;

349 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving chickens, sage grouse, pheasants, chukars, human health and safety, and property damage on residences or outbuildings;

6 mountain lion tasks for cattle, horses, sheep, and human and health safety;

434 daily tasks for grey wolf complaints involving cattle, sheep, and guard animals;

488 tasks for fox complaints with chukars, sage grouse, pheasants, chickens, cattle and sheep;

193 tasks for feral/free ranging cat complaints with chukars, sage grouse, pheasants, and health and human safety;

49 tasks for ravens with sage grouse, cattle, and sheep;

86 tasks for muskrats and porcupines with irrigation systems, trees, and watershed;

40 tasks for badgers with sage grouse, chukars, and property damage.

Johnson County Predator Management District
FY 2015-2016 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. Coyote numbers continue to accelerate, thus notice to us that control must, somehow, be increased. 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. An educational presentation to the high school ag classes is in the planning stages and would be instrumental in proving the worth of predator control to young producers.
- 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. Johnson County has also pledged \$10,000 to this program, for FY 15-16, to make up for ADMB cuts in this area. 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

April 16, 2016

Dear Kent & AMDB Members;

As stated in previous years, the goals and objectives of the Lincoln County AMDB is to provide services to prevent excessive economic losses to the agriculture industry, human health issues and wildlife management in Lincoln County. Currently, Lincoln County pays for two full-time trappers and 1/3 of the expenses of another individual. We also pay for flying both on fixed wing and helicopter. The helicopter is used to fly rough country higher elevation, lambing areas and wildlife wintering areas. The fixed wing is used for winter ranges and lambing ranges where problems occur.

Aerial gunning is an important tool in South Lincoln County. Most sheep lambing areas overlap with deer and antelope wintering areas especially for the Wyoming Range wintering areas. A study being conducted by UW and the Wyoming G&F Department determined in the summer of 2015 that 36% of fawn mortality occurred from disease of which 23% was caused by a new disease found for the first time in the state called AHD, Adenovirus Hemorrhagic Disease. In addition, another 26% occurred from predation mainly coyote and bear. These percentages are significant especially on mule deer whose population west-wide that are struggling to maintain an increase. By controlling coyotes on the winter ranges we are saving more adult females and yearling to perhaps offset the fawn mortality in fawning areas.

There are other factors affecting fawn survival of deer and antelope, and sage grouse broods; the weather, drought, cover and forage quality and quantity. Regardless, predation is a big factor as more sheep men go out of business. Flying, trapping and denning become less so predation increases and wildlife population decreases. Wyoming is being scrutinized because of sage grouse and the threat of listing so we definitely need to manage predators and ravens. If we fail, there is a good chance that reevaluation occurs and they could be put on the Threatened and Endangered list.

Livestock numbers lost to predators were down last spring and summer. Southwestern WY has had several light winters that have also helped deer survival. I personally believe the light winters and coyote control have greatly aided the mule deer population and it seems to be on an upward trend. Needless to say if Game & Fish request predator control in some areas, our PAB stated that we would participate wherever they would like.

Currently our trapper is working LaBarge Creek, Hams Fork and Cokeville where ravens have been killing calves. I do not know if Wildlife Services placed poison at the city dumps. It has really helped the past several years, not only on livestock but sage grouse. Since raven control has taken place, sage grouse numbers have greatly increased in Southwest Wyoming. Our trapper is doing a lot of work in the Star Valley area where coyotes are killing calves. This is a hard area to work because of sub-divisions and hobby ranchers. We are trying to get people to sign up to perhaps be able to do more flying in the winter. This would also help on the sheep summer ranges. As you can see we try to service all of Lincoln County where there is a need and work one of the most important wintering areas for the Wyoming Range mule deer population. Deer migrate more than 100 miles South using habitat from the Hoback and Pinedale areas.

Most people, including the Wyoming G&F, do not realize how much the trappers do to benefit wildlife. Everything we do for livestock, whether it is flying, trapping or denning, it benefits wildlife. So far this year we have taken about 300 coyotes with the chopper and ground crews. I do not know how many Wildlife Services have taken except on the Carter lease sheep winter range where the trappers and fixed wing have taken about 100 coyotes. I will get the information from Wildlife Services sometime in the future. Normally they remove about 700 coyotes. I would expect they have taken more as this winter had a good snow pack compared to the past several years.

The LCAMD is able to stay even with the coyotes and fox but wolves and bear are a big problem. Our hands are tied with wolves. By the time we get the trapper to verify and contact the Fish and Wildlife Service and get a short-time removal permit, the wolf has moved out of the area or has kept killing. So far

we have received three kill permits and the trapper has not been able to remove any wolves. The wolves have left the area. Since South Lincoln is not in the trophy game area there is no compensation. Last year we had 12 confirmed ewe kills and six lambs. I understand the legislature appropriated some money to mitigate this problem if confirmed.

We know funding is going to be tight this year. The Bridger Teton National Forest is the only forest in the state that has a large population of sheep still grazing. The Kemmerer Ranger District is using every allotment. Predators are more difficult to manage on forest service lands due to terrain, timber and lack of roads. Not often will a trapper take on a ten-hour horseback ride and have time to spend two or three days on one allotment to completely solve the problem when he has at least 15-20 additional allotments to cover.

From this discussion I hope the board will realize how important a good predatory program is to Lincoln County, its agriculture and wildlife. As previously stated, the Bridger Teton Forest is the largest USNF to have a large amount of sheep utilizing its ranges. Believe me when I tell you that not very many ranches can stay viable when they lose ten-plus percent of their crop to predators year after year.

We know that dollars are short. Ranchers know from their bankers the prices we are receiving for our goods, lamb, wool and calves. What we cannot absorb is excess losses especially to predators. It can be the difference between breaking even or losing.

We thank the ADMB for their support in the past and hope you will be able to give us as much support as you can this coming year. We anticipate having to cut some man hours.

Sincerely,

Truman Julian, President
Lincoln County PAB

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

2015-2016
Year End Report

Outline:

- I. Actions Taken
- II. Public Relations
- III. Identifiable or Measurable Results
- IV. Grant Monies expended
- V. 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.)

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 NCPMD. 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 two 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 NCPMD 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. Within the two dates, the Natrona County residents submitted 385 sets of ears. The NCPMD paid \$9,625.00 to Natrona residents.

III. **Identifiable or Measurable Results:** From July 1, 2015 to present, the three trappers and aerial flying have killed **1,896** coyotes, not counting the bounty program that accounted for an additional **385**. 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	1,544
2015-Present	1,896

Fixed Fly Time:

The following flight time has been conducted to date for the aerial removal of coyotes for July 1, 2015-present:

USDA-APHIS: **18.5 hours**

Reno Air Service: **75 hours (354 coyotes harvested)**

Total for fixed fly time is **93.5 hours**

Helicopter Fly Time: **73.57 hours**

Total coyotes harvested: **319 coyotes harvested**

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-Present	167.07 hours

IV. **Grant Monies expended for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015-July 1, 2016:**

Income/Expense

Income

Livestock Account: **\$54,535.04**
Grant Account: **\$ 62.81**
Refund Savings Account: **\$ 2,506.57**

Income Available: **\$57,104.42**

Expenses

Fly Time: \$ 83,859.72
Raven Control & Supplies: \$ 4,150.21
Office Supplies: \$ 195.98
Postage and Delivery: \$ 202.45
Contract Services: \$220,593.39
Meeting expenses: \$ 459.25
Mileage for Board Members: \$ 2,096.27
Liability Insurance: \$ 300.00
PO Box Fee: \$ 102.00
Preparation of tax forms: \$ 2,029.32
Membership (LGLP): \$ 500.00
Livestock Predator Fees: \$ 414.40
Gift: \$ 134.28
Bounty Program: \$ 9,625.00

Total Expenses Incurred: **\$324,662.27**

Available Income: **\$57,104.42**

- V. **Current Financial Statement**: For the Year End Report, NCPMD has a grant account balance of **\$62.81**. We have a livestock tax account balance of **\$54,535.04**. A Refund Saving Account was setup which has a balance of **\$2,506.57**. For a total of **\$57,104.42**.

We understand that because of the economic times our state is facing, we greatly appreciate the efforts of the Governor and the legislators to provide us with the amount they have. 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 _____th day of June 30, 2016.

Mary Owens, President NCPMD

Niobrara County PMD Grant Activities Report Narrative

June 30, 2016

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 every dollar 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. Although we remove large numbers of coyotes each year, there is never a shortage of coyotes in our county. There is a constant influx from states and counties neighboring us who do no predator control.

The privately-contracted trappers took more predators this year than last year on the ground. They also assisted in the huge number of the coyotes taken aurally. Calls from livestock producers who have heard coyotes or had loss of livestock from coyotes have increased this year, especially from sheep producers. The trappers also noticed that almost every female taken this spring was pregnant, whereas usually about one in three would be dry females.

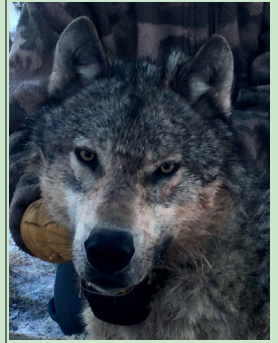
Our aerial program consists of two private contract pilots as well as an aerial contract with Wildlife Services. The majority of our flying this year has been done by Wildlife Services. They have taken a record number of coyotes out of the county.

Our 2015 annual deer count was conducted in November as usual. Total deer count numbers are up. Deer were fairly scattered and numbers may actually be better than the deer count reflected. Also, there was a very high rabbit and rodent population this year which may have decreased the predation on fawns. During the count of mule deer in the Rawhide Management Area it was noted that seven white tail deer and sixty-three elk were also seen.

Park County Predator Management District



2015-2016 Annual Report



Park County Predator Management District's (PCPMD) contracts with United States Department of Agriculture-Wildlife Services (WS) to provide a high-quality wildlife damage management service for all those that reside in Park County.

The PCPMD has 2 full-time WS agents and shares one WS agent with Bighorn County. Most duties were conducted by the 2.5 employees; however, ten other WS employees (including pilots, gunners, and biologists) helped out within Park County during this reporting period. The data for this report is from March 1st, 2015-February 29th, 2016. There were 65 different properties totaling 1,992,405 acres of public and private land that requested services from WS during this reporting period. The total man hours worked in the county was 3,471 hours.

A total of 160.3 hours of fixed wing and 3.3 hours of helicopter time were spent in Park County during the reporting period. WS removed the following animals in response to damage conflict:

- Beavers: 3
- Coyotes: 444 + 15 dens
- Fox, Red: 15 + 2 dens
- Magpie, Black-billed: 24
- Raccoons: 233
- Striped Skunks: 19
- European Starlings: 4,326
- Wolves, Gray: 21

Board Members

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Tod Stutzman,
Powell, Wy.
- * Vice President
Allen Hogg,
Meeteetse, Wy.
- * Sec/Treasurer
Regan Smith,
Powell, Wy.
- * Daniel Bergum
Cody, Wy
- * Rori Reener
Meeteetse, Wy.
- * Shane Smith
Powell, Wy.
- * Zane Bryan
Cody, Wy.
- * Lloyd Thiel
Powell, Wy.
- * Keith Schuebel
Cody, Wy.
- * Lee Livingston
Cody, Wy.
- * Tim Hockhalter,
Cody, Wy.





Livestock Protection

Park County sits adjacent to vast wilderness and Yellowstone National Park, where large carnivore species are managed for healthy, abundant populations. Gray wolves and Grizzly bears frequent livestock operation areas regularly and damage occurs annually.

Presently, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) oversee the management of the wolves in Wyoming, and WS assists the USFWS in Park County when wolves cause damage by removing specific wolves. During the reporting period, WS responded 49 times to wolf complaints involving livestock, and 21 wolves were removed on damage. 9 of those 21 were removed conducting ground work (shooting), while the other 12 were taken by aerial hunting (5 from fixed wing, 7 from helicopter).

With the amount of wolf work and the limited funds from USFWS to help with wolf work, Park County WS was very conservative with aerial hours, keeping in mind that there will most likely be more wolf issues, and other counties as well are dependent on these federal dollars to deal with livestock/wolf conflicts. At this time, USFWS hasn't committed any funds to WS for the 2016-17 to resolve wolf/livestock issues..

Park County WS assists Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) responding to damage by black bear, mountain lion, and can assist as well in some grizzly bear issues. WS responded once to a reported black bear threat, once to a reported mountain lion kill, and assisted WGFD on multiple damage calls where grizzly bears had been involved.



Wildlife Protection

Park County agreed to use WS personnel as the primary data collection staff for the Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Project during the 15-16 season. This is the last year of the 5-year project that Dr. Jimmy Taylor, the lead researcher, has conducted in cooperation with Wildlife Services. The WS personnel spent 938 hours in Park County towards capturing sage grouse and data collection during this reporting period. Dr. Taylor plans on having the research from the study published in the Spring of 2016.

Meeteetse Conservation District (MCD) has asked Park County for WS personnel's assistance to help capture sage grouse during the 2016 breeding season for a different research project led by MCD. It was agreed by Park County that WS will provide 200 hours of assistance to capture and collar grouse for the MCD.

We continue to learn through GPS collar research that Park County is major wintering grounds for big game, as far as Jackson Lake. With the decline in mule deer populations, the removal of 444 coyotes and 21 wolves have positive impacts on these wintering big game populations.



Crop, Irrigation, and Human Health and Safety Resources Protection

There are important resources in need of protection from wildlife damage and diseases. The Park County WS Specialists spent a large amount of time working to resolve these requests.

- WS responded 180 times to corn damage by raccoons and striped skunks
- WS responded 110 times to irrigation/ditch systems by raccoons, beavers, and skunks
- WS made 78 visits in response to public safety from black bear, grizzly bear, beavers, coyotes, American crows, red fox, magpies, raccoons, and striped skunks.
- WS responded 60 times to sunflower damage by blackbirds, magpies, raccoons, and skunks.
- WS responded 56 times to building (residential and non-residential) protection from raccoons and striped skunks.
- WS made 42 visits in response to barley damage by raccoons, skunks, and blackbirds.
- Samples from coyotes, red foxes, raccoons, striped skunks, and wolves were submitted for disease testing. 22 total samples were submitted, were one raccoon was positive for canine distemper and the two samples were tested positive for echinococcus, a parasite that can be transmitted to livestock and humans.

Starlings and other blackbirds carry a plethora of diseases. Large infestations of these species can create a disease threat that is transmissible to both livestock and humans. WS provided assistance in Park County with the use of DRC-1339, a blackbird-specific avicide, and successfully reduced bird infestations where livestock feed was damaged and where there were real threats of disease to both



Park County Predator District's Management Plan for 2016-17

Park County Predator Management District's management plan is to continue working with USDA- Wildlife Services. WS enters into agreements, on an annual basis with Shoshone National Forest, the District BLM office, WGFD, and USFWS. WS also cooperates with other government agencies and private landowners county-wide. The cooperation puts our PMD 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 goal is to respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after our personnel are contacted. Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, as well as lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage problems, along with technical assistance to reduce or avoid future damage issues by wildlife. All activities performed by the PCPMD and WS will be performed in a professional manner, following all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

With wolves listed as an endangered species in Wyoming and under the USFWS authority, WS will work closely with USFWS to ensure compliance and cooperation from all entities when resolving wolf issues.

Disease samples from mammalian species will be taken throughout the county and sent in to the State Lab for testing, particularly from those animals that appear sick or abnormal behavior. Animal samples will help gauge the prevalence of diseases in our populations.



Sheridan County Management Plan 2016 – 2017 Fiscal Year

- 1 The mission of the Sheridan County Predator Management District (PMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Sheridan County.
- 2 Sheridan County is located in the north central part of the state and has a land mass of just over 2,500 square miles. According to the National Agriculture Statistics Service, Sheridan County livestock numbers in 2011 total approximately 4,000 sheep and 42,000 beef cattle.
- 3 Our one full and one part time management specialists removed the following animals in response to conflicts with wildlife, livestock predation, nuisance, private property damage or human and safety issues during the 2015 calendar year.

Coyotes	930
Coons	0
Red fox	54
Skunks	174
Bears	1

- 4 **A) *Wildlife Issues*** – The numbers of ravens, crows, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes in Sheridan County are at healthy levels. Many of the livestock producers in the county also receive additional income from wildlife activities, i.e. hunting. There is also the benefit to the public of viewing wildlife, whether they hunt or not.

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



- C) *Proposed Actions*** – The Sheridan County PMD proposes the following:

Expanding the use of aerial hunting to better manage predator numbers in specific areas within the county. The PMD has designated six areas for concentrated aerial control using the helicopter: We will be promoting more public involvement on awareness of trapping on public land, such as how to release a dog from a trap.

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

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

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



AREA 4 – North along Leiter and Passic County Rd's to the Montana state line, east to the Campbell County line, south to Hwy 14/16. Primary purpose is to remove coyotes from the Powder River area, for mule deer recovery and calving grounds. 250 hrs

AREA 5 – From Sheridan, north along Interstate 90, then east along Buffalo Creek to Passaic County Rd as the east and southern border. From there, north to the Montana state line. Primary purpose is mule deer recovery. 400 hrs

AREA 6 – West of Sheridan and north of Banner, WY along the Big Horn Mountains, then north to the Montana state line. Primary purpose is mule deer recovery. 350 hrs

AREA 1 & 3 –Due to the request from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department we will be increasing predator control work targeting red fox, raccoons, and skunks in nesting and brood rearing habitat surrounding sage grouse lek sites. We will focus on an area within a

couple miles of the lek. Also at their request we will be stepping up efforts to control coyotes in deer hunt area 23 and antelope hunt areas 17 and 109. This is to increase the fawn to doe ratio.



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



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

C) Proposed Actions – The addition of the aforementioned flying time will have a tremendous impact on prevention of livestock losses, as this method is often one of the

best tools for coyote control. The PMD is also budgeting for part-time time contract hunter to help the current full time trapper. This help is necessary to relive some of the burden from our trapper. The flight time mentioned above, as well as the hours of fixed wing flying and continued ground work will improve effectiveness in minimizing livestock losses. This will also help with fawn survival in the spring, thru the summer. We will also be spending more time on our Northern border with Montana.



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

Sweetwater County Predator Management District

March 30, 2016

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 in the past. This additional emphasis on these areas hoped to improve deer/fawn ratios. We will continue to help support their efforts again this year in other areas that they identify.
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

Uinta County Predator Management District

2016-2017 Management Plan

The mission of the Uinta County Predator Management District is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Uinta County, Wyoming.

Uinta County is located in the southwest corner of the state with a total of 917,734 acres. The County is home to some of the premier wildlife populations in the State. The 335 farms and ranches within the county provide critical habitat for these populations, as well as significant agricultural benefits to the residents of Uinta County and the State of Wyoming. According to the 2012 USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Uinta County ranked 2nd in sheep numbers and 18th in cattle numbers in the State.

I. Wildlife Issues

Sage Grouse – (*Centrocercus Urophasinus*) The Greater Sage Grouse is facing the possibility of being listed as threatened or endangered.

- The district will provide specialists to conduct predator control efforts necessary for successful predation reduction and subsequent increases of the Greater Sage Grouse. Control work will be targeting coyote, red fox, and ravens.
- Site specific methods will be utilized to concentrate the work and increase efficiency. i.e.; fenceline snares.
- The goal of these efforts will be to achieve a reduction of the targeted predators, thereby allowing for an increase in Sage Grouse numbers.

Mule Deer – (*Odocoileus hemionus*) The UCPMD is working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department on a Mule Deer radio collar study in the Cedar Mountain area.

- Study continues with radio collars being affixed to 20 plus Mule Deer does.
- Predator control work will be handled by Uinta County Predator Management District with the contracting of aerial helicopter work in critical fawning areas just prior to fawning season.
- A grant from the State ADMB for \$10,000.00 will provide the funding for helicopter work.
- The goal is to determine seasonal habitats and migration patterns as well as mortality.

II. LIVESTOCK ISSUES

Fall Sheep Range - There has been increased predation on the fall sheep range of all the sheep producers' areas within the last 2 years.

- The goal is to reduce predation on sheep during the fall season after leaving the summer range in the High Uinta Mountains. This area is right on the Utah-Wyoming State Line.
- The district proposed contracting helicopter work on both sides of the State line. The Utah Department of Wildlife Resources will provide the helicopter and the gunner.
- Producers funded the flight time on the Utah side with contributions to a fund administered by the Utah Woolgrowers Association.
- The UCPMD will fund the work on the Wyoming side of the State Line. An amended budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year will be adopted with funds coming out of the Unreserved Fund Balance.

III. Health and Human Safety

Sampling -Random samples are conducted on take by specialists to determine the presence or absence of mange. Last year there were two cases of mange in producer herd dogs. This was quickly dispatched and there have been no further cases to report.

IV. Pre and Post Work Monitoring

- The stated goals and proposed actions will be monitored following the work performed, to determine if desired results were accomplished.
 - Take numbers from aerial flights (primarily coyotes)
 - Surveyed take numbers from pesticide application (ravens)
 - Samples from take sent to lab for analysis

- Reports to the UCPMD will be furnished to determine if the proposed actions have achieved the expected results.
 - Flight log and flight paths (If available from GPS tracking)
 - Specialist reports and time logs.
 - Annual Wildlife Service's summary.

- Reports and summaries will be included in the district's Annual Report to be provided July 1, 2016.
 - Subsequent to report analysis, the Board will determine the successfulness of the management actions undertaken.
 - Ascertain budget requirements for next fiscal year.
 - Future management plan based on the conclusions

V. Budget Request

The Uinta County Predator Management District is requesting \$214,187.00 for the fiscal year; July 1, 2016 - June 30, 2017.

This amount is slightly below last year's request of \$222,750.00

Personnel - Uinta County works contracts with Wildlife Services and employs;

- 2- full time specialists (trappers)
- 1- “roving specialist” who works collaboratively in Uinta, Sublette, Lincoln and Sweetwater Counties

Aerial – District flying

- Wildlife Services provides a fixed wing aircraft for aerial assistance.
- The district also contracts with a local private contractor to provide aerial assistance.
- The Helicopter contracting is done by availability.
 - Four private contractors
 - The budget of helicopter time is crucial because;
 - ✓ Areas with the greatest loss to livestock and wildlife.
 - ✓ Areas with greatest difficulty to fly.
 - Use of helicopter only when absolutely necessary.
 - The Wyoming Game and Fish Department utilizes ship while in the area.
 - Wyoming Game and Fishes request cost is \$10,000.

Use of Reserves – The Uinta County Predator Management District has received significant reductions from \$30,000 to \$70,000 in the last 5 years. This year we will use

approximately \$80,000 of the Unreserved Fund balance from monies appropriated by the State Legislature that UCPMD accumulated by efficient appropriation of those important and very much appreciated resources. The District currently holds some reserves, however the Restricted Prior Reserve Fund balance are monies that were NOT monies received from the State Legislature and the Grant process that began April 1, 2006. The “Predatory Animal District of Uinta County”, which was the former entity before the reformation in 2006-2007, came into the grant process with the aforementioned funds. Decades of effort by the boards before the current board made every effort to efficiently operate, and effectively accumulate the reserves held to date. We as a current board of directors, feel an appreciation and obligation to continue in their ways.

Respectfully submitted,

UCPMD.

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 citizens of Uinta County. For the fiscal year July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016, 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 cost of the Wildlife Services fixed wing has increased from \$150.00/hr. to \$160.00/hr.

The district also contracted private aerial light aircraft work which provides an added benefit when the Wildlife Services fixed wing is unavailable.

The district also contracts some private helicopter work from Wyoming Helicopters Inc. out of Boulder Wyoming. They are very reputable and experienced and the district receives a significant benefit from them.

Some of the private helicopter work performed, was done on Mule Deer fawning grounds prior to fawning. This is in conjunction with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and is part of the Cedar Mountain Mule Deer study to determine the effects of predator control on Mule Deer populations in the area. This work also benefits 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 losses this year. Losses were especially heavy after returning from the Uinta Mountain summer range. There is a need for increased work during the summer on areas livestock use during the fall. Most of the producers surveyed expressed a substantial increase in predation last fall. The district is of the mind that the reduction in funding directly correlates to the increase in predation. 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. The reduced amount of aerial work is a major reason for the increase in predation and predator numbers. A summary of the work by Wildlife Services for the year table WS-1:

This year the local sheep producers once again 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 (2016). These results are in table UW-1:

The district also contracted with a local light aircraft 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, however the reduction in funding limited the amount of work provided to the district. These results are located in table JH-1:

Washakie County Predator Management District



2015-2016 Annual Report

The mission of the Washakie County Predator Management District (PMD) is to provide reasonable solutions to wildlife damage issues county-wide. This includes agricultural protection, disease testing and monitoring of zoonotic diseases, and conducting projects to ensure the protection and conservation of natural resources. The District plans to meet all challenges to solve wildlife damage in the most cooperative, efficient, and cost effective manner.

Washakie County contracts with United States Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services (WS), who is professionally trained to respond to all damage complaints. WS has agreements and strong working relationships with federal, state, and local government which helps facilitate an effective wildlife damage program.

Washakie County has 2.5 WS trappers working within the county, as well as 1 pilot, gunners, wildlife specialists from neighboring counties, and WS biologists. This data report was created mid-March, so the most recent 365 day period was used (March 1st, 2015-February 29th ,2016) to generate the number of hours worked/hours flown, and animals taken. The total hours worked in the County during this time period is 4,209 hours on 61 different properties county-wide totaling 1,558,642 acres.

During this reporting period, 172.7 hours were flown fixed-wing. The following animals were taken in response to conflicts with livestock, wildlife, nuisance, property, or human health and safety.

Beavers: 9

Coyotes: 648

Coyote dens: 8

Foxes, Red: 25 + 4 red fox dens

Raccoons: 154

Striped skunk: 25

Board Members

President: Rolly Redland,
Ten Sleep, Wy

Vice President: Mark
Dooley, Worland, Wy

Sec/Treasurer: Chris
Schmeltzer, Worland, Wy

Mark Brewster, Ten Sleep,
Wy

Aaron Anderson, Ten Sleep,
Wy

Kirk Tolman, Worland, Wy

Joe Winkler, Worland, Wy

Bob Eisle, Worland, Wy

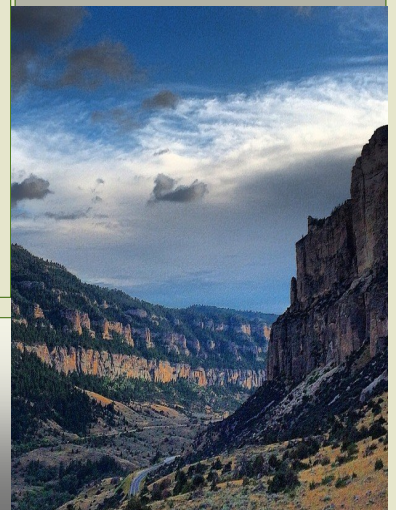
WS' Specialists:

Brad Seaman—Full time

Tyler O'Brien—Full time

Josh Zimmerman—Half time

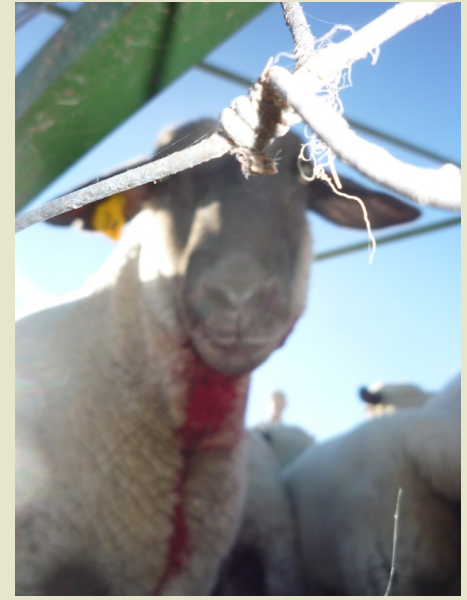
**Please Contact Wyoming USDA/
APHIS/Wildlife Services if more
information is needed**



Coyotes

WS responded 1,901 times to address coyote predation or threats to calves, sheep, mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, and horse foals.

Coyote numbers responded to increased prey populations with larger numbers this season. Coyote livestock depredation was minimal due to aggressive removal in and around livestock operations. There were 648 coyotes and 8 dens removed in Washakie County this reporting period.



Bushnell

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Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Project

This was the last year of field data collection for the 5-year sage grouse study that Washakie County was included in. WS specialists provided 638 hours towards monitoring and surveys during this reporting period. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University, the lead researcher, will have a paper published on the project by spring of 2016. A special thanks to those that have been involved with the project. We hope the money and time invested in the project can translate into solid information that will benefit Wyoming and the Greater sage grouse.



Wolf Depredation Management

Washakie WS employees assisted sheep and cattle producers with reports of wolf kills or threats in both Washakie and Johnson Counties. WS trappers responded 17 times to reported wolf kills/threats in both Washakie and Johnson County. As a result, one wolf was removed in Johnson County that had killed sheep. We anticipate more wolf/livestock interaction in the south Bighorns this upcoming year as there have been reported sightings this winter.

Crop, gamebird, general property protection, and disease monitoring program

Resources throughout Washakie County that needs protection from wildlife species includes: Public/private road infrastructure, dikes, ditches, and dams, crop commodities such as corn, buildings (including residences), beehives, livestock feed, gamebirds, as well as human health safety (disease monitoring in mammals).

WS made 221 visits to address game bird protection from red fox, raccoon, striped skunk, feral cat, and coyote.

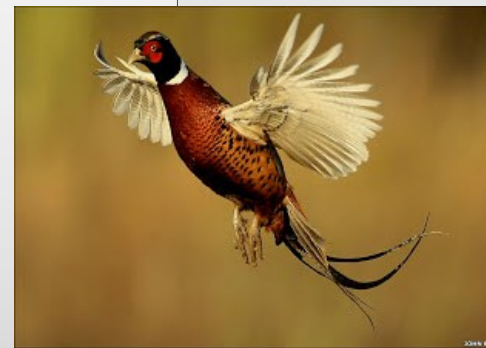
WS made 31 visits protecting buildings (including residential) from raccoons, striped skunks, and European starlings.

WS responded 121 times to address dikes, ditch, irrigation systems from beaver and raccoon.

WS responded 228 times to address crop damage from raccoon and striped skunk.

WS made 128 visits to address general property damage (gardens, landscape, livestock feed, etc) from beavers, raccoons, striped skunks, European starlings, and coyotes.

Both striped skunk and red fox samples were sent to the state lab from suspected animals for testing of rabies.



Response to Trophy Game Depredations:

Washakie County WS, under the direction of Wyoming Game and Fish, responded to complaints of livestock depredations from both black bear and mountain lion in Washakie and Johnson county during the reporting period:

WS verified \$741 in sheep damage during the reporting period due to both mountain lion and black bear.

WS responded 5 times to mountain lion/sheep complaints in Washakie Co.

WS responded 15 times to black bear/sheep and cattle complaints in Washakie Co.

WS responded 18 times to black bear/sheep complaints in Johnson Co.

WS responded 10 times to mountain lion/sheep complaints in Johnson Co.



District Management Plan for 2016-17 year:

Washakie County Predator Management District (WCPMD) and its cooperation with Wildlife Services plan to offer assistance to all those in the county with wildlife damage issues.

WS works, through MOU's and property agreements, to maintain strong working relationships with the BLM Worland Office, Bighorn USFS, Wyoming Game and Fish (WGFD), public health and safety agencies, local government, and private landowners county-wide.

WCPMD depends on the 2.5 FTE's to continue a combination of ground and aerial work county-wide to alleviate wildlife damage. Washakie County's plan is to continue with an effective livestock protection program county-wide. We suspect there will be wolf depredations on the Bighorn Forest in either/both Washakie and Johnson Counties following some damage issues and recent sightings, as well as black bear and mountain lion depredations.

The Bighorn Basin-wide sage grouse project will be ending this year with one more sage grouse capture which will take place in April 2016. For the 2016-17 year, WCPMD plans on proposing a new ADMB wildlife project to provide assistance to WGFD implementing coyote removal on key fawning ranges to help augment doe:fawn ratios in the southwest Bighorn mule deer population.

WCPMD plans on continuing with an aggressive crop/property/gamebird project targeting smaller mammals like red fox, raccoons, beavers, and striped skunks. This is a valuable service that also allows for the sampling of diseases from these mammals including rabies, tularemia, and distemper. WCPMD plans to submit wildlife samples to the Vet Lab to test for these diseases within the county.



***Weston County Predator
Management Board
Program Overview
2016***



Weston County Predator Management Board

The Weston County Predator Management Board has strived to deliver a Predator management strategy that serves everyone in Weston County. We have developed a program that has looked at all the facets that predators affect. We strive to help everyone from the large livestock producer to the big game hunter on public land to the shop owner in downtown Newcastle.



We have keyed our coyote management program on major dispersal routes. We concentrate our preventive maintenance lines on these routes which assists in keeping the surplus localized before it spreads throughout the county. One key to this being effective is being diversified in the tools used. The Weston County program uses all the tools available including Neck Snares, M-44's (most used by one trapper in the state most years), Leghold Traps, Denning, Calling and Shooting and when needed Fixed Wing Aerial Operations. We strive to use fixed wing only when it is at its peak effectiveness or a necessity to stop livestock depredation. Basing a program on being diversified on major dispersal routes keeps our program less

dependent on aerial operations. The advantage of keeping the dispersal down county wide is that when a trouble call does come in it is much easier and economical to dissect the problem and remove the offending animal or animals and get the depredation stopped quickly. The main objective we strive to achieve is keeping predator densities down in livestock and wildlife birthing areas and keeping the average age of the predator under three years of age.



We have always made sure to observe stomach contents and litter sizes on a yearly average and converse with our state disease biologist (Mike Pipas) and Game and Fish officers (Troy Acterhoff and Joe Sandrini) of Weston County on what we are finding. Keeping in touch with these individuals keeps us well informed on where we can help the local big game herds and local hunters. We have recently helped Mike with a project helping trap ducks in Weston County to be tested for Avian Influenza. We have helped Mike with a nationwide surveillance program dealing with the testing of raccoons for Raccoon Roundworm which we had the highest count of roundworms found in one raccoon in the state of Wyoming. We have in the past helped the Game and Fish officers to help with Mountain Lion issues in Newcastle and the surrounding housing communities. We have also helped the Wyoming Game and Fish in conjunction with the ADMB with a study on depredation of the local Big Horn Sheep herd in the Elk Mountain area.

Recently we have also expanded our program with more beaver work in the county when available from our normal predator issues. Beavers have been expanding in the Skull Creek and Oil Creek areas causing problems for both livestock getting bogged down and flooding roads and hay fields. We have been able to quickly assess and remove the problem beavers using both foothold and coniber traps and get the water flowing where it should be as soon as possible so that the rancher has the least amount of their operation affected.

The Weston County Predator Management Board also maintains a pigeon removal program in partnership with The Wyoming Refining Company to help with the spread of multiple diseases. This project also keeps the destruction of property to a minimum in downtown Newcastle and helps keep a safe working environment at the Newcastle Refinery. We use a combination of both toxicants and shooting to be the most effective.

We also continue to deal with multiple skunk issues and maintain a rabies monitoring program with any abnormal activities. We have not had a positive test result but are going to continue sending in skunk samples for testing.

Our trappers are also in constant surveillance of reported wolf and wolf track sightings. We have had a confirmed sighting and pictures of a wolf 13 miles east of Newcastle near Jewel Cave in the Black Hills of South Dakota so it is inevitable that we will be dealing with wolves in the near future.

In our ongoing attempt to keep the community involved with the program our trapper puts on two different youth classes each year. One class is for the Upton Young Guns youth group on animal identification. The other is a three day class for the fifth graders of Newcastle at Mallo Camp on predator management and management tools used. These have been going on for multiple years and are very well received. This is a way to connect with the youth and their parents on why predator management and disease surveillance is used and needed.

We would like to thank you for this opportunity and consideration on our budget.

(Pictures courtesy of Nickalina Groenwold)

