

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

2014 Annual Report



Compiled by the Wyoming Department of Agriculture



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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MEMORANDUM

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

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

DATE: November 27, 2014

SUBJECT: 2014 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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2014 Major Issue Overview

Gray Wolf Relisting

In late September, the federal judge in Washington D.C. ruled against the Wyoming Wolf Management Plan and relisted wolves in Wyoming under the Endangered Species Act. This action took away the ability for the ADMB to manage the gray wolf in the established predator zone and the flex zone, during March 1-October 14 each year. The ADMB had been working with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, USDA-Wildlife Services, and county predator district board members on this new management. In addition, the State Legislature and Governor provided funds to the ADMB to manage gray wolves in the predator areas. With the relisting, all state activity in the predator and flex zones is now on hold.

Rabies Activity in Goshen County

Starting last winter, Goshen County has been dealing with a newly identified strain of rabies that has rapidly moved across the county. Since November 2013, 47 skunks, 2 feral cats and 1 fox have tested positive for rabies in Goshen County. Well over 100 skunks have exhibited unusual behavior. The local predator district, along with support from WDA staff have worked to educate the citizens of Goshen County about the actions of the rabies virus and the steps that can be taken to reduce exposure humans and domestic animals. Over 2000 educational brochures were distributed. The local predator district organized an education and planning session for Goshen County town and county health and law enforcement personnel, with WDA staff providing part of the presentation. The local predator board organized a rabies vaccination clinic on one Saturday in April. The veterinary personnel at the clinic vaccinated 900 animals, including, dogs, cats, horses, and 4-H animals. They had to turn folks away as they ran out of vaccine.

2014 Overview

1. **Meetings:** The Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) met four (4) times over the course of the calendar year January 15, May 7-8, June 10, and November 3 (conference call). Agendas and meeting minutes are included in this report.
2. **Predator District Funding:** The ADMB received applications from 19 qualifying predator management districts across the state that totaled \$4.01 million. On May 8, the ADMB granted \$3.32 million for those districts.
3. **Projects:** Eleven different research/special project proposals were evaluated by the ADMB that totaled \$223,672. The ADMB approved \$165,932 in funding for 8 projects (3 new, 5 renewing multiple year,) this past year. Project synopses are included with this report. Complete project reports are available upon request.
4. **Rabies Management:** Renewed the state-wide wildlife rabies management plan with a modified budget. Maintain a Wyoming rabies website at www.wyorabies.org. Continued a state-wide rabies surveillance program, with laboratory validation of rabies prevalence. Four on the ground management programs are in operation.
5. **Program Partnerships:** The ADMB and Wyoming Ag in the Classroom have joined forces in developing and distributing predator management related curriculum to classrooms across Wyoming through the Country to Classroom publication and the Teacher Rendezvous.
6. **Promotion & Funding:** As part of the promotion of the voluntary Wildlife Damage Management Stamp, the board has changed the printing of the stamp. Because of production costs exceeding the income for a number of years, the ADMB is using an electronic stamp that can be purchased at the Game and Fish license outlets. Since starting two years ago, income has exceeded expenses both years.
7. **Public Relations:** Members and staff participated in the Wyoming Outfitters and Guides Association annual convention, Wyoming Wool Growers annual convention, the Wyoming Farm Bureau annual business meeting, and plan to participate in the Wyoming Stock Growers meeting in December.
8. **Legislative:** There were not any additions or changes to predatory statutes during this last legislative session.
9. **Information Dissemination:** The ADMB website at <http://www.wyadmb.com> continues to be maintained and provides available information regarding the current activities and programs for the ADMB. Staff traveled to Nevada to help the Nevada Department of Agriculture develop an ADMB-like program to benefit livestock producers and wildlife enthusiasts.

In Progress:

1. The next regular meeting of the ADMB will be January 14, 2015 at the Wyoming Game & Fish Dept. Headquarters in Cheyenne, 5400 Bishop Blvd.
2. Project applications for consideration at the January 14, 2015 meeting will be accepted until January 9, 2015.
3. Project applications for the June 2015 meeting will be accepted from March 15 to May 15, 2015.

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WYOMING

ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Game & Fish Commission

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

DATE: August 19, 2014

SUBJECT: Request for Funds

In accordance with Wyoming Statute 11-6-307, the ADMB is requesting \$100,000.00 (one-hundred thousand dollars) from the Wyoming game and fish commission. A synopsis of the projects selected for funding by the ADMB at the June 10, 2014 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 '14-15 ADMB Projects

Standing Projects:

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

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

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

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

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

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

4) Removal of coyotes from mule deer parturition habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit- Funding: \$21,500

Synopsis: Remove coyotes using ground and aerial lethal control techniques in an effort to improve mule deer fawn survival. Submitted by: Carbon County Predator Management District

5) Country to Classroom School publication – Funding: \$1,500

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

New Projects:

6) 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

7) Bear Trap for Thermopolis Area – Funding \$5,000

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

8) Enhanced Electric Fence for Sheep Protection in the Upper Green River Area – Funding \$7,932.99

Synopsis: The purpose of this project is to ensure the safety of sheep and herders from depredating wolves, coyotes and bears while meeting USFS and USFWS demands on a forest grazing permit in the Upper Green River area. Submitted by: Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Note: All projects, with the exception of Country to Classroom publication, were approved for G&F Commission funds. These approved projects total \$164,432.99. 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, \$25,000
- 2) Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range, \$50,000
- 3) Removal of Coyotes from the Mule Deer Parturition Habitat in the Platte Valley Herd Unit, \$21,500
- 4) Removal of Coyotes from Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain, \$3,500

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

Agenda

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Talbott)
 - Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of November 6, 2013 Minutes
- 9:10 a.m. - Review of ADMB Funding Applications and Designation of Remaining Funds
- 9:45 a.m. - Review of ADMB Strategic Plan, Lucy Pauley, Mediation Coordinator, Wyoming Department of Agriculture
- 10:45 a.m. - Break
- 11:00 noon - Discussion on Golden Eagle Status, Depredation, and Falconer Issues, Clint Riley, Asst. Regional Director, Migratory Birds and State Programs, Mountain-Prairie Region, USFWS
- 12:00 p.m. - Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Tour of National Wildlife Research Center, Ft. Collins, CO
- 5:00 p.m. - Adjourn

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

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB)

January 15, 2014

Game and Fish Office, 5500 Bishop Blvd. Cheyenne, Wyoming

In attendance: Scott Talbott, Co-Chairman, Jason Fearneyhough, Co-Chairman, Richard Klouda, Amanda Hulet, Gene Hardy, Bill Taliaferro, Kevin Kisicki, John Espy, Dennis Saville, Mark Sattelberg, Cheryl Chatham, Sy Gilliland, Rod Krischke.

Absent: Shaun Sims, Dale Leatham

Guests: Hank Uhden, Mike Parker, Carter Wilkner, Lucy Pauley, Sam Crow, Dan McCarron and Muff Parker (recorder), Clint Riley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver office, Kent Drake

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Talbott at 9:05 a.m.

Minutes

Kent Drake asked the members to consider approving the minutes from the November 6, 2013 meeting. Kent noted that the meeting at Trail Lake has been changed to June 9-11, 2014. **Bill Taliaferro made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2013 meeting with the change of the Trail Lake meeting date. Motion seconded and carried.**

Strategic Plan

Kent said the Strategic Plan is usually reviewed and updated each January. He asked Lucy Pauley to go through the plan with the members and do the necessary updating, which was done. Lucy will make the recommended changes and return them to the board.

NASS Update

Rhonda Brandt, the State NASS Director updated those in attendance on the Cattle Loss Survey and to ask the Board to consider paying for the survey in 2015. She said that due to no funds, the January survey was not done. Richard Klouda asked Rhonda if there is a fudge factor build into the death loss. She said they strive to have less than a 3% error rate, but it varies on each survey. Rod Krischke asked her why the information in the footnotes was not categorized in the predator section. Rhonda said she does not know, but obtain the answer and get back with the board. She said the request for 2013 was \$11,100, but with inflation, the cost could possibly be \$11,400 to \$11,500 for 2015. She also said that the USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services pay for this survey every fifth year. Rod said he will find out when his agency paid for this last.

Funding

Kent said there was \$14,000 left for funding, with eight applications. He asked the members to not give a little to each applicant because of the time and cost of preparing eight contracts. Gene feels that dividing the balance of funding into the eight applications will not do anyone enough good.

Sy Gilliland made a motion to approve the \$5,000 request by Scott Smith with the Wyoming Game and Fish for the Identifying crucial fawning areas to allow targeted and effective predator control in the Wyoming Range Project. The motion was seconded by Bill Taliaferro. Motion passed.

John Espy made a motion to approve \$9,000 of the request by Steve Jones with the Meeteetse Conservation District for the Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of greater sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin. The motion was seconded by Gene Hardy. Motion passed.

With Ron Clark on the phone, the discussion of the Golden Eagle predation and the permitting process ensued. Clint Riley, US Fish and Wildlife Service, said there are three categories to keep in mind and they are status, regulatory and depredation.

He went on to explain that status is the development of the eagle which appears to be stable. They have been tracking and collaring them for the past five years. They know that several eagles tagged in New Mexico spend a lot of time in Wyoming as do several tagged further north. They use a baseline of six eagles for falconers, due to predation. He emphasized this is a baseline and isn't always the rule.

On the regulation side, a new decision will be made on a national finding for the take of golden eagles. He further explained that it will be 1) consistent with the preservation of the eagles; 2) the actual depredation and; 3) only when there aren't other methods. Other methods include hazing/harassing, trapping and relocating. USFWS has a permit for hazing/harassing. USFWS also has a contractor on call to trap and relocated the eagle. This process can be done fairly quickly during lambing season. After they are released, the tracking date from being collared will help them to know more about the eagle. He said the regulations are set up for the conservation and protection of eagles, rather than providing eagles for the falconers. He said there may be a problem in the future if trapping and relocation, as well as take doesn't work. He also said he feels the interest of falconers will grow as opportunities grow. He said they would also like to have conversations with ranchers to better understand the predation issues of golden eagles.

Bill Taliaferro feels the USFWS doesn't have any idea how many eagles are out there, and this program doesn't work. Clint agreed that they don't know as much as they would like to know, but they are working on it.

John Espy would like to know why a producer would jump through all of the hoops and there not be any action to benefit them in the short or long term. Clint replied they are working on reducing the hoops, but they are trying to work under the law.

Sam Crow said in his time working with eagles, he has found that harassing has not had any effect. Clint replied that, again, they are working on changing things and he reiterated they do not know nearly enough about the eagles.

Dan McCarron would like to see the trapping open up to all falconers and he thinks they would probably only see ten to twelve eagles, and then re-examine this in four to five years.

Mike Barker is a falconer from Bozeman and he spoke to the depredation permits and falconer permits are not the same. He said he has to go to a depredation area for the eagle. He thinks USFWS needs to take another look at the regulations. Clint said there is a point where the depredation permits exceed six, they would have a hard time justifying that.

Kent Drake asked where they should go from here. Clint is going to go back and check out a few things to alleviate the bottle neck everyone seems to be experiencing. He also said he would like to work better with Wildlife Services are they are the ones who relate the information on to them (USFWS),

Clint would like to see how to reduce depredation in a year rather than the mechanics of issuing the permits. He would also like to see us on the same page by hunting season. He thanked the falconers and the USFWS for coming and being so open in their discussion.

Rod Krischke thanked everyone and he has enjoyed the communication. He's like to see an eagle symposium and asked Clint if he'd be interested. Clint said he isn't sure if they have the time and staff to put it on, but would be happy to participate if the opportunity should arise.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. and many members of the ADMB then toured the National Wildlife Research Center in Ft. Collins, Colorado until 5:00 p.m..

ADMB May 7-8, 2014

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

| Start Time | End Time | Interview | Request |
|------------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9:30 | 10:00 | Goshen | \$156,067 rabies \$5,000 |
| 10:00 | 10:30 | Carbon | \$234,108 |
| 10:30 | 11:00 | Weston | \$200,831 |
| 11:00 | 11:30 | Albany | \$146,846 |
| 11:30 | noon | Campbell | \$284,350 rabies \$48,000 |
| noon | 1:30 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 | 2:00 | Uinta | \$224,301 |
| 2:00 | 2:30 | Big Horn | \$283,674 |
| 2:30 | 3:00 | Park | \$239,327 |
| 3:00 | 3:30 | Break | |
| 3:30 | 4:00 | Sheridan | \$168,453 rabies \$10,000 |
| 4:00 | 4:30 | Fremont | \$233,270 |
| 4:30 | 5:00 | Public Comment | |
| Thursday | May 8 | | |
| 8:00 a.m. | 8:30 | Natrona | \$293,160 |
| 8:30 | 9:00 | Converse | \$268,313 |
| 9:00 | 9:30 | Johnson | \$125,000 rabies \$27,000 |
| 9:30 | 10:00 | Hot Springs | \$199,952 |
| 10:00 | 10:30 | Niobrara | \$160,000 |
| 10:30 | 11:00 | Washakie | \$208,872 |
| 11:00 | 11:30 | Sweetwater | \$147,184 |
| 11:30 | noon | Lincoln | \$254,154 |
| Noon | 12:30 | Crook | \$189,600 |
| 12:30 | 1:30 | Lunch | |
| 1:30 | 3:30 | Discussion and Budget Selection | |
| 3:30 | 4:00 | Public Comment and Adjournment | |

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Wednesday, May 7, & Thursday, May 8, 2014
Game & Fish Regional Office, Casper, Wyoming

Board Members Present:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough | Co-Chair Scott Talbott | Rod Krischke |
| Richard Klouda | Kevin Kisicki | Sy Gilliland |
| Gene Hardy | Amanda Hulet | Dale Leatham |
| Bill Taliaferro | Dennis Saville(on 5-7-14) | Mark Sattelberg |

Board Members Absent:

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|------------|-----------|
| Shaun Sims | John Espy |
|------------|-----------|

WDA Support Staff:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Kent Drake | Margy Anderson |
|------------|----------------|

Public present:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Wiley Cross | Stan Smith | Art Davis |
| Nancy Beavers | Roger Cox | Senator Jim Anderson |
| Donley Darnell | Jerry Shepperson | David Kalco |
| Joel Modie | David Daigle | Scott Huber |
| Kyle Innes | Jason Oedekoven | Joe Hickey |
| Wade Larson | Todd Jones | Jim Pehringer |
| Brandon O'Brien | Shane Smith | Rory Renner |
| Mike Connell | Alan Plummer | Cole Benton |
| Truman Julian (via conference call) | | Thad Dockery |
| Mary Owens | Phil Marton | Glen Taylor |
| Justin Binfet | Tim Pexton | Jeff Boner |
| Bob Hageman | Bryce Reece | Peter John Camino |
| Peter Dube | John Curuchet | Dave Hall |
| Brett Belden | Bob Blacketer | Don Harvey |
| Art Hunter | Shannon Bruegger (via conference call) | |
| Jerry Ista | J.W. Nuckolls | Darla West |

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough at 9:02 AM. Co-chair Jason noted a revised agenda has been handed out. At 10:30, Senator Anderson will be visiting. Kent Drake explained the stats, rules and regs had been updated. Dealing with rabies page 34, Section 10, there is an issue Senator Anderson will talk about, that he received a letter from a vet concerned about the lack of strength in the current laws, because there is no vaccine for skunks, raccoons, etc. He may ask for a letter from the Board addressing the issue.

Board members and guests were introduced.

Kent asked the Board to consider the vet lab rabies sampling and testing contract with UW. The contract is up for renewal, for \$20,000 for two years, and the Board needs to approve continuation of the contract if they so desire. Rod Krischke moved for the ADMB to continue the contract to test skunk for rabies for \$20,000. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

The Board moved on to talk about the interview process, as there are 3 new members of the Board. Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough pointed out we have more requested dollars than dollars that are available. He explained how the Board has worked on allocating funds at past meetings. Sy Gilliland commented on the process, noting the cash reserves are a concern. Some counties have a large amount. Bill Taliaferro noted

some counties still have a lot of bills coming in, so the balance appears larger than it really is. Discussion ensued. Co-chair Jason and Kent explained what the Governor and the legislature approved for the ADMB Budget for the Biennium and if the funding was split in half there will be \$ 3,327,550 to allocate for this fiscal year.

Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough noted he asked for additional wolf funding but it was not in the approved budget from the Gov's office and the legislature. He intends to ask for the increase in the supplemental budget. We did not use all of the wolf money from the last biennium. Rod Krischke mentioned there could be increased costs from Wildlife Services.

Predator Management Districts began giving presentations:

Goshen County PMD – Wiley Cross, Art Davis and Stan Smith gave their presentation. No refunds requested. As of May- 5: 45 positives since 11-2013, includes 1 feral cat, skunks. There is an issue with feral cats. Northern Goshen Co has not had any rabies incidents yet, skunks are not tested unless there is human exposure. 22 animals quarantined – all dogs. Well over 100 skunks exhibiting unusual behavior. The ones that have been sent in have all come back positive. Wiley believes the percentage of skunks positive is in the 90th percentile. They are looking into getting a euthanasia chamber. The rabies strain seems to be a newer strain, from Kansas and Nebraska. Sy Gilliland requested they come back next year with number of coyotes removed on the ground and from the air, so they can measure their success with coyote control. Stan talked about the rabies vaccination clinic he and Art organized last May. They vaccinated 900 animals, dogs, cats, horses. They had to turn folks away as they ran out of vaccine.

Carbon County PMD – Roger Cox explained their District went through the rule making process for refunds to get a formal process in place. As a result, refunds paid out were much less than in prior years. One producer decided to ship from somewhere else. They have several wildlife projects in process. Discussion ensued about the Platte Valley Mule deer project, and the importance of the other wildlife projects currently in place.

The Board took a break from hearing District presentations to hear Senator Jim Anderson address the letter he received from a local vet in Douglas. W D Buck Root, Riverbend Vet Hospital in Douglas, he states – he thought it was illegal in Wy to keep a wild animal as a pet. He finds this troubling, especially regarding rabies prevalence in Laramie and Goshen Counties, as there is no approved vaccine for these animals. Senator Jim Anderson said – do what you need to do regarding rules, regs, etc. He would be in support of legislation to address this. Kent Drake explained the rules and regs for rabies prevention, and one of the issues is enforcement. There are procedures in place to help the counties deal with rabies management, there is a management plan, and a website. Section 10 addresses the letter – no animals addressed as predators shall be imported into the state- the issue is enforcement, as the ADMB and the WDA are not enforcement entities. Senator Anderson believes the letter addresses the issue of human safety. Co-chair Scott believes by rule, if we can limit the importation of predators, we should be able to limit the possession. The Board would need to consult the attorney general to check under title 11 to see if there is an enforcement provision. If not, a rule can be implemented. He said establishing the fact that possession of a predator is prohibited it will take care of about 90% of the issue. Bill Taliaferro mentioned it is tough to prevent outside predators from entering the state. Bill Taliaferro moved that the Co-Chairs of the ADMB get together with the attorney general's office to see what can be done to address the rabies issue, and bring feedback to the next meeting as well as draft a letter to the vet to address his concerns. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

Weston County PMD - Donley Darnell and Jerry Shepperson presented information on the Weston County program. They have 2 WS employees. They have not had any issues in refunds for the predator fees.

Albany County PMD – David Kalco, Secretary/Treasurer and Joel Modie, trapper, represented the Albany County program. They are not requesting funds for their mule deer project. Their project with the Game and Fish on Sheep Mountain is going well. The Board asked questions about their flying time. Come July 1st, their reserves should be the same as in the past.

Campbell County PMD - Dave Daigle, Scott Huber, Jason Oedekoven, and Kyle Innes updated the Board on how their program is currently running. Their coyote numbers are down due to the efficiency of their trappers. They have not used a lot of their aerial budget yet, but they plan to in the next 6 weeks. They have made an effort to reduce spending on their wildlife project, which is still in its infancy. The District is continuously encouraging the city and the county to assist them with the rabies program. They are paying two refund requests, both for cattle, from Montana. Their 3 trappers are private trappers.

The Board broke for lunch. Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough called the meeting back to order at 1:14PM.

Uinta County PMD - Joe Hickey and Wade Larson presented information on the Uinta County program. The District has two full time trappers. Their deer herd has increased and sage grouse numbers are better. They have never had to issue any refunds for livestock. They focus on coyotes that go after livestock and wildlife.

Big Horn County PMD - Todd Jones and Brandon O'Brien presented the Big Horn County PMD program. They have 2 1/2 trappers, who work on coyote and wolf abatement to raccoon, skunk, and crow control. They have an ongoing program for Sage Grouse, in their county as well as surrounding counties. Producer complaints regarding predators are much less. Jim Pehringer noted he finds success in the program by looking to see how many calves, lambs, etc. make it to market, as well as if complaints are low.

Park County PMD - Shane Smith and Rory Renner presented information on the Park County program. They border with Montana who does not have as strong a predator program. They are working on a sage grouse program. Where Shane lives, there are many more ravens than their used to be. He has seen ravens drop golf balls, which they mistook for eggs. Jim Pehringer noted they do bring employees from other counties to help with predation in Park. Some tools you can use in other counties cannot be used in Park County, due to endangered species regulations, which results in a lot of time being spent on foot or horseback. Park County land is about half and half regarding the trophy game area for the wolf. They have 2 ½ trappers through WS.

Sheridan County PMD - Mike Connell, Alan Plummer and Cole Benton presented info on the Sheridan County program. Alan is the only trapper. They got one wolf in 2013 and one so far this year. They loan out the skunk traps to individuals and small towns. They would like to have 2 full time trappers. They do have skunks test positive for rabies. They did not have any refund requests this year.

Lincoln County PMD – Truman Julian presented the District's request via conference phone due to his surgery. For wolves, they are outside of the Trophy game area. They have one trapper for now, looking to hire another. They usually have 2, but one resigned last fall. They have had a lot of wolf problems, as they have a lot of wildlife in the County. They still have some sage grouse areas. They have asked for an increase in helicopter time for their program.

Fremont County PMD: Thad Dockery presented the Fremont County PMD request. The trappers go out and help about 80% of the landowners. They are covering a large portion of the reservation with their program. Discussion took place about the deer/fawn numbers. It was determined that statewide, the numbers are very low. Board members explained to Thad how bounty programs in their respective counties work, in an effort to help control coyotes and increase wildlife numbers.

Meeting adjourned on Wednesday, May 7th, at 4:15PM.

Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough called the meeting back to order on Thursday, May 8th, at 8:00 AM.

The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 2014 meeting. Amanda Hulet moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sy Gilliland seconded. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the upcoming meeting in June, at Trail Lake, near Dubois.

Natrona County PMD - Mary Owens, Phil Marton, and Glen Taylor represented Natrona County PMD. Bounty program started in 2012-2013, was a great success so they decided to run it again. \$6,160.00 total expenditures for the bounty program. Justin Binfet spoke on how the county is working with Game and Fish for predator control in Mule Deer areas. The District is asking for more funds so they can work with the Game and Fish to concentrate on some Mule Deer areas. Coyote control at Bates Hole has been successful so far. The project has run for 4 years and is still ongoing.

Converse County PMD – Tim Pexton, Jeff Boner and Bob Hageman presented information on the Converse county program. They are not using WS trappers this next year. They want to go to 3 full time trappers, and still use WS airplanes. They believe they can cover the county better with 3 trappers, as Converse is a large county. They would divide into 3 portions north to south. Largest producing county of sheep in the state, so predator control is their most important issue. They don't have an organized wildlife program, however with the importance of predator control in their county, sage-grouse and antelope benefit.

Johnson County PMD- Peter John Camino, Peter Dube, John Curuchet and Dave Hall represented the Johnson County program. 2 part time rabies trappers and 3 trappers. Kaycee and Buffalo give money to the rabies program. Rabies program has been a great success. Cost of program remains around 30,000. Skunk takes stay about the same, fox numbers more than double this year, the red fox. They partner with the Game and Fish on a sage grouse study.

Hot Springs County PMD - Brett Belden, Art Hunter, Bob Blacketer and Don Harvey presented info in the Hot Springs County program. Their district splits the cost of a specialist with Washakie PMD. Seeing a small increase in livestock in their county. Cattle sheep has increased last couple of years. Several small sheep flocks have started up. They are seeing an \$800-900 dollar per year increase on their brand fees. They have 1 ½ people for trapping. Can't use M-44's, have to check snares daily. Very labor intensive equipment to do the same job as some other counties.

Bryce Reece handed out a draft of the revised PMD brochure he has been working on. He asked that members contact him with changes, additions or suggestions. Co-chair Jason suggested comments go to Bryce by the end of May, for final production in June. Co-chair Scott suggested we send to every member of every predator Board, provide at Wyoming State Fair and other state events, in the addition to the legislative members.

Washakie County PMD - Aaron Anderson represented the Washakie County program. They have been sharing a trapper with Hot Springs County. 125 grouse marked and followed daily in the sage grouse project, which the District has been very cooperative with the other entities involved in the sage grouse project, conservation districts, etc. Predator control includes dealing with grizzly bears and black bears.

Niobrara County PMD - Shannon Bruegger presented information on the Niobrara County program via conference phone due to bad weather. The program is almost identical to last years. Two full time trappers.

Two mule deer areas they take a November count in, numbers from the Game and Fish say mule deer numbers are still down. Doe-fawn ratios are stable however. Drought has also contributed to low numbers. They do issue some refunds every year, but they recently changed their refund policy. 5-6 small operators normally request refunds every year, last year minimal \$1700.

Sweetwater County PMD - Bill Taliaferro represented Sweetwater County PMD. The difference in this year's budget is to take their trapper for the full year instead of half of the year, then go down into deer areas around Kinney Rim in the summer, take coyotes via aircraft. Another decrease in deer numbers may be competition from other wildlife. Sweetwater County is primarily winter grazing area for livestock. No refunds last year.

Crook County PMD – Darla West, Jerry Ista and J.W Nuckolls spoke about the Crook County program. They have 2 trappers, who are contracted with WS. Also a private one mainly in the air, then another trapper who just works during the denning season. The weather has not been conducive to doing much in the aerial flying program, so more ground work done. The District does do the refund program. Other predators in their county are mountain lions, eagles, fox, and bobcats. South Dakota continues to bring mountain lions into the Black Hills and dump them out. Wild turkeys are very few in the county. Refund requests were much less this year, under \$3,000.

The Board worked through lunch.

Rod Krischke explained how WS has gone to an automated billing that comes out of Minneapolis. The Casper office looks them over for accuracy, and then sends them on to the county predator boards. An example of how the new bills look was handed out and explained.

The Board discussed how to allocate funds to the PMD Districts, and considered the allocations made in April 2013. There were a few counties whose reports were in a format that was very easy to understand, clear and concise. Co-chair Scott proposes we look at a simpler form. Kent said some counties give way more info than is necessary. The board can direct Kent as to what they want to see and what can just be on file. Co-chair Scott Talbott suggested Kent have one master notebook for his purposes, and summarized sheets distributed to the Board. Sy Gilliland mentioned each county should be judged on the merits of their programs. A lot of the counties are trying to plan but tentative to jump into getting an additional trapper, so is it possible we can dole funds out two years at a time, to help them launch their tentative wildlife projects, or go ahead and employ an extra trapper. Co-chair Jason- the difficulty is that we don't know the that funding is in place for two years, even though allocated for 2 years, what if the legislature comes in mid year and requests a budget cut. To try and collect money from the counties after a budget cut would be extremely difficult. This year Sy Gilliland thinks we need to start addressing the cash reserves which have been built up by many of the Districts, we need to take a look at the grant requests and make them use some of their reserves to get through the year.

Rod Krischke pointed out that on April 1st, the counties have 3 quarters outstanding, which the bills do not show up in their balances when they submit their applications. Co-chair Jason said his issue is not that they have reserves but the fact they continue to build their reserves.

Sy Gilliland mentioned Kent Drake look at revising the application forms. Kent proposed a committee look at how the forms should be reduced. Sy Gilliland, Kevin Kisicki and Amanda Hulet will make up the committee to do so.

Kent Drake led the Board through the Co-chair approved allocation proposals summary page. Co-chair Jason asked if there was any concern on the rabies proposed allocations. Bill Taliaferro moved to accept

the recommendations as Kent made to the Board. Amanda Hulet seconded. Sy Gilliland observed the rabies problem is huge in Goshen County. If they need more, he would support that. Motion carried.

Co-chair Jason opened the floor for discussion on the funding proposals. General discussion ensued that the ADMB may need to communicate to some of the Districts that they cannot continue to build the cash reserves as they are doing. Bill Taliaferro said let's look at the issue in the fall, these reserves are public funds. Kevin Kisicki said the timing of the issue, maybe need to put it back on the Counties- give them the opportunity to tell us how they will use their reserves. Co-chair Jason said now might be the time to send a message. Any money held back now can be re-allocated next fiscal year, since we are still in the current biennium. Co-chair Scott Talbott recalls there were 2 counties that said that if they have to use their reserves they would cut their programs, and he doesn't want to get into situations where we hurt county programs. Rod Krischke said over the last years WS has lost federal funding they had in reserves where they thought they would use it to help the counties. Ten years ago most of the PMDs had little reserves- this is a big indicator of how the program is working and proving the strength of the predator management in Wyoming. Co-chair Jason Fearneyhough said that outside of this program and the WDA - the state is growing very weary of taking over and paying for programs that used to be federally funded, but he has not heard any comments like that about the predator management program. This topic needs more attention and discussion. Gene Hardy hears a lot of good thought brought out and he thinks we have to do something. Bill Taliaferro wants the discussion in the minutes, the minutes sent out to the Districts, and then we determine what to do in the fall. Co-chair Scott Talbott said to invite the District folks to the fall meeting. Bill Taliaferro moved to accept the county PMD allocations as presented and invite District members to come to the meeting set for **November 3 in Casper**, as well as send these minutes to Districts so they know discussion is going on. Amanda Hulet seconded. Motion carried.

Co-chair Scott Talbott asked if we have any follow up that we need about golden eagles from Clint Riley from US Fish and Wildlife. Rod Krischke commented he got an e-mail from Clint - they are trying to meet hazing and relocation requirement. They would like to get an opportunity to trap at least one eagle this year. Clint is trying to meet WS, and if they have a situation where hazing is not working - they can send a Contractor to trap the eagle. Rod Krischke will provide said e-mail to the Board. Kent said at the Nov. meeting, he will try to get Clint to talk about eagle depredation issues and WS to talk about raven management strategies.

Co-chair Scott thanked Kent for all of his work and effort. Great job to Kent from the Board.

Amanda Hulet moved to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Kisicki seconded. Motion carried.

Co-Chair Fearneyhough adjourned the meeting at 2:02 PM.

FINAL APPROVED ALLOCATION

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Albany County PMD | \$97,000.00 |
| Big Horn County PMD | \$183,000.00 |
| Campbell County PMD | \$235,000.00 |
| Carbon County PMD | \$210,000.00 |
| Converse County PMD | \$205,000.00 |
| Crook County PMD | \$150,000.00 |
| Fremont County PMD | \$161,000.00 |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Goshen County PMD | \$147,000.00 |
| Hot Springs County PMD | \$189,000.00 |
| Johnson County PMD | \$135,000.00 |
| Lincoln County PMD | \$228,000.00 |
| Natrona County PMD | \$260,000.00 |
| Niobrara County PMD | \$155,000.00 |
| Park County PMD | \$165,000.00 |
| Sheridan County PMD | \$100,000.00 |
| Sweetwater County PMD | \$142,000.00 |
| Uinta County PMD | \$185,000.00 |
| Washakie County PMD | \$191,000.00 |
| Weston County PMD | \$182,000.00 |

FINAL RABIES FUNDING ALLOCATION

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Campbell | \$25,450.00 |
| Sheridan | \$5,000.00 |
| Johnson | \$17,000.00 |
| Goshen | \$5,000.00 |



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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ADMB Meeting Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp Dubois, WY

Agenda

Tuesday, June 10, 2014

- 8:00 am - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Talbott)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of May 7-8, 2014 Minutes
- 8:15 am - Project Reports (15 min each)
- * Jackson Elk Monitoring – D. Brimeyer
 - * Park County Livestock Carcass Management Program – D. Lasseter
 - * Gray Wolf Management Supplies – B. Trebelcock
 - * Animal Handling Equipment – B. Brown
 - * Atlantic City Bear Project – A. Frey
 - * Mtn. Lion/Large Carnivore capture traps for Green River Region- S. DeCecco
 - * Identifying Crucial fawning areas to allow targeted and effective predator control in Wyoming Range – S. Smith
- 9:45 am - * Impact of Raven/Fox Removal on Sage Grouse in SW, L, U Counties – M. Conover
- * Washakie County Nuisance Predator Project and BH Basin Sage Grouse Pred. Project- R. Redland
- 10:15 am - Project Proposals – Renewals w/ Updates (20 min. each)
- * Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain – J. Short
 - * Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control – S. Edberg
 - * Removal of coyotes from mule deer parturition habitat in Platte Valley Herd Unit – Roger Cox
 - * Country to Classroom publication – J. Dafoe
 - * Adon Mule Deer Predation Study and Control – J. Oedekoven, K. Ford, R. Franzman
- Noon - Lunch
- 1:00 pm - Project Proposal Renewals w/ Updates (20 min. each)
- * Monitoring causes of mortality and predation rates of Sage Grouse in the Bighorn Basin – S. Jones
- 1:20 pm - Project Proposals - New (20 min. each)

- * Effects of predation on survival of newborn mule deer in the Wyoming Range – G.Fralick
- * Thermopolis Bear Trap – L. Ellsbury
- * Wyoming Sugar Variety Field Trial Depredation Protection – M. Casdorph
- * Enhanced Electric Fence Sheep Protection - Upper Green River Area – M. Thoman
- * Large Carnivore- Trap/Trailer for Campbell County – T. Joseph

- 3:00 pm - Break
- 3:30 pm - Discussion of grant awards criteria
- 4:00 pm - Determination of Grant Awards
- 4:30 pm - Public Comment / Board Comment
- 5:00 pm - Adjourn

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Whiskey Mountain Conservation Camp, Dubois, Wyoming

Board Members Present:

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Co-Chair Scott Talbott | Dennis Saville | Sy Gilliland |
| Mark Sattleberg | Rod Krischke | Richard Klouda |
| Gene Hardy | Shaun Sims | Dale Leatham |

Board Members Absent:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough | Bill Taliaferro | John Espy |
| Kevin Kisicki | Amanda Hulet | Forest Service Rep. |

WDA Support Staff:

| | | |
|------------|----------------|---------------|
| Kent Drake | Margy Anderson | Casey Terrell |
| Hank Uhden | | |

Public present:

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Brian Debolt | Scott Edberg | Mary Thoman |
| Andrew Frey | Jeff Short | Gary Fralick |
| Rex Wardell | Steve Jones | June Jones |
| Doug Holt | Steffen Cornell | |

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Scott Talbott at 8:00 AM.

Board Members and guests were introduced.

The agenda was reviewed. Kent mentioned the TS intern, Casey, has been working on updating the ADMB website, and if there is time would like to show the Board his progress. Hank Uhden would like to give an update on asking the AG about addressing the public who are keeping predators as pets.

The Board reviewed the minutes from May 7 and 8, 2014. Rod Krischke asked the minutes to be revised where it says WS lost a lot of money, change to WS lost federal funding. Rod Krischke moved to approve the changes to the minutes. Dale Leatham seconded. Motion carried.

Project Reports:

Jackson Elk Monitoring- Gary Fralick gave an oral report on the project. He explained the monitoring results from 2012 and 2013. The project allowed Game and Fish to gather much better info on how elk use the environment and their migratory behavior.

Park County Livestock Carcass Management program- Brian DeBolt gave an update on the project. The Game and Fish acts as a liaison between a private contractor and livestock producers in the park county area. The project has been in place since 2008 and growing annually. The program is free to producers. There are a variety of sponsors for the project. He anticipates the program will continue to seek support from the Board as the program continues to grow. There is an unwritten parameter- they will expend monies in the high priority areas. Dump fees to the county are per load, per pound, about \$1200 per year. County commissioners have considered waiving those costs, but the independent contractor is factoring those costs into his fees.

Gray Wolf Management Supplies- Brian DeBolt presented. There is intense monitoring on the gray wolves right now. They used ADMB monies to purchase traps, supplies and trap monitors. Also the radio collars allow for Game and Fish to be selective in which wolves to remove from a pack. The collars help locate the wolves from the ground or the air.

Animal Handling equipment- Brian DeBolt explained the equipment is for the Cody region. Small box traps. Long term benefits as the traps are versatile in use and can last 20 years. Public service, a lot of people come in to check out a trap, for feral cats to raccoons to skunks, etc.

Atlantic City Bear project- Andy Frey gave info on the driving force behind the need for this project, a series of rural transfer stations where people could drop trash off on the honors system. They had to make changes due to vandalism, theft, etc. They have been working on this project since late 2012, and had the most success so far in 2013. Partners have contributed in kind and financially. The district purchased a horse trailer and modified to a portable waste/garbage storage unit. 10 additional residents are now interested after seeing the project in motion for a while. Containers should last a minimum 10 years if they are well taken care of.

Large Carnivore capture traps for the Green River region- Brian DeBolt presented. The trap is mounted on wheels and can be used in urban developed areas as well as the back country. Once a bear is caught in the trap Game and Fish can identify if any ear tags are present or marks have been made on the bear from previous captures, gather other data, etc.

Identifying Crucial Fawning Areas to Allow Targeted and Effective predator control in the Wyoming Range- Gary Fralick gave an update on the project. The Wyoming range herd is one of the largest mule deer populations in Wyoming and the western region. Predation is one of the biggest factors of mortality in mule deer fawns. Want to identify the parturition and fawn rearing areas, and analyze the nutrition dimension of does. Two captures remain on this project for data collections.

Impact of Raven and Fox Removal on Sage Grouse Populations in SW Lincoln, Sweetwater and Uinta Counties- Dr. Michael Conover was not present to provide an oral report. Co-Chair Talbott would like to see Dr. Conover continue the project so we can see a comprehensive report and review of the removal of ravens in the area. The amount of time and dollars spent on the project warrants such results. Shaun Sims agrees. Shaun believes that from his personal observations and talking with others, raven numbers are down significantly in control areas. Kent will contact Dr. Conover and see how far we can go to get this report completed.

Washakie County Nuisance Predator project and Big Horn Basin Sage Grouse Predator project- Mr. Redland was not present to provide an oral report. Kent Drake provided the information he had.

Project Proposals, Renewals with Update reports:

Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning areas at Cedar Mountain- Jeff Short presented information on this project to date. Deer Hunt Area 132 is the target area of this field management project. Hunt area 132 has a lot of public land, and very accessible. The deer population there is below the G & F area objective, and they have not been able to recover to desired objective since 1983. Fawn-doe ratio is low, it has been difficult to even maintain 60/100 fawn doe ratio. Majority of coyote predation on mule deer happens within the first 2 months of their life. Predator control occurs at different times of the year, so it is important to address coyote population right at the start of the fawning season. They would really like the ratio to be at 70/100. After this year, they will look back at 3 years worth of data and see if the project has had a positive effect on the study area compared to other areas.

Large Carnivore- Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control- Scott Edberg presented information on the project.

Removal of Coyotes from Mule Deer Parturition Habitat in the Platte Valley Herd Unit- a rep was not able to attend. Kent Drake provided information on the project. They are asking for additional funding for this joint project with Carbon County PMD.

Country to Classroom Publication- Jessie Dafoe was not able to attend. Kent Drake mentioned how the Board participates with their bookmark contest every year, and the program has improved every year. This funding is for the 2015 Summer Teacher Institute. Teachers from across Wyoming attend and get info on Agriculture and Ag Management. Shaun Sims attended this year's yesterday and was an instructor. This year there were 40 teachers, the funding would be to incorporate a predator management component for the institute. About $\frac{1}{4}$ of the participants in this year's institute had never seen sheep.

Adon Mule Deer Predation Study and Control- A representative was not able to attend. This project takes place North of Gillette. It is a multiple year project. Board members wanted to know the involvement of the G&F personnel in that area. Kent will call them and find out and report back to the board.

Casey Terrell provided slides showing his progress to date with updating the ADMB website.

Hank Uhden provided an update on discussions with the Attorney General's office, regarding public health and having predators as pets, or bringing predators into the state. The ADMB has the authority to prohibit the ownership of predators, but the ADMB has no regulatory authority, The AG recommends that if the Board wishes to pursue the regulation – to have a stand alone statute to that affect. It would go under the WDA as the WDA has regulatory authority. Also look at a permitting process for have predators for research, or for making lures. In response in to Senator Anderson's request, he has offered to sponsor legislation to prohibit allowing possession of predators as pets. The WDA would have to come up with some procedures for permitting, for research or commercial use. If under Title 11, regulation would fall to county sheriffs. If under Title 23, would allow game wardens to regulate. The next joint Ag committee meeting is in September. Kent Drake suggested the WDA move ahead with the issue, rather than the ADMB.

Talbott asked if there were any comments on the status of the PMD brochure. Gene Hardy mentioned some of the district contact information was not correct, as well as the info for the current Board ADMB members. Shaun Sims recommends the information be updated since this Brochure goes to the legislators. Kent is waiting on final brochure from Bryce Reece.

Monitoring Causes of Mortality and Predation Rates of Sage Grouse in the Big Horn Basin- Steve Jones, Steffen Cornell, and Doug Holt presented information on the project. Steffen provided a power point which included history on project implementation, project cooperators and data collected via different methods.

The Board took a break for lunch.

New Project Proposals:

Effects of the Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range- Gary Fralick presented information on the project. The objectives are to determine survival and cause-specific effect of predation.

Thermopolis Bear Trap and Large Carnivore Trap/Trailer for Campbell County - Brian DeBolt presented on both projects. Game and Fish is seeking funds for a bear trap to be purchased for Thermopolis, in the Cody

region. There is also a request to purchase a bear trap for Gillette, in the Sheridan region. The Thermopolis area is a higher priority.

Wyoming Sugar Variety Field Trial Depredation Protection- A representative was not present to offer funding proposal information to the Board.

Enhanced Electric Fence Sheep Protection – Upper Green River Area- Mary Thoman presented information on this project. She is seeking funds via the Wyoming Wool Growers Association to enhance the electric fencing the Board provided through a grant to the Wyoming Wool Growers in 2010.

Kent Drake walked the Board through the proposals presented in regard to funding available for the next Biennium. They can spend less and have more next year, or vice-versa. Shaun Sims moved to approve the following at the full amounts requested:

- 1) Monitoring Causes of Mortality and Predation rates of Sage Grouse BH Basin, \$45,000
- 2) Coyote Control Targeted on Mule Deer Fawning Areas Cedar Mountain, \$10,000
- 3) Removal of Coyotes from the Mule Deer Parturition Habitat in the Platte Valley Herd Unit, \$21,500
- 4) Large Carnivore- Livestock Depredation and Control, \$25,000
- 5) Ag in the Classroom Teacher Institute, \$1,500
- 6) Effects of Predation on Survival and of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range, \$50,000
- 7) Thermopolis Bear Trap, \$5,000
- 8) Enhanced Electric fencing for Sheep project, \$7,932.99

Rod Krischke seconded. Discussion ensued. Unanimous vote aye. Motion carried.

Sy Gilliland moved to not grant any further funds at this time, and the remaining funds are available for other future projects. Shaun Sims seconded. Motion carried.

Shaun Sims moved to fund the following with the G & F 100K:

- 1) Large Carnivore- Livestock Depredation and Control, \$25,000
- 2) Effects of Predation on Survival of Newborn Mule Deer in the Wyoming Range, \$50,000
- 3) Removal of Coyotes from the Mule Deer Parturition Habitat in the Platte Valley Herd Unit, \$21,500
- 4) Removal of Coyotes from Mule Deer Fawning Areas at Cedar Mountain, \$3,500

Sy Gilliland seconded. Motion carried.

Co-Chair Talbott called for Board comments. Rod and Shaun commented that for the sugar beet project. They should have come to present their funding request.

Public comment- Mary Thoman thanked the Board for their support, Steve Jones thanked the Board for their support, and they want to keep their project focused on the effects of predation.

Co-Chair noted the next meeting is November 3rd in Casper. Kent said he would work to focus that meeting for the predator boards to make sure they could come, get an update on eagles, and other specific topics.

Co-chair Talbott adjourned the meeting at 3:18 PM.



ANIMAL DAMAGE MANAGEMENT BOARD

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**ADMB Meeting
Teleconference
Call 877-278-8686 PIN 811882
Emergency call Kent 640-1205**

Agenda

Monday, November 3, 2014

- 9:00 a.m. - Call to Order – (Fearneyhough, Talbott)
- Introductions of board, guests, & public
 - Additions/Corrections/Approval of Agenda
 - Approval of June 10, 2014 Minutes
- 9:15 a.m. Setting Price of Wildlife Management Stamp
- 9:20 a.m. Update on Grey Wolf relisting activity, Scott Talbott, Director, Wy. Game and Fish and Rod Krischke, Wildlife Services State Director
- 9:40 a.m. Update on USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services Raven Management in Western Wyoming, Rod Krischke, Wildlife Services State Director
- 9:50 a.m. Set 2014 meeting dates
- 9:55 a.m. Public Comment / Board Comment
- 10:00 noon - Adjourn

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

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting – Monday, November 3, 2014
Teleconference

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Jason Fearneyhough
Sy Gilliland
Gene Hardy
Dale Leatham
Mark Sattelberg

Co-Chair Scott Talbott
Bill Taliaferro
Amanda Hulet
Richard Klouda

John Espy
Kevin Kisicki
Rod Krischke

Board Members Absent:

Dennis Saville
Shaun Sims

WDA Support Staff:

Kent Drake
Hank Uhden

Public present:

None

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

Board Members were polled for attendance.

The agenda was reviewed.

The Board reviewed the minutes from June 10, 2014. Mark Sattelberg moved to amend the minutes on page two, paragraph 6, line 6, to add “in control areas” after “down significantly”. Rod Krischke seconded. Motion carried. Rod moved to approve the amended minutes. Gene Hardy seconded. Motion carried.

John Espy moved to set the price of the wildlife damage management stamp at \$10 for the next calendar year - 2015. Dale Leatham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Co-chair Talbott provided an update on the relisting of the grey wolf under the Endangered Species Act. He stated that in the recent lawsuit before the Washington D.C. judge, the item of contention for the judge, in her ruling, was the addendum attached to the approved Wyoming Wolf Management Plan. Steps were taken to fix the issue, but the judge did not accept the changes. With the court decision, the plan reverts back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Today, Mike Jimenez is now the official in charge of grey wolves in Wyoming and management reverts back to 1994 10 J provisions. Rod Krischke stated that since the ruling there have been depredation incidences with grey wolves in the western side of the state. He is working with Mike Jimenez, his employees and local predator districts in these situations.

Rod Krischke provided an update on raven management efforts in Southwest Wyoming for the benefit of livestock, wildlife and human health/safety. Conservative estimates show an initial 31% decrease in the population in 2013 after an initial count of over 1650. In 2014 the initial count was over 970 and the reduction could be as high as 61%. Requests for assistance from industry and livestock producers were much lower in 2014. . Carbon County is now requesting assistance and Rod is working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to allow Wildlife Services to do work there.

In the Big Horn Basin, the study monitoring sage grouse nesting and brooding and identification of predators continues with the next step being that the team is working to capture and tag ravens to identify how and where they may target sage grouse nests.

Meeting dates for 2015 were set: **January 14**, Wyoming Game and Fish Headquarters, Cheyenne, **May 6-7**, Regional Game and Fish Office, Casper, June **9-11**, Rock Springs, November **2**, location to be determined.

The floor was open to board members. Dale Leatham commented that he felt the raven control work was going well and effective. Sy Gilliland commented that the mule deer areas that he guides hunters in Central Wyoming appeared to show the highest mule deer fawn recruitment that he has seen in many years.

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

Kent Drake mentioned that he had met with Amanda, Sy, and Kevin in August to discuss reducing the size of the district application packets that the ADMB members review. Initial plans are to reduce most audit forms and pages and other additional financial pages (not tied directly to the budget and cash flow worksheet). Kent will review these documents to make sure they meet the ADMB application requirements and will have a master copy of all documents available to the ADMB at the district funding selection meeting.

Co-chair Talbott adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

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| PREDATOR MANAGEMENT 1501 | BUDGETED | | EXPENDED | | PERCENT OPTIMUM | | NOTES |
|----------------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|-------|
| | FY 15 - 16 | | YTD | ENCUMBERED | BALANCE | EXPENDED | |
| <i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i> | 100.00 | \$189,456 | | | \$189,456 | 0.00% | |
| <i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i> | 200.00 | | | | | | |
| Equipment Repairs & Mtnc | 202.00 | 749 | | | 749 | 0.00% | |
| Utilities | 203.00 | 840 | | | 840 | 0.00% | |
| Freight and Postage | 204.00 | 2,500 | | | 2,500 | 0.00% | |
| Employee Development | 207.00 | 2,500 | | | 2,500 | 0.00% | |
| Advertising/Promotions | 208.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Travel In State | 221.00 | 20,000 | | | 20,000 | 0.00% | |
| Travel Out of State | 222.00 | 17,500 | | | 17,500 | 0.00% | |
| Permanently Assigned Vehicles | 223.00 | 20,000 | | | 20,000 | 0.00% | |
| Office Supplies/Printing | 231.00 | 19,000 | | | 19,000 | 0.00% | |
| Other Repair Supplies | 239.00 | 5,000 | | | 5,000 | 0.00% | |
| Real Property Rental | 251.00 | 5,507 | | | 5,507 | 0.00% | |
| Equipment Rental | 252.00 | 1,750 | | | 1,750 | 0.00% | |
| <i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$95,346 | \$0 | \$0 | \$95,346 | 0.00% | |
| <i>DATA PROCESSING</i> | 400.00 | | | | | | |
| Telecommunications A&I | 420.00 | 2,033 | | | 2,033 | 0.00% | |
| <i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$2,033 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,033 | 0.00% | |
| <i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i> | 600.00 | | | | | | |
| Grants | 626.00 | 6,655,100 | | | 6,655,100 | 0.00% | |
| <i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$6,655,100 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,655,100 | 0.00% | |
| PREDATOR MANAGEMENT TOTAL | | \$6,941,935 | \$0 | \$0 | \$6,941,935 | 0.00% | |

| | | YTD Transfers | |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|----|
| General Funds | 6,941,935 | 0 | 0% |
| TOTALS | \$6,941,935 | \$0 | 0% |

DISCUSSION ITEMS

0

| ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0317 | BUDGETED | | EXPENDED | | PERCENT OPTIMUM | | NOTES |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| | FY 15 - 16 | | YTD | ENCUMBERED | BALANCE | EXPENDED | |
| Fund 047 | | | | | | | |
| <i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i> | 200.00 | | | | | | |
| Equipment Repairs & Mtn | 202.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Utilities | 203.00 | 750 | | | 750 | 0.00% | |
| Freight & Postage | 204.00 | 2,100 | | | 2,100 | 0.00% | |
| Board Travel In State | 228.00 | 17,600 | | | 17,600 | 0.00% | |
| Supplies/Printing | 231.00 | 3,424 | | | 3,424 | 0.00% | |
| Equipment Rental | 252.00 | 150 | | | 150 | 0.00% | |
| <i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$24,024 | \$0 | \$0 | \$24,024 | 0.00% | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| <i>RESTRICTIVE SERVICES</i> | 300.00 | | | | | | |
| Cost Allocation | 301.00 | 72 | 0 | | 72 | 0.00% | |
| <i>300 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$72 | \$0 | \$0 | \$72 | 0.00% | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| <i>DATA PROCESSING</i> | 400.00 | | | | | | |
| Telecommunications - A&I | 420.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| <i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| <i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i> | 600.00 | | | | | | |
| Grants | 626.00 | 631,604 | | | 631,604 | 0.00% | (200,000 wolves) |
| UW Grants & Aid Payments | 667.00 | | 0 | | 0 | | |
| <i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$631,604 | \$0 | \$0 | \$631,604 | 0.00% | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| <i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS.</i> | 900.00 | | | | | | |
| 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% | |
| <hr/> | | | | | | | |
| ANIMAL DAMAGE MGMT 0 TOTAL | | \$680,700 | \$0 | \$0 | \$680,628 | 0.00% | |

| | | YTD Revenue | YTD % |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| General Funds | 475,000 | 0 | 0% |
| Other Funds | | | |
| Livestock Brand Fee-5353 | 1,300 | | 0% |
| Wildlife Damage Stamp-2634 | 400 | | 0% |
| Landowner Coupons-6204 | 4,000 | | 0% |
| Predator Boards - 6301 | 0 | | |
| Game & Fish - 5040 | 200,000 | | 0% |
| TOTAL | \$680,700 | \$0 | 0% |

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reduced by 315,996 to account for revenues not collected

0

Cash Balance

| ADMB - RABIES 0313 | BUDGETED | | EXPENDED | | PERCENT OPTIMUM | | NOTES |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| | FY 15 - 16 | | YTD | ENCUMBERED | BALANCE | EXPENDED 4.17% | |
| <i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES 200.00</i> | | | | | | | |
| Equipment Rep & Mmc | 202.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Utilities | 203.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Freight & Postage | 204.00 | 100 | | | 100 | 0.00% | |
| Supplies/Printing | 231.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| Equipment Rental | 252.00 | 0 | | | 0 | | |
| 200 SERIES TOTAL | | \$100 | \$0 | \$0 | \$100 | 0.00% | |
| <i>Grants and Aid Payments 600.00</i> | | | | | | | |
| Grants | 626.00 | 129,900 | | | 129,900 | 0.00% | |
| 600 SERIES TOTAL | | \$129,900 | \$0 | \$0 | \$129,900 | 0.00% | |
| <i>CONTRACTUAL SERVICES 900.00</i> | | | | | | | |
| Professional/Consulting Fees | 901.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| 900 SERIES TOTAL | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| ADMB - RABIES 03.13 | | \$130,000 | \$0 | \$0 | \$130,000 | 0.00% | |

| | | YTD Revenue | YTD % | DISCUSSION ITEMS |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| General funds | 130,000 | 0 | 0% | |
| | 0 | 0 | | |
| | \$130,000 | \$0 | 0% | |

| RODENT & PREDATOR 0315 | BUDGETED | | EXPENDED | | PERCENT OPTIMUM | | NOTES |
|---|------------|----------------|------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|
| | FY 15 - 16 | | YTD | ENCUMBERED | BALANCE | EXPENDED | |
| <i>PERSONAL SERVICES</i> | 100.00 | \$0 | \$0 | | \$0 | | |
| <i>SUPPORTIVE SERVICES</i> | 200.00 | | | | | | |
| Equipment Rep & Mmc | 202.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Utilities | 203.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Freight & Postage | 204.00 | 50 | 0 | | 50 | 0.00% | |
| Employee Develop & Training | 207.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Miscellaneous | 210.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Travel In State | 221.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Travel Out of State | 222.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Supplies/Printing | 231.00 | 690 | 0 | | 690 | 0.00% | |
| Medical/Lab Supplies | 235.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Educational Supplies | 236.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| Other Repair Supplies | 239.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| <i>200 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$740 | \$0 | \$0 | \$740 | 0.00% | |
| <i>DATA PROCESSING</i> | 400.00 | | | | | | |
| Telecommunications - A&I | 420.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| <i>400 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| <i>GRANTS & AID PYMTS</i> | 600.00 | | | | | | |
| Grant Payments | 626.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| <i>600 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| <i>NON-OPERATING EXP</i> | 800.00 | | | | | | |
| Purchases for Resale | 801.00 | 360 | 0 | | 360 | 0.00% | |
| <i>800 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$360 | \$0 | \$0 | \$360 | 0.00% | |
| <i>CONTRACTUAL SRVS</i> | 900.00 | | | | | | |
| Professional/Consulting Fees | 901.00 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | | |
| <i>900 SERIES TOTAL</i> | | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | |
| RODENT & PREDATOR 0315 TOTAL | | \$1,100 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,100 | 0.00% | |

0.00% excluding 600 and 800 series expenditures

| | YTD Revenue | YTD % |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| General Funds | 0 | 0 0% |
| Other Funds | | |
| Rodent Control - Sales 5421 | 1,100 | 0% |
| TOTAL | \$1,100 | \$0 0% |
| | 0 | |

DISCUSSION ITEMS
 Reduced budget by 32,281 for sales funding



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

DIRECTOR
SCOTT TALBOTT

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RICHARD KLOUDA – President
CHARLES PRICE – Vice President
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KEITH CULVER
MIKE HEALY
T. CARRIE LITTLE

October 24, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

FROM: Meredith Wood, Chief Fiscal Officer *MW*

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) 2014.

| | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| Landowner coupons designated and transferred to ADMB | \$ 4,640 | |
| Wildlife damage management stamp | | |
| Sales deposited 7/1/2013 through 6/30/2014 | | \$ 847.50 |
| (License agent reports through 6/30/2014) | | |
| Costs of program administration | | |
| Management stamp: | | |
| Printing | \$ 0 | |
| Administrative time | \$ 500.59 (12 hours) | |
| Total administrative costs for FY 2014 | | <u>(\$ 500.59)</u> |
| FY14 collections over expenditures | | \$ 346.91 |
| Deficit collections previous years | | (\$4,098.88) |
| Amount due to be transferred to ADMB for FY 14 | = | <u>\$ 0.00</u> |

In accordance with statutory provisions and to insure federal aid compliance, the Department can transfer funds collected only after administrative costs have been deducted. 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 27, 2010

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

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

GOALS:

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

ACRONYMS USED IN STRATEGIC PLAN

ADMB – Animal Damage Management Board

ADM – Animal Damage Management

APHIS – Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service

G&F – Wyoming Game and Fish Department or Commission

MOU – Memorandum of Understanding

PMB – Predator Management Boards

PMD – Predator Management Districts

WDA – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

WS – USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services

WAIC – Wyoming Ag in the Classroom

WLB - Wyoming Livestock Board

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

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

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

| STRATEGY 1.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage. | | RESPONSIBILITY | DATE TO COMPLETE | DATE COMPLETED |
|---|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| ACTION | | | | |
| 1. Review and update MOUs as needed. | 1. WDA, G&F, ADMB, WLB, WS | 1. As needed | | |
| 2. Review and amend project proposal guidelines and protocol. | 2. ADMB | 2. As needed | | |
| 3. Review and amend policy guidelines and application protocols. | 3. ADMB | 3. As needed | | |
| STRATEGY 1.1.2: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(ii): Specify programs designed to prevent damage by predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depreddating animals to livestock, agricultural crops, wildlife, property and human health and safety. | | | | |
| ACTION | | RESPONSIBILITY | DATE TO COMPLETE | DATE COMPLETED |
| 1. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to: | 1. WDA | 1. 12/31 each year | | |
| ➤ Governor | | 1. Annually | | |
| ➤ Agriculture, Appropriations, Travel, Recreation and Wildlife legislative committees | | 1. Annually | | |
| ➤ Formal presentation to Wyoming Game and Fish Commission | 1. ADMB co-chairman | 1. Annually | | |
| 2. Complete an Annual Report to be presented to: | 2. ADMB, staff | 2. 10/1 each year | | |
| ➤ Joint Agriculture committee | | | | |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <p>3. Rabies Management Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the Rabies Management Plan (REFERENCE RABIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR ACTION ITEMS) <p>4. Review programs effectiveness (50/50; 1501 grant program; 317, and 313.</p> | <p>3. ADMB</p> <p>4. ADMB</p> | <p>3. Annually</p> <p>4. Annually</p> | |
| <p>STRATEGY 1.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(vi): Cooperate with Federal, State and County governments, educational institutions and private persons or organizations to effectuate agricultural and wildlife damage and rabid wildlife prevention policies.</p> | | | |
| <p><i>ACTION</i></p> | | | |
| <p>1. Review as needed and implement the MOUs.</p> <p>2. Coordinate programs in accordance with statutes.</p> | <p>1. ADMB</p> <p>2. ADMB</p> | <p>1. As needed</p> <p>2. As needed</p> | <p><i>DATE COMPLETED</i></p> |

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

OBJECTIVE 2.1

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

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

| STRATEGY 2.1.1: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(i): Entertain requests for assistance to allow mitigation of animal damage. | |
|---|------------------------------|
| STRATEGY 2.1.2: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(iv): Specify methods for the prevention and management of damage and for the selective control of predatory animals, rabid wildlife, predacious birds and depredating animals. | |
| <i>ACTION</i> | <i>RESPONSIBILITY</i> |
| 1. Accept project proposals with measurable outcomes. | 1. ADMB, staff |
| 2. Foster relationships between PMBs and ADMB. | 2. ADMB |
| STRATEGY 2.1.3: (W.S. 11-6-304(b)(viii): Consider recommendations received from the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture for projects funded by respective agencies. | |
| <i>ACTION</i> | <i>RESPONSIBILITY</i> |
| 1. Project proposals. | 1. ADMB |
| ➤ Requests submitted annually | 1. Annually |
| ➤ Wildlife projects will be reviewed by G&F and approved by the Commission. | |
| 2. 1501 budget monies | 2. ADMB |
| ➤ Requests submitted annually | 2. Annually |
| <i>DATE TO COMPLETE</i> | <i>DATE COMPLETED</i> |

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

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

OBJECTIVE 5.1

W.S. 11-6-301 – 11-6-313

Remain current with latest available research and emerging issues.

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

GOAL 6: Develop and implement legislative strategies.

OBJECTIVE 6.1

W.S. 11-6-313

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

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

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Overview of Activities to Date:

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

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

Through the work of the ADMB, \$3.32 million has been awarded to the nineteen qualified districts in the past year. In 2014, the ADMB received \$4.01 million in requests from these districts.

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

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

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

Western Wyoming Predator Management Districts are concerned with increasing livestock and wildlife predation from bears and wolves and are concerned with predation from ravens and other predators on sage grouse and the on-going status of sage grouse being a candidate concerning endangered species. Funding provided for management of wolves in the predatory area of the state served the livestock producers well while wolves were under state management. Two years of control measures on ravens has also lowered predation on livestock, along with other benefits to the citizens and businesses in Southwest Wyoming.

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

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

Predator Management Program Allocations

| Grantees | Date Approved | Board Approved |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Albany County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$97,000.00 |
| Big Horn County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$183,000.00 |
| Campbell County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$235,000.00 |
| Carbon County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$210,000.00 |
| Converse County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$205,000.00 |
| Crook County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$150,000.00 |
| Fremont County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$161,000.00 |
| Goshen County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$147,000.00 |
| Hot Springs County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$189,000.00 |
| Johnson County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$135,000.00 |
| Lincoln County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$228,000.00 |
| Natrona County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$260,000.00 |
| Niobrara County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$155,000.00 |
| Park County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$165,000.00 |
| Sheridan County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$100,000.00 |
| Sweetwater County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$142,000.00 |
| Uinta County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$185,000.00 |
| Washakie County PMD | May 8 2014 | \$191,000.00 |
| Weston County PMD | May 8, 2014 | \$182,000.00 |
| | Total | \$3,320,000.00 |

By July 1, 2014, each district provided to the ADMB a Year-End Report, detailing actions taken and results, monies expended, and the most recent audit report. The following contains some statistics from across the state, and a brief overview of wildlife projects being conducted in conjunction with livestock and wildlife related management efforts.

Albany County Predatory Management

District

Annual Report

7/1/2013 - 3/14/2014



ACPMD Members

T.C. Page (Pres.), McFadden, Wy. Roger Newkirk (Vice. Pres.), Rock River, Wy.

David Kalco (Tres.), Laramie, Wy Gavin Sneathen (Secretary), Laramie, Wy.

Lawrence Atkinson, Brett Moline, William Guy Warpness Jr., Brett Moniz

Ronnie Heward, Don Willis

Albany County, Wyoming:

Founded in 1868.

Seat -Laramie (also largest city).

Population - 36,299 (2010 census). Density - 8/sq mi (3/km²).

Area – 4,309 sq mi (11,160 km²) total. Land – 4,273 sq mi (11,067 km²),

Water - 36 sq mi (93 km²).

Albany County PMD (ACPMMD) responsibilities and mission:

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

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

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

Identifiable and measureable actions:

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

| | |
|---------------|---|
| USFS Lands | 5,120 ac. |
| Private lands | 599,382 ac. |
| State lands | 35,357 ac. |
| Total lands | 639,859 ac. worked under WS' agreement. |

Summary of operational activities including take and damage/loss values:

The current program administered by ACPMD is primarily targeted at removing offending predators from depredating on livestock such as cattle and sheep. WS' personnel located in Albany County continue to protect several thousand sheep and lambs seasonally brought into the county by Warren Land and Livestock Company. Previously, these responsibilities were taken care of by WS' personnel located in Goshen County. Human health and safety issues and responding to nuisance damage complaints in the county continue to be fairly constant. WS' personnel in Albany County have also been assisting University of Wyoming College of Agriculture & Natural resources.

ACPMD and WS' have continued to hear positive feedback on the services provided and the resources available from rural and urban cooperators and citizens of Albany County.

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

92.5 hrs. of aerial hunting time was spent.

1,139:30 hrs. WS' field work.

2:30 hrs. WS' administrative work.

1,234:30 hrs. WS' total hrs. Worked.

Intentional Take:

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|----------|----|---------|----|---------|-----|
| Badgers | 2 | Beavers | 14 | Bobcats | 3 | Coyotes | 287 |
| Ravens | 3 | Raccoons | 19 | Skunks | 48 | | |



Loss values REPORTED in Albany County:

\$0.00 Livestock

Loss values Verified in Albany County:

\$ 1,008.00 Livestock Agriculture

Human Health & Safety in Albany County:

3 coyotes were tested for canine parvovirus and other parasites (6 samples taken), 5 Striped Skunks were tested for rabies and other parasites (5 samples taken) in Albany County by WS'. Enhanced rabies surveillance will continue to take place in 2014 to help detect if this disease becomes prevalent as time goes on. Rabies has not been present in Albany County this year to our knowledge.

Summary:

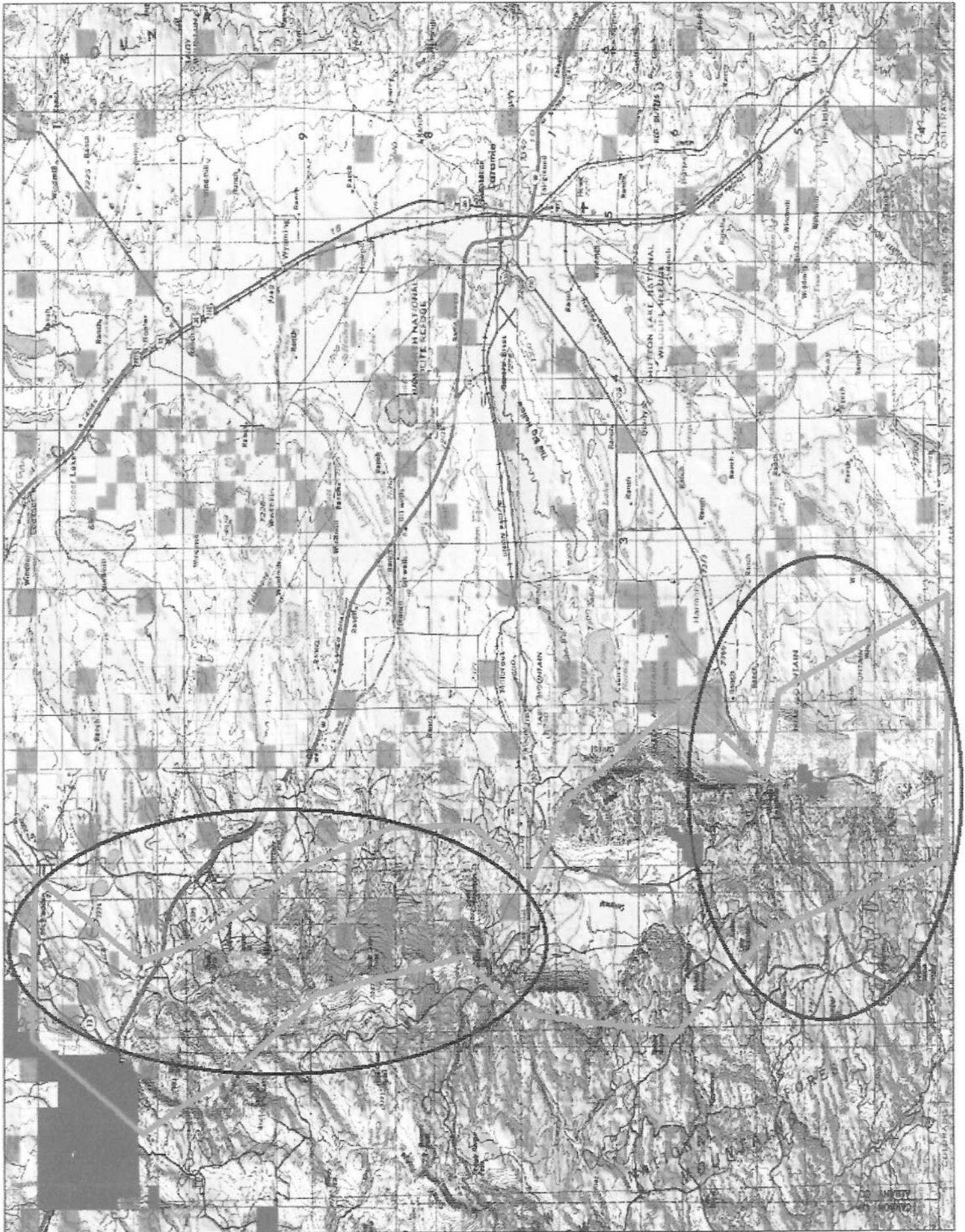
ACPMMD is continuing to strive to provide quality services within the responsibilities it holds. The ACPMD looks forward to continuing to partner with WS' and will continue to be available to participate in any wildlife enhancement if the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept. requests or deems it appropriate.

Recently a mule deer doe/fawn enhancement project has been started in cooperation with local G&F personnel. The specific location where this enhancement work will take place is within the Sheep Mountain hunt areas 61, 74-77. A map has been generated to outline fawning areas and the general areas where control work will take place. Work in this area has already started in conjunction with livestock protection duties and will continue for a period of 3 yrs. Results will be presented each year with data collected in partnership with WS', ACPMD, and WY. G&F Dept.

Disease surveillance, livestock protection, nuisance animal control, cooperative research projects, and any other issues that might arise will continue to be addressed in 2014-2015.

Attached Letter/Map:

1. 3/14/2014 Map of Sheep Mtn. Mule Deer Project areas.



**2014
Annual
Report**

Bighorn County Predator Management District

July 1, 2013

to

June 30, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS

- **President**
Randall Jones
Otto, Wy
- **Vice President**
Lisa Kimsey
Manderson, Wy
- **Secretary/
Treasurer**
- **George McGregor**
Emblem, WY
- **Kay Neves**
Emblem, Wy
- **Carl Nielsen**
Hyattville, WY
- **Kieth Hamilton**
Hyattville, Wy
- **Todd Jones**
Shell, Wy
- **Greg Flitner**
Shell, Wy
- **Todd Stoeks**
Shell, Wy
- **Shannon Ellis**
Lovell, Wy

**Please refer to
the attached
MIS Report
from Wildlife
Services for
more detail if
needed.**

Mission:

Our Bighorn County Predator Management District's (PMD) mission is to provide services to requests for wildlife damage assistance from any entity in Bighorn County. We feel it is our responsibility to have an adequate number of well trained professionals that are permitted through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) with all land and wildlife management agencies to deal with our increasing wildlife damage management workload here in Bighorn County. We feel we need to be able to respond to requests regarding all wildlife species whether they are under federal or state laws including resident, migratory, and threatened or endangered wildlife. As part of Bighorn County's responsibility we will continue to contract with United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services to provide high-quality wildlife damage management services for the protection of agriculture, wild and domestic species, natural resources, private and federal property, and human health and safety concerns. We will provide service or respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after contact has been made to Bighorn County personnel. Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, and lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage along with technical advice on best practices to reduce or avoid future damage by wildlife. Lethal control will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Threatened and Endangered Species of wildlife and control actions will be conducted as directed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to minimize the impact to private property, livestock, and wildlife as well as the species of wildlife confirmed to have caused the damage.

Wildlife related issues for Bighorn County Predator Management District

Bighorn County Predator Management District Program and its cooperation with Wildlife Services reached 87 different landowners in Bighorn County covering 1,397,574 acres in the Bighorn Basin including State, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Private lands during fiscal year 2014. Bighorn County has 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 Bighorn County as well as neighboring counties in the Bighorn Basin.

Bighorn County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 13 WS employees during this last year. Requests to our program for assistance species as: beavers, coyotes, fox, feral dogs, porcupine, badgers, mountain lion, sage grouse, pigeon, rats, and American crow. Bighorn County Specialist's time since July 1st, 2013 was spent answering the following complaints in Bighorn County:



to cater to the increasing resistance involving such wildlife: raccoons, skunks, feral cats, grey wolf, black bear, mountain ravens, golden eagle, muskplains. The majority of the



1,364 daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation to calves, sheep, goats, pheasants, sage grouse, duck, horse colts, mule deer, bighorn



sheep, antelope, and livestock guarding animals. 538 daily tasks dealing with raccoons, complaints to chickens, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, leaf-cutter bee hives, sheep, private property, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns.

253 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving human health and safety, property damage on residences or out buildings, chickens and fowl, and food items.

23 feral dog damage to private property and livestock.

4 Gray Wolf tasks for damage or damage threats to cattle, and sheep.

194 daily tasks for fox complaints with sage grouse, chickens, and sheep.

Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Bighorn County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Bighorn County has cooperated a full-time position with Park County and have provided 738.5 hours towards field activities costing the Bighorn County PMD \$25,847.50 for the sage grouse project and plan to continue until its conclusion.

We plan to use our wildlife specialist's to assist with data collection where needed to gain the best science data possible for the success of the research project. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement and habitat selection, and how human activity has effected sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University has taken the position of Lead Researcher to further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



Wolf Depredation Management

Specialists reported to 4 complaints involving cattle and sheep by gray wolves in the predator zone. We have added additional help to allow for better and more efficient control of reoccurring gray wolf damage we saw in Bighorn County with wolves and their expanding population. We feel the boarding counties along the trophy game zones will absorb dispersing wolves which have caused a history of damage over the last twelve years



along the Front Range and on the Bighorn Mountains on both federal and private properties. Our plan will continually make sure that all human health and safety, private property, and wildlife interests are taken into considerations while wildlife damage management control actions are performed.

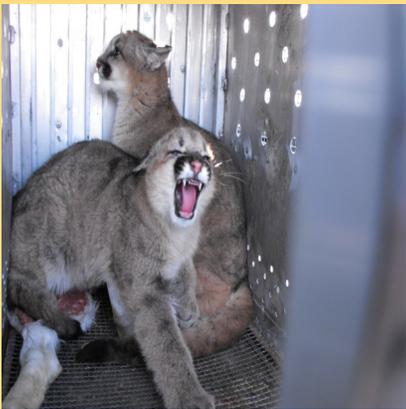




Crop, Irrigation, Pheasant Enhancement, and Human Health and Safety Activities

Bighorn County Wildlife Specialists have reported to numerous requests for assistance dealing with raccoons and skunks for complaints and confirmed damage on chickens, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed, buildings, leaf-cutter bee hives, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns. Wildlife Specialists have conducted pheasant crow-count surveys to document the benefits to the populations as a result of this project activity. Specimens were sent for disease testing by the State Veterinary Laboratory for animals

thought to possess human health and safety concerns throughout Bighorn County. Numerous species such as red fox, porcupines, badgers, feral cats, beavers, crows and ravens also have been reported and confirmed as wildlife related damage culprits in our area. Each year we have noticed an increased number of requests for assistance dealing with these small nuisance predators.



Trophy Game Assistance to Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Bighorn County Wildlife Specialists responded to trophy game damage complaints in Bighorn County and its neighbors under the direction of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for black bears and

mountain lions. Requests for assistance from specialists involved cattle and sheep depredation and human health and safety concerns. With the growing number of large predators and decreasing prey base in northwestern Wyoming the Bighorn County Predator Management District Board has made it their goal to continue to support our wildlife specialists with their efforts to respond to the increasing number of requests for wildlife damage assistance and human health and safety concerns in the Bighorn Basin.



Year End Report

Campbell County Predatory Board

June 26, 2014

The Campbell County Predatory Board has been actively working to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations.

Our reporting goes through the month of May, as the board has not received reports from the trappers for the month of June. For the last 11 months, our three contract trappers have spent over 6271 hours in the field while covering 1,380,356 acres in Campbell County. Our trappers worked with 98 individual landowner agreements over the year as they provided predator control. We have been billed for 186.87 hours of fixed wing aerial time as of March 31, 2014. The number of animals that were harvested using fixed wing aerial hunting were 123 coyotes and 0 fox. We still are expecting a bill from Wildlife Services for the remaining quarter of the fiscal year.

Calvin Taylor, County Trapper, continues to be very beneficial in Campbell County. Calvin mostly works with livestock producers in the Southern part of Campbell County while Andy McKinney works directly with livestock producers in the Northern part. The North and South area of Campbell County is very different. The Northern part of the county is primarily cattle producers, which in turn equates to a lower number of rancher participation according to landowner agreements. The Northern part is also a more rugged terrain so more aerial is needed in that area, wildlife population is affected more in this area as well. The southern part of the county is comprised mainly of sheep producers so Calvin deals more with problem coyotes. The Southern part of the county is flatter and has better vehicle access. Scott Huber, our third trapper, who works 10 months out of the year, has been busy learning the layout of the ranches in Campbell County and is working well with the ranchers. He helps both Calvin and Andy with trouble calls. Scott hunts in both areas of Campbell County. Scott is very knowledgeable and is very precise when it comes to gathering information. Scott has contacted the sheep producers and compiled results regarding their production. In his report he notes that sheep losses are DOWN 31%. Campbell County total loss was 2.4% which is a smaller percentage than the 4.5% that is the state average. Per the sheep producers report, shipping numbers are good and profitable. He also notes that coyotes are down, litters are smaller, due to the current predator control system and the prey base is smaller. Eagles are starting to multiply and they are attacking the rabbit and mice population, making food sources scarce for

the coyotes. Two of the counties coal mines are reporting that coyotes are around the building so the mines, but our trappers are not allowed to harvest the animals, per mine regulations, only live traps are allowed.

Our three trappers have harvested 898 coyotes, 89 fox, 16 bobcats, 33 raccoons, 13 badgers, 35 skunks, 1 bat and 1 porcupine. 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 that are not pregnant. We believe that is because the trappers are doing an excellent job in trying to control the population and coyotes do not have mates. Also the coyotes are looking like they are lacking nutritionally. This may be due to the small animal prey base being diminished from the eagle population.

In the end of July 2013, the board received a resignation letter from our rabies personnel, Duke Campbell, due to some health issues. At that time the board hired, Kory Study to deal with the skunk/human public safety issues and testing for rabies in “questionable” animals. Since Campbell County has continued in the methane industry, our skunk population continues to grow in the rural areas of Campbell County. This is due to the fact that every methane hut and building provides a nesting habitat. Duke did an excellent job in the control of skunks in the city area, so the numbers seem to be decreasing in the city. Even though numbers seem to be decreasing, Kory has still been busy with trouble call from the citizens. As of the end of May, he has harvested 93 skunks. The Board has been still been working with the County Commissioners and the City Council to reach an agreeable amount that would help the board continue their proactive stand with the nuisance/rabies program position. The board and Kory have been working with Brent Wasson, Police Department Lieutenant, is developing a MOU (Mission of Understanding) for the City Council. The board along with Kory Study attended a City Council meeting to discuss the importance of the program. The City Council members were very pleased with the reports and they understand the importance of continuing the decrease the skunk population. The Animal Control department does not want to handle the skunk control trouble calls, so the City Council has decided to fund the program more than in the past. Kory has been busy dealing with trouble calls of ALL nuisance animals. Kory and Lieutenant Wasson have been working with the reporting of the addresses per trouble call. Kory has tested 7 “questionable animals for rabies and fortunately they have all come back negative. He has answered 34 trouble calls that are dispatched through the City and County dispatchers. He has also been busy with the public regarding nuisance calls. Kory has eliminated 52 feral cats, 18 raccoons, 1 badger and 1 rattlesnake, 15 porcupines, 1 mountain lion, 2 bobcats, and 87 pigeons.

The financial statement that is attached shows a net loss. We received \$195,000.00 from ADMB grant; we utilized that money to pay for trappers and part of the aerial which to the end

of May has totaled \$227,421.50. We still have the month of June expenses to add in as well. We received \$ 20,450.00 from the Rabies program money. Again as of the end of May, the expenses for the Rabies program are \$42,145.22. As you can see we are utilizing 100% of the Grant money and Rabies money that we are receiving. The rest of the money is coming from our Livestock Predatory fees and then using our reserves for the remaining Predator Control expenses.

2014
Annual
Report

Carbon County Predator Management District

July 1, 2013

to

June 30, 2014

Measurable Results of Management Plan

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



Photo by Beverly Braig

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| BLM lands | 912,446 |
| US Forest Service Lands | 52,732 |
| Other Federal, County, City Lands | 2 |
| Other Public Lands | 10,240 |
| Private Lands | 1,343,307 |
| <u>State Lands</u> | <u>99,403</u> |
| Total acres | 2,418,130 |

BOARD MEMBERS

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Saratoga
J Stratton
Rawlins
Josh Peterson,
V Chair, Walcott
John Hansen,
Rawlins

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Robin Blake
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Garry Goergen
Treas., Rawlins
Larry Knoch
Rawlins

• AT LARGE

Roger Cox, Chair
Saratoga

• Secretary

Charlene Abbott,
Rawlins

Carbon County specialists worked 93 of our 95 registered active cooperative agreements in the 2013-2014 year. This amounted to 1328 person-day-visits. Agriculture loss values reported in Carbon County were \$16,701, while the loss values verified are \$5,227. Verified losses other than agriculture were \$554.

In addition to our three full and one part time Wildlife Service specialists, we receive hours from pilots, gunners, biologists and other specialists.

Total hours/minutes worked by 10 WS' personnel in Carbon County:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Aerial (Fixed Wing) hunting | 206.3 |
| Field work | 4,208.52 |
| Administration | 25.0 |
| <u>Outreach</u> | <u>19.30</u> |
| Total hours spent | 4,459.12 |

Nine striped skunks were tested for rabies, 6 coyotes were tested for canine parvovirus and echinococcosis, and two deer were tested for toxoplasmosis. No positive results were found.

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

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|-----------|-----|
| Badgers | 7 | Beaver | 5 |
| Feral Cats | 10 | Coyotes | 726 |
| Black Bear | 1 | Porcupine | 6 |
| Raven | 88 | Bobcat | 5 |
| Crows | 290 | Red Fox | 22 |
| Coyote Dens | 5 | Raccoon | 32 |
| Skunks | 34 | | |



WS' Photo

"Predator control makes a difference—for both livestock and wildlife."

Platte Valley Mule Deer Recruitment

**Carbon County Predatory Management District, USDA/APHIS/
Wildlife Services, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Wyoming
Animal Damage Management Board**

3/01/2013-7/01/2015

1/10/12 "The Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) would like to inform the Carbon County Predator Management District Board (CCPMDB) our Platte Valley mule deer herd unit currently meets the criteria, set forth by Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (WGFC) Policy VIIR, for implementing predator removal projects for the benefit of mule deer. WGFD is interested in developing a partnership with the CCPMDB to begin a predator removal project in the Platte Valley herd unit for the benefit of mule deer."



Upon receiving the above invitation, the CCPMDB entered into the partnership on the joint Platte Valley Mule Deer Recruitment Project. It consists of a 3 yr. cooperative effort aimed at increasing the viability of the mule deer herd in fawning areas within Wyoming Hunt Areas 78, 79, and 81.

We are in the 2nd year of the project. Work commenced in the removal areas on 03/01/2013 and will continue through 6/30/2015 as ADMB funding permits. CCPMDB received \$10,000 in 2013 and \$15,000 in 2014 from ADMB for aerial expenses for this project.

So far in our 2nd year, 63 coyotes and 2 dens have been removed from the project area, using 81 hours of field work and 18.3 hours of administrative time funded by CCPMD, WS', WG&FD. More time and effort will be spent by the project partners before we complete the year on June 30, 2014.

We used \$8,078.98 for 9.55 hours of helicopter time as well as 2 days per diem and hazard duty. We spent \$5,111.06 for hazard duty, 16.15% administration fee and 25.05 hours of fixed wing flying. Before July 1, 2014 we will expend the final \$1,809.96 ADMB funds with 2 more flights.

All project protocols have been observed for both years, and will remain in place for next year as well. Our 14 individual cooperators have reported more mule deer in the PVMD project area this year than last.



Big Creek Pronghorn Antelope Recruitment

Carbon County Predatory Management Board, USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services, Wyoming Game and Fish Department

5/26/2011-9/05/2013

PROJECT COMPLETE

The Big Creek Pronghorn Antelope Recruitment Project consisted of a 3 year cooperative effort aimed at the removal of coyotes within Wyoming Antelope Hunt



(File Photo)

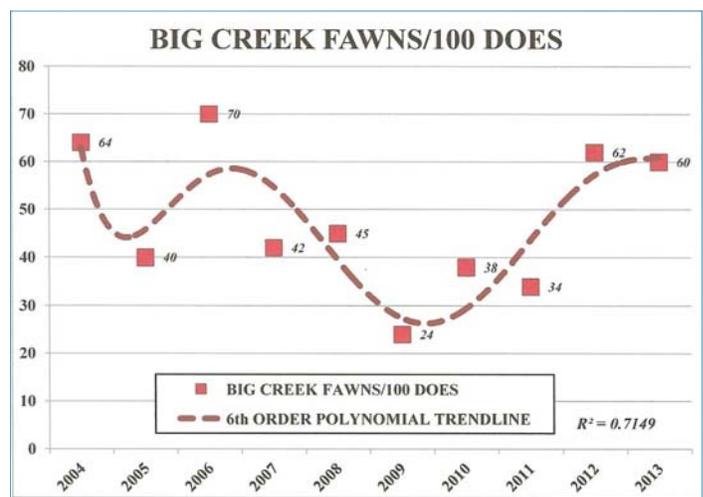
Area 51 to increase the viability of the Pronghorn Antelope herd that fawn in this area. At the request of the WG&FD, CCPMD made the project a priority through financing within the constraints of our local budget. Specifically, removal took place on lands owned/leased by Big Creek Ranches and the Munroe Ranch. The total land area of these two ranches is approximately 65,528 ac. This area is a cow/calf production ranching area adjacent to the Medicine Bow National Forest. Private lands lay in the main valley which is interspersed with many irrigation ditches for hay production and several small creeks and reservoirs. Hwy 230 generally travels through the valley in a North/South direction. Due to the proximity of the Colorado State Line and the land which these ranch holdings encompass, removal activities took place over parts of Hunt Area 51. The goal of this project was to validate that coyote removal will prove beneficial to Pronghorn Antelope fawn recruitment. The effort to remove coyotes from these two ranches began on 05/26/2011 with aerial hunting flights and continued until 09/05/2013. Ground work and aerial

hunting continued as weather, recreational hunting use of lands, and time demanded by other pertinent WS' Carbon County duties permitted.

A total of 175 coyotes and 2 dens were removed from the project area. Of the 175 coyotes taken, 150 were plotted as GPS points and 107 were retrieved for comprehensive data collection. 21 coyotes from the 107 retrieved were sampled for Plague/Tularemia and 3 for Parvovirus/Hydatid testing.

After review of the collected data, the WGFD presented a 2004-2013 Preseason Classification Summary showing an adequate assumption that coyote removal does benefit Pronghorn Antelope fawn recruitment.

Although we have completed the study, livestock protection and coyote removal efforts will, of course, continue in the BC Pronghorn Antelope Project area.



Health and Human Safety

Approximately 34 hours were spent by our WS' Specialists this year as they continue to help municipalities. This number is way less than in previous years! They were called to control skunks, raccoons, and badgers.

Side Note: One of our WS' specialists was called by a new resident (from back East) to harvest a badger that had been harassing his chickens. Upon investigation, the specialist discovered the offending woodchuck. No harvesting was done, but education of the resident was invaluable!

Presentations were again made at the Ag Expo in cooperation with the Carbon County Stock Growers and Coop-

erative Extension Service sharing knowledge of predator ID and control with over 200 4th graders in Carbon County. A program was also given for the annual Carbon County Stock Growers Association.

Black bears continue to be a problem in Carbon County, and WS' Specialists are working with WG&F personnel to protect private property, wildlife and livestock.



WS' Photo

Identifiable future problem areas:

Livestock producers and area gas and oil field services have reported a sharp increase in raven problems.

Our board has been approached by a group of area gas and oil companies for a possible joint venture for control of coyotes and ravens to protect Sage Grouse in their well areas. This program would be funded by the companies, but is in its infant stages. A lot of questions and specifications must be answered and settled before it becomes a reality.



File Photo

The CCPMDB consistently looks for projects and partnerships to address wildlife issues in our area. Due to budget constraints last year, we were unable to participate in the Ferris Mountain Mule Deer (hunt area 87) coyote control project suggested by a local Game Warden. We will certainly be considering it as our next project at the conclusion of the PVMD project.

CONVERSE COUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2013-2014 MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

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

We are fortunate to still have a bounty system for coyotes and fox which is funded by the predator assessment on brand inspections done in the county. We contract with three local airplanes and a helicopter that are paid an enhanced bounty per coyote. This, coupled with two full time trappers and planes which we utilize through a contract with Wildlife Services, rounds out our control program.

Mule Deer and Antelope fawn mortality is a concern here in Converse County. The number of predators taken anywhere tends to benefit the deer and antelope as well as livestock, but we also work with local and regional Wyo. Game and Fish personnel to target specific areas. The trappers will also focus on areas where Sage Grouse are known to be.

The extreme drought in the county for the past 14 months has had a detrimental effect on the wildlife herds and with the fawn to doe ratio in particular for both deer and antelope. The drought has also affected livestock numbers which is illustrated by the increase in predator fees from brand inspections. This would indicate that livestock owners have reduced numbers and, unless there is a dramatic turn around, we will see a drop in predator fees this coming year. Obviously, this would adversely affect our bounty program.

Geographically, south of the North Platte River is generally more mountainous and is almost exclusively cattle country. Traditionally, these ranchers did not ask for help from the Predator District. In the last few years there has been a marked increase in predator (mostly coyote) activity reported. Consequently the trappers and planes have spent more time in these areas with good results.

Our trappers continue to work with city and county officials in the control of skunks and raccoons. There have been an increased number of crows or ravens over the last couple of years that seem to stay year round and nest here. We will monitor this situation closely and would hope to stop any damage before it gets out of hand.

This budget cycle, we will be attempting to change things up a bit. We are planning on contracting for only half of the aerial time through Wildlife Services.

Nothing personal, but the cost per coyote taken with Wildlife Service's airplanes is becoming more than we can justify. Ferry time takes up almost half of the cost of the program for us. When flying conditions are favorable, we may or may not be able to get a plane because everyone is calling for it. That, coupled with fewer coyotes and plane savvy coyotes has increased the cost per coyote dramatically. Therefore, we propose to hire two part time trappers to help our local pilots as ground crew as well as to work on those educated coyotes that the planes can't get. This work would be done during the most important time of the year to control predators, April through August.

CONVERSE COOUNTY PREDATOR MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2014-2015 MANAGEMENT PLAN ADDENDUM

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

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

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

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

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

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



Crook County Predatory Animal District

PO Box 344 Hulett WY

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

BOARD MEMBERS:

President:
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467-5518

Vice President:
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Treasurer:
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Dallas Rolf
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Mike Idler
307.283-4303

Secretary:
Darla West
307.467.5609

MISSION

The Mission of the Crook County Predator Management District (PMD) is to provide predator control for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within 2800 square miles in north-eastern Wyoming.

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

In 2013-2014 these individuals provided 1093 day visits to work with 116 different Crook County agricultural producers, and land-owners; serving just under 700,000 acres (including 13,800 BLM/ Federal, 32,200 State, and 11,300 Forest Service).

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



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

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



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

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

Total losses to agricultural producers for their livestock must also be weighed. In 2012 from all predatory causes cattle losses are valued at \$2,645,7400; a substantial increase over the \$1,823,600, according to the Wyoming Statistical Reports for 2010.

Sheep



Sheep and lamb losses to all causes during 2012 totaled 43,000 head. Losses to predators, as a percent of the total, were down 2 percent from the previous year. Coyotes again claimed the largest portion of predator loss, accounting for 27.4 percent of the 11,800 head lost to predators. Non-

predator losses totaled 24,500 head for the year, with weather accounting for the largest portion of non-predator loss. Total predator losses were valued at \$3.3 million with losses from all causes valued at \$4.6 million. These numbers according to the Wyoming Statistical

Reporting Service.



Cattle

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

The number of cattle and calves on Wyoming farms and ranches on January 1, 2013, was 1,290,000 head, 5 percent below last year. The inventory of beef cows decreased to 694,000 head.

Wyoming cattle producers lost an estimated 41,000 of cattle and calves to many causes in 2012, the largest causes being weather, calving, respiratory/digestion

problems and predators. The data for these estimates is collected in conjunction with our annual January Cattle Survey. Total losses were down 2,000 head from 2011, the mainly due to the hands of Old Man winter.

Death loss as a percentage of Wyoming's total cattle and calves inventory was 3 percent, unchanged from 2011. Predators accounted for 11 percent of combined cattle and calf loss, while respiratory

problem was the biggest contributor to loss at 26 percent. The total value of all losses to all causes was estimated at \$30.1 million. 2013 numbers, for NE WY will reflect higher respiratory losses due to winter storm "Atlas" in October.



Calf buried by a mountain lion for later consumption.

The Bottom Line

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

herd liquidation amongst agricultural producers. Cattle numbers in Crook County are down to 67,000 from 70,000 in 2012. Market sheep numbers remain level while there is a decrease in breeding sheep and lambs 275,000 head, down from 325,000 in 2009.

The winter storm that hit NE WY on October killed hundreds of livestock. Deer, antelope, elk, and turkeys were effected as well.

CCMPD Board Reports that 2013-2014 FY local trappers effectively removed:

- Badgers—5
- Beavers—1
- Bobcats—1
- Coyotes—374
- Fox—31
- Porcupines—7
- Raccoons—5
- Skunks—10

(Dens are counted as one)

Wildlife

Upland game birds, sharp tail grouse, and turkey populations have become inconsistent. Bird numbers seem to be maintained in areas of the County and in others their numbers are declining sharply. In the Sundance area and upper elevations of the Black Hills, numbers seem to be 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.

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

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

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



Significant loss of deer and antelope had occurred over previous three years due to winter snows, spring blizzards, early summer hail storms, and disease along with continued predatory pressure. This last year has seen more loss from disease and predators. We have had a couple milder winters. This has increased losses from the two aforementioned causes, but has helped in the overall health

of the surviving animals.

Elk herds have increased in the Black Hills and the WY Game and Fish Department has addressed these increases through changes to the hunt/management season(s) for Crook County. Elk movement, management, and impacts on landowner/operators in the County has effected our trappers time and ground efforts. The CCPMD Board feels that

more calls have been fielded. Areas where predation on these herds has not been a concern in the past, it will be in the future.

Three bears were removed in Crook County this last year due in the act of killing domesticated livestock; one this spring. More have been sighted and have caused damage to property as well. CCPMD will have to address bears and their management along with the WY Game and Fish over the next grant cycle.

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

Human Health and Safety Issues

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

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

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

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

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



Mountain Lion Tracks leading to the front door.

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Crook County Predatory Animal
District
Box 344
Hulett WY 82720

Trappers:
Federal—Kelly Huseby,
Aaron Freund,
George Ridinger;
Contract Trappers:
Mark Huseby;
Seasonal Den Crew:
Mike Hooper

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

Weather, disease and predation continue to have a significant impact upon some regional wildlife species. The loss of deer and antelope has become more significant due to fewer overall numbers. The need to actively manage predation upon these affected species continues to be critical in the effort to preserve healthy populations of livestock and wildlife including predatory animals in Crook County.



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

Key Successes Include:

APHIS Cooperative agreements have not significantly changed over the last year. However, the trappers have worked to update agreements that are considered “expired.” There are many verbal agreements, which allow our trappers to provide ground hunting as well as aerial hunting and access and management measures.

2006 reported 348 predatory animals taken compared to the current fiscal year data reflecting 434 through WVS and private contracted trappers; down from the over 500 animals taken last FY. This shows the ongoing need for the continued predatory control.

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

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

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

Health issues such as rabies plague and tularemia have been addressed through 13 lab samples in 2013-2014. No positive results returned this past year. Due to budget reductions, these tests will not be done in the future.

Season den crew has provided additional time working with land owner/operators improving customer service, education and awareness of services provided by CCPMD.

Serving the Community Since 1940

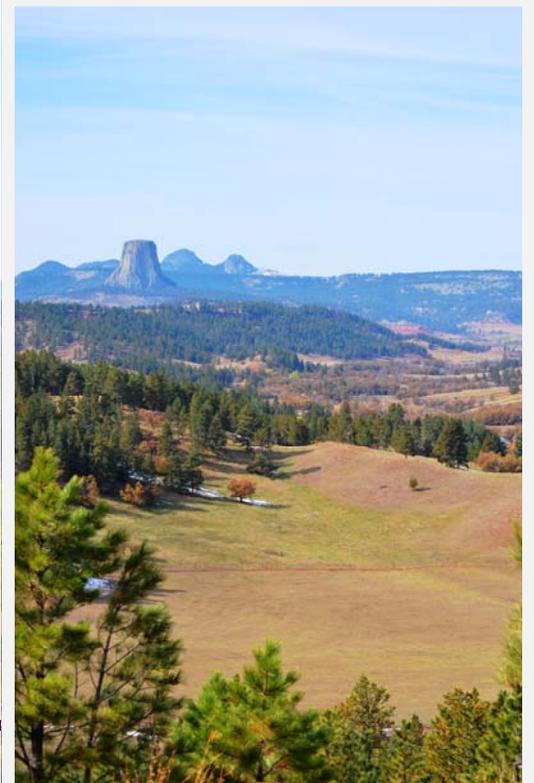
Crook County has had a predatory management program since the mid 1940's. Since the inception of the granting process with Wyoming Department of Agriculture through Legislative action in 2006 the program has proven itself. Successes are determined by analyzing information gathered by Wildlife Service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

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

Positive working relationships with Wildlife Services and with WY Game and

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

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



FREMONT COUNTY SAGE GROUSE/MULE DEER PROJECT

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

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

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

The totals for the year were as follows:

Common raven 5 nests depredated
Coyote 1 nest depredated
Magpie 1 nest depredated

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

Common raven 4 nests depredated
Skunk 1 nest depredated
1 nest undetermined

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

On the mule side of the project, poor weather hampered our efforts to do our annual deer count in late December. Only 318 total deer were counted. We hope to use a different aircraft this fall for our count. Hopefully, this is

not a trend and we will be able to better document deer numbers in 2014/2015.

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

Tracy Frye
USDA Wildlife Services

OCEAN LAKE PHEASANT PROJECT

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

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

Thank you for your support of this project.

Dave Fowler
USDA Wildlife Services

DUBOIS BIGHORN SHEEP PROJECT 2014

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

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

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

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

Tracy Frye USDA Wildlife Services/Fremont County PAB

**Goshen County Predatory Management
District**

Annual Report

1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013



GCPMD Members

**Art Davis (Pres.) Torrington, WY.
Stan Smith (Sec./Treas.) Torrington, WY.
Gary Kirchefer, Jason Norris,**

**Ron Miller (V. Pres.) Torrington, WY.
Bob Daily, Brodie Mackey, Tom Lee
Larry Lippincott, Jennifer Scheer**

Goshen County, Wyoming:

Founded in 1911.

Seat – Torrington (also largest city).

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

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

Water – 36 sq mi (93 km²).

Goshen County PMD (GCPMD) responsibilities and mission:

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

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

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

Identifiable and measureable actions:

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

BLM Lands 2,880 ac.

Private Lands 399,568 ac.

State Lands 18,020 ac.

Total Lands 420,468 ac. worked under WS' agreement.

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

63.6 hrs. of aerial hunting was spent.

3,182:35 hrs. WS' field work.

Summary of operational activities including damage/loss values:

Losses reported:

Livestock \$250.00

Livestock Feed \$100.00

Property \$0.00

Losses verified:

Livestock \$9,967.00

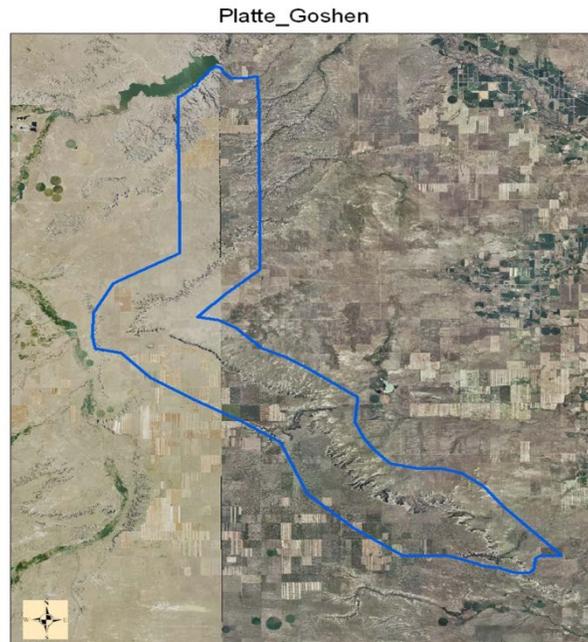
Livestock Feed \$50.00

Property \$500.00

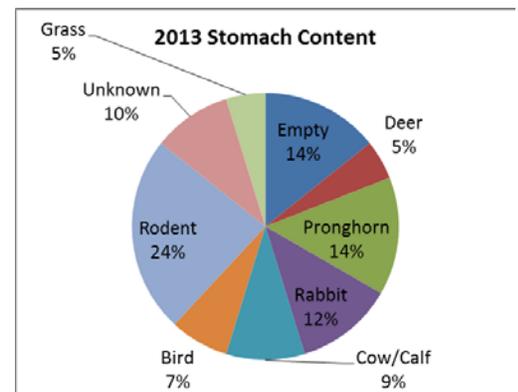
The current program administered by GCPMD primarily targets removing offending predators from depredating on livestock, feed and wildlife.

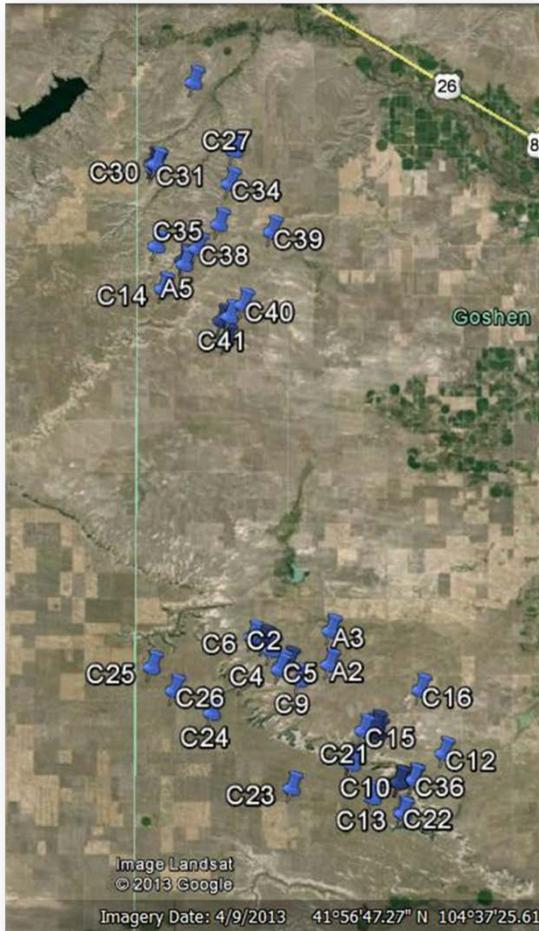
GCPMD has concluded the game bird enhancement project that was started in May 2007 and finished in September 2012. The mule deer enhancement project, which began in May 2009, has been dramatically enhanced in 2013 and additional aerial hunting time and ground time will be spent in this enlarged area.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

Mule Deer Enhancement Project



The Mule Deer enhancement project is continuing to target increased areas that the deer population is below quota (WGFD), primarily in the Goshen Hole Rim within mule deer hunt area 55. WS' has increased the fixed wing flying time in this area; in addition, some helicopter time has been added. Time spent on the ground will continue to be concentrated on when fawns are most vulnerable to predation. WS' has coordinated this time spent with livestock protection activities to better utilize time and money spent. We are documenting data on coyotes such as stomach contents, sex, age, and GPS locations of where coyotes are taken. (See pie chart right to examine stomach content results.) In 2013, the project area was expanded to get a broader range of predator control. This was done to help a larger span of historical mule deer fawning areas. The expansion was done in cooperation from Game and Fish personnel that felt predator control in these areas would benefit the mule deer population. The expanded area mule deer project is now in its second year of efforts.





| Coyotes Removed from Project Area 1/1/13 – 12/31/13 | |
|--|------------|
| Coyote dens removed | 6 |
| Verified adult male coyotes | 19 |
| Verified adult female coyotes | 15 |
| Verified juvenile female coyotes | 3 |
| Verified juvenile male coyotes | 5 |
| Total number of verified coyotes | 42 |
| Total number of unverified coyotes | 63 |
| Over all number on coyotes removed from project area. | 105 |

Note:

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

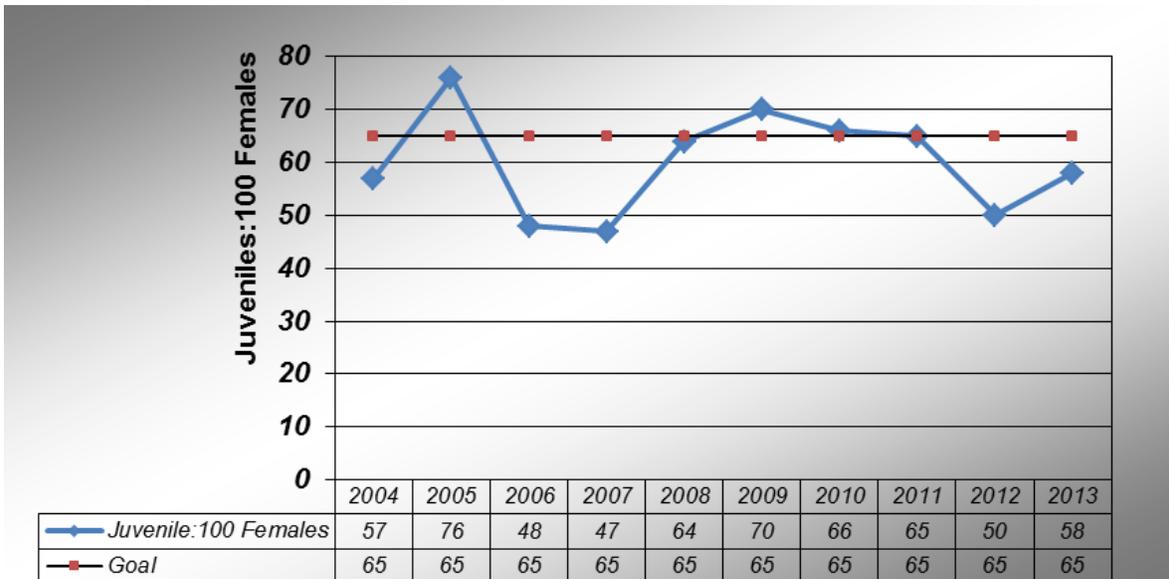
Left is a map of coyotes removed indicated by the blue pins.

Postseason Classification Report

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department annually conducts a postseason (November-December) ground survey in the Goshen Rim Mule Deer Herd Unit. The annual fawn to doe ratio is determined from 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. During the past ten years, the fawn ratio for the Goshen Rime Mule Deer Herd Unit has only met or exceeded the 65 fawn per 100 doe’s ratio four of the ten years (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 (the 15 year average prevalence rate for CWD in the Goshen Rim Herd Unit is 9%), 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. We believe this factor may have resulted in less fawns being born in the spring of 2013. Any increased predator control most likely helped to maintain or increase fawn survival.

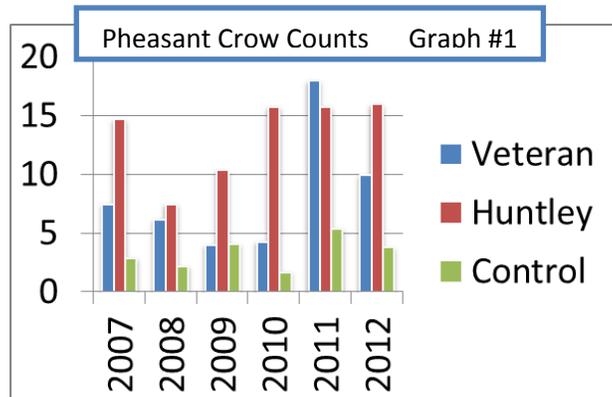
Figure 1. 2004-2013 Fawn ratios and goal for the Goshen Rim Mule Deer Herd Unit, Wyoming.



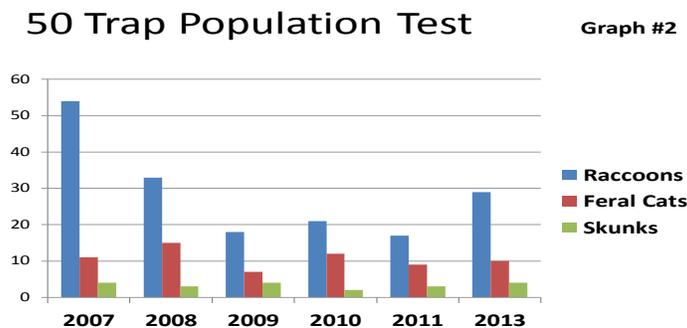
Skunk Population Density Studies

WS' assisted the WS' National Rabies Program in determining population densities for striped skunks. This is accomplished by trapping an area 3km², about 750 acres, with 50 traps set for 10 nights for a total of 500 trapped nights, moving traps every 2-4 days if no captures result. Data collected consists of date, species, sex, age, GPS locations, and micro and macro habitats. Every tenth skunk captured was submitted for rabies. This project tied in nicely with our other wildlife projects and brought relief to areas that suffered from vast amounts of raccoon damage. This was conducted for three consecutive years and concluded in November 2012.

monitoring pheasant numbers by running routes with marked locations that are to be traveled every year at the same time and stopping to count the crow calls of the pheasants. This crow count study has been conducted by the Wyoming Game and Fish since 1957. We have used this information, as it coincides with the project areas. We have helped run the crow counts with the Game and Fish since the start of the project in 2007. The results have shown the project to be a success. (See graph #1)



Graph #2 below illustrates a population test that has been conducted since the beginning of the pheasant enhancement project. The population test consists of running fifty traps for ten days making a total of 500 trapped nights. The traps are placed in the same place, at the same time every year.



Note that a high capture rate in the first trapping year was achieved. This was followed by a decrease and then a leveling off to a consistent lower level of capture results. This area was not trapped in the 2012 season and was trapped in the spring of 2013 to see what effect one year of non-trapping has on predator numbers.

The project has also led to large decreases in property and crop damage. Most of the damage was being caused by raccoons and due to the high numbers of raccoons being maintained, we could see property and crop damage benefits overlapping from the game bird enhancement project. These observations led to the GCPMD wanting to further understand the total economic benefits to corn production by trapping efforts. In 2009, a corn damage study was conducted with the help of the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) in Fort Collins, CO. The corn damage study consisted of ten selected areas; five areas were located inside the pheasant enhancement areas “trapped areas” and five areas were outside the project areas “not-trapped areas” (control). These areas were also selected by habitat, ranging from dry land corn areas with very little additional habitat, to areas with significant water and abundant habitat. This allowed for a diverse range of habitat types to get well represented results. In most trapped areas, damage to corn caused by raccoon decreased by 65% - 90% estimating an increased revenue of \$425 per 100 acres. This is a significant potential economic gain to corn producers. (See attached publication)



In the spring of 2011, WS' conducted a nest depredation study in Goshen County. The study consisted of constructing ten artificial nests. Five nests were viewed with trail cameras, while the remaining five had no camera observations. The nests were made with surrounding grasses and placed in heavily covered habitat areas natural to pheasant nesting. The nesting study data showed considerable destruction on the simulated nests.



In the time frame of one week, seven nests were destroyed. In week two, the remaining nests were destroyed. Depredations by species were as follows: bull snake one nest, opossum one nest, coyote one nest, raccoon four nests, and the remainder unknown. In 2012, the same study was conducted placing the

nests in the same locations but trapping efforts were conducted in the winter months before the nesting observation study. Two nests survived the two week time frame. At least three nests were destroyed by bull snakes. This suggests that raccoon damage was considerably less after concluding trappings efforts.

There has been good public response to the game bird enhancement project throughout the course of its existence. Property owners have now started using live traps of their own to help the effort and the overlapping benefits have been very well documented. Although the game bird enhancement project has concluded, there is still a need to protect against crop and property damage in these areas. Trapping efforts in relation to property damage will continue to help the native game birds. This project and the related information gained have shown that removal of the target predators on a consistent basis, with the right environmental and habitat conditions being present, is valuable to native pheasant populations and agricultural interests.

Livestock Protection/Nuisance Animal Work

With the advent of additional state funding, GCPMD/WS' has been able to hire an additional employee in 2007, increase flying time, and acquire more equipment. This has lead to greater diversity in the GCPMD program. Increased funding also allows for greater effectiveness in responding to livestock depredation issues and **WS' personnel in Goshen County spent a considerable amount of time working in Laramie County under contract with Warren Land and Livestock and the Laramie County PAB.**

WS' in Goshen County is also doing a great deal of European Starling work in feedlots. This is a very timely procedure and starling migratory patterns create a genuine obstacle. Persistence and hard work has been able to slow down the damage caused by the vast amounts of starlings that populate the feedlots. The additional help is essential in success slowing the damage caused by the large amount of starlings that populate the feedlots. WS' has good communications

with the feedlot managers and owners that feel our efforts are making a difference. Another ongoing problem is with the roosting Turkey Vultures in the City of Torrington. The vultures are causing damage to yards, sidewalks and trees. With the cooperation of the city and use of the proper vulture effigies, WS' has been able to manage the situation.

Additional:

Goshen County has had several skunks testing positive for rabies. This has led to a large amount of time and effort to address the issues. There have been twenty plus positive skunk cases as well as one fox and a domestic cat. The amount of pet exposures and human health and safety issues seem to be increasing. Efforts by WS' so far have consisted of addressing instances as they arise. Notifying the public has been a top priority this has been accomplished by means of radio ads and information handouts. Future objectives are to perform surveillance trapping in areas of the county where rabies has not yet been recorded to get a good idea of the distribution of infected skunks.

Summary:

GCPMD plans to keep moving forward with all responsibilities. WS' will continue efforts for the mule deer enhancement project and perform any duties necessary for the rabies issues of Goshen County.

Hot Springs County Predator Management District

Final Report 2013-2014

In FY 2013-2014 the Hot Springs County Predator Management District (HSCPMD) 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 5,000 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 Sage Grouse, and air and ground telemetry/monitoring.

The 2013-2014 budget was set at \$242,000.00 and funds were received from the following: Hot Springs County, Wyoming Dept. of Agriculture/ADMB, Predator assessment fees (Brand fees), fur sales and a special project grant (Sage Grouse) from the ADMB. All funds received from WDA/ADMB,(\$174,000.00) will be expended by 6/30/2014.

Rabies testing was performed on 13 random animals including bats, raccoons, and skunks. There were no positive samples.

The HSCPMD is participating in the third year of the basin-wide Sage Grouse project. 17 Sage Grouse were captured and collared this year in Hot Springs County. Remote cameras are also being used to record nest predation and trail use by predators.

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

The HSCPMD increased its capital equipment purchases in 2013-2014. This includes upgrades and additional equipment. New equipment purchases were 50 live traps, 3 suppressor/muzzle brakes, 1 night vision scope, and 1 night vision binocular.

In certain areas of Hot Springs County the Coyote and Raccoon populations have been kept in check, but increased control measures were needed on most species, specifically for Wolves, Grizzly bears, and Black bears. The HSCPMD expects this trend to continue.



Brett Belden Secretary/Treasurer

Hot Springs County Predator Management District

July 1, 2013

to

June 30, 2014

2014 Annual Report

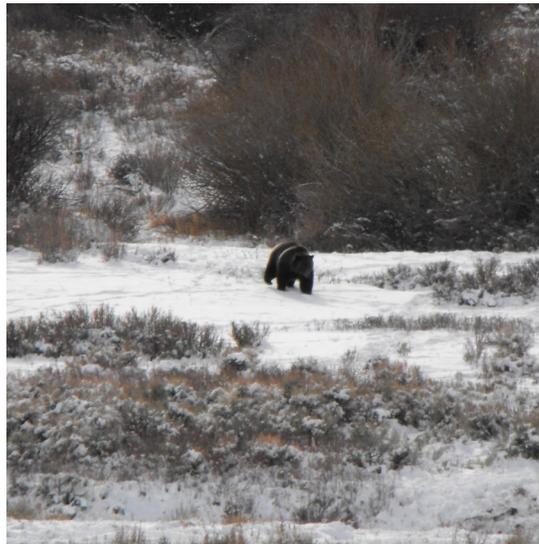
BOARD MEMBERS

- **President**
Jack Baird
Thermopolis, Wy
- **Vice President**
Bob Blacketer
Thermopolis, Wy
- **Sec/Treasure**
Brett Belden
Thermopolis, Wy
- Shawn Smith
Thermopolis, Wy
- Everret Jones
Thermopolis, Wy.
- Mike Kimesy
Manderson, Wy.
- Darrell Thompson
Thermopolis, Wy.
- Art Hunter
Thermopolis, Wy.
- Josh Longwell
Thermopolis, Wy.
- Don Harvey
Thermopolis, WY

Please refer to the attached MIS Report provided by USAD/ Wildlife Services for more detail if needed.

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 personnel. Our goal is respond to all dam-48 hours after our contacted. Services active, non-lethal, to solve wildlife along with technical tices to reduce or by wildlife species. performed in a pro-follow all federal, and regulations. will be given to endangered Species of actions will be con-the United States



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 and also support the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predator Research Project with "in kind" funds for field personnel and aerial support. 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. Our plan will continually make

professionally trained personnel have been will include pro-and lethal approaches damage problems advice for best prac-avoid future damage Lethal control will be fessional manner and state, and local laws Special consideration Threatened and En-wildlife and control ducted as directed by Fish and Wildlife Ser-

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 Spring County as well as the rest of the Bighorn Basin.

Hot Springs County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 12 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, and American crow complaints. The majority of the Hot Springs County Specialists time since July 1st, 2013 was spent answering the following complaints and providing assistance to:

3,179 daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation on calves, sheep, sage grouse, and livestock guarding animals.

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

159 Calls for assistance for grizzly predation on cattle.

201 beaver calls for damage to private property and irrigation systems.

503 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving chickens, sage grouse, pheasants, chukars, human health and safety, and property damage on residences or out buildings.

69 Mountain Lion tasks for cattle, sheep, and human health and safety.

500 daily tasks for grey wolf complaints involving sheep and cattle.

591 daily tasks for fox complaints with sage grouse, chickens, chukars, pheasants, cattle, and sheep.



Photo by Gary Simpson

Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Hot Springs County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Hot Springs County has cooperated a full-time position with Washakie County for personnel who provided 724 hours towards field activities costing the Hot Springs County PMD \$25,340.00 for field data collection for the Sage Grouse Project. Hot Springs County PMD has also donated 37.7 hours of aerial work to the Sage Grouse Project costing the PMD \$5,625.00 and plan to continue with cooperation until its conclusion. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation



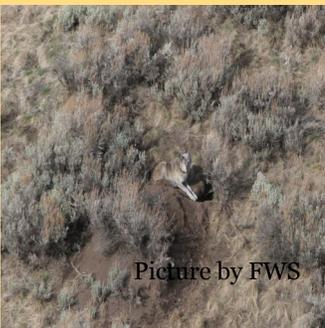
events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement and habitat selection, and how human activity has effected sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University has taken the position of Lead Researcher to further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



Wolf Depredation Management

Hot Springs County Wildlife Specialists diligently assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with capturing and collaring wolves for population and monitoring management in the Bighorn Basin during 2013-2014. 321 hours and around \$11,235.75 , a cost to Hot Springs County PMD,

for wolf complaints in the predator designated area of Hot Springs County. Specialists reported to numerous complaints involving cattle and sheep by gray wolves. We truly fear the expanding wolf population and associated damage due to our county being split by the trophy game and predator line in Wyoming wolf management program.





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

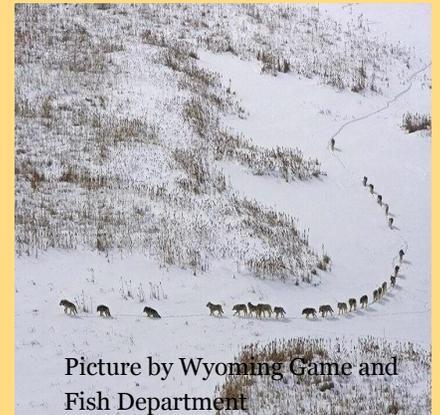
Hot Springs County Wildlife Specialists have reported to 1,130 requests for assistance dealing with damage complaints of raccoons and striped skunks on chickens, chukars, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns. Specimens

were sent for disease testing by the State Veterinary Laboratory from animals thought to possess human health and safety concerns throughout Park county. Numerous species such as red fox, porcupines, badgers, feral cats, beavers, and ravens also have been reported and confirmed as wildlife related damage culprits in our area.



Trophy Game Assistance to Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Hot Springs County Wildlife Specialists responded to 126 trophy game damage complaints under the direction of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the Shoshone/Arapahoe Reservation for grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions and wolves in Hot Springs County. This cost of this activity was PMD 172 hours and \$6, 020.00. Requests for assistance from specialists involved cattle and sheep depredation and human health and safety concerns. With the growing number of



large predators the Hot Springs County Predator Management District Board has made it their goal to continue to support our wildlife specialists with their efforts to respond to the increasing number of requests for wildlife damage assistance and human health and safety concerns in the Big-horn Basin.



Johnson County Predator Management District
FY 2013-2014 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. 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 joined the Wyoming Game & Fish and Big Horn Environmental Consultants in a sage grouse nest predation study, which included DNA sampling of mammal hair from the nesting sites. Results of this study will be very interesting.

- The District has adopted an electronic payroll and bill paying system that will save time as well as postage and mailings.
- We have handled a couple delicate public relations situations this year. The first was an organized coyote hunt completion to 'benefit' a local organization. We met with the organizers and cautioned them of the publicity, and encouraged them to keep it as low key as possible. The second was the loss of a producer's dog to a district set M44. Contractors were reminded to adhere strictly to regulations and protocol.

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

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

Dave Hall
Secretary/Treasurer
Johnson County PMD

May 6, 2014

The main goal of the Lincoln County Animal Damage Board is to aid in maintaining a viable livestock industry and wildlife numbers in Southwest Wyoming. In addition Southwestern Wyoming has more sage grouse population in the western states. By controlling coyotes, foxes and ravens, we have been able to maintain and increase bird numbers in lambing-ground areas where we do more control of predators and ravens. Fortunately these lambing ranges also winter a lot of deer so we appear to have a fairly stable deer population.

The Wyoming Range/Lincoln deer winter range is one of the most important deer herds in the state. I have been shown that deer migrate as far north as the Hoback to the Sage Junction area. Although local Game & Fish personnel do not believe there is a predator problem because the doe-fawn ratio is 66/100, it would be well worth a study to determine how many fawns migrate to wintering areas versus how many yearlings leave the winter range. If you want to kill coyotes, work the winter areas. Last year we killed 70 coyotes between LaBarge and Fontenelle Creeks. The relatively small areas winters a lot of deer that migrate south from the South end of the Wyoming Range. Deer make up the largest percentage of a coyote's diet on these wintering areas. Last winter was very mild with very little mortality. I must have seen at least 50 freshly-killed deer of which we shot coyotes. If we were not flying and killing coyotes I know that deer numbers would decline in the future.

The rabbit population has been low, whether it is because of a cycle or it is because of foxes, coyotes or eagles. I cannot determine but one thing for certain is there is not enough to feed all these predators. What is important with the scenario I have presented is that between Lincoln County AMB and Wildlife Services, 700 coyotes were removed.

The wolf is the hardest predator to control. They have given all of us a humbling education. They are intelligent, brazen, tough, and are killers. No question about it they are at the top of the food chain. They kill most of the time just for the hell of it. It is a sport to them and very expensive for ranchers and for the State. Because of less wildlife it equals less licenses. Livestock operators suffer because they are in the predator area and have to endure the financial loss and less hunting opportunities. What we have determined in Lincoln County is that the wolf prefers moose. Last year we found 6 dead

moose calves killed by the same pair of wolves. This winter we found 13 dead calves killed by I believe the same pair of wolves. One flight I saw a dead moose and a live elk calf about ½- mile away from each other. Three days later I flew back looking for the wolf in the same area and found the elk dead which was killed by the wolf. Perhaps Bruce Babbit captured some of Michigan's wolves that eat mainly moose when he turned them loose in Yellowstone National Park. Regardless, wolves are very expensive to control or manage.

We finally removed two wolves one by trapping the other by running with snow-machines after we exhausted out flying budget. Last year we removed 5 with the helicopter. Consequently, we killed less coyotes this year compared to a year ago because of concentrating on wolves. About half of last-years kill. We do know of one more wolf in the LaBarge area, but are waiting for him to get into trouble to help locate it.

Habitat is not limiting sage-grouse production. Those of us who have spent our entire life on the range know its predation. Until we start managing ravens better and other avian species like golden eagles, sage grouse are not going to expand ranges and increase populations. They will not increase unless they are listed under the ESA. If they are listed all we have to do is look at the grizzly bear and we are still not out of the woods with the wolves. We cannot trust our Uncle Sam and the environmentalists hate everything Wyoming stands for; good sound multiple-use.

We have asked for more helicopter money because of wolves otherwise our budget would be about the same as last year. I believe we are doing a good job trying to assist the livestock industry. Although some people may not care or agree but the PAB is greatly benefiting wildlife especially the deer and sage grouse. We would not be able to do this job without the help of the State, Governor, legislature and the ADMB.

Thank you for your consideration,
Truman Julian
President

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

2013-2014
Year End Report

Outline:

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

District Management Plan

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

The NCPMD has contracted with three (3) full time trappers who cover a very large geographical area compared to the other counties who have several full time trappers. (Clint Cummings, Will Roberts, Rock Buckingham.)

The predator control work in the Stinking Creek/Bates Hole mule deer wintering area was requested by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department. The purpose of requesting predator control in deer unit 66 was to attempt to bring up mule deer numbers. In addition to the wintering areas, the predator control will extend into this deer herds summer range.

The Wyoming Game and Fish asked for the NCPMD's assistance in trapping in this specific area and we agreed to assist with this project. The reason that the game and fish has requested this is because for over 10 plus years, mule deer numbers have been dramatically below herd objective. The NCPMD had previously not worked this area of the county because land owners did not request or desire our services. Prior to receiving grant money from the Game and Fish, we lacked the funding and the personnel necessary to work this part of Natrona County. The Wyoming Game and Fish helped us secure access to these ranches for predator control to assist the mule deer population. The Game and Fish provided \$30,000 for this program. The NCPMB, through

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

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

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

| Year | Yearling Bucks | Mature Bucks | Total Bucks | Fawns |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| 2000 | 15 | 15 | 30 | 59 |
| 2001 | 10 | 18 | 28 | 66 |
| 2002 | 9 | 16 | 26 | 84 |
| 2003 | 10 | 13 | 23 | 77 |
| 2004 | 13 | 16 | 29 | 67 |
| 2005 | 13 | 12 | 25 | 75 |
| 2006 | 17 | 18 | 35 | 47 |
| 2007 | 12 | 19 | 32 | 58 |
| 2008 | 12 | 18 | 29 | 65 |
| 2009 | 8 | 15 | 23 | 57 |
| 2010 | 9 | 11 | 20 | 45 |
| 2011 | 7 | 14 | 21 | 67 |
| 2012 | 4 | 13 | 17 | 60 |
| 2013 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 56 |

A Sportsman’s Representatives for the NCPMD (Donald Garrison) meets annually with the Wyoming Game and Fish personnel to review various opportunities and projects that may be mutually beneficial to them and the NCPMB. We report all coyotes taken throughout the year to the Wyoming Game and Fish by antelope hunt unit. It’s our desire to continue working closely with game and fish for the benefit of wildlife populations throughout Natrona County.

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

II. **Public Relations:**

The NCPMD held its second 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 \$20 per set of ears turned in. The board worked with Sportsman's Warehouse and Rocky Discount Sports for the designated locations. At each location, 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 brought a total of 308 sets of ears to the board members of the NCPMD. The NCPMD paid a total of \$6,160 to the residents who participated. Please see attached report.

III. **Identifiable or Measurable Results:** To date, for Fiscal Year 2014, the three trappers have harvested **942** coyotes, not counting the bounty program that accounted for an additional **308**. This figure does not include coyotes harvested for the month of June. 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. Please see attached report.

Coyotes taken for the following fiscal years:

| Fiscal Year | Coyotes Taken |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2008 | 2,658 |
| 2009 | 1,493 |
| 2010 | 2,186 |
| 2011 | 1,788 |
| 2012 | 1,568 |
| 2013 | 1,355 |
| 2014 | 942 |

Fixed Fly Time:

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

USDA-APHIS: **43.11 hours (41 coyotes harvested)**

Reno Air Service: **73.2 hours (163 coyotes harvested)**

Total for fixed fly time is **116.31 hours**

Total coyotes harvested: **204**

Helicopter Fly Time: The NCMPD contracted with Wyoming Helicopters for a total of 44 flying hours.

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 | 44 hours |

IV. Grant Monies expended for Fiscal Year 2014:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Fly Time: | \$ 66,853.88 |
| Office Supplies: | \$ 188.21 |
| Postage and Delivery: | \$ 299.31 |
| Contract Services: | \$161,397.00 |
| Meeting expenses: | \$ 306.85 |
| Mileage for Board Members: | \$ 1,836.63 |
| Liability Insurance: | \$ 300.00 |
| PO Box Fee: | \$ 92.00 |
| Public Relations: | \$ -0- |
| Preparation of tax forms: | \$ 1,083.88 |
| Membership: | \$ 500.00 |
| Attorney Fees: | \$ -0- |
| Livestock Predator Fees: | \$ 363.01 |
| Bounty Program: | |
| 12/14/13 (83 sets of ears) | \$ 1,660.00 |
| 1/25/14 (225 sets of ears) | \$ 4,500.00 |
| Total Expenses Incurred: | <u>\$239,380.77</u> |

V. Current Financial Statement: For the current Fiscal Year 2014, NCPMD has a grant account balance of **\$16,865.27**. We have a livestock tax account balance of **\$43,350.97**. A Refund Saving Account was setup which has a balance of **\$2,504.03**. For a total of **\$67,720.27**. Anticipated expenditures through July 1, 2014 are **\$16,261.00**. This will leave the NCPMD a balance of **\$604.27** from funding we received from the ADMB for fiscal year 2014.

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 25th day of June, 2014.

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

Phil Marton, President NCPMD

Niobrara County PMD Grant Activities Report Narrative

June 30, 2014

The foremost goal of the Niobrara County Predator Management District Board has always been to use the funding provided by our producers to implement a program of livestock protection through predator control. With the addition of funding provided by the state for the past several years we have been able to enlarge our program to include wildlife concerns. Prudent spending allows us to spend over 95 cents of total dollars on field operations. Predator removal is of mutual benefit to livestock and wildlife, and operations are timed to provide control at critical times and places to maximize those benefits. The trappers are directed to focus on calving grounds in early spring to reduce calf losses due to predators. Later the focus shifts to lambing and fawning areas. April and May are vital denning months. Coyotes are becoming smarter and wiser to are ways of eliminating them allowing them to still reproduce and survive giving us no shortage of coyotes in our county. It seems they are always moving from eastern states and southern counties as they do not control at all, so we are never afraid of running out of them.

We again had two full-time trappers this year, one aerial hunter who is paid per coyote taken and one part-time trapper who works the Rawhide Project area during the winter and receives a partial reimbursement of expenses from the board. This trapper took a total of 78 coyotes this winter, 30 of which were in Niobrara County. The rest were either in the portion of Goshen County that was in the original Rawhide Recovery project boundary or along our borders with Goshen and Platte counties. We urged Goshen County to join in this very inexpensive control but they did not. They do no predator control in northern Goshen, and Platte County does no control at all, so we believe the trapper's work helps to provide our county with a beneficial cushion against predator problems.

The privately-contracted trappers took an impressive number of predators this year. The take these men have accomplished in the past four years using ground methods is far higher than was achieved historically. Our aerial program consists of two private contract pilots as well as a contract with Wildlife Services. Unfortunately, due to bad weather with many foggy mornings we haven't been able to fly as much as we would have liked. However, in the month of February they killed 50 coyotes.

Our 2013 annual deer count was conducted in November as usual. Multiple years' data compiled on mule deer populations and fawns per doe ratios in the targeted mule deer areas are yielding interesting data. While conditions over the past several years have fluctuated greatly we show this year that the Rawhide Management Area is down in numbers but that is due to poor feed there. Everywhere else the numbers are up.

2014

Annual Report

Park County Predator Management District

July 1, 2013

to

June 30, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS

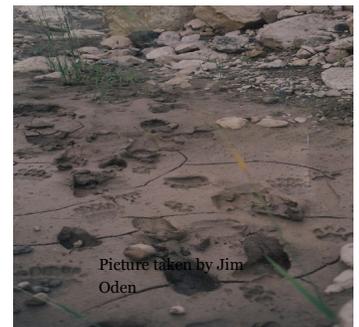
- **President**
Todd Stutzman,
Powell, Wy
- **Vice President**
Ken Beers
Meeteetse, Wy
- **Sec/Treasure**
Regan Smith
Powell, Wy
- William Johnsey
Cody, Wy
- Rori Renner
Meeteetse, Wy.
- Shane Smith
Powell, Wy.
- Zane Bryant
Cody, Wy.
- Lloyd Thiel
Powell, Wy.
- Allan Hogg
Meeteetse, Wy.
- Lee Lingston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

Please refer to
the attached
MIS Report pro-
vided by Wild-
life Services for
more detail if
needed.

Mission:

Park County Predator Management District's (PMD) management plan is to contract with United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (WS) to provide high-quality wildlife damage management services for all entities located in Park County that result in the protection of agriculture, wildlife and other natural resources, private and federal property, and human health and safety. Our goal is to cooperate with all land and wildlife management agencies to ensure there will be protection for all wildlife and domestic species. By working with WS who have Memorandums of Understanding (MOU'S) with all land and wildlife management agencies the Park County PMD will be assured to have put ourselves in a position to best deal with all species and localities of our county regardless of state and federal protections with professionally trained personnel. Our Mission is to provide service or respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after our personnel are contacted. Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, and lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage problems along with technical advice for best practices to reduce or avoid future damage by wildlife species. Lethal control will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Special consideration will be given to Threatened and Endangered Species of wildlife and control actions will be conducted as directed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to minimize the impact to private property and livestock as well as the species of wildlife confirmed to have caused the damage.

Wildlife related issues for Park County Predator Management District



Picture taken by Jim
Oden

Park County Predator Management District Program and its cooperation with Wildlife Services reach 79 different landowners in Park County and many others in neighboring counties covering 2,215,092 acres in Northwest Wyoming including State Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and Private lands . We offered assistance with a large variety of wildlife



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

Park County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 10 WS employees during this last year to cater to the increasing requests to our program for assistance involving such wildlife species as: grizzly bears, beavers, coyotes, fox, raccoons, skunks, feral cats, feral dogs, porcupines, badgers, grey wolves, black bears, mountain lions, sage grouse, pigeons, ravens, golden eagles, muskrats, and American crow complaints. The majority of the Park County Specialist's time since July 1st, 2013 was spent answering the following complaints in Park County:

- 1,310 daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation on calves, sheep, swine, pheasants, sage grouse, mule deer, antelope, and livestock guarding animals.
- 37 beaver calls for private property and irrigation damage.
- 269 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving human health and safety, property damage on residences or out buildings.
- 13 feral dog tasks for private property and livestock damage.
- 10 daily tasks for grizzly bear damage cattle, landfills, and human health and safety.
- 1 Mountain Lion task for cattle damage or threat of damage.
- 154 daily tasks for grey wolf complaints involving cattle, horses, buffalo, mule deer, elk, and sheep.
- 110 daily tasks for fox complaints with sage grouse, chickens, and sheep.



Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Park County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Park County has provided additional help by cooperating a full-time position with Bighorn County PMD who has allowed us to provide 2,708.5 hours towards field activities and 50.8 hours of aerial time for the project. Last year we provided \$102,471.500 for data collection and field activities to support to the sage grouse project. As of 2013-2014 Wildlife Specialists



have handled over 350 sage grouse for the sage grouse project. We are currently following 70 colored sage grouse in the Park County area for the project. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement, and habitat selection. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University has taken the position of Lead Researcher to further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



05-19-2011



Wolf Depredation Management

Park County Wildlife Specialist's assisted the Wyoming Game and Fish Department with capturing and collar 1 wolf for population and monitoring management in the Bighorn Basin during 2013-14. Five wolves were removed in livestock harassment or depredation management efforts by Wildlife Services. In Park County Wildlife Services reported predation of 6 adult cattle and 6 calves in the Park County area. Wyoming Game and Fish Department made a great effort to report to

the majority of the damage caused by wolf this year. That information will not be captured in this report. Wildlife Services employees spent 397 hours with wolf activities in the Park County area at a cost of \$13,895.00. From the previous amount and time spent listed 300.8 hours at a cost of \$10,528.00 involved the predator area which was a cost to the Park County Predator Management District and the Wyoming State Animal damage Management Board. Wildlife Services personnel reported to 163 daily activities regarding wolf complaints involving cattle, horses, buffalo, mule deer, elk, and sheep by gray wolves.



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



Park County Wildlife Specialists have 742 separate daily activities for assistance dealing with damage complaints and requests for assistance with raccoons and striped skunks to chickens, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, leaf-cutter bee hives, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns. Wildlife Specialists have previously conducted pheasant crow-count surveys to

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



Trophy Game Assistance to Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Park County Wildlife Specialists responded to numerous trophy game damage complaints and 96 hours of field work for species such as grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions, and gray wolves. Requests for assistance from specialists involved cattle depredation and harassment, damage to bee hives, and human health and safety concerns. With the growing number of large predators and decreasing prey base in northwestern Wyoming,



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



Sheridan County Management Plan 2013 – 2014 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 **A) *Wildlife Issues*** – The numbers of ravens, crows, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes in Sheridan County are at healthy levels. Many of the livestock producers in the county also receive additional income from wildlife activities, i.e. hunting.

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

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

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

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

AREA 3 – From Wyarno, east to Passic Rd, following Buffalo Creek Rd east and Ulm County Rd southwest to Hwy 14/16. Everything east of Ukm County Rd and 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. 500 hrs

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

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

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

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

C) *Proposed Actions* – The addition of the aforementioned flying time will have a tremendous impact on prevention of livestock losses, as this method is often one of the best tools for coyote control. The PMD is also budgeting for part-time and a full time contract hunter to help the current full time trapper. This help is necessary to relieve 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.

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

TRAPPERS REPORT FOR 2013-14

Area 1

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

Area 2

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

Area 3

We have seen slight decreases in the numbers of grouse. Eagles show up on the leks in large numbers in this area. We had built up a fair sized flock of grouse in one area. Then the golden eagles hit. As we cannot due control on the eagles, there were fresh piles of feathers every day. In one month this flock was basically wiped out. Overall in this area the sage grouse seem to be holding their own. The eagle numbers are up dramatically in this area.

Area 4

In this area we put a high emphasis on trapping and snaring as well as aerial hunting. The mule deer numbers are holding steady. Fawn numbers are up slightly. We have seen coyote numbers increase two fold this past year due to coyotes coming across the Montana and Campbell County line.

Area 5

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

Area 6

We mainly do aerial hunting in this area from fall to late spring. In the summer we work this part of Sheridan County on the ground with calling and dogs. We have a large population of lions in this area. What we have seen is a drop in coyote numbers and a increase in mule deer. This year we have killed more coyotes in this area than in previous years. Again this is caused by a growing coyote population on the Crow Reservation.

Area 4, 5, & 6

In the past year we have increased our efforts along the Montana border on coyote control. Our damage calls for this area are down from the past year. We still have bear killings on the Bighorn Mountains; however Wildlife Services has stopped the problem for the time being. We had a female wolf show up on a sheep allotment causing predation. We were able to catch the wolf in a short time.

All Areas

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

Sweetwater County Predator Management District

March 31, 2014

Mr. Kent Drake – Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board

1. The mission of the Sweetwater County Predator Management District has been and is to provide predator control throughout the county for the benefit of livestock producers and wildlife populations within Sweetwater County.
2. Sweetwater County encompasses 10,500 square miles and provides winter range for about 52,000 sheep and winter and summer range for about 14,000 cattle. This is also one of the best areas in Wyoming for antelope, deer and elk populations.
3. a) *Wildlife Issues* - The numbers of predatory animals in Sweetwater County have been at healthy levels. Areas south of Rock Springs have experienced a decline in deer and pronghorn fawning ratios, due to the fact that the sheep production that used to exist in the area is now gone. However, last year and again this year we have increased predator control by having a full time trapper within the county during the winter/spring months and dedicated more funds to aerial control through the use of a helicopter to supplement the aerial control program throughout Sweetwater County.
b) *Wildlife Goals* – The Sweetwater County Predator Management District is committed to increasing wildlife reproductive rates through effective management of those predator species have the most negative impact on wildlife reproduction and survival.
4. *Proposed Actions* – We are working on protecting wildlife within Western Wyoming and have received information from the Game and Fish Department on areas that they are concerned with low fawn numbers and have targeted these areas to help improve these ratios.
5. *Livestock Issues* – Predators have always been a great problem for livestock producers and our Board is dedicated to minimizing the loss of livestock due to predation, thereby enhancing Sweetwater County and its ability to produce livestock and their by-products.
a) We are presently using tools that have proven to be selective and effective in the past. We are using more helicopter services, especially in the rugged areas of the county where fixed winged aircraft is somewhat limited, and we plan to expand the helicopter effort as it seems to be very effective, especially in some of the wildlife areas.
6. We have a very active Board made up of concerned ranchers, sportsmen and the public. We believe there have been some dramatic results and benefits evident for both wildlife and livestock within this County.
7. The board has partnered with the Mule Deer foundation to help in some areas they feel were a concern. This additional emphasis on these areas hope to improve deer/fawn ratios. We will continue to help support their efforts again this year.
8. We contracted with Helicopter Roundup Services for additional aerial control of coyotes this past 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

ACTIONS TAKEN

For this fiscal year (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014) we employed many of the same methods as the last few years. Again our district has found the benefit of pre-emptive work significantly reduces losses to both wildlife and livestock in Uinta County. Generally at the beginning of each fiscal year, most of the producers are in the higher country with most of the larger sheep producers spending the summers in the High Uintas. We receive some help from our Utah neighbors as far as addressing any issues by producers in Summit County, Utah. This frees up our Uinta County operators to conduct some work on the mid country around the Wyoming-Utah state line.

We employed two trappers contracted through USAD-APHIS's Wildlife Services. Last year our junior trapper applied for a newly created "Roving Trapper" position, and would be charged with working on gray wolf problems in a four county area. Uinta County is one of the counties among the four counties involved. Consequently we requested Wildlife Services to recruit a trapper to fill the vacancy.

We utilized the fixed wing of Wildlife Services in Rock Springs, WY a total of 98.5 hours at a cost of \$14,787.00 and utilized our contract ultra-lite operator 251 hours at a cost of \$16315.00.

This year the spring conditions were better suited for helicopter work. We contracted with Wyoming Helicopters for 21 hours of work on the lambing grounds. Generally if conditions are conducive, this work significantly reduces producer losses and also benefits both the antelope and deer populations, as many of the lambing grounds are also used by the wildlife populations as well.

IDENTIFIABLE AND MEASURABLE RESULTS

Producers experienced increased lambing percentages this spring. The helicopter work which was done reduced the number of trouble calls and allowed producers to take better numbers to the summer ranges this year. Another note about the spring helicopter work saw an increase in wildlife fawns this year. The significant amount of fall and spring moisture also contributed heavily to the rise in numbers.

The numbers for aerial work conducted by Wildlife Services was partially referred to previously. Regarding an overview of the details saw 98.58 hours spent for the fiscal year 2013-2014. Again the cost was at an hourly rate of \$150.00 per hour, for a total cost of \$14,787.00. With respect to take numbers, hours in the field by the specialists and confirmed losses by producers, this data is on file with USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services.

The results of our private contracted ultra-lite specialist are summarized as follows: 251 hours spent flying at a cost of \$65.00 per hour for a total cost to the district of \$16,315.00. This resulted in a total take of 179. The detailed report is currently on file with the Predator Management District of Uinta County.

Results of the helicopter work undertaken by the district were; 19 hours flown at a rate of \$725.00/hr. along with mileage, ferry time and lodging for the pilot, the total cost to the district was \$15, 877.50 (Detailed report and flight paths attached).

Dr Mike Conover from Utah State University along with his graduate students and the Jack Berryman Institute provided results of two of their Greater Sage Grouse studies that have been published. Results of both studies are included.

LOSSES

This year saw a replacement of the Utah trapper in the summer range of the High Uinta Mountains. The new trapper was a previous employee of Wildlife Services that was working here in Uinta County. This proved to be very beneficial as he has a very good working knowledge of this country. Some producers experienced some significant losses in certain areas of the Uinta Mountains. Efforts were made by our Utah partners and resulted in the take of some animals that were aged and experienced. Upon return to the fall grounds the losses were about normal in comparison to prior years. Winter losses were relatively static related to previous years. Dry summer conditions with very little precipitation adversely affected winter sheep range as far as forage production and producers had to substantially supplement livestock. This required better accessibility to livestock, which in turn precluded the use of more remote areas. This afforded less access to livestock and therefore, somewhat less predation to producers. The actual verified losses confirmed by the trappers, is currently on file with USDA-APHIS, Wildlife Services office. An ongoing effort to determine numbers and dates of unverified losses of livestock producers, are being analyzed to augment our data. The use of pesticide DR-1339 by Wildlife Services specialists has significantly reduced the predation problems related to Ravens. It was noted by the specialists that a yearly program is required to contain any spikes in Raven populations. These results are also currently on file with USDA-APHIS.

**2014
Annual
Report**

Washakie County Predator Management District

July 1, 2013

to

June 30, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS

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

Please refer to the attached MIS Report provided by USDA/Wildlife Services for more detail reporting if needed.

Mission:

Washakie County Predator Management District's (PMD) mission is to provide reasonable and prudent solutions to damage caused by wildlife, provide disease testing and monitoring of zoonotic wildlife diseases which can risk human health and safety, and conduct projects to ensure the protection and conservation of natural resources. Washakie County's plan involves a contract with the United States Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services (WS) who has signed national Memorandums Of Understanding with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, Cooperative Extension Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Defense, and many other state wildlife, agricultural, natural resource, and public health and safety agencies to assure Washakie County has positioned itself to deal with nearly any request for assistance made to our professionally trained personnel. Our goal is to provide service or respond to all damage complaints within 48 hours after our personnel have been contacted. Services will include pro-active, non-lethal, and lethal approaches to solve wildlife damage problems along with technical advice for best practices to reduce or avoid future damage by wildlife species. Lethal control will be

performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Special attention will be given to Threatened and Endangered species of wildlife and control actions directed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to minimize the impact to private property and livestock as well as the confirmed to have caused damage to protected species of wildlife.

Lethal control will be performed in a professional manner and follow all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Special attention will be given to Threatened and Endangered species of wildlife and control actions directed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services to minimize the impact to private property and livestock as well as the confirmed to have caused damage to protected species of wildlife. Washakie County will plan to provide additional help to not only deal with the increasing number of requests for protection of federal property, private property, and crops from predators and protected species of wildlife but to also conduct ongoing wildlife and human health and safety projects in the county. Washakie County's plan is to continue to assist Johnson County with their trophy game damage activities and also support the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predator Research Project with "in kind" funds with field personnel and aerial support. Washakie County PMD plans to add additional personnel for more efficient cooperation with Wildlife management agencies to deal with trophy game species and address gray wolf damage as Wyoming continues with delisting criteria. We feel it is our responsibility to be prepared to deal with wolf damage for livestock and wildlife species as our county is located in the predator zone and has a history over the last ten years of wolf damage on private property south of, and including, the Bighorn Mountain range. Our plan will continually make sure that all interests are taken into considerations while wildlife damage management control actions are performed. We plan to assess all requests for assistance, decide proper action to be taken, and monitor all results. In conclusion, Washakie County Predator Management District plans to meet all challenges to solve wildlife damage in the most cooperative, efficient, cost effective, and expeditious manner.



Wildlife related issues for Washakie County Predator Management District



Washakie County Predator Management District Program and its cooperation with Wildlife Services reach 62 different landowners in Washakie County and many others in neighboring counties covering 1,023,986 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 Washakie and Johnson County as well as the rest of the Bighorn Basin.

Washakie County's duties were conducted with the teamwork and cooperation of 13 WS employees during this last year to cater to our program for assistance in species as: black bears, beavers, skunks, feral cats, feral dogs, mountain lion, sage grouse, ravens, and crow complaints. The majority of the Washakie County Specialist's time since July 1st, 2014 was spent answering the following complaints and providing assistance to:



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

2,069 daily tasks for coyote predation or threats of predation on calves, sheep, horse colts, pheasants, sage grouse, mule deer, and livestock guarding animals.

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

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

60 daily tasks for skunk complaints involving chickens, sage grouse, pheasants, calves, livestock feed, human health and safety, and property damage on residences or out buildings.



6 complaints for black bear damage on sheep ranges in Johnson County.

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

5 daily tasks for grey wolf complaints involving sheep.

27 daily tasks for fox complaints with sage grouse, chickens, and sheep.

Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Washakie County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Washakie County has cooperated personnel whom has provided 1,066.5 hours towards field activities costing the Washakie County PMD \$37,327.50 for field data collection for the Sage Grouse Project and plan to continue until its conclusion. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement and habitat selection, and how human activity has affected sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of



Oregon State University has provided direction as the Lead Researcher to further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.



Wolf Depredation Management

Washakie County Wildlife Specialist's diligently assisted livestock producers with wolf complaints and damage threats in Washakie and Johnson County. Specialists reported to 5 complaints involving cattle and sheep as a result of gray wolves.



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





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

Washakie County Wildlife Specialists have reported to 816 requests for assistance dealing with damage caused by raccoons and striped skunks to chickens, pheasants, sage grouse, crops, irrigation damage, residence damage, livestock feed and buildings, leaf-cutter bee hives, damage to equipment and machinery, and human health and safety concerns. Specimens were sent for disease testing by the State Veteri-

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



Trophy Game Assistance to Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Washakie County Wildlife Specialists responded to 81 trophy game damage complaints for a total of hours under the direction of the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for black bears and mountain lions in Johnson and Washakie County. This activity costs the Washakie County PMD \$1,190.00. Requests for assistance from specialists involved cattle and sheep depredation and human health and safety concerns. With the growing number of large predators the Washakie County Predator

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



Washakie County Special Project Report 2013-2014

Starting in July of 2012 Washakie County received funding from the Animal Damage Management Board (ADMB) Special Project Section to provide additional equipment and field support to meet the increasing requests for assistance with animal damage to private property, human health and safety concerns, and the expanding wildlife projects in the Bighorn Basin. 2013 funding was combined with Hot Springs County due to decreasing budgets to provide a more secure full-time position for a specialist to work on the expanding Sage Grouse Project under the Direction of Dr. Jimmy Taylor. This specialist also assists with all Wildlife Services duties concerning livestock complaints in each County.

This funding allowed specialist's to work a considerable number of hours on numerous different private properties to achieve desired results as requested by residents from our area of responsibility. The special project funding was used for small predator damage on and around farming grounds to alleviate damage to crops and irrigation systems in Washakie County. This program has been great success to farmers and property owners.

The following summary is a complete account of how ADMB funding was spent to assist Washakie County PMD with meeting the needs for animal damage management. We would like to take this time to thank the ADMB for its gracious attention and funding to support our stock growers, farmers, private landowners, wildlife, and public health concerns for Washakie County.

| | Killed Euthanized | Transfer Custody | Relocated | Removed Destroyed | Freed Released | Dispersed | Surveyed | Immobilized | Collared |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| <u>Beavers</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>snare, neck</u> | <u>1</u> | | | | | | | | |
| <u>traps, body grip</u> | <u>1</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Cats, Feral/Free Ranging</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>traps, cage</u> | <u>19</u> | | | | | | | | |
| <u>traps, foothold</u> | <u>1</u> | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 20 | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Coyotes BURROW/DEN</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>gas cartridge, large</u> | | | | <u>6</u> | | | | | |
| Total | | | | 6 | | | | | |
| <u>Coyotes</u> | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>no component specified</u> | | | | | | | <u>6</u> | | |
| <u>calling device, electronic</u> | <u>90</u> | | | | | | <u>4</u> | | |
| <u>calling device,</u> | <u>12</u> | | | | | | <u>18</u> | | |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--|--|---|--|-----|--|--|----|
| (padded) | | | | | | | | | |
| traps, foothold | 43 | | | | | | | | |
| traps, other | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 218 | | | | | | | | |
| Ravens, Common | | | | | | | | | |
| drc-1339-wy sln (staging/feedl) | 22 | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 22 | | | | | | | | |
| Skunks, Striped | | | | | | | | | |
| firearms | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| traps, cage | 39 | | | | | | | | |
| traps, foothold | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Total | 45 | | | | | | | | |
| Bottom Line Total | 675 | | | 7 | | 286 | | | 28 |

Loss Verified

| Resource | Species | Damage | WTs (Occurs) | Proj Starts | Loss | Value |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| AGRICULTURE | | | | | | |
| Livestock | | | | | | |
| sheep (adult) | bears, black | predation | 1 | 0 | 4 ea | \$511 |
| sheep (adult) | coyotes | predation | 2 | 0 | 2 ea | \$255 |
| sheep (adult) | lions, mountain (cougar) | predation | 2 | 0 | 2 ea | \$255 |
| sheep (lambs) | coyotes | predation | 3 | 0 | 9 ea | \$753 |
| sheep (lambs) | eagles, golden | predation | 1 | 0 | 1 ea | \$84 |
| Livestock Sub Total | | | 9 | 0 | 18 ea | \$1,858 |
| AGRICULTURE Sub Total | | | 9 | 0 | 18 ea | \$1,858 |
| NATURAL RESOURCE | | | | | | |
| Wildlife | | | | | | |
| birds, grouse, sage | birds, unidentifiable | predation | 1 | 0 | 1 in | \$330 |
| Wildlife Sub Total | | | 1 | 0 | 1 in | \$330 |
| NATURAL RESOURCE Sub Total | | | 1 | 0 | 1 in | \$330 |
| Total | | | 10 | 0 | 18 ea 1 in | \$2,188 |

Samples Summary

| Species/Disease | Sample Type | Samples |
|-----------------|-------------|---------|
|-----------------|-------------|---------|

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|----|
| <u>raccoons</u> Total Sampled 1 | | |
| canine distemper | animal, complete, carcass | 1 |
| rabies | animal, complete, carcass | 1 |
| Total Samples | | 2 |
| <u>skunks, striped</u> Total Sampled 19 | | |
| rabies | animal, complete, carcass | 6 |
| rabies | tissue | 11 |
| Total Samples | | 17 |
| Total Bottom Line | | 19 |

Conflict Project Start Button Summary

| Resource | Species | Proj Start Button | Daily Activities |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| birds, chukar | coyotes | 0 | 1 |
| birds, grouse, sage | badgers | 0 | 12 |
| birds, grouse, sage | birds, unidentifiable | 0 | 1 |
| birds, grouse, sage | bobcats | 0 | 12 |
| birds, grouse, sage | coyotes | 1 | 50 |
| birds, grouse, sage | crows, american | 0 | 14 |
| birds, grouse, sage | eagles, bald | 0 | 9 |
| birds, grouse, sage | eagles, golden | 0 | 13 |
| birds, grouse, sage | foxes, red | 0 | 14 |
| birds, grouse, sage | grouse, sage, greater | 0 | 36 |
| birds, grouse, sage | magpies, black-billed | 0 | 14 |
| birds, grouse, sage | owls, great horned | 0 | 8 |
| birds, grouse, sage | raccoons | 0 | 8 |
| birds, grouse, sage | ravens, common | 0 | 25 |
| birds, grouse, sage | skunks, striped | 0 | 12 |
| birds, pheasant (all) nr | coyotes | 0 | 2 |
| birds, pheasant (all) nr | raccoons | 0 | 46 |
| birds, pheasant (all) nr | skunks, striped | 0 | 1 |
| buildings, non-residential | raccoons | 0 | 5 |
| buildings, residential | marmots/woodchucks (all) | 0 | 1 |
| buildings, residential | raccoons | 0 | 1 |
| cattle (adult) | coyotes | 0 | 10 |
| cattle (calves) | coyotes | 0 | 486 |
| cattle (calves) | foxes, red | 0 | 13 |
| cattle (calves) | wolves, gray/timber | 0 | 5 |
| equine, horses (foals) | coyotes | 0 | 68 |
| feed, livestock | raccoons | 0 | 101 |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----|
| feed, livestock | skunks, striped | 0 | 2 |
| fowl, chickens (other) | coyotes | 0 | 12 |
| fowl, chickens (other) | skunks, striped | 0 | 1 |
| fruit, grapes/muscadines | starlings, european | 1 | 1 |
| goats, z-(other kids) | lions, mountain (cougar) | 0 | 2 |
| grains, corn (field) | raccoons | 0 | 246 |
| grains, corn (field) | skunks, striped | 0 | 1 |
| grains, corn (sweet) | raccoons | 0 | 133 |
| grains, corn (sweet) | skunks, striped | 0 | 36 |
| guard animals (all) | coyotes | 0 | 2 |
| hlth/sfty, human z-(general) | bears, black | 0 | 1 |
| hlth/sfty, human z-(general) | domestic animal (pet or livestock) | 1 | 1 |
| hlth/sfty, human z-(general) | raccoons | 0 | 2 |
| hlth/sfty, human z-(general) | ravens, common | 0 | 6 |
| hlth/sfty, human z-(general) | skunks, striped | 0 | 8 |
| irrigation ditch/drainage system | beavers | 0 | 22 |
| irrigation ditch/drainage system | raccoons | 0 | 11 |
| irrigation pipe system | raccoons | 0 | 189 |
| mammals, deer, mule | coyotes | 0 | 48 |
| mammals, deer, white-tailed nr | coyotes | 0 | 1 |
| mammals, pronghorn (antelope) | coyotes | 0 | 23 |
| pets (companion/hobby animals) | coyotes | 0 | 3 |
| pets (companion/hobby animals) | raccoons | 0 | 10 |
| property (general) | beavers | 0 | 1 |
| sheep (adult) | bears, black | 0 | 5 |
| sheep (adult) | coyotes | 0 | 590 |
| sheep (adult) | lions, mountain (cougar) | 0 | 29 |
| sheep (lambs) | bears, black | 0 | 1 |
| sheep (lambs) | coyotes | 0 | 711 |
| sheep (lambs) | eagles, golden | 0 | 1 |
| sheep (lambs) | foxes, red | 0 | 21 |
| sheep (lambs) | lions, mountain (cougar) | 0 | 29 |
| trees, standing | beavers | 0 | 14 |
| trees, standing (mixed) | beavers | 0 | 9 |

====end=====

County: WASHAKIE

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Bighorn Basin Sage grouse Project

Washakie County has agreed to provide in-kind assistance with the use of personnel for being the lead and predominate data collection staff for field activities with research, predator control, and aerial support to the expanding Bighorn Basin Sage Grouse Predation Project. Washakie County has cooperated personnel whom has provided 1,066.5 hours towards field activities costing the Washakie County PMD \$37,327.50 for field data collection for the Sage Grouse Project and plan to continue until its conclusion. Specialists have placed trail cameras on nests, necropsied predation events, and conducted both avian and terrestrial predator surveys. We are continuing to monitor and document predation events, identify movement and habitat selection, and how human activity has affected sage grouse in the Bighorn Basin. Dr. Jimmy Taylor of Oregon State University has provided direction as the Lead Researcher to further the project in the future with emphasis on avian predation and how it effects the sage grouse population.

Weston County Predator Management District
Annual Report
June 29, 2014

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

2. The WCPMD currently has two wildlife specialists employed through contract with Wildlife Services. Predator control work is conducted on public lands as well as private. The Brown Community pasture, Osage Community pasture, Cellers Community pasture, and the Six Mile Basin are all important deer and antelope areas which are major public land multiple use areas used by sports people and are identified for control work which are covered by our specialists. Cattle are the dominant livestock class in the county and coyote predation has become a serious economic concern with some producers during calving season. The majority of the sheep in the county are mainly located in the north-west quadrant of the county, therefore, this allows more concentrated predator control in that area. Ground work, as well as aerial work is conducted by the WS specialists. Both technicians work to educate land-owners and the public on the benefits of predator control work for wildlife, beyond the scope of livestock protection. Spring calving starts generally in March of each year and is usually complete by late May. Lambing generally occurs from February to April for confined operation and in May for range operations in Weston County. As in most lambing operations, lamb loss generally coincides with whelping of the coyotes. This spring, there is a noticeable increase in rabbits and mice which will possibly alleviate some predation of livestock.

3. Funding: WCPMD does not submit a request to the Weston County Commissioners for FY2015, partially due to the concern with the Dept. of Audit. WCPMD is anticipating that livestock revenues during FY 2015 will be approximately what they were for FY 2014 as most producers have stabilized their operations after the 2013 drought. Our trappers salvaged furs in the amount of \$2,700 to help with the budget. WCPMD has proposed 250 hours aerial time. WCPMD is very aware of increasing costs and declining revenues and is making every effort to contain costs and be fiscally responsible with their budget. The goal of the District is to maintain the program in place, provide predator management county wide to benefit livestock and wildlife and also provide public health and safety with skunk control. WCPMD requested \$200,831 for FY2015 but was allocated \$182,000 by the ADMB.

4. Equipment: It became necessary to replace the 6 wheeler owned by the WCPMD. So, that was accomplished Jan. 1, 2014 for a cost of \$9,530 after trading the old 6 wheeler.

5. WCPMD is budgeting for 250 hours of fixed wing flying including ferry time for fiscal 2015. Ferry time is approximately one hour per day while flying.

6. Human Health and Safety: Skunk removal and assistance in removal continues as calls come in. Box traps are used mainly to trap skunks and are very effective. It remains to be seen how our spring 2014 precipitation will influence skunk populations. The Weston County Commissioners may provide some funding for this in 2015.

7. Pre and Post Work Monitoring: Monitoring wildlife is being done by routine wildlife observations and watching migratory behavior. Stomach content analysis continues on coyotes as the situation permits.

8. WCPMD also works in conjunction with the Wyoming Game Warden in checking on mountain lion reports in the towns and county for possible removal of trouble animals. No lions have been removed by WS Specialists in the county during 2014.

9. Operation Expense: The WCPMD owns and maintains their ATVs and related equipment such as trailers. Among expenses for the ATVs are fuel, tires and repairs. Supplies and other items include small tools, gloves and miscellaneous supplies including fuel to heat the workshop while working there in. The

District has supplied shot shells for the trappers use while on the job as well as reloading supplies for predator control work.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Shepperson
President, WCPMD