

**ADMB Meeting**  
**January 19, 2023**  
**Zoom Teleconference**

**Members Present:** Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Brian Nesvik (Co-Chair), Mike Burrell , Ron Cunningham, Bob Harlan, Garrett Falkenburg, Gay Lynn Byrd, Bob Phillips, Jeff Boner, Amanda Hulett, Tyler Abbot, Brett Belden

**Board Members Absent:** Doug Mayes, Phil Osterli

**WDA Staff:** Jerald Johnson, J.D. Sater

**Public in Attendance:** Mike Koshmrl (Wyofile)

Meeting called to order at 10:02 am

Doug entertained a motion to approve November 14th minutes. Brett moved, Amanda seconded, Motion carried.

Doug gave a legislative update on HB 188 that was introduced for a new Wolf Compensation Program and that rules will need to be promulgated. Doug also informed the board that the Governor had presented an additional \$1.48 million for predator control.

Jeff Boner asked if this funding will carry over to the next FY budget cycle. Doug confirmed that the budget office will make this a standard amount.

Update on Game & Fish Land Owner Coupon program that the board will pay out the money to the county PMDs that came in on the old forms. Gay Lynn moved we pay the two county claims and would make sure that no old forms be paid in the future, Bob second and motion passed.

The five year contract service agreement between WDA, ADMB, and USDA/WS will need to be addressed before the end of June.

The County BLM predator reporting forms have been received and will be included with the USDA/WS, BLM work plan agreements.

Mike Burrell gave update on their aerial program; they will now have 4 fixed wing pilots and 1 helicopter pilot. Fixed Wing cost will increase from \$160 to \$180 Helicopter will increase from \$700 to \$800 and pickup cost will increase from \$500 to \$650.

They are dealing with several vacancies within Wildlife Services and will be hiring for these positions in the future.

Tyler Abbott informed the Board the Montana USDA/WS and Fish and Wildlife Services have had a lawsuit filed on their predator programs.

**Public Comments**

Mike Koshmrl asked if Jerry could forward the meeting minutes to him

Brett moved to adjourn, Jeff Boner seconded. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting  
Wednesday May 17, 2022 & Thursday, May 18, 2023  
Casper Regional Game & Fish Office  
Casper, Wyoming**

Call to order at 9:01 a.m. by Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto

**Board Members Present:**

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto  
Ron Cunningham

Tyler Abbot FWS  
Jennifer McConchie BLM  
Garret Falkenburg  
Bob Harlan  
Richard Ladwig  
Vacant (Urban)

Brett Belden

Bob Philips

Jeff Boner

Mike Burrell

Phil Osterli Forest service

**Board Members Absent:** Co-chair Brian Nesvik (Day 1 only), Amanda Hulet

**WDA Support Staff:** Ashley Endress, Jerry Johnson, JD Sater, Slade Franklin

**Public Attendees:** Allison Crane, various County Board members

Garret Falkenburg moved to approve minutes from the January meeting, Brett Belden seconded. Motion carried.

Jerry Johnson discussed PMD funding, wolf funding, and rabies funding

Jerry gave an update on the new Wolf compensation rules passed by the legislature that was funded for 5 years for \$300,000. Jerry stated the board would need a vote to proceed with repealing the old Chapter 4 rules, a meeting will need to be schedule in July to repeal the old Chapter 4 Wolf compensation rules once the comment period has closed.

Ron Cunningham moved, Garret Falkenburg second, motion carried.

Motion to approve \$110,000 set aside for WS wolf work and an additional \$30,000 for PMD wolf work

Doug Miyamoto moved, Bob Harlan second, motion carried.

**Presentations**

*Goshen County: Jim Angel and Brady Smith USDA Wildlife Services (WS), Stan Smith, Board*  
*Request: \$65,000*

They have one person on the ground in the area for predator control. Seven WS employees worked in the county last year. Turkey vultures are an increasing nuisance species. The district would like to add a part time employee to help in busier times and with special projects. Thermal imaging will be a heavier focus this year.

*Carbon County: Josh Peterson, Sharon O'Toole, Board and Luke Spanbauer*

*Request: \$245,000*

70% traditional work, 30% non-traditional, ravens, magpies, crows, skunks, feral cats, raccoons, disease surveillance. Dan Bragg retired last year and Ben Acres is a new replacement. Ben is working through the summer. Carbon County has completed 7 wildlife projects and will be submitting a new project application. Three wolf sightings and Colorado collaring a wolf south of Encampment. Livestock producers have concerns with the trend in Colorado and seeing more wolves along I-80. County wide antelope numbers are down. Difficulty getting plane due to weather and competition from other county boards.

*Weston County: Carson Keeline, Allen Slagle, Board and Kassie Swartz (bookkeeper), and Brad Troftgruben, WS*

*Request: \$135,000*

Coyote numbers are steady and small prey base is very limited. 95% traditional program, and the balance is non-traditional, raccoon, turkey vultures, very few skunks. Hard to get a plane when they need one.

*Albany County: Joel Moody, WS, Todd Slagel, Board*

*Request: \$135,000*

Coyote numbers are up and losses have been steady, approximately \$45,000 loss to livestock and \$30,000 loss to ravens at lime plant and in the city. No current wildlife projects with Game and Fish. More producers have been added with agreements. Have had three golden eagles removed. Fixed wing competitive to get with fewer planes available. Working hard to keep cooperators happy with service as they depend upon the service provided. Wolves may become an issue due to Colorado's proximity and control.

*Campbell County: Kevin Geis, Board, Calvin Taylor (trapper), Kenda Ford (bookkeeper)*

*Request: \$290,000*

*Rabies: \$15,000*

Coyote numbers are steady, program working well and would like to continue as we are. They have three trappers who also do rabies work. They have limited their trapper days to balance the budget. 41 skunks tested with 12 positive, two human contact cases. Crows and ravens are more of an issue. They use mainly private pilots so they have been ok getting aerial help.

*Uinta County: Steve Sims, Wade Larsen, Board*

*Request: \$239,030*

Private contract trapper program seems to be working well with quicker response time. Eagle problems are worse than in the past. Some trapping of eagles for relocation has occurred. They currently have a new trapper and a part time denner. They also use private contractors for aerial hunting.

*Big Horn County: Randall Jones, Kay Neves, Board, and Mike Burrell, WS*

*Request: \$207,797*

Currently, they have one and a half full time trapper and the half time is shared with Washakie County PMD. The half time trapper spends more than one half of the time in Big Horn County. Livestock protection is primary focus on coyote. Dry conditions have pushed coyotes down to water sources. A little raven work has been done when time allows. They do have eagles but have not had depredation issues.

*Park County: Regan Smith, Breanne Theil, Board and Mike Burrell, Monty Nicholson, WS*

*Request: \$225,000*

Park County has one and ½ trappers with the half time trapper, primarily working as a gunner. They are seeing wolf depredation earlier this year than normal. With more people on the landscape, predator management gets to be more challenging. They have been working on a Clarks Fork mule deer winter project that was not funded by ADMB but has been successful.

*Crook County: Wade Dennis, Nick smith*

*Request: \$211,320*

Currently have two full time private contract trappers that address traditional and non-traditional predator work. They are getting more people getting into the sheep business in the county. They also use two private contract pilots/gunners for aerial work. Preventative control in livestock and wildlife are their primary focus, but have had more calls for work in town.

*Sheridan County: John Auzqui, Kellen Little, Board*

*Request: \$227,500*

*Rabies: \$20,000*

They provided some population numbers in the county for eagles, pronghorn and mule deer shared by Game and Fish. For rabies mitigation they hired two trappers to remove skunks. Thirty-nine skunks were sent to the vet lab for testing and 21% came back positive for rabies. They have one trapper now. City of Sheridan is helping with funding. They are also asking the smaller towns to help with funding.

*Fremont County: Rob Croft, Beth Evans, Allen Sinner, Gloria Philp, Tracy Frye WS*

*Request: \$240,000*

Seventy-two percent of county acreage is covered with agreements. 116 private landowner agreements in the county. They have a large county and could use more money. 41 individuals inside the reservation also have agreements. They have a large population of cow calf operations. They also do some human health and safety. Wolf depredation has been pretty quiet as of late. They also do a seasonal bounty program.

### **Open to Public Comment.**

No public comment from Zoom participants

Meeting will reconvene at 8:00 a.m., Thursday, May 18, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 19, 2023**

Called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto.

**Presentations (continued)**

*Natrona County: T.K. Atkinson, Board, Brian Olsen (G&F)*

*Request: \$290,000*

The plan is the same as in the past. Currently have 3 trappers. The challenge this year was to complete the mule deer projects and not able to get aerial help on BLM ground. The projects include the Bates Hole project and another project in the north end of the county. They will be requesting continuation of these projects.

*Converse County: Tim Pexton, Casey Tillard, Board and Bradley Netz, Gene Heckel, trappers*

*Request: \$270,961*

They have 3 full time trappers and one part-time trapper and a bookkeeper. One of the largest sheep producing counties in the state. They estimate they lost 5,000 lambs last year. Hard to get WS aerial help due to BLM situation and other county demand. Trappers work hard and have been dealing with challenges managing coyotes in a lot of sheep flocks with limited rodent and rabbit populations. Ravens have not been a large problem since the Glenrock animal dump has been closed.

*Johnson County: Pete Camino, Dave Hall, TJ Tavegie, Board*

*Request: \$260,000*

*Rabies: \$12,000*

Currently have two trappers, and two rabies mitigation trappers, private and WS aerial use. Mountain lions and bears are worse than in the past. Ravens have been a problem in the south end of the county and they have been working with WS on control efforts. Rabies – one trapper in Kaycee and one in Buffalo. Buffalo had an influx of skunks this fall so they did work in the town rather than just working on the outskirts. Request is the same as it has been for the last three years. They have worked to be efficient over time with 4% in administrative costs, they use contract trappers, and about \$1700 in inventory. They make decisions on data that they have collected over the years. Have had an outfitter/producer fund for the last three years. This year is the largest contribution with \$11,000. Also, working with the conservation district, working groups, and weed and pest in mapping sage grouse areas.

*Hot Springs County: Jack Baird, Josh Longwell, Board, Mike Burrell, WS*

*Request: \$250,000*

Currently have two specialists, and a plane based in Worland. Majority of the work is in livestock protection. Owl Creek drainage is a challenge with wolf and bear influx. One board member has provided thermal scopes to the two specialists.

*Niobrara County: Arlene York Kitson Boldon, Board*

*Request: \$180,000*

Nothing has changed in the program. They have 2 trappers. They take care of the entire county and some across other county borders. Not many sheep in the county and seeing more losses by cattle producers. They have been spending down their surplus. Their trappers have never received a raise but are very dedicated to the county and the program. Only 4.4% of the budget goes to administration and they do not carry any inventory items. They have a balanced program with both aerial and ground work, however would like to have more availability on air time (fixed wing).

*Washakie County: Rolly Redland, Kent Lamm Board and Mike Burrell, WS*

*Request: \$250,000*

They have one and ½ specialists. They also work on raccoon and skunk work as well. The county has decrease aerial work to save funds. They have continued with deer project with coyote removal on south end of Bighorns. They have submitted another mule deer project in Washakie County for consideration. Due to budget cuts, have submitted a lower budget to the ADMB

*Sweetwater County: Eric Berg, Jim Burnett, Gary Zakotnik, Board*

*Request: \$250,000*

Sweetwater County has been wintering sheep, therefore not receiving much from predator fees. Currently have a couple contract part-time trappers. They have not done much aerial due to funding. A large area of public land and not much buy-in of private land/producers that winter their livestock in Sweetwater County.

*Lincoln County: Jon Child, Board and Steve Moyles, WS*

*Request: \$235,000*

Work in Lincoln County is traditional work for livestock and wildlife protection, with 25 herds of sheep (27,500 head). Some work in the fall and winter in Sweetwater County for the protection of sheep of Lincoln County producers. Coyote numbers were up mainly due to lack of helicopter and not much snow this winter. Lincoln County is in migratory corridors for deer and antelope and these are in cattle and sheep wintering areas. Work relationships with Game and Fish, Forest Service, and private trappers and pilots is good. They have one WS specialist and two part time private contract trappers

Jerry Johnson presented funds for available for this year's allocations. \$4,183,608 is available for allocations. The board discussed funding allocations.

**Rabies: \$36,000 to allocate.**

Jeff Boner motioned to allocate \$15,000 to Sheridan county, \$10,500 to Campbell county, and \$10,500 to Johnson county.

Jeff Boner motioned to approve the above rabies allocations as-is. Brian Nesvik seconded. Motion carried.

**PMD: \$4,183,608 to allocate.**

Question called to vote on main motion to approve column. Motion carried.  
The final allocation is shown below:

Albany \$136,000.00  
Big Horn \$206,297.00  
Campbell \$288,500.00  
Carbon \$243,500.00  
Converse \$270,461.00  
Crook \$209,820.00  
Fremont \$238,500.00  
Goshen \$63,500.00  
Hot Springs \$248,500.00  
Johnson \$258,500.00  
Lincoln \$223,500.00  
Natrona \$226,000.00  
Niobrara \$178,500.00  
Park \$223,500.00  
Sheridan \$226,000.00  
Sweetwater \$248,500.00  
Uinta \$237,530.00  
Washakie \$248,500.00  
Weston \$133,500.00

Total funds allocated: \$4,180,608.00

Bob Harlan motioned to update the requirements regarding training for 2023. Brett Belden seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No public comment

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.