

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 10:00 am**  
**Meeting held via ZOOM**

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Craig Smith, who was representing Wyoming Game & Fish Director Angie Bruce (co-chair), at 10:05 am.

**Introduction of board, guests and public**

**Board members in attendance:** Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Craig Smith representing Angie Bruce (Co-Chair), Mark Jolovich, Brett Belden, Tyler Abbott, Jared Zierenberg, Jeff Boner, Amanda Hulet, Phil Osterli, Zeta Anderson, Roger Cox, and Sharon O'Toole

**Board members absent:** Bob Harlan and Jennifer McConchie

**WDA Staff in attendance:** Jerry Johnson, JD Sater, Tracy Myers

**Public in attendance:** Mike Barker, Dr. Alexandra Brower, Douglas Sandidge, Jennifer Shepler, Brian Dominguez, Gary Williams, Alison Crane, Jean Strausser, and Cat Urbigkit

**Approval of November 14, 2024 meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Roger Cox and seconded by Brett Belden to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2024 meeting. After a unanimous vote, the motion carried and the minutes were accepted.

**Approval of May 2025 meeting date change**

The dates for the May 2025 meeting were originally set for May 14 & 15, however due to a scheduling issue with the venue, the date change to May 13 & 14 was recommended. A motion was made by Zeta Anderson and seconded by Roger Cox, to accept the change in dates for the May meeting to May 13 & 14, and with a unanimous vote, the motioned passed.

**USDA/WS and USFWS update on Golden Eagles**

Jared Zierenberg of the USDA Wildlife Services gave a recap of the November discussion between all the players from November meeting regarding

depredation by eagles. He also let the group know that a new avian raptor biologist has been hired by the NWRC. Her name is Lindsey Perry. As far as a research project, a suggestion has been made to start by identifying which eagles are causing problems and during which period of time, so that then researchers will be able to best determine how to change their behavior or remove them from the food source, in most cases, the lamb crop. Jared also reminded the group about the conversation during the November meeting, concerning the fact that producers feel the compensation plan really isn't working well.

Tyler Abbot shared that from FWS perspective, there is some research funding available to deal with eagle issues in Wyoming, specifically. He said the first step would be to lay out an integrated approach to deal with: 1) compensation opportunities; 2) understanding depredation in Wyoming more thoroughly by learning patterns of behavior and how do we remove problem eagles and/or deter them; and 3) working on the ground with producers in a cooperative way, to collect the kinds of data needed and possibly providing compensation incentives to producers to help provide data. He said this should not be a one-time investment, but be a continuous plan for the next few years to make research more impactful and beneficial.

Gary Williams shared that getting depredation permits is not changing, and that the number of take permits is not easy to change, due to current rules and regulations. With the new biologist coming on, they will work with Lindsey to be sure she has the right scientific research permits, and they can help with banding. Alison commented that the woolgrowers want to connect Lindsey with producers in the State, because of the increase in numbers of eagles producers are seeing now, so Lindsey can document the population increase in the area.

Concerning compensatory mitigation, Gary said the only items allowed currently are the retrofitted power poles, which cost around \$100,000 per pole, but that there are two other programs which will hopefully be approved in the near future. They are the lead mitigation program and a roadside carcass mitigation program.

After conversation about which eagles are considered removed from the population in regards to falconers and bird rehabilitation specialists, the question arose of what it would take to increase the take number of golden eagles. Gary

explained that it would require the revision to the EIS developed with 2009 and 2016 updates to rules, and there is not a guarantee that a new examination of the population would produce a new number. It would just show if there are more birds available to be taken.

Tyler reiterated that in terms of next steps, the first will be getting Lindsey on the ground, letting her get familiar with what's happening in Wyoming, focusing on producers and areas with issues, and the dynamics of depredation. The NWRC will lay out an approach in more detail, which they will present at the May meeting. Jerry will continue to keep in touch with Tyler and Jared.

**Rabies update: UW Vet Lab – Dr. Alexandra Brower, DVM, DACVP**

Dr. Alexandra Brower of the UW Vet Laboratory and her team shared a rabies update. First, Douglas Sandidge shared a PowerPoint of R-data from 1984 to 2024. He clarified that they are focused on data from the year 2000 and later for because beginning in 2000, the research protocols are much more accurate. Sheridan, Laramie, Goshen & Campbell Counties were focused on, and Douglas shared the total cases by county, as well as the trend of total positive cases found per year. Currently submissions are down and positive cases are up. Jennifer Shepler, another member of the team, shared how biannual grant funds have been used, and which positive-testing species were tested, with the vast majority being wildlife. Brian Dominguez, another team member, shared biogenetic tree data. Jerry asked how many more samples the lab can handle, and the team said they can do many more, and that focusing on Campbell/Sheridan/Johnson Co would be helpful.

**Board Comment / Public Comment**

There were no additional comments or questions from Board members nor the public.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 am.