

Animal Damage Management Board Meeting
Tuesday May 17, 2021 & Wednesday, May 18, 2022
Casper Regional Game & Fish Office
Casper, Wyoming

Call to order 9:05 a.m. – Co-chair

Board Members Present:

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto/Kent Drake
Co-chair Brian Nesvik
Amanda Hulet
Brett Belden
Gay Lynn Byrd
Mike Foster
Aaron Voos Forest service
Tyler Abbott USFWS

Ron Cunningham
Bob Philips
Garret Falkenburg
Bob Harlan
Jeff Boner
Bob Philips
Valori(Lori) Armstrong BLM

Board Members Absent:

WDA Support Staff: Ashley Endress, JD Sater

Public Attendees:

Gay Lynn Byrd moved to approve minutes from the January meeting, Garret Falkenburg seconded.
Motion carried.

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

Presentations

Goshen County: Jim Angel, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), Stan Smith, Board

Request: \$30,000

They have one person on the ground in the area for predator control. Seven WS employees worked in the county last year. Jim was severely ill over the winter and WS employees covered in his place. 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.

Carbon County: Josh Peterson, Roger Cox, Sharon O'Tolle, Board and Luke Spanbauer, Rod Merrill, WS

Request: \$218,150

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: \$115,000

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, Roger Newkirk and Todd Slager, 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.

Campbell County: Kevin Geis, Board, Calvin Taylor(trapper), Kenda Ford(bookkeeper) *Request: \$165,000*
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: \$205,000

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: \$173,461

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. A little raven work has been done when time allows. They do have eagles but have not had depredation issues.

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

Request: \$86,925

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: Andrew Litzel, Board

Request: \$150,000

Currently have three 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. Livestock and preventative control are their primary focus.

Sheridan County: John Auzqui, Kellen Little, Board

Request: \$173,053

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 Krause, Beth Evans, Allen Sinner, Gloria Philp, and Dave Fowler and Tracy Frye WS

Request: \$190,000

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

Amy Hendrickson provided comment on PMD presentation time allotment and zoom participation.

Garrett Falkenburg moved to adjourn, Jeff Boner seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Meeting will reconvene at 8:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Called to order— 8:01 a.m. by Co-Chair Brian Nesvik

Presentations continued.

Natrona County: Mary Owens, Board, Brian Olsen (G&F)

Request: \$195,000

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: \$251,411

They have 2 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: \$170,000

Rabies: \$15,000

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: Brett Belden, Jack Baird, Josh Longwell, Board and Mike Burrell, WS

Request: \$203,983

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: Barb Kilmer, Buttons Jackson, Kitson Boldon, Board

Request: \$165,000

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, Mark Dooley, Alan Barnett, Board and Mike Burrell, WS

Request: \$156,000

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: Jim Burnett, Gary Zokotnik, Board

Request: \$150,000

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: \$171,000

Work in Lincoln County is traditional work for livestock 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. \$2,738,000 is available for allocations. The board discussed funding allocations.

Rabies: \$36,000 to allocate.

Bob Harland moved to allocate \$12,000 to Campbell, \$12,000 to Sheridan, and \$12,000 to Johnson. Gay Lynn Byrd seconded the motion. Motion carried.

PMD \$2,738,000 to allocate.

Doug Miyamoto moved the following allocation. Jeff Boner seconded.

Albany \$100,000
Big Horn \$145,000
Campbell \$150,000
Carbon \$145,000
Converse \$180,000
Crook \$135,000
Fremont \$180,000
Goshen \$50,000
Johnson \$145,000
Hot Springs \$185,000
Lincoln \$171,000
Natrona \$180,000
Niobrara \$143,000
Park \$164,000
Sheridan \$135,000
Sweetwater \$110,000
Uinta \$185,000
Washakie \$135,000
Weston \$100,000

Bob Harlan moved to move \$10,000 from Sheridan and move it to \$5,000 Campbell and \$5,000 Johnson. Seconded by Bob Phillips. Motion carried.

Jeff Boner asked if the board had a rule that each PMD had to receive a minimum of \$50,000 allocation. JD Sater, Attorney General's Office, stated that after his review of the statutes and Department rules that the only mention of \$50,000 was in rule for the initial allocation of funds in 2006 and did not apply anymore. He stated that the ADMB did not have to provide a minimum allocation to any county PMDs that applied for the ADMB grants.

Gay Lynn Byrd moved to transfer \$10,000 from Big Horn and \$10,00 from Natrona and allocating that to \$10,000 Sweetwater and \$10,000 Niobrara. Garret Falkenburg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jeff Boner moved to transfer 10,000 from Sweetwater and put it in Natrona. Bob Harlan seconded. Motion carried.

The main motion was voted on as amended. Motion carried.

The final allocation that passed was:

Albany \$100,000
Big Horn \$135,000
Campbell \$155,000
Carbon \$145,000
Converse \$180,000
Crook \$135,000

Fremont \$180,000
Goshen \$50,000
Hot Springs \$185,000

Johnson \$150,000
Lincoln \$171,000
Natrona \$180,000
Niobrara \$153,000
Park \$164,000
Sheridan \$125,000
Sweetwater \$110,000
Uinta \$185,000
Washakie \$135,000
Weston \$100,000

Public Comment: No public comment

The next board meeting will be June 10, 2021 at Casper, starting at 9:00 a.m.

Garret Falkenburg moved to adjourn. Gay Lynn Byrd seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:34 p.m.