

**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 motion 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.

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, May 13, 2025 & Wednesday, May 14, 2025**  
**Thyra Thomson Roundtable Room**  
**444 West Collins Dr, Casper, Wyoming**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Co-Chair Angi Bruce.

**Board Members Present:**

Co-Chair Doug Miyamoto	Co-Chair Angi Bruce
Roger Cox	Bob Harlan
Sharon O'Toole	Zeta Anderson
Brett Belden	Jeff Boner
Mark Jolovich	Jared Zierenberg
Phil Osterli USFS	Tyler Abbot

**Board Members Absent:** Urban Rep (Vacant), Amanda Hulet, Jennifer Fleuret McConchie

**WDA Staff:** Tracy Myers, Jerry Johnson, Slade Franklin

**Public Attendees:** Predator District, Game & Fish, and Wildlife Services staff as noted in presentation notes

**Online attendees:** JD Sater, Mark Goertl, Kassie Swart, Kenda Ford, Joseph Kipp, Laurie Alexander, Samantha Brooke, Anne Rice, Ashley Rhea, Jordan Winter, GE Williams, Jason Reid

**Approval of Minutes:** Roger Cox moved to approve minutes from the January meeting, Zeta Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

**ADMB updates**

Jerry Johnson reminded the group that the Board is combining PMD and Wildlife project allocations in one meeting this year, and gave an update on the financials. The Board has \$4,825,574 in requests, and have \$4,730,834 to spend this year. For wildlife projects, requests total \$399,500 projects, and there is \$220,651 to allocate. There are three rabies requests totaling \$50,000, with \$41,243 to allocate. Also, concerning the wolf work that has been done, for the months of July through march, \$59,000 has been spent. With Wildlife Services, the new GPS collars they are using are saving helicopter time, because they know where the wolves are before they go up. Jerry recommended to the Board to increase this funding to \$120,000, to allow Wildlife Services to spend more on wolf collars. Angi asked USFWS to clarify how and how many collars are being used. Brady shared that four collars are being used in Sublette County, three in Fremont, and an additional one or two would be ideal. Jared confirmed a dozen would be helpful. Using the collars also allows for informing the stock growers to be aware a wolf is in their area. After more discussion, Doug moved and Roger Cox seconded allocating \$120,000 for wolf project funding.

**Wyoming Stewardship Project, Educator Workshops 25-26 – Carolyn Jacobs**

Carolyn thanked the Board for their support of the Ag In The Classroom program, and gave a brief overview on the Stewardship Project and educator workshops, and the rebranding of the program to be called Wyo Wonders. Their 2024 summer was successful. They currently have one teacher in every county using this program, for the first time ever. They are in 159

classrooms statewide. Last summer the program was changed by reducing the number of workshops to three, one each held in Evanston, Sundance, and Ten Sleep. This worked well and resulted in larger groups; they served 51 teachers total. This year, the workshops will be held in Powell, Medicine Bow, and Afton, and they have higher registration numbers than last year. Carolyn shared what they will do at each workshop. Doug asked her to share the message about animal damage and predator control that is shared with the teachers and included in their curriculum. Carolyn shared that this is included with lessons for instance, on how elk hunting manages the populations, invasive species and the impact on wildlife, invasives on watercraft, and the ecosystem and how different animals impact wildlife and ranches. The goal of the program is to introduce the curriculum to teachers and educate them on how to use it with students. Jeff asked if there is any curriculum about what predators are. Carolyn shared that there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade lesson on predator/prey interactions (coyote with a sheep ranch is their example), and in 5<sup>th</sup> grade, the ecosystems lesson covers this as well.

### **Presentations**

***Goshen County: Dan Heilbrun, Matt Anderson, Matthew Woody Brady Smith (WS)***

***Request: \$220,000***

Last year they came to this meeting with no trappers, and with the funding they received, they hired two trappers in January. It has worked very well with these two operators in the county. They are able to cover more ground, and are making the aerial program much more efficient. They are still seeing high population of coyotes in Goshen, and have also been doing some starling work in feed yards. Their request this year is to bolster reserves and cover the new trappers. The trappers shared their experiences so far this season. Turkey vultures are still present and causing issues. Sharon asked if they do raven control. Dan shared that there are very few ravens in Goshen. Brady praised this district and the new trappers who are not from Goshen who have quickly made connections and are having positive reactions. Dan echoed this. Brady thanked the Board for their support in funding the two new trappers. Brett asked why Goshen is showing an increase in head tax refunds. Dan reviewed their packet and let the Board know this was an error, and would not be an expense they have this year. Brett also asked if they have thermal equipment. Dan shared that they have one rifle and one set of thermal equipment. Another set is included in this year's request so each trapper can have a complete setup. Bob asked if their District has 12 months of carryover. Dan shared that they did until they were able to have two trappers. If they are fully funded this year, they will have one-year carryover. Roger clarified the head tax, that by statute, that is the maximum refund request they could have, and Dan agreed. Jeff asked the District's thoughts and plans to work with Wyoming Game & Fish with wildlife counts. Brady said in the future they will. Jeff asked if they could begin submitting data collected during their routine work. Dan agreed this would be very valuable. Angi asked them about trapping for sage grouse. Brady shared that in Goshen County, there is no core area for sage grouse, but they have identified the best area which is the northwest corner of the state and that is where the work is being conducted.

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

***Request: \$290,000***

***Rabies: \$15,000***

Pete shared that their county is unique in that the north and south are very rough country so they use helicopters for those areas. Their district has two trappers and a rabies trapper. The summer fire was devastating to their county. Dave voiced appreciation to the Board, and shared a

breakdown of their annual budget. They have a very active ten-member board, who are very data driven. The fire caused relocation of many predators, and takes are way up due to that, as are losses on the fringe of the fire. This district is building toward a 12-month carryover. Dave illustrated how cooperative the community is, Pete recapped their reported losses, and TJ shared about the rabies work. They've seen no positive rabies tests this year, probably due to the longevity of this program. Pete asked if there is availability for raven work, as their raven problem is increasing. Jared explained that they are currently under a hiring freeze but would try to free up some help for them. Brady said they are stretched too thin to offer more help, especially with the funding and staffing situation. Angi shared that the Wyoming Game & Fish Department is trying to prioritize this help. Dave shared the cost per coyote is \$299/adult coyote, which has been slowly increasing over the last few years. That will decrease this year because the numbers are higher. Jeff asked for clarity of predator fees collected this year, as there is nothing noted in their packet. Dave said it should be about \$70,000. Jeff asked if this will change their request and gave the district time to think about it. Jerry gave them the figure of \$71,362 for last year. If the district can get it to Jerry tonight, he will provide that to the ADMB tomorrow morning before allocation. Bob asked if they have eight months of carryover as indicated in their packet, and also if they are fully funded will they increase carryover, and Dave confirmed they will.

**Johnson County Sage Grouse and Mule Deer project – Pete Camino**

*Request: \$30,000*

Pete provided maps of their concentration area for predator control to help sage grouse and mule deer herds, and explained the maps, including details of the map that illustrated the success of the project and thanked the Board for funding it last year. The maps included the location of the wildfire, showing that it went through their concentration area and that if they hadn't had this project funded last year, the results would have been devastating. Doug asked about sagebrush reestablishment, TJ shared that Game & Fish did do some seeding this winter. Roger added that the sage grouse working groups also gave money to that effort. Pete noted that the typical success rate for sagebrush seeding is about 5%.

**Sheridan County: Cole Benton, Kellen Little, Jerry Reid, Allen Plumber**

*Request: \$248,500*

*Rabies: \$20,000*

Cole shared that their budget is very similar to last year, but that they are asking for more money for aerial and rabies. They are using reserves for rabies mitigation. Kellen spoke about the rabies program. At this time last year already had seven confirmed rabies cases. They ended the year with 15 rabid skunks and three rabid bats. Shared breakdown of what was trapped. Out of 40 skunks, 15 were rabid. This year so far, they have had zero positive rabies tests. Currently, there is not a lot of activity, which is a positive sign. Cole spoke about how the Remington fire misplaced wildlife, domestic livestock, and that fences are still down. Fawn numbers are down, possibly due to the fire. Their skunk mitigation program has eased pressure on their one trapper. Allen shared how the sage grouse were moved by the fire, and that they are harvesting more coyotes around the leks. They are seeing sage grouse in locations not seen before during flying, and that the extra funding for this paid off. Kellen explained that they use almost 100% helicopter due to the rough terrain, and Allen shared the importance of cooperation with other counties. Angi thanked them for help with the elk management. Brett asked for clarification on rabies vaccination costs listed in their packet. Allen explained that it is for vaccination for

trappers, and clarified that it is not a yearly cost. Allen also shared that he pays himself for his dogs to be vaccinated. After the fires, the bears disappeared and they have returned this week, just in time for fawning. Bob asked if they really have 12 months of carryover. Cole said they are close, but they will be at a 12-month carryover in the next few years. If fully funded, they will add to carryover.

***Weston County: Carson Keeline, Brad Troftgruben (WS)***

**Request: \$100,000**

Carson shared that their request is the same as the last several years, and their reserves are at 15 months. Over the last year they have had very few losses due to conflicts. Last year they lost 82 lambs and two ewes before they could do anything about the eagles. Angi reiterated that they are trying to work on this. Sharon asked for clarification on the reported conflicts. Carson clarified what constitutes a conflict. Bob asked if this group has a 12-month carryover. Carson explained that they never ask for more than they need to operate for the year, and try to ask for less. They have been putting money into CDs so they can ask for less. Flight time is their biggest issue, and that not flying means they don't spend money. Jeff asked if they have seen any influx from South Dakota of coyotes. Brad said this year they have seen the lightest push in decades.

***Albany County: Brooke Willis, Joel Moody, Lindsey Wheat, Brady Smith (WS)***

**Request: \$235,621**

Brooke shared that there are no major changes to budget this year other than they are budgeting for a trailer and an increase in aerial work. They will be halfway to their 12-month carryover if they are fully funded. Joel said that coyote numbers are down slightly this year, but last fall the losses were high. Also, their wildlife numbers are increasing. Brady shared that they are doing lots of ground and aerial work on the sage grouse areas. He also said eagles are still a big issue in Albany for sheep producers. Brady shared it is not unusual to see 25-30 goldens this time of year, but Joel has seen a bald eagle pair and one golden so far. Brett asked about the increase in aerial, and Joel explained that they will fly the helicopter more if they can, but that it is sometimes hard to get the helicopter. Sharon asked if they have cooperative agreements with other counties, and Joel shared that they do have a few and explained how those work. Jeff asked if there is an opportunity to use a fixed wing, and Joel said they use fixed wing about 90% of the time.

***Campbell County: Kevin Geis, Kenda Ford (online)***

**Request: \$305,000**

**Rabies: \$15,000**

Campbell has four contract trappers, 3 full-time, one part-time. They also utilize two planes and two helicopters. The trouble calls are the same as in past, and takes are up slightly. Their losses included 76 lamb losses last year, up to 86 this year, and 14 yearling ewes lost last year, increasing to 30 this year. In their sage grouse work they are seeing many different predators. They have had joint cooperation with Johnson County on the I-90 corridor. They had some large fires, after which they flew and had good success. They are working toward their 12-month reserve. They are receiving some county funding to help with skunk control to mitigate rabies. They are requesting additional money this year from the county for sage grouse work, and have been investing in thermal tools. They have sent in ten animals to be tested for rabies with zero positives so far. Raven and eagle numbers are steady to increasing. Jeff asked how losses are documented, and Kevin explained they are verified by trappers. Bob asked if they have 9.5 months carryover, and if they are fully funded, will they increase carryover. Kevin responded

that they are working to get closer to the 12-month carryover goal, but will not add much this year considering expenses. Angi expressed her appreciation for them working with the sage grouse groups.

***Lincoln County: John Child, Steve Moyles (WS), Brady Smith (WS)***

*Request: \$288,500*

Steve shared the county's reported and verified livestock losses, and also shared verified wildlife losses. Jon shared that they have a contract with WS and two part-time county trappers, and a helicopter in Kemmerer that is shared with Sweetwater County. They are running out of money for fixed-wing work, so they are moving money for that. He also shared stories about incredible numbers of coyotes they are seeing. He elaborated on their expenditures over the year, and their request for this year. Bob asked if they have an 11-month carryover, and if they are planning to build that up with this year's award, to which John responded that they are only asking for the money they will use this year. They have also been doing some productive raven work, and have seen few ravens during the calving season, so hopefully they'll see the same thing with lambing season. Tyler asked and John confirmed that the raven numbers are always increasing in this area. Steve shared that one study showed the populations are growing about 10% per year.

***Lincoln County Mule Deer Predator Control – John Child***

*Request: \$30,000*

John shared what they are seeing with the decline in mule deer populations this spring. They received Game & Fish money to fly the winter range and did well. Steve said they are seeing good sage grouse numbers thanks to predator management. He also shared that they were asked to fly right before fawning last year, and saw good numbers. They estimate 145% fawn crop in some areas last spring.

***Uinta County: Steve Sims, Wade Larsen, Brady Smith (WS)***

*Request: \$310,296*

Steve gave an overview of the last year. Their trapper is doing an excellent job getting a handle on coyote numbers, but this spring they are seeing an increase in eagle predation. Wade shared their appreciation for the program, gave some details on their budget, and discussed corrections they made to it. He also spoke about the Carter Lease where there are lots of leks. They have two trappers, and are hoping to add another. Their program follows the sheep, so sometimes they go into other counties. Concerning their reserves, he explained the history of reserves. Tyler asked about eagles arriving during lambing. Steve shared that they have had worse eagle problems in past but they would feed on roadkill on the highway. With a decrease in wildlife and because WYDOT is picking up carcasses, the eagles no longer have that food source. He also shared that the eagles disperse when the falconers arrive. Brady shared information from the trapper, and about how they are working with other counties for more impact. Sharon asked about ravens and Steve said they do a lot of raven work, between the mines and power plants. Bob asked for clarification on reserves, and Wade explained they have a 17-month reserve. Bob asked if any of their request will go to the reserve, and Wade said that their request would fund the other trapper. Brett asked for clarification on their reserve classification, specifically what can "restricted" funds be used for. Wade explained that this is money they came into the ADMB program with, in case ADMB money would not be available in the future. They have dipped into that from time to time, so it can be used for budget program shortfalls.

**Carbon County:** *Whitney Merrill, Ben Acres, Ethan Young, Luke Spanbauer, Jacob Ruid, Phil Damm (WGF), Ashley Umphlett (WGF), Teal Cufaude (WGF)*

**Request:** *\$293,000*

Whitney shared changes to their request for this year, including an increase for staffing and future technology needs. Ben shared that they have two full-time and one part-time specialists, and that Carbon sees diverse work, including 3000 lambing ewes and 1000 yearling bucks coming into the county this year, which will increase their workload. He gave a report on reported and verified losses. They are seeing positives with the projects they can do with ADMB money. Sharon asked about sage grouse, and Brady explained their sage grouse project and numbers they are seeing. Phil, Ashley and Teal shared that lek numbers and attendance has been consistent with last year. Bob pointed out that they have \$430,000 carryover, which is about 13 months of carryover. He then asked if they receive their full request, would they put any into their carryover. Whitney replied that they are asking for just what they need.

**Carbon County Coyote Removal to Enhance South Ferris Antelope Survival – Whitney Merrill, Phil Damm (WGF), Ashley Umphlett (WGF)**

**Request:** *\$17,000*

Whitney reminded the group that this project is in the fifth and final year. As the project has continued, they have seen an increase in the South Ferris Antelope herd over the years. Ashley shared that the five-year average in fawn production from 2020 to 2024 was 38 fawns per 100 does. Last year it was up to 55 fawns per 100 does, an improvement but still low for the area. It would be even lower without the coyote removal work.

**Carbon County Coyote Removal to Enhance Baggs Mule Deer Fawn Survival – Whitney Merrill, Phil Damm (WGF), Ashley Umphlett (WGF), Teal Cufaude (WGF)**

**Request:** *\$15,000*

Whitney shared that this is also the last year of this project. Phil elaborated that the tough winter resulted in about a 50% reduction in the Baggs mule deer herd. Year one coming out of the winter, the population was still really low, however, last year they hit record high fawn numbers (84 fawns/100 does). They are expecting another good fawn crop this year. Whitney shared they are asking for the same as in past.

**Carbon County Raven removal –Whitney Merrill, Phil Damm (WGF), Ashley Umphlet (WGF), Teal Cufaude (WGF)**

**Request:** *\$5,000*

Whitney shared this is the second year of this project, and they are asking for same amount. It has been beneficial to livestock and wildlife. They are seeing more ravens all the time. Phil added that ravens are the number one nest predator of sage grouse. Whitney said this began as a two-year project, and may expand depending on this year. The goal is to catch the ravens in the targeted areas. Jeff asked how would they would prioritize funding for the wildlife projects if they aren't fully funded. Whitney said they would probably have to scale everything back but the District would need to decide how to handle a shortfall. Jerry clarified that the money cannot be moved between projects.

### **Carbon County Coyote Removal to Enhance Platte Valley Mule Deer Fawn Survival –**

*Whitney Merrill, Phil Damm (WGF), Teal Cufaude (WGF)*

**Request: \$15,000**

Whitney indicated this the first year of this project and is similar in structure and funding as the South Ferris herd project. Teal said the goal for this herd is 16,000, post-hunting season, and they are currently about 30% below this. They also saw a low fawn crop during the hard winter. Last year they saw 80 fawns per 100 does, but overwintering fawn survival is lower with this herd. By giving relief by removing coyotes during fawning season, they will help increase the population. There is great community support for this project.

### ***Crook County: Wade Dennis, Nick Smith***

**Request: \$79,580**

Wade shared details on their request, and that they would use some reserves to get them back to the 12-month reserve. He explained their budget hasn't changed much, and that they are working with a couple municipalities do skunk work, and also did work on known sage grouse areas.

Doug asked if they are noticing any trends with program. Nick shared that they have seen more calf losses in the last couple years, and that it seems the predators come for the fawns and stay for calving season. Wade said they have had an increase in calls from smaller producers. Nick shared budget details with the Board, and how they use funds, noting they had leftover aviation money this year, so they contacted a shotgun shell manufacturer to obtain larger volumes of shells so they can avoid not having ammunition when they need it. Their losses included: 23 reported calf losses, 14 verified; and 387 lamb losses reported, 71 verified. Tyler asked what the verified lamb losses were from, and Nick responded that it was coyotes. Pastures in the north country along the Montana line have a larger eagle population. Brett asked about raven issues, and Nick responded they don't have many. Jeff asked if they see an influx of coyotes from Montana or South Dakota. Nick confirmed this, and he believes it is because Montana doesn't have a consistent program, because they don't have the needed staffing. They see the largest sheep losses on the Montana line. Bob asked if fully funded, will they still be over one-year reserve, to which Wade reiterated that they requested just what they can use less the reserve spend-down.

### ***Hot Springs County: Jack Baird, Josh Longwell, Dusty Southworth, Bob Aguiar, Mike Burrell (WS)***

**Request: \$295,000**

Josh voiced appreciation for the Board's past support, and shared that their reserve is where it needs to be, so they requested only what they need. He spoke of the diversity of their county, and that they have two specialists. The predators on the west side are grizzly bears, wolves, coyotes, and lions. Bob Aguiar shared that mule deer numbers are up, as are sage grouse numbers. Big game populations seem to have leveled out, as have small game. They are also seeing an increase in the fox populations. Mike Burrell shared about the intricacies of following the radio-collared wolves, which have VHF collars versus GPS collars. Bob asked if the wolf funding is adequate and is it working as it should. The consensus was yes. Jack shared that they have budgeted for a GPS collar for wolves to save flight time. Bob Aguiar shared about depredation by raccoons on game birds near the river. Tyler asked what they are seeing with ravens. Dusty shared that ravens will get on lambs when they are sick or young, and added that eagles are always there.

***Sweetwater County: Dick Thoman, Sue Thoman***

***Request: \$275,000***

Sue read a statement from their predator board, explaining the vastness of their district, and the large number of sheep and cattle in the area along with big game. They have a large percentage of public lands, with lots of rugged land. She also spoke of the goals for their district, which includes using more helicopter services with the rugged terrain. The board is very active and they have great cooperation with producers, sportsmen and the public. They want to contract with Wildlife Services to create a raven program. Brett asked if the trapper can offer contract help with raven program. Dick was not aware they could apply for a depredation permit, and Jared shared how to do that. Tyler asked if they are seeing depredation of eagles on livestock. Dick shared that most of the sheep are usually moved out of their county, back to their home county, prior to lambing, so other than a couple producers, they don't see a lot of eagle predation. Jeff asked for clarification on the budget for trapping for six months. Dick said it is for two and one-half guys, and they report each week on their work. Sharon asked about the line item for refunds and if anyone uses that. Dick had one producer request a refund, but changed their mind.

***Fremont County: Rob Crofts, Tina Haddenham, Ivan Laird, Tracy Frye, Mac Crome***

***Request: \$323,366***

Rob shared that their board is made of nine members and described the makeup of it. He shared that they have a complex county, diverse topography, and expressed appreciation of past Board support. He shared struggles with coyotes, ravens and bears, and that conflicts are up significantly, and a new twist, that wolf activity continues to increase. He also discussed sage grouse work. Rob reviewed their budget and shared there would be no funding from the County for ravens this year. Tracy said they are seeing an increase in grizzlies on Union Pass above Dubois. Doug asked for clarification on the increase in miscellaneous revenue. Rob explained that they have made a change in how they pay their treasurer and also they have had verbal commitments for donations from the public. Ivan shared their annual take report and some information on Fremont County's bounty program. Mark asked about the crow issue and why they need controlled; Brady shared that they carry disease and are a public health issue. Bob asked if any of their request is to increase carryover this year, and Tina confirmed maybe \$30,000-40,000, if possible. Jeff asked about collars in the budget, and Brady let him know with the increase in wolf work, they did purchase three GPS collars for that, with a delivery time estimated at 8-12 weeks. Jared asked about the one positive rabies test, and if their trappers would be willing to collect opportunistic samples if materials were supplied, and Rob believes the Board would be amenable to that. Concerning the budget, Rob added that they invested in one more horse trailer as the shared one wasn't enough, with the increase grizzly activity and the size of the county.

***Fremont County Sweetwater Rocks Mule Deer Project – Tracy Fry and Mac Crome***

***Request: \$30,000***

This is a continuing project with collared deer. Rob shared with the Board about expenditures from last year when they overspent. He shared the takes, but had a discrepancy with where work is being done within the Sweetwater corridor. Brady explained they are working on communication so they can execute the project in a satisfactory manner with the wildlife biologist. Bob asked if this isn't funded, what happens. Rob said without funding, this project may go away. Brett asked if they were partially funded, could they do the project on a smaller acreage. Brady replied that they could but it would require more follow up on Wildlife Services'

end for newly defined expectations and what the biologist feels is adequate.

**Niobrara County: Buttons York, Kitson Boldon, Justin Miller, Brian Olsen (WFG)**

*Request: \$150,000*

Buttons explained that they didn't use all of their funding due to weather, so the budget is reflective of that. Also, they didn't have a good predator year, so they didn't have a lot of flying time. They are trying to be creative for the deer hunt area, so they targeted young people to do night hunting with thermal scopes. This is an attempt to see if that can help them meet the goal of increasing mule deer fawn survival. Kitson added that last year they received more than requested, so they increased wages for the trapper, and tried to hire another, which didn't work out. Justin shared that the current helicopter contractor's helicopter isn't working, so they found another contractor and will use them in the deer hunt area. The area has not had a concentrated predator control in the last few years and the timing is good. Tyler asked if ravens and crows are an issue. Buttons shared that sheep producers are seeing some issues with eagles, but ravens have not been an issue, and coyotes are the big problem. Bob asked if the wildlife project isn't funded, would they continue it. Buttons confirmed they would, because it is important to their county. Jeff asked about calf losses, and Buttons, Brian and Kitson shared their losses and those they knew of.

**Niobrara Manville Lance Creek Project 2025 - Buttons York, Justin Merrill, Brian Olsen**

*(WFG)*

*Request: \$20,000*

Brian explained that this continuing project is in the public lands area, and that the deer aren't doing well in that area. Fawn numbers have increased a little but not enough. Brian shared they are building relationships to make projects more effective.

### **Public Comment**

John Auzqui, Alison Crane and Kevin Geiss of the Wyoming Association of County Predatory Animal Boards (WACPAB) spoke about their organization. They are hoping to raise money to give to the ADMB to give to the Districts, and requested the Board come to them with requests. Their funding is from predator fees. They would like a Commissioner's tag for their area to raise more funding. Angi shared that they give guidance to commissioners on those to be sure they follow the law, but that WACPAB should seek out commissioners and ask individually. Mark suggested that they email all seven commissioners with their proposal.

### **Bob Harlan:** Recognition

Jerry shared that an award would be presented to Bob Harlan who is retiring from the ADMB after eight years. Co-chairs Bruce and Miyamoto presented Bob with an art print and words of appreciation.

### **Wednesday, May 16, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 a.m. by Co-Chair Angi Bruce, and the presentations continued.

### **Wyoming Game and Fish Non-lethal Ear Tags to Deter Grizzly Bears and Wolves in the Green River Area Prevention and Control – Clint Atkinson**

**Request: \$70,000**

Clint gave a brief history of this project. Currently, they are testing specialized ear tags to deter predators. This approach is very targeted to catch the chronic bear in the pack. Doug asked what trends Clint is seeing in grizzly bears in the Upper Green, and Clint shared they have been seeing an upward trend since the 1990's in this area. He thanked the Board for their support, and explained what was done with last year's funding. He also shared their project has been delayed with the current Federal cuts, but is confident the full project will be able to be executed next summer. Clint explained the criteria for non-lethal tools to be useful, and the ear tags meet all the criteria, but their team lacks the understanding if they will deter depredation, hence the reason for the study. Clint shared how the tags work, and how they came to the final design. They also plan to add VHF or GPS trackers in tags, and possibly at a later date, add ultrasonic sound. He then shared the study design for 2026. He noted that wolves in the Upper Green are collared so they can see how they interact with the tagged cattle. Sharon asked about the cost per unit, and Clint shared that the GPS tags cost \$500 each, VHF are \$180, and the flash tags cost about \$40 each, but that cost can be reduced with a larger volume order. Roger clarified this request is for next year, and Clint explained that they need the funding beginning July 1, 2025, to use for the 2026 season. Brett asked and Clint shared what they've learned about ear tags being retained, and that the new tag design should have great retention rates. Bob asked if Clint could obtain additional funding from Game & Fish or the grizzly bear groups, and Clint shared that he spent the winter searching for funding with no luck. Angi shared about the Wildlife Fund, who are actively seeking funds for this project, but the revenue stream isn't what it used to be.

**Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control –Craig Smith**

**Request: \$25,000**

This request is their annual ask to contract with Wildlife Services to do additional mitigation work for trophy game animals and bee hives in the state, focused on the large carnivore predator. Mitigation includes investigation, and removals where appropriate. It has worked well for many years.

**Wyoming Range Project -- Kevin Monteith**

**Request: \$40,000**

Kevin spoke about this ongoing project and appreciation for the Board's support. He also shared about the partners involved in this project. He noted that this is a unique project due to all of the collaboration and that they are following single animals throughout their lives, and their offspring through adulthood, and explained their goal in determining the relative causes for fawn deaths. They are still working to understand the impacts of the three hard winters on the dynamics of this herd. Kevin shared results of the body fat study and the comparison of lactating versus non-lactating does. Since the 2022-23 winter, they are seeing much higher body fat. They also track the birth mass of newborns, and are finding the greatest birth masses are happening the year after the hard winters. Also, they see the highest predation in summers following bad winters. He also shared something they did not anticipate: the potential for a dramatic shift in predator-prey dynamics. He explained they found that shift this winter with higher predation when it was not expected. He also spoke of the lion work being done, and found that all but one collared lion, caught near the winter range, stayed in same area. Tracking the lions also showed they are not migrating with the deer into the high country. Tyler asked if he has seen other examples of populations of this predator-prey dynamic that might be causing this shift. Kevin explained that long term studies are essential and rare, and shared a couple they are comparing data to. Doug noted that the budget tapers in 2027, and asked if that will be the end of this study,

which Kevin confirmed.

**Golden Eagle Demographics and Deterrent Methods – Lindsey Perry, National Wildlife Research Center**  
*Request: \$26,134*

Lindsey gave an overview of their proposed golden eagle project which will study depredation on lambing grounds. Wyoming is seeing a slight increase in the golden population and golden eagle depredation on lambs is increasing. Producers saw a \$700,000 loss in lambs last year. The goal of this project is to identify a cost-effective deterrent to lower depredation of lambs by eagles. Lindsey listed the objectives of the study, which include demographics, habitat use, deterrent efficacy and length of efficacy of deterrents. She also shared the details of a camera trap study they will conduct. The deterrents they will study include raven effigies, scarecrows, turbine ventilators, and supplemental feeding, the last of which is the trickiest. This is designed as a four-year study, and the design was shared. Their entire budget is \$675,000 which includes personnel, field work, equipment, data gathering, trapping and camera materials. This request is for ten additional GPS units. She also shared where other funding will come from. Joseph Kipp from the Montana Livestock Loss Board was an online attendee. He is a cattle rancher who shared his thoughts on eagle depredation on calves, as he is seeing this in his area. Doug asked that his group and WDA keep in contact so they can work together on this issue.

**Natrona County: John Marton, Brian Olsen (WGF)**

*Request: \$330,000*

John shared that they have purchased CDs to help their money work for them, and that they have an eight-month carryover. This request will help add to their carryover, not taking them to quite a year. Bob asked if they are not funded for three wildlife projects, what will happen to those. John confirmed they will still fly in those areas because they are seeing an increase in fawn and sage grouse numbers, so they do not feel like they can stop when they are seeing progress, especially considering there are some ag producers in those areas as well.

**Natrona County. Raven Removal – John Marton, Brian Olsen (WGF)**

*Request: \$5,000*

John shared they are having very positive results with this project, and the County is very appreciative.

**Natrona County, Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival – John Marton, Brian Olsen (WGF)**

*Request: \$30,000*

Angi asked how they determined the delineated area for this project. Brian explained that they worked with the predator management board to determine the area for the fawning ground in the Bates Hole, because the herds just aren't growing like they would like them to be.

**Natrona County, Coyote Removal to Enhance Stove Gulch, Big sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival – John Marton, Brian Olsen (WGF)**

*Request: \$30,000*

This project is also ongoing and they are seeing improvement with survival rates.

**Converse County: Casey Tillard, Dave Moore, Brian Olsen (WGF)**

*Request: \$270,833*

Casey explained their request covers two full-time and four part-time trappers, the secretary and air time. Converse is one of the largest sheep-producing counties in the state, and he shared the losses in his county to coyotes and eagles. Some producers would not still be in business without their program. Tyler asked about the loss of ewes to avian predators Casey shared that they have two projects they would like to do concerning raven issues, which they will dip into savings to start. They also experienced antelope loss to eagles during the bad winter. Jeff asked about carryover. Casey said their carryover is due to not being able to get pilots so they have not been spending money planned for because they can't always get a pilot when needed. Bob asked if they receive full funding, will this be all money they will use. Casey confirmed this and shared they hope to spend all of the funding ADMB provides, assuming they get airtime.

#### **Converse County, Sand and Sage Creek Mule Deer –Casey Tillard**

*Request: \$20,000*

Bob asked if this project doesn't get funded, will they continue with it. Casey confirmed they would continue because of the wildlife and also the ag producers in the area.

#### **Washakie County: Rolly Redland, Mark Duly, Eli White**

*Request: \$253,550*

Rolly recapped their budget and explained their carryover is at about a year. They bought a side-by-side, which has been vital in getting trappers where they need to be. They believe in utilizing technology, so they have tools like thermal. They planned a raccoon project, trying to boost game bird numbers. They are now seeing higher numbers of sage grouse and deer in their area. They have had wolf and grizzly sightings and one grizzly kill last year. Jeff asked about the money at the treasurer's office that they thought was not allocated. Rolly believes they have received those funds. Eli shared losses, spoke about their strong aerial program, and explained how technology makes them much more efficient. Bob asked if any ADMB funding would go toward carryover, and Rolly said their request is for what they need to operate, with none planned for carryover.

#### **Washakie County Coyote Removal on Mule Deer Fawning Grounds to Protect Basin Mule Deer Herd – Mike Burrell (WS)**

*Request: \$6,000*

Mike thanked Ashley Wray, the wildlife biologist in Worland. This is the fifth and last year for this project. He said that they focus on the water sources because that is where deer and coyotes are. He shared fawn to doe ratios from 2018-2024, and spoke of prevalence of effects of CWD. In 2024, the doe to fawn ratio reached 76:100, the highest they've seen, and the first year this herd has seen an increase in many years, possibly more than the models shows. The project data also shows a direct correlation of increased coyote removal to the fawn-to-doe ratio. They are requesting less this year.

#### **Big Horn County: Randall Jones, Brandon O'Brien**

*Request: \$230,828*

Brandon shared that they have two full-time trappers, sheep throughout the county, they are very busy, and have a high rural population, so with more people comes more conflict. They use mostly fixed-wing, and some helicopter. Doug asked what trends for predators they are seeing. Brandon explained that coyote numbers are steady, and they do not do much work with other predators, but that their sheep losses are minimal. They do not have a huge eagle problem, but

would like more leeway to take care of raptor issues. Tyler asked if they have other avian issues. Brandon shared they have a few issues with ravens, and they see the largest loss to avian predators in feed lots. Bob asked if any of this request will go to carryover. They are budgeting for a little carryover.

**Park County: Dan Hansen, Shane Smith, Monty Nicholson WS**

**Request: \$260,500**

Shane shared that they are in a unique situation, with 127 miles of Yellowstone Park boundary, 70 miles of Montanan state boundary and the challenges of both. This county has many unique issues including grizzlies, wolves, and a predator zone. Monte shared that there are two trappers in Park County. They have done diverse work beyond large predators, including avian work on starlings at a dairy farm, and a gas plant on the Montana border with raven issues. This is in middle of one of their largest sage grouse corridors, which is helpful. They also have calls for foxes in chicken flocks. While they don't have a lot of eagle issues, they did have one confirmed kill of a calf by an eagle, the first in 17 years. The thermal equipment being used is a game changer, and there is a need for upgrades periodically. Sharon asked how rural subdivisions effect their work. Monte said there are challenges with airplanes especially, being able to fly those areas. Another challenge is new people coming in who don't understand/like what the trappers do.

**Park County Coyote Removal to Enhance the Clark River Mule Deer Herd -- Shane Smith, Jordan Winter (WGF)**

**Request \$6000**

This is the first year of this project. Jordan shared a map of their project areas, explaining that this is the wintering grounds for this herd. The goal is to have 5000 deer in this area, and there are currently around 4100. Their proposal is to utilize the local county board and trappers to go in and use helicopter time for aerial removals and some clean up on the ground. The bighorn sheep will also benefit from removal of coyotes. He also spoke about partners in this project.

**Board discussion on grant applications**

Concerning the issue with Johnson County from yesterday, the \$72,000 they might have missed, was truly missed. It makes a difference in carryover and budget, so they don't have a one-year carryover. They left their request the same, so Bob asked if this would add to their reserves, and Jerry explained it would get them to almost 10 months.

Jerry explained his ideas for funding based on his spreadsheet. Doug shared that in past years the Board took \$150,000 off the top for the biennium for the contractual agreement with Wildlife Services for wolf work statewide. The state recently received money from the legislature for wolf work, so the Board could choose to liquidate the \$150,000 normally set aside if they need to use it differently. Jared asked for clarification on those without a year in reserve. Jerry clarified the counties that weren't quite there. Bob asked if the Board wants to continue trying to get all the counties to a year reserve or have them do that themselves. Doug explained historically the reason the Board watches that and how it makes it a consistent funding model.

On sage grouse funding, Jerry proposed the same amounts as last year, \$38,000 for all except the four largest (Carbon, Fremont, Natrona, and Sweetwater) getting \$65,750 each, and Goshen getting \$5000.

A suggestion was made to discuss Ag In The Classroom first, then end the discussion with County PMD allocations. Concerning the Ag In The Classroom request, Roger moved to fully fund this project, and Jared seconded. Angi asked where this funding comes from and Doug explained that it typically comes from the WDA portion of the wildlife research project funding. Jared asked about the possibility of encouraging this group to add more predator management education into their new curriculum. Doug confirmed there is an award letter that accompanies their funds, and a statement could be included in that, indicating that the Board would encourage Ag In The Classroom to bolster their educational opportunities on predator management and animal damage issues in Wyoming in their curriculum. The motion was amended to include the statement in the cover letter, and with a unanimous vote, the amended motion to approve funding for Ag In The Classroom with the addition to the award letter passed.

The Board went on to discuss how to approve funding for sage grouse and the other allocations, and the consensus was to work on the master spreadsheet and approve everything with one motion based on the spreadsheet.

### **Wildlife Projects**

Jerry shared that they are about \$70,000 short to fully fund all projects. Bob made a recommendation to give the ear-tag project \$50,000. Doug suggested cutting the rest by a percentage. There was also discussion of how much raven work can be done for a small amount of money. Bob suggested moving the two raven projects to \$2500. Angi suggested taking some funding from the lower-ranked projects and applying that toward the higher-ranked projects. A motion was made by Jeff to approve the Wildlife Projects spreadsheet as presented, Bob seconded, and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried. (*Please see spreadsheet below.*)

Concerning funding the eagle project, the money is available if the Board chooses to fund it. Doug motioned to fund the eagle project with the funding originally set aside for wolf control statewide, Roger seconded, and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

A		B	C	D
2025 ADMB Grant Spreadsheet		Budget 03.17		
Fiscal Year 2025		ADMB Grant		G&F
0317 Funds available for allocation>>>>>>>>>>>>		\$ 220,651.00	Funding	Ranking
		\$ 320,651.00	ADMB Approved	
Project Name		Request	Amount	
<i>New Projects</i>				
Large Carnivore-Livestock Depredation Prevention and Control		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	1
Wyoming Range mule deer study 2023-28		\$ 40,000	\$ 35,000	2
WGFD Efficacy of nonlethal ear tags		\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	3
Carbon CO. Coyote removal to enhance Baggs mule deer fawn survival		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	4
Park co G&F Clark river mule deer project		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	5
Carbon CO. Coyote removal to enhance Platte Valley mule deer fawn survival		\$ 15,000	\$ 15,000	6
Carbon CO. Coyote removal to enhance South Ferris Antelope survival		\$ 17,000	\$ 17,000	7
Natrona County Raven Removal		\$ 5,000	\$ 2,500	8
Carbon County Raven removal project		\$ 4,000	\$ 2,500	9
Fremont Co. Sweetwater rock mule deer project		\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	10
Washakie county Mule Deer project 2023		\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000	11
Lincoln County Mule deer project		\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	12
Coyote Removal to Enhance Bates Hole Mule Deer Fawn Survival		\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	13
Coyote Removal to Enhance Red Wall & Big Sulfur Mule Deer Fawn Survival		\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	14
Johnson County Mule deer/Sage grouse 2024-25		\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	15
Converse Co. sand and sage cr. mule deer project		\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	16
Niobrara Manville Lance creek project 2025		\$ 20,000	\$ 10,000	17
Wyoming Stewardship Project, Educator Workshops		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
		\$ 399,500		
Total Allocation			\$320,500.00	
Balance			\$151.00	
Golden eagle research request		\$26,134		

### PMD Regular Funding

Jerry shared that with the changes noted earlier in the meeting, the Board has \$4,960,824 available to allocate.

Jerry presented the allocation spreadsheet, taking into consideration all discussions today and yesterday, and each district's reserve. The Board discussed and clarified some of the figures, and Jerry made the suggested changes. Bob moved to approve the allocations as presented on the master spreadsheet as presented, Brett seconded, and with a unanimous vote, the motion passed. (Please see spreadsheet below.)

A	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
				ADMB	budget 009 1501	budget 001 1501	Board final
Board Final Allocation May 14th 2025							
FY 2025 requests							
					\$800,000.00	\$3,930,834.00	\$ 4,860,834.00
				2025-26	\$4,980,834 - 120,000 wolf work		
Albany County PMD	\$235,621.00	\$290,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$252,000.00		\$290,000.00	
Big Horn County PMD	\$230,828.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$187,000.00		\$225,000.00	
Campbell County PMD	\$305,000.00	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$297,000.00		\$335,000.00	
Carbon County PMD	\$293,000.00	\$ 290,000.00	\$ 65,750.00	\$224,250.00		\$290,000.00	
Converse County PMD	\$270,833.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$182,000.00		\$220,000.00	
Crook County PMD	\$79,580.00	\$ 79,580.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$41,580.00		\$79,580.00	
Fremont County PMD	\$323,366.00	\$ 347,000.00	\$ 65,750.00	\$281,250.00		\$347,000.00	
Goshen County PMD	\$220,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$215,000.00		\$220,000.00	
Hot Springs County PMD	\$295,000.00	\$ 290,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$252,000.00		\$290,000.00	
Johnson County PMD	\$390,000.00	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$372,000.00		\$410,000.00	
Lincoln County PMD	\$288,500.00	\$ 288,500.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$250,500.00		\$288,500.00	
Natrona County PMD	\$330,000.00	\$ 390,000.00	\$ 65,750.00	\$324,250.00		\$390,000.00	
NIobrara County PMD	\$150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$112,000.00		\$150,000.00	
Park County PMD	\$260,500.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$212,000.00		\$250,000.00	
Sheridan County PMD	\$214,500.00	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$172,000.00		\$210,000.00	
Sweetwater County PMD	\$275,000.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 65,750.00	\$204,250.00		\$270,000.00	
Uinta County PMD	\$310,296.00	\$ 270,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$232,000.00		\$270,000.00	
Washakie County PMD	\$253,550.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$187,000.00		\$225,000.00	
Weston County PMD	\$100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$62,000.00		\$100,000.00	
Balances 1501	\$4,825,574.00	\$ 4,860,080.00	\$800,000.00	\$4,060,080.00		\$4,860,080.00	
					\$4,860,080.00	\$ 754.00	
<b>Other Projects 0313</b>		<b>\$ 41,243.00</b>					
Campbell Rabies	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00				\$10,000.00	
Sheridan Rabies	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00				\$20,000.00	
Johnson Rabies	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00				\$10,000.00	
2 year Vet lab contract							
<b>Budget FY25-26 0313 \$97,243</b>	\$50,000.00	\$40,000.00				\$40,000.00	

## Rabies Allocation

Jerry showed the Board that they have \$40,500 to allocate for rabies work. Discussion included the fact that Sheridan has the largest rabies problem. A motion was made by Brett to give Sheridan \$20,000, and give Campbell and Johnson \$10,000 each. Zeta seconded, and with a unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bob, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**Animal Damage Management Board Meeting  
Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 10:00 am  
Meeting held via ZOOM**

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Doug Miyamoto at 10:05 am.

**Introduction of board, guests and public**

**Board members in attendance:** Doug Miyamoto (Co-Chair), Angie Bruce (Co-Chair), Jared Zierenberg, Jeff Boner, Phil Osterli, Zeta Anderson, Roger Cox

**Board members absent:** Mark Jolovich, Brett Belden, Amanda Hulet, Tyler Abbott, Sharon O'Toole, and Jennifer McConchie

**WDA Staff in attendance:** Jerry Johnson, Joe Budd, JD Sater, Jordan Carlson Emily Fowler

**Public in attendance:** Alison Crane

**Approval of May 2025 meeting minutes**

A motion was made by Roger Cox and seconded by Zeta Anderson to approve the minutes of the May 2025 meeting. After a unanimous vote, the motion carried and the minutes were accepted.

**WDA update on Wolf issues**

Jerry Johnson gave an update on the wolf issues and compensation program. For the period between October 2024 and September 2025 Wildlife Service's wolf control consisted of the following in the predator zone: 31 wolves removed, 8 wolves collared. WS verified wolf depredations in the predator zone as follows: 11 beef calves, 9 adult sheep, 10 lambs, and 0 horses or goats. In the trophy zone: 6 wolves were removed. WS verified wolf depredations in the trophy zone as follows: 31 calves and two adult cattle, zero sheep, horse or goat losses. Additional producer losses were reported to the G&F but were not included in this report to avoid duplicate reporting of death loss. Losses seemed to be mitigated by the purchase of additional collars.

Jeff Boner asked what the cost was for the collars, Jerry responded the approximate cost to be around \$2,500 but would confirm the amount.

The wolf Compensation program was in it's second year and two claims were reported, however only one chose to file a Claim which totaled \$1,400.

#### **USDA/WS update on Golden Eagles**

Jared Zierenberg of the USDA Wildlife Services gave a recap of the Golden eagle project. The agreement between NWRC and USDA/Wildlife Service's has been completed.

Lindsey Perry Met with producers, and selected the sites she worked, she set up cameras and used bait. There were some issues with having enough bait and a freezer was purchase and more bait was collected, (mostly rabbits). Once the Feds are allowed to get back to work more will be done in late winter and early spring. The main goal will be to continue to get more eagles tagged and tracked to see if the eagles doing damage can be identified and to work on the best harassment techniques to help producers.

#### **Approval of 2026 meeting dates**

Jan 12th 2026 Monday 10 am Zoom

May 12th Tuesday 8 am - 13th Wednesday 8 am 2026 Casper

Nov 10th 2026 Tuesday 10 am Zoom

Jeff Bone moved to approve the dates and Zeta Anderson seconded motion passed

#### **Board Comment / Public Comment**

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

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.