

IDAHO WOLF DEPREDATION CONTROL BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN

MISSION STATEMENT

The Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board will direct and manage funds provided consistent with its grant of authority in Idaho Code § 22-5301 *et seq.* and all other applicable laws and rules.

BACKGROUND

The Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board (“Board”) was created in 2014 within the Office of the Governor. The Board is tasked with “directing and managing funds” for the purpose of wolf depredation control within the State of Idaho. The law enacted in 2014 is based on the recommendation from the Fish and Game Advisory Committee to Governor Otter addressing wolf depredation funding in Idaho. The Fish and Game Advisory Committee identified four important elements that the law should encompass. First, a long-term solution should include a 3-way partnership between livestock owners, sportsmen, and the legislature (general funds). Second, a wolf depredation control program should provide for equivalent matching dollars from Idaho sportsman for contribution made by livestock producers, up to \$110,000. Third, funds should be made available to eligible agency partners that will implement wolf depredation control actions within Idaho. Finally, funding dedicated to wolf depredation control should not be used for compensation purposes.

VISION

The Legislature created a system of funding supplied by the General Fund, livestock organizations and from Idaho sportsmen through the sale of hunting licenses in Idaho. This funding is divided into three subaccounts based on the source of funds. The Board will manage these subaccounts by paying for activities associated with legal lethal means of wolf control associated with depredations on livestock and wild ungulates. Depredation control activities associated with wild ungulates will be directed by the Idaho Fish and Game Commission through the Board. The Board does not have authority to influence the Idaho Wolf Management Plan, investigate particular wolf depredation issues, endorse specific control measures, or make payment of compensation for damages.

In order to represent the interests of the constituents served by wolf depredation control measures, the Governor appointed three members of the community to the Board for specified

terms. These members represent the livestock industry, sportsmen's interests, and the general public. The Board's permanent members are the Directors of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

The Board members are committed to managing available funds within their scope of authority and conducting its business transparently.

GOAL 1: Effectively manage and allocate funds in order to continue the service of wolf depredation control.

Objective: Utilize the funds efficiently and timely in order to provide for the most effective use of the available funds.

Strategies:

- Analyze expenditures to ensure each meets the statutory allowances.
- Contract with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture for fiscal and legal services.
- Follow the direction of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission in allocating the subaccount funded by Idaho hunting license dollars.

Outcome: The Board will remain a fiscally viable entity in order to continue the efforts of wolf depredation control in Idaho.

GOAL 2: Conduct the affairs of the Board in a transparent and appropriate manner

Objective: The Board will maintain neutrality in its management and direction of funds and stay within all applicable limitations of its authority.

Strategies:

- Board members shall abide by all laws under the Bribery and Corrupt Influence Act.
- Board members shall abide by all laws under the Ethics in Government Act of 1990.
- The Board shall abide by the laws regarding state publications.
- The Board shall abide by state laws governing lobbying.

Outcome: The Board and members will act in such a way as to avoid all improprieties and illegalities associated with the Board in order to maintain the reputation and integrity of the Board.

SUMMARY

The statutory authority governing the Board will sunset on June 30, 2019. In order for the work of the Board to continue the Legislature must act to either amend the sunset provision or repeal it. The Board has made every effort to be efficient with the funds it manages and be transparent in the activities it conducts. The Board recognizes its role as fund managers and does not interfere with biological or technical decisions related to on-the-ground depredation work.