

Livestock Interactions



WOLF RESTORATION & MANAGEMENT PLAN; SUMMER 2021 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

CPW Livestock Damage Information:

The Game Damage Program is a Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) prevention and reimbursement program that compensates ranchers, farmers and landowners for damage caused by big game animals.

CPW Game Damage Program History: Since the inception of the Game Damage Program in 1931, the original broad legal language has evolved to specify what game damage laws cover. Twenty years ago, the program was expanded to include damage prevention.

Game Damage Program Funding: The program is funded by the appropriation of sportspeople's dollars from the Game Cash Fund. This funds the two key components of CPW's Game Damage Program, damage compensation and damage prevention.

What is considered damage? Damage is any change in the quality or quantity of any property which reduces its value. Damage shall include all costs necessary to restore property to its condition immediately prior to damage, to replace it with property of equal value or to compensate for restoration or replacement.

The state is liable for damages to livestock caused by big game wildlife and wolves: Up to \$5,000 per head of livestock injured or killed, and damages to livestock are limited to physical trauma resulting in injury or death.

The State is not liable for: Livestock damages caused by coyote, bobcats or domestic dogs; damage to motor vehicles caused by wildlife; injury or death of any person caused by wildlife.

Value of Livestock: Payment for all livestock claims are based on sales receipts/contracts. This excludes transportation, yardage, feed, and sales costs. If sales receipts/contracts are not furnished with claims, payment of calf, lamb and adult range sheep claims are based on prices from USDA-AMS reports. Payment for all other livestock claims are based on the fair market value at the time of loss.

Damage Claim Process

- Contact your local CPW office and ask to speak to a District Wildlife Manager (DWM).
- DWM will conduct an on-site inspection, provide the claim forms and answer claim procedure questions.
- Claim forms must be fully completed and submitted to CPW.
- The claim is recommended for either approval or denial.
- All denied claims are reviewed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Issues to be addressed through the gray wolf restoration & management planning process

- Development of a depredation compensation program.
- Roles and responsibilities for investigation.
- Compensation rates and format.
- Development of conflict minimization Best Management Practices.
- Consideration for development of cost share programs to encourage conflict minimization practices.
- Development of prescriptive management of conflict wolves (also in Wolf Management) - for example, non-lethal and lethal control methods. Generally, a conflict wolf is any wolf that has been confirmed to have been involved with a human or livestock conflict.
- Funding Sources.

What we want to know from you

- What suggestions do you have for **conflict minimization best practices**?
- What suggestions do you have for **compensation programs**?
- What suggestions do you have for **management of conflict wolves**?
- What **concerns or questions** do you have?



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Depredation Compensation Programs in Other States

State:	Funding	Unconfirmed Losses	Who Investigates	How Value is Determined	Percentage Paid	Other
Arizona	Livestock Interdiction Fund (USFWS/NFWF). Administered by the AZLLB. NGO funding for range riders.	Pay for presence program. Pays only for cattle losses. Confirmed or probable losses.	USDA APHIS - Wildlife Services (WS)	Market value of livestock determined by the AZ Livestock Loss Board.	50/50 match. Includes cash, in-kind contributions, or 3rd party contributions.	Wolf/Livestock Council: http://www.coexistencecouncil.org/home.html AZ Livestock Loss Board: https://live-azlivestocklossboard.pantheonsite.io/
Idaho	Wolf Livestock Demonstration Grant Program (WLDGP).	No Confirmed and probable losses only.	APHIS WS	Cattlefax for cattle. American Sheep Industry market report for sheep.	WLDGP requires 50/50 match. Full value of livestock if rancher has met 50/50 match via in kind services.	https://species.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/82/2020/06/Wolf-Depredation-Compensation-Application_FINAL2020.pdf
Michigan	State general funds. Private sources.	Yes, if prior verified wolf depredation exists.	State DNR and/or APHIS WS	Michigan Department of Agriculture determines value of livestock.	Full value	Expenses for injured livestock or pets are not reimbursed.
Montana	Administered by Montana Livestock Loss Board. State general funds. Specialty license plate program.	No Not allowed by statute.	APHIS WS has sole authority per state statute.	USDA Market Report for Montana for cattle, goats and lambs. Annual Miles City Ram and Ewe sale is used for rams and ewe values.	100% for confirmed and probable kills.	Does not require loss prevention efforts to qualify for reimbursement.
Oregon	Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Grant Program awards to counties.	Confirmed and probable losses. Compensate missing livestock if 4 requirements have been met.	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.	Based on fair market value and determined by county advisory committees.	Dependent on funding availability for each County advisory committees.	https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/AnimalHealthFeedsLivestockID/Pages/WolfDepredation.aspx
Washington	State funding Federal funding Private funding	Yes 2X multiplier if depredation occurs on acreage over 100 acres.	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).	Fair market value Requires claimants enter into a damage prevention cooperative agreement with WDFW, the terms of which are negotiated.	100% for confirmed depredations. 50% for probable depredations.	https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/compensation
Wisconsin	State funded from the sale of wolf hunting license sales.	Yes Can claim up to 5 missing calves for each verified predation.	APHIS WS	Compensation is based on each individual producer's operation looking at historic livestock weights and marketing.	If the producer has a contract for feeder calve sales, the contracted price is honored.	https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/WildlifeHabitat/damage
Wyoming	Some WLDGP funds. Mostly funded by hunting license revenue.	Yes Calves and sheep compensated up to 7 times the number of confirmed damaged head.	Mostly Wyoming state staff. An agreement exists with APHIS WS.	Fair market value at the time of loss must be substantiated by a livestock sales barn or other credible source provided by the claimant.	Full fair market (FMV) value plus applicable multipliers.	https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Wildlife-in-Wyoming/More-Wildlife/Large-Carnivore/Wolves-in-Wyoming Only pays for verified livestock losses in the "trophy game" area of northwestern Wyoming. The rest of the state does not compensate for damages.

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Examples of Conflict Minimization Best Management Practices

Running livestock in wolf-range is challenging and while there is no silver bullet, there are techniques for reducing risk of wolf-livestock damage:

Management intensive grazing

- Higher stocking densities with frequent pasture changes.
- Periodic herd management increases human presence.
- Frequent pasture changes makes livestock locations less predictable for wolves.
- Benefits range health.

Livestock Guard Dogs

- Specially bred dogs that travel with livestock and discourage wolf depredation.
- Provide around the clock vigilance and alert herders/riders to threats to livestock.
- Not as effective with highly dispersed livestock.
- Dogs scent markings and barking can signal an occupied territory to wolves.

Livestock Guarding Donkeys

- Similar advantages to guard dogs except for no extra feeding necessary since they forage with livestock.

Carcass Management

- Removing or disposing of attractants that may lure wolves into livestock locations.
- Reduces potential conflicts by minimizing attractants.
- Burying or burning carcasses regularly.

Riders and Herders

- Live or spend long periods of time with livestock and manage herd health and herd distribution.
- Allows for increased protection of livestock and early detection of livestock depredation.
- Increased human presence and harassment can deter wolves.
- Allows producer to know when preventative efforts need to be increased.

Fladry

- Flagging hanging on strand of twine/wire that can trigger an avoidance in wolves.
- Ideal in smaller pastures (calving and horse pastures, sheep night pens and dead pits).
- Electrified version (turbo fladry) can be even more effective to reduce depredation if used correctly.
- Easily transported and installed and can be stored when not in use.
- Turbo fladry requires maintenance and can ground-out with taller vegetation.

Scare Devices

- Motion/radio activated sirens, strobe lights, and scarecrows can change wolf behavior.
- Can also alert herders/riders to threats to livestock.
- Simple and portable tools that are ideal when used in addition to other practices.

High Risk Landscape Management

- Understanding and adjusting practices during times and areas of high-risk.
- Avoiding grazing livestock in areas of high prey abundance or wolf activity areas.
- Lowers risk of livestock depredation by avoiding high risk landscapes.

Herd Composition

- Mixing different age classes and breeds of livestock can reduce vulnerability to predation.
- Stronger maternal instincts may reduce vulnerability of younger livestock.
- Experienced animals may avoid areas of predator presence and influence other stock to do the same.
- Experienced livestock are less likely to flee and more likely to stand their ground.

