

Wildlife Committee meeting

June 4, 2009,

Gillette, Wyoming.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30a.m. by Chairperson Mantha Phillips with 35 members and guests present.

Mantha welcomed the group and handed out the guidelines and directives for this committee.

Report by Game and Fish Director Steve Ferrell.

- Status of the Sage Grouse.
 - It has been the consensus of the Game and Fish that listing the Sage Grouse would not benefit the increase in Sage Grouse numbers. The Game and Fish are working with the Local Area Sage Grouse working groups and are evaluating Sage Grouse numbers and habitat. They are also looking at mapping the Grouse areas. They are working with the EnCana money to mitigate any harmful effects from Natural Gas development in the Pinedale area.
 - The Game and Fish is aggressively studying effects of Wind Energy develop in Grouse areas. Several members had serious concerns that the Game and Fish is not studying the effects that predators have on Sage Grouse. There were concerns also though that the EnCana research projects only benefit some private researchers and many were not solid research the efforts to mitigate the gas development.
 - The Game and Fish has 13 different Sage Grouse research projects.
- Reported that 2 days ago the State of Wyoming filed suit against the USFWS because they did not accept Wyoming's Wolf plan and they refused to delist the Wolves in Wyoming.
 - The Game and Fish and the state contends that the USFWS did not look at Wyoming's plan accurately, or give it the credit it deserves. Last year the Game and Fish paid \$105,000 in wolf predator damages and over \$130,000 in other predator damages.
 - Some members were concerned that the Game and Fish needs to be more concerned that predators are doing some serious damage to wildlife populations.
- Steve reported on the Brucellosis problem with wildlife and comingling with livestock.
 - They are working to test many of the Elk in the feed grounds and providing fencing for hay stacks. They are looking at how they can make changes to some feel grounds that would help with co mingling. And they are vaccinating elk in feed grounds and doing some Brucellosis research.
- The Game and Fish also reported on their Grizzly Bears. The Grizzly Bears continue to increase in numbers and continue to spread in their habitat areas. Grizzly Bear conflicts continue to increase.

- The Game and Fish is also very concerned about the possible Mussel introduction to Wyoming Waters.

Report by State Director of the Wildlife Services Rod Krischke.

- His agency has been very proactive and helped get legislation that wind anemometers now need to be marked for pilot.
- He explained that next year the county predator groups will get a 20% cut in state funding because of the legislature cuts.
- He also reported that no one can pay damages for working dogs or guard dogs.
- He also reported that the proposed federal budget will have serious budget cuts for predator damage work.

Report by Jim Magagna on litigation issues.

- The Stock Growers are watching the Elk feed grounds law suit, the Mountain Plover suit and the wolf lawsuits. The Stock Growers are concerned that Idaho and Montana's plans were approved, and Wyoming's plan was not. The Stock Growers may need some direction on what the Association should do in this suit. It is possible that the Wolf Coalition may revive itself and file to intervene.

Review of directives and policies.

- Doug Cooper moved and Rob Crofts seconded the motion that we recommend to remove directive number 7 and 34, motion carried.
- No new policies were presented. Policy number 30 and 31 will expire. Lois Herbst moved and Rob Crofts seconded the motion to recommend that the Stock Growers retain policy number 30, motion carried.
- Lois also moved and Denny Jones seconded that the committee also recommend that we retain number 31, motion carried.
- Doug Cooper moved and Rob Crofts seconded the motion that this committee recommends that the Stock Growers intervene in the wolf law suit with the state and join the wolf Coalition in its efforts to fight the failure to delist, motion carried.
- Neils Hansen moved and John Espy seconded that this committee encourage the officers to look into various avenues and methods to enhance public relations on agriculture, motion carried as a directive.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.