

WSGA Wildlife, WWGA Wildlife and Predator

Joint Committee meeting, Dec.8, 2009

Parkway Plaza Hotel, Casper Wyoming

Joint chairs Manta Phillips of the WSGA and Jerry Dilts of the WWGA opened the meeting and handed out agenda's.

First on the agenda was a Game and Fish report by Commission Director Steve Ferrell. He reported that the good news was that the USFW has decided to not list the Black Tailed Prairie Dogs as endangered. He also reported that the Grizzly Bears were relisted after three different law Grizzly Bears in the Yellowstone region and that they are expanding at a rate of 8% each year. Steve also gave a report on Wolves. The state has no role now with Wolf management since they were re-listed as Endangered. His estimate is that we have over 316 wolves in and out of Yellowstone in 44 different pack's and that they are expanding at a rate of 11% each year. And lastly Steve reported that they are waiting to hear if the USFWS will list the Sage Grouse or not, as we should hear in late February of 2010. He estimated that if Sage Grouse were listed that it would adversely effect 65% of the economy of all grazing in Wyoming. His hope was that the work of the local Sage Grouse Groups, the predator work of local Predator Associations, and the work that came out of the state Sage Grouse Summit that was held last year will help prevent the listing of the Sage Grouse as Endangered. He estimated that Wyoming has around 54% of all the known Sage Grouse in the U.S. .The WG&F is presently researching the effects of the Wind Energy effects on the Sage Grouse.

Jim Magagna then gave an update on the delisting of Wolves in Wyoming and the law suits that have challenged it being listed here in Wyoming. The Wolf Coalition is standing firm that Wyoming can manage its own wolves and that it should not be listed.

Kent Drake of the State Predator Management Board explained all the projects they are working on. Local predator projects are helping not only livestock but also wildlife such as Big Horn Sheep and Sage Grouse, but also protecting crops in the Big Horn Basin.

Joe Thomas then gave a report on the Brucellosis Road Map to Solutions from their meetings. One recommendation may be that they eliminate the Elk Feed Grounds, but that was not the consensus of many livestock groups or the Game and Fish.

Dr Frank Galey of the UW College of Ag then explained that his committee did not recommend that as they recommended that that decision should be left up to local groups.

Gene Hardy of the state Predator Board talked about some of their work and the planes that are flying for predator control.

Dave Kane moved that the Offices and Staff of WSGA and WWGA be directed to monitor and control the introduction of aquatic invasive species into the state of Wyoming, seconded by Nels Smith, motion carried

Joe Crofts of the Fremont County Cattlemen's moved and JW Nuckles seconded that the Officers and Staff of the WSGA and WWGA be directed to monitor and make sure that the Sage Grouse and the Leopard Frog not be listed, motion carried.

Dick Loper of the State Grazing Board then gave a report and a heads up of a bill that if passed would prohibit the BLM from rounding up horses unless they could be adopted.

Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

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