

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 54th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **VICE CHAIRMAN THOMAS F. KEATING**, on January 5, 1995, at 8:00 a.m. in Room 402 of the State Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Roger Debruycker, Chairman (R)
Sen. Thomas F. Keating, Vice Chairman (R)
Sen. Judy H. Jacobson (D)
Sen. Loren Jenkins (R)
Rep. John Johnson (D)
Rep. William R. Wiseman (R)

Members Excused: Chairman Debruycker excused 8 - 9:20 a.m.

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Roger Lloyd, Legislative Fiscal Analyst
Florine Smith, Office of Budget & Program
Planning (OBPP)
Debbie Rostocki, Committee Secretary

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing: Department of Livestock
-Predator Control Program
-Inspection and Control Program
-Centralized Services Program
Executive Action: none

HEARING ON Department of Livestock Predator Control Program

Tape No. 1:A:000

Mr. Lloyd reviewed the Predator Control Program. Mr. Cork Mortenson, Executive Director of the Board of Livestock, then introduced several Department of Livestock staff: Dr. Larry Stackhouse, Administrator of the Diagnostic Laboratory in Bozeman; Carol Olmstead, sitting in for Dr. Hal Sheets, Administrator of the Meat, Milk, and Egg Division; Dr. Clarence Seroky, State Veterinarian; John Skufca, Centralized Services Manager and his assistant Lorrane Dressler; and Mark Bridges, Division Administrator of Brands Enforcement.

Mr. Mortenson explained that Dr. Sheets was the Section 8 (Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978) coordinator and facilitator, and the Governor's representative. This legislation provides for consultation, cooperation and coordination with any state having lands within areas to be covered by allotment management plans. He then discussed the bison brucellosis problem at Yellowstone National Park and the ramifications for the budget of the Animal Health Division. This issue is a "time bomb." The animals coming out of the park threaten Montana's brucellosis-free status. Some states are already placing test requirements on Montana cattle because of this problem. Regarding predator control, he informed the committee that the Board of Livestock had agreed to seek a budget amendment for FY 1995; see **EXHIBIT 1**. Both losses and predator numbers are increasing. This has been amended into **HB 4**.

John Skufca then spoke. **Note: tape machine problems. Lost 1 - 2 minutes.** In the 1993 legislative session the Board of Livestock either vacated or left vacant six FTE to compensate for the 5% reduction in personal services. Through negotiations with the OBPP in the spring of 1994 they were allowed to maintain three of the positions under the possibility that if they did find funding and had the need, they would be allowed to use them. If the committee approves the executive modification in this program, the FTE will remain but the funding will not. Regarding the \$110,000 that comes from the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) for predator control, they could do their grant directly to Animal Damage Control (ADC); this is up to the committee to decide which department is to administer this money.

SEN. JENKINS wanted to know who would coordinate predator control if both Livestock and FWP were involved in the funding. **Mr. Skufca** replied that there wouldn't be double hunting of an area; presently FWP does not do predator control, they contract with the Livestock Department. He explained that the trappers were federal employees. In the past, ADC has always done the scheduling of the Department of Livestock's helicopter. Since the fiasco several years ago the Dept. has agreed to also let ADC hire the pilot and Livestock agreed to pay for it, as well for maintenance of the helicopter. In the fall of 1994 the Department decided to contract with ADC for the entire program. Because of moves on the federal level to either reduce or eliminate ADC, they don't want Livestock completely out of the program, however. The monies that support the Predator Control Program are the \$110,000 from FWP and per capita fees. It is proposed to leave a portion of the per capita fees in Livestock's budget and use them to contract with ADC the \$110,000 could either still flow through Livestock or be appropriated directly to ADC. The \$42,500 that goes to ADC annually covers the cost of a fixed wing aircraft for predator control in eastern Montana. The additional \$25,500 is going to three county groups who do their own predator control. The additional \$30,000 in contracted services is because the request for services is up, and will probably be used to contract with ADC.

REP. WISEMAN suggested that the Livestock Department remain involved in the funding process so that the justification for shooting coyotes would stay connected with the livestock industry.

In response to **SEN. KEATING**, **Mr. Skufca** said the Department did not currently have a plan for the FTE which the OBPP allowed them to keep.

Bob Gilbert, Secretary Treasurer of the Woolgrowers Association, spoke. Predators are the most often cited reason sheep people are getting out of the business. Out of the 40 ferrets in Malta, predators killed every single adult, and 11 are missing. At least half were confirmed to be killed by coyotes. This is also happening to the livestock, and so this is a wildlife problem. He had no problem with contracting with ADC to take care of the problem. He distributed a statistical survey outlining the cost of this problem to the sheep industry; see **EXHIBIT 2**. He added that 32,000 sheep were lost in the past year, and that predators move on to cattle, and the figures show that calf losses are also increasing.

SEN. GERRY DEVLIN, SD 2, Terry, spoke up in support of the budget amendment, stating that it is "preventive maintenance," and would provide for money for the last part of this year, before the calving and lambing seasons start, while there is snow cover. He added that predators were also doing plenty of damage to wildlife.

Mr. Lloyd clarified that the budget amendment which **SEN. DEVLIN** was referring to would add spending authority for FY 95, and was unrelated to the budget before the committee.

It was clarified that testimony in favor of the budget amendment was meant to indicate support for additional contracting in the 1996-97 budget.

Mr. Skufca commented that the ADC pilot funding level of \$56,000 included operational costs. Salary and benefits are in the \$40,000 - \$42,000 range. Longevity and a high Workers Compensation rate for pilots had driven their last pilot's wages and benefits up to \$49,000 per year.

It was pointed out that when possible, coyote pelts are taken and sold by the ADC trappers, and the revenue goes back into the program. The Department felt that the anti-fur movement had not affected the sales of fur.

The hearing on the Predator Control Program was then closed.

Mr. Lloyd then gave an overview of the entire Livestock Department budget.

Ms. Smith explained that when the OBPP negotiated with the agencies regarding the 5% targeted FTE reductions, the agencies

were given the option of taking the cuts wherever they desired. A "snapshot" was taken using the January 1994 vacant positions.

TAPE NO. 1:B:000

John Skufca then gave an overview of the entire budget. The LFA did a comparison of the total biennium requests from the 1995 biennium to the 1997 biennium using the 1994 actual expenses and the 1995 appropriated. Since there were some reversions in 1994, **Mr. Skufca** used the 1994 appropriated amount in his comparison, to illustrate how austere the Dept. was trying to be. He pointed out that there was less than \$100,000 difference from the 1994 to the 1996 biennium, and if the \$126,000 modification to keep the helicopter going is denied they would actually be \$30,000 less than the 1994-5 biennium.

HEARING ON Department of Livestock Inspection & Control Program

Mr. Lloyd gave an overview of this program and explained the differences between the 1994 base budget figures and the present level figures in the budget. Since fixed costs such as the repairs and maintenance negative number on p. C-88 have been moved to Centralized Services, there is a corresponding increase in that part of the budget. He pointed out that on p. C-97, item no. 1 had an error: the word "decrease" was supposed to read "increase."

SEN. JENKINS wanted to know why the present law figure for Personal Services increased in 1997. **Mr. Lloyd** suggested that perhaps longevity increments were driving it. **Ms. Smith** explained that there was one more day in that year and this was probably most of it.

REP. WISEMAN wanted to know how effective the Program was in the area of livestock theft. **Marc Bridges**, Administrator of the Brands Enforcement Division, said that they believe the program is functioning very well. Predominantly thefts have been only one or two head but there has been an occasional large loss. There have been convictions but sometimes adjudication can be very lengthy.

In response to **SEN. JENKINS**, **Mr. Bridges** said that statewide there were 24 brand enforcement vehicles. The vehicles with high mileage are utilized for local inspection work. Five or six vehicles are replaced per year. The light bars they are asking for funding to replace were purchased in 1985 and are worn out.

John Skufca then commented on the program. Basically there is only one issue: they need the authority to buy the new equipment. He supported the need for small safes in the livestock markets. Bank deposits are supposed to be made whenever \$500 is reached, but in the fall this occurs on a daily basis. During the rest of the year deposits are supposed to be made at least weekly.

SEN. JENKINS spoke up in support of the job that the markets did. The hearing on the Inspection and Control Program was then closed.

HEARING ON Department of Livestock Diagnostic Lab Program

Mr. Lloyd gave an overview; this is one of the few programs in the Department with general fund in it. In addition, the program is funded out of the Animal Health account which receives a portion of the per capita tax revenue. In addition, testing and inspection fees are put into the account.

SEN. KEATING wanted to know if price increases were included in the inflation factor for the agency. **Mr. Lloyd** explained that there were agreed upon inflation factors for each item, and these items are adjusted the same way in all departments. What this program is asking for in supplies was inflated by 10.2% to arrive at the 1996 figure, and by 16.5% for 1997. Those amounts are showing up as inflation, which is broken out separately. **SEN. KEATING** expressed concern that legitimate cost increases might be reduced by arbitrary amounts by adjusting the inflation factors at a later point in the legislative session, after the subcommittee had made its recommendations. **Mr. Lloyd** said that his office had worked with OBPP and just a few items had been inflated.

Mr. Lloyd then continued his overview. **Mr. Skufca** described the Department's relationship with Montana State University as regarded recharges; in addition, they are getting an additional 3000 square feet of space.

SEN. JACOBSON wanted to know if there was justification for expanding the lab. **Mr. Skufca** replied that there was a new method of performing tests, and the equipment was a new addition.

Tape 2:A:000

Mr. Skufca then spoke. The lab program probably hits some of the higher inflation categories, but there is deflation built into the budget as well.

Dr. Stackhouse reviewed the request for the new equipment. All but \$13,800 is for replacing existing equipment. The remainder is for a piece of equipment to be used in the bacteriology lab to automate something traditionally done by hand, and will save about an hour per day. The other piece of equipment can be utilized in the virology section as well as other sections, and will also save time. They hope that in the long run these two pieces of equipment will translate into a cost savings.

SEN. JACOBSON questioned why the program went from \$23,000 to almost \$70,000 in each year of the coming biennium. **Mr. Skufca** said that they have had to rob from their equipment budget for supplies. As a result they have equipment that needs replacing.

Hopefully the current budget will be adequate for supplies. He pointed out that they had no way of forecasting what the disease outbreak problems will be, nor of forecasting what Canada or other states will do regarding testing requirements. In the planning process they try to make an honest assessment.

SEN. JENKINS expressed concern about whether the Department would have enough supplies to cover increased testing requirements, if this should come to pass. **Mr. Skufca** said the supplies concerning brucellosis wouldn't be the primary concern, it would be manpower. **SEN. JENKINS** wanted to know why they did not replace the position they were given in the last Legislative session. **Mr. Skufca** said it was not filled in order to meet the 5% personal services vacancy savings requirement. The supply operating portion of the lab has a fairly good base due to the transfers from the equipment budget. However he is concerned about having to get additional staff through the budget amendment process, which requires an "emergency".

REP. WISEMAN wanted to know how the Department's workload would be affected if milk were deregulated. **Mr. Seroky** said there will be increasing amounts of testing required by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regardless of whether or not milk is deregulated, and this has already started. He added that regardless of whether or not deregulation occurs, the FDA requires testing if milk is shipped out of state.

SEN. KEATING wanted to know if there were any other labs that did the same testing that the Department did, and was told there were not.

Mr. Skufca then addressed funding. He said he believed that the amount of 12.9% of general fund was the appropriated percentage in 1995. The difference may be that the LFA used the actual expended amount of general fund compared to state special. About \$27,000 in general fund was reverted: they tried to fund at about the same level as they came out of the last biennium's special session with as far as general fund in that program. There is a slight increase in the program due to additional supplies and equipment. He added that in the past there used to be over \$300,000 per year going into this program from the general fund. The general fund/state special split has gone from 50/50 16 years ago to 48/52 and then to 41%. The main reason for having general fund in the program is for rabies testing for the public as well as other diseases which can affect human health as well as livestock.

SEN. JENKINS asked if the problem with bubonic plague in Phillips County was being resolved. **Mr. Seroky** replied that plague had been identified in various areas of the state and to the best of his knowledge it is not currently active. They have seen plague in domestic animals. It tends to occur in prairie dog towns or in gophers. Predominantly it is caused by bacteria present in the blood of the animal who has the disease. An abrasion or cut

is the most common way it is transmitted, however it can be contracted orally. The disease is carried by fleas, which can infect humans as well. The biggest danger to humans is during periods of die-off because the fleas will be looking for new hosts. He added that coyotes seem to be fairly resistant to plague.

SEN. KEATING requested a more in-depth discussion of the revenue sources for this department from either the LFA or the OBPP. The hearing was then closed.

HEARING ON Department of Livestock Centralized Services

Mr. Lloyd gave his overview of this portion of the budget. **SEN. JENKINS** asked what happened to any funds not used by the Department. **Mr. Lloyd** said that neither state special fund money nor federal money was deposited in the general fund if not used. Per capita or livestock fees go into the two main special revenue accounts. The Legislature appropriates the money to be spent out of these accounts. The dollars remain in the state special revenue account. This money is used throughout the entire department.

Mr. Lloyd continued his overview. **CHAIRMAN DEBRUYCKER** stated that because of the cyclical nature of brand fee revenue and the jockeying of funding sources from general fund to state special, this was going to lead to the Livestock Board increasing their fees. **Mr. Lloyd** said the Board has decreased fees and is now looking at increasing them again. The past Legislative special session made what was supposed to be a permanent funding switch to decrease general fund funding and increase state special revenue funding by like amounts. However the executive budget before the committee now does not continue the switch. **SEN. KEATING** said it was his understanding that at the end of the last legislative session the total general fund amount had increased .4% over the preceding biennium but the state special revenue fund had increased by 10 - 11%. He felt that what had been done with the proprietary account ended up being double accounting. He stated that the mandate was to not increase taxes on the people. **Mr. Lloyd** agreed that the proprietary funding aspect was like double accounting. However there are many cases like this.

Mr. Skufca said the per capita funds were about 50% of the state special revenue that goes into the funds that operate the department. The rest of the money is license fees and brand fees, 10% of the re-record that they are allowed to spend each year of the re-record period, laboratory fees, and brand recording fees. He said he had information he was willing to supply the committee regarding how the funding switches have impacted the department. Per capita is based on the estimated budget for the next year. Last biennium he needed to figure in a 5% reduction in personal services. Spending authority was reduced but this occurred after the per capita had been set to collect the money. He added that

it was also difficult to predict the number of cattle that would be on the tax rolls. He then stated that if the committee approved the executive budget request with the present law and new proposals he will be comfortable with this. But if they only were budgeted at the 1994 base level this would be a problem.

Mr. Skufca told the committee that in the prior biennium the department decided to centralize data processing in the Centralized Services Program. This is about \$35,000 of this biennium's data processing request - for the upgrading of computer equipment for the entire department, not just Centralized Services.

Tape No. 2:B:000

In addition, car insurance for the entire dept. was included in the Centralized Services budget, as well as building rent and other fixed costs. He said he didn't calculate whether all the decreases added up the same as the increase because there were some fairly big increases in insurance costs. The helicopter insurance in the Predator Control Program alone went from \$9,000 or \$10,000 to \$21,000. Regarding the funding issue, it was not his understanding that this was to be a permanent funding switch and this is why the request was made to the OBPP to put the general fund back in at the historical level. He expressed hope that the committee would accept the executive vs. continuing the funding switch, for the same reasons **SEN. KEATING** had stated.

Mr. Lloyd said that, regarding fixed costs, they are now in Centralized Services, and because the other programs are funded more with state special revenue than Centralized Services, general funding for the fixed costs increased by \$3,700 in 1996 and \$3,800 in 1997, with a corresponding decrease in state special revenue.

SEN. KEATING wanted to know, if the Centralized Services percentage of the entire Department budget of \$11.5 million was considered, it didn't seem to him that a disproportionate amount of general fund was being spent in Centralized Services. However, in Meat and Poultry, the biggest amount of general fund is being spent. He wanted to know why the level was this high. **CHAIRMAN DEBRUYCKER** said he believed this was due to public health-related reasons.

SEN. JACOBSON wanted to know why the LFA believed that the executive had wanted the funding switch decreasing general funding to be permanent. **Mr. Lloyd** said that when he had gotten the executive budget during the special session, it was silent on that subject, but the analyst told him this was to be a permanent switch.

The hearing on the Centralized Services Program was then closed.

HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE

January 5, 1995

Page 9 of 9

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 10:55 a.m.


ROGER DEBRUYCKER, Chair


DEBBIE ROSTOCKI, Secretary

RD/dr

This meeting was recorded on two 90-minute audiotapes.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee

ROLL CALL

DATE 1/5/95

NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT	EXCUSED
Rep. Roger DeBruycker, Chairman	✓		8-9:20 a.m.
Rep. John Johnson	✓		
Rep. Bill Wiseman	✓		
Sen. Judy Jacobson	✓		
Sen. Loren Jenkins	✓		
Sen. Tom Keating, Vice Chairman	✓		

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK



MARC RACICOT, GOVERNOR

PO BOX 202001

STATE OF MONTANA

BRANDS ENFORCEMENT DIV. 406-444-2045
ANIMAL HEALTH DIV. 406-444-2043
BOARD OF LIVESTOCK - CENTRALIZED SERVICES 406-444-2023
MEAT, MILK & EGG INSPECTION DIV. 406-444-5202

HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2001

December 21, 1994

TO: Dave Lewis, Budget Director
Office of Budget & Program Planning

FROM: E.E. "Cork" Mortensen, Executive Secretary *Cork*
To the Board of Livestock

RE: Budget Amendment - Predator Control Program

The Department of Livestock is requesting a budget amendment in the amount of \$60,000 for its Predator Control Program in F.Y. 95. The funding is 100% State Special Revenue. The purpose of the budget amendment is to allow the department to contract with U.S.D.A.-A.P.H.I.S.-A.D.C. (Animal Damage Control) to provide additional aerial hunting of predators in Montana.

Enclosed is a letter to myself from Mr. Larry Handegard, State Director for A.D.C., justifying and illustrating the need for additional aerial hunting of predators in Montana. In addition, there is a letter from the director of the Carter County Predator Control Committee requesting more service. There will be two more letters forth coming from the Powder River and Tri-County (McCone, Richland, & North half of Dawson counties) predator control committees with similar requests. The latter groups operate their own predator control programs within specified areas and do not participate in the federal animal damage control program, but do receive financial assistance from this department in lieu of the department helicopter flying in their areas. There is a genuine need for increased predator control throughout the state and the Board of Livestock has agreed to request and fund this increased service with your concurrence and that of the legislature. The department assumes that if approved by your office this request will be included in the budget amendment bill for this upcoming session of the legislature.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter and if you have any questions, please contact either myself or John Skufca of my staff at 444-2023.

c. Florine Smith

js\prdfunds.ltr



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

Animal Damage
Control

P.O. Box 1938
Billings, MT 59103

Comm: 406-657-6464

RECEIVED
DEC 19 1994
DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
HELENA, MT 59620

December 14, 1994

Mr. E. E. "Cork" Mortensen
Executive Secretary
Montana Department of Livestock
P. O. Box 202001
Helena, MT 59620-2001

Dear Cork:

Predation on livestock in Montana is becoming critical and is a determining factor for many sheep producers as to whether or not they can stay in the sheep business. According to the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service in 1993, predators caused \$1.8 million dollars of damage to the sheep industry. Coyotes were the primary predator and the leading cause of these losses. Sheep losses directly related to coyotes were \$1.4 million.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service released a nationwide survey, *Cattle and Calf Death Loss*, in May 1992 which discussed losses to cattle producers. The survey reported that calf losses in Montana, attributable to coyote predation, totaled 1200 head and were valued at \$396,000.

APHIS, Animal Damage Control (ADC) is responsible for responding to livestock predation and has documented an increase in the number of livestock producers experiencing coyote predation. These producers are, in turn, requesting additional assistance from ADC.

The Department of Livestock has contracted with ADC to implement an effective aerial predator damage management program. ADC has reported a substantial increase in the number of Requests for Service from both sheep and cattle producers. These Requests for Service are often received during critical calving seasons and during most of the year for sheep producers. These additional requests are putting a strain on available resources. ADC's resources and manpower for conducting a wide-ranging ground control effort are limited, and they currently are unable to accommodate the increased demands as efficiently as possible. By using aircraft, more areas can be serviced more quickly and the livestock losses can be reduced.



APHIS—Protecting American Agriculture

Requests for Services for the protection of both sheep and cattle have increased from FY 1987 through FY 1992. The requests for service for the protection of sheep and lambs has increased 220% through this 6-year period; requests for services for the protection of cattle have increased 550% for this same time period.

REQUESTS FOR SERVICES

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93 - 94
REQUESTS FOR PROTECTION OF SHEEP	688	1146	1118	1275	1407	1515	(*)
REQUESTS FOR PROTECTION OF CATTLE	79	101	250	294	476	439	(*)

(*) These data are no longer available under the existing reporting system; however, communications with ADC Specialists, livestock producers and the number of coyotes taken indicate that this trend is continuing.

The coyote population has also increased during this same time period, as indicated by the number of coyotes taken by ADC. ADC has increased their take of problem coyotes by 164% for the protection of livestock during this time period. This is in spite of a constant effort by ADC in terms of manpower and the methods used by ADC to protect livestock.

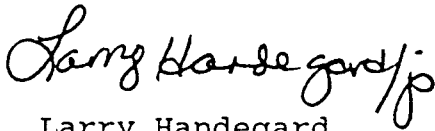
A method used by state wildlife agencies to index populations of wild animals is a catch-per-unit-of-effort technique. Using this technique and the information below, it can be shown that an increase in the coyote population is occurring across Montana. This increase in the coyote population, in turn, is causing an increase in the number of Requests for Services received by ADC to reduce predation on livestock.

COYOTES TAKEN BY SPECIFIC METHOD

	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94
FIXED WING	796	728	674	933	1335	1965	2322	1902
ROTOR WING	1627	1455	1820	1513	1901	1700	1600	2177
GROUND METHODS	2107	2210	2274	2592	3091	3151	3157	3355
TOTALS	4530	4393	4768	5038	6327	6816	7079	7434

In view of the increased demand for aerial predator damage management, as described above, and the resources currently available to ADC, we are requesting an additional \$60,000 for **contractual** aerial flight time. These dollars will be expended throughout the State for the protection of sheep and cattle during critical predation periods. The \$60,000 will be used for approximately (165) hours of helicopter and (230) hours of fixed-winged aerial hunting to compliment the current state helicopter program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry Handegard". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Larry Handegard
State Director

EXHIBIT 1
DATE 1-5-95

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POWDER RIVER COUNTY
PO Box J
Broadus, Montana 59317

Ted Fletcher, Ashland
Victor L. Phillippi, Broadus
Nancy H. Espy, Broadus

December 20, 1994

Cork Mortenson
Dept. of Livestock
Capital Station
Helena, MT 59620


Dear Cork:

Because of increased predator population, we are suffering larger livestock losses in our county. We respectfully request that additional funds be made available to us for aerial hunting through our cooperative agreement.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
POWDER RIVER COUNTY



Victor L. Phillippi, Vice-Chairman

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DEC 22 1994

DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
HELENA, MT 59620



SD
Dist 1
Dist 2
Wolf
Pilot
All
Budget
RO
Other

**CARTER COUNTY PREDATOR BOARD
CARTER COUNTY, MONTANA**

December 15, 1994

Attn: Larry Handegard, ADC
Billings, Montana

Dear Larry:

On behalf of the Carter County Predator Board and livestock producers in Carter County, I am writing this letter to request additional monies for the Aerial Predator Program in Carter County.

In the past several years, Carter County has experienced an increase in predator populations, including coyote and fox. We have reported increases in livestock losses as well as increased requests from sheep and cattle producers. Although our program has an added trapper, we are finding a greater need for more aerial hunting in our county. To increase our current contract with the Department of Livestock, would be most helpful.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Larry Pilster
by Pamela J. Coatsberry
Larry Pilster, Chairman
HC 56 Box 63
Alzada, MT 59311

USDA - APHIS
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DEC 16 1994
BILLINGS, MT
ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

EXHIBIT 1

DATE 1-5-95

December 22, 1994 1

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the livestock producers of the Tri County Predator Control District (McCone, Richland and north Dawson Counties), I am submitting this letter of justification for increased spending authority in the Department of Livestock predator control budget. We have received the same amount of funding for many years and our costs have risen in this time. The coyote damage to both sheep and calves has also increased in specific areas in this district.

In addition to ranchers livestock being protected, Montana wildlife benefits greatly from predator control work.

Again, the Tri County Board wholeheartedly backs the increased spending authority. If you need any further information, please contact me at Box 296, Circle, MT 59215 or Faye Good, president of Prairie Wolf Enterprises, Inc., Box 296, Circle, MT 59215.

Sincerely,

Mike McKeever

Mike McKeever, President
Tri County Predator Control
Board

by: F. Good

RECEIVED
DEC 27 1994
DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
HELENA, MT 59620

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December 22, 1994

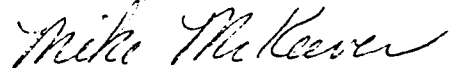
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Sincerely,



Mike McKeever, President
Tri County Predator Control
Board

by: F. Good

RECEIVED
DEC 27 1994
DEPARTMENT OF LIVESTOCK
HELENA, MT 59620

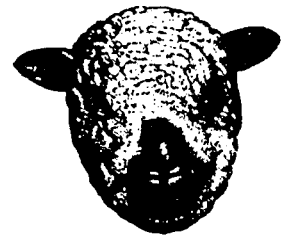
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**MONTANA
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE**

301 South Park
P.O. Box 4369
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: (406) 449-5303
(800) 835-2612

MONTANA SHEEP & LAMB LOSSES--1993



Released: APRIL 1994

Montana sheep producers lost 108,000 sheep and lambs to all causes during 1993, representing a total value of \$5.1 million, according to a survey conducted by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. Total head lost declined 4 percent from 1992, but the value of those losses increased more than \$.4 million.

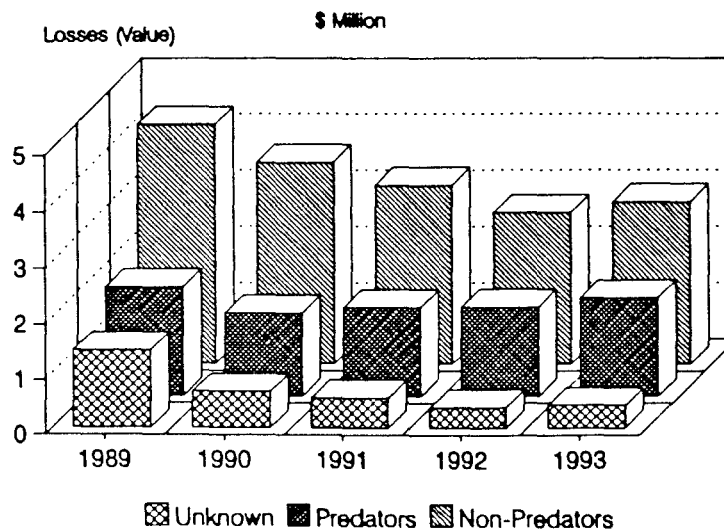
Predators caused \$1.8 million in losses, while non-predator factors accounted for \$2.9 million and unknown causes claimed \$.4 million. The percentage of sheep and lamb losses due to predators remained the same as the previous year at 37 percent, however predator losses are up from 32 percent in 1989. Coyotes remained the single largest cause of death, resulting in a \$1.4 million loss. Coyotes accounted for 27 percent of the total value of death losses in the state. Non-predator losses accounted for 55 percent of all losses, down 1 point from the previous year.

Lambs losses by all predators amounted to 32,200 head, down 2 percent from last year. Lambs lost to weather, disease and other non-predator causes in 1993 totaled 36,100 head, down 11 percent from the previous year. Much of the decrease in predator and non-predator lamb losses was due to a 7 percent drop, 36,000 head, in lamb crop between 1992 and 1993.

Sheep killed by predators decreased 4 percent to total 8,000 head. Sheep losses to non-predator factors totaled 23,300, a 4 percent increase from 1992. A drop in sheep inventory, of 3 percent during 1993, was an important factor in the decreased predator losses.

Lambs lost to unknown causes were up 34 percent to 4,700. Unknown causes claimed 3,700 head of sheep, down 14 percent from last year.

Sheep & Lamb Losses-1993 Causes of Death



METHODOLOGY and DEFINITIONS

The sheep and lamb loss survey utilized multi-frame sampling procedures. This involved drawing a random sample from a list of livestock producers maintained by the Montana Agricultural Statistics Service. In addition, sheep producers living in a selected sample of area segments were interviewed. This procedure assures complete coverage of sheep producers by accounting for ranchers/farmers who may not be on the list.

Sheep and lamb loss estimates published by the USDA include sheep losses for the entire year, but include only those lamb losses that occur after docking. This special report includes an estimate of lambs lost before docking as well.

COOPERATION

This study was undertaken at the request of the Montana Wool Growers Association who also provided funding. The Montana Agricultural Statistics Service conducted the survey and expresses appreciation to all cooperating sheep producers.

Year	Jan. 1 Sheep & Lamb Inventory (000 head)	Lamb Crop (000 head)	DEATH LOSSES				
			All Sheep Losses (000 head)	LAMBS (000 head)			All Sheep & Lamb Losses (000 hd.)
				Before Docking	After Docking	All Lambs	
1984	564	470	60	65	55	120	180.0
1985	515	470	42	40	45	85	127.0
1986	473	450	45	45	42	87	132.0
1987	523	440	45	47	45	92	137.0
1988	528	460	50	53	47	100	150.0
1989	600	500	43	55	43	98	141.0
1990	663	535	40	53	40	93	133.0
1991	683	585	42	54	46	100	142.0
1992	658	496	35	39	38	77	112.0
1993	534	460	35	36	37	73	108.0
Year	Predator Losses (000 head)	Non- Predator (000 head)	Unknown Causes (000 head)	VALUE OF LOSSES (000 dollars)			
				Predator	Non- Predator	Unknown	Total 1/
1984	51.7	111.7	16.6	2,275.4	4,847.6	743.0	7,866.0
1985	51.7	59.8	15.5	2,469.5	2,704.6	776.1	5,950.2
1986	42.1	72.1	17.8	2,051.1	3,437.9	920.0	6,409.1
1987	36.9	79.8	20.3	2,260.6	4,825.4	1,343.0	8,428.9
1988	43.1	84.7	22.2	2,519.7	5,115.3	1,386.6	9,021.6
1989	35.9	80.8	24.3	1,956.4	4,264.8	1,405.0	7,626.2
1990	39.1	79.9	14.0	1,491.1	3,586.1	659.8	5,737.0
1991	44.9	83.5	13.6	1,590.0	3,179.6	550.4	5,320.0
1992	41.2	63.0	7.8	1,593.6	2,696.0	374.6	4,664.1
1993	40.2	59.4	8.4	1,767.7	2,891.8	418.8	5,078.2

1/ Totals may not add because of rounding.

MONTANA SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES BY CAUSE - 1992 and 1993

Cause of Loss	SHEEP LOSS				LAMB LOSS				TOTAL LOSS			
	Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 1/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 2/, 3/		Number of Head		Value in Dollars (000) 3/	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
Predators												
Fox	200	100	12.0	6.4	4,800	3,200	159.8	125.2	5,000	3,300	171.8	131.5
Dog	800	500	48.0	31.8	1,000	1,200	33.3	46.9	1,800	1,700	81.3	78.7
Coyote	6,600	6,200	396.0	393.7	24,500	24,500	815.9	958.4	31,100	30,700	1,211.9	1,352.1
Eagle	100	200	6.0	12.7	1,800	2,300	60.0	90.0	1,900	2,500	65.9	102.7
Bobcat	--	100		6.4	--	100		3.9	--	200		10.3
Bear	300	500	18.0	31.8	500	200	16.7	7.8	800	700	34.7	39.6
Mountain Lion	300	400	18.0	25.4	300	600	10.0	23.5	600	1,000	28.0	48.9
Other Animals	--	--			--	100		3.9	--	100		3.9
Total Predators	8,300	8,000	498.0	508.0	32,900	32,200	1,095.6	1,259.7	41,200	40,200	1,593.6	1,767.7
Non-Predators												
Weather Conditions	1,700	1,300	102.0	82.6	10,200	10,700	339.7	418.6	11,900	12,000	441.7	501.1
Disease	3,600	5,200	216.0	330.2	8,700	7,200	289.7	281.7	12,300	12,400	505.7	611.9
Poison	1,200	1,700	72.0	108.0	800	600	26.6	23.5	2,000	2,300	98.6	131.4
Lambing Complications	3,500	2,800	210.0	177.8	13,100	12,900	436.2	504.7	16,600	15,700	646.2	682.5
On Back	2,100	2,700	126.0	171.5	200	300	6.7	11.7	2,300	3,000	132.7	183.2
Old Age	6,300	7,100	378.0	450.9					6,300	7,100	378.0	450.9
Theft	800	1,200	48.0	76.2	2,100	2,100	69.9	82.2	2,900	3,300	117.9	158.4
Other	3,200	1,300	192.0	82.6	5,500	2,300	183.2	90.0	8,700	3,600	375.2	172.5
Total Non-Predators	22,400	23,300	1,344.0	1,479.6	40,600	36,100	1,352.0	1,412.2	63,000	59,400	2,696.0	2,891.8
Unknown Causes	4,300	3,700	258.0	235.0	3,500	4,700	116.6	183.9	7,800	8,400	374.6	418.8
Total Loss	35,000	35,000	2,100.0	2,222.5	77,000	73,000	2,564.1	2,855.7	112,000	108,000	4,664.1	5,078.2

1/ Average reported value for Ewes 1+. 2/ Lamb values equal to market year average price received for lambs multiplied by an average weight of 60 pounds per lamb. 3/ Totals may not add due to rounding. -- Denotes less than 100 head.

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 1-5-95



PERCENT OF TOTAL SHEEP and LAMB LOSSES BY CAUSE and SIZE OF FLOCK, MONTANA--1992-1993

CAUSE OF LOSS	SIZE OF FLOCK														
	1-99		100-299		300-999		1000-2499		2500+		All Sizes				
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Predators															
Fox	2	1	2	2	4	4	7	8	9	1	3	4	4	4	3
Dog	2	2	4	2	1	4	--	--	1	1	2	1	2	2	2
Coyote	34	18	27	31	31	32	26	31	30	40	23	25	25	28	2
Eagle	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	6	4	2	2	2	1	2	2
Bobcat	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Bear	--	1	--	--	1	--	--	--	2	2	1	--	--	1	1
Mountain Lion	--	3	--	1	--	1	--	--	2	2	--	1	--	1	1
Other Animals	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Predators 1/	39	25	34	38	39	44	37	45	48	48	32	33	33	37	3
Non-Predators															
Weather Conditions	9	18	7	12	11	11	10	13	11	8	11	10	16	11	1
Disease	12	12	11	11	11	9	12	9	10	10	10	13	11	11	1
Poison	--	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	2	2	2	2
Lambing Complications	18	23	24	19	14	12	11	10	10	12	10	16	15	15	1
On Back	1	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2
Old Age	5	6	5	5	5	5	3	3	3	4	4	6	3	6	2
Theft	--	1	1	1	2	1	6	4	3	--	2	2	3	3	3
Other	9	4	8	4	8	4	9	5	7	1	13	5	4	8	3
Total Non-Predators	53	68	59	55	54	46	55	49	47	40	56	55	57	56	55
Unknown Causes	8	7	7	7	7	10	8	6	5	12	12	12	8	7	8
Total Loss	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. -- Denotes less than 1 percent.

James K. Sands
State Statistician

Carmen Rost
Agricultural Statistician



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

VISITOR'S REGISTER

Nat. Resources Sub COMMITTEE BILL NO. Livestock
1/5/98 DATE SPONSOR(S) Budget

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Gerry Neukirch	In Dist # 2			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
EE Cook Montevideo	Bud. & Finance			
MAZZ BRIDGES	INSPECTION & CONTROL DEPT. OF LIVESTOCK			
Larry Stackhouse	Dept. of Livestock			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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