

**HB 322**

**Livestock Loss Board**  
444-5609 office or 465-9319 cell

**Informational Testimony**

Currently the Livestock Loss Board provides payments for death loss only for losses caused by wolves. Restrictions were placed by the 2011 legislature on the statutory appropriation via HB 622 which limits the board to paying for only confirmed and probable livestock death losses. All loss claims are investigated and verified by USDA Wildlife Services personnel. Confirmed and probable losses means there is enough evidence to determine that wolves killed the animal.

Current legislation would add grizzly caused livestock losses to the board's program, which the Livestock Loss Board passed a motion to support in May 2012. Using Defenders of Wildlife 2012 payouts for grizzlies (\$89,205) along with our 2012 wolf payments (\$102,714), it totals \$191,919. This would leave the board with cushion of only \$8,081 in the board's special revenue account as an example.

Defenders of Wildlife only paid 50% on probable grizzly losses where our board would pay 100%. It is unknown if there would be any money left over from the board's existing fund based upon a 100% death loss payments for both grizzly and wolf caused losses. Currently unused funds from the existing statutory account roll over for the next year's payments. The rollover funds may be needed in high predation years. 2011 was the board's lowest years for claims. Over half of the \$200,000 statutory appropriation funds were carried over to the current state fiscal year. The board is still receiving 2012 livestock loss claims so the current 2012 loss totals are not finalized.

**Total number of livestock loss claimed by calendar year (wolf caused losses)**

2009	370 head	107 cattle, 256 sheep, 3 goats, 3 dogs, 1 horse	\$144,996
2010	175 head	99 cattle, 69 sheep, 2 goats, 5 horse	\$99,554
2011	95 head	83 cattle, 10 sheep, 1 dog, 1 horse	\$85,855
2012	125 head	80 cattle, 42 sheep, 1 dog, 2 horse	\$102,714

***Four Year Average*** 191.25 head \$108,280