

Sublette County Predator Board

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Sublette County Commission

Re: FY 2024 Budget Request

Dear Commissioners:

The predator board would like to thank the Sublette County Commission for your willingness to consider the board's budget request of \$50,000 (the same as last year).

Our Operations: The Sublette County Predator Board has always been a lean and efficient operation with little expenditures outside of paying for active predator control through our annual contract with USDA Wildlife Services. Sublette County reimburses the predator board for work conducted by Wildlife Services, up to the amount allocated by the county commission. Any further predator control is funded through predator fees collected during brand inspections on livestock. All other predator board expenditures are covered by the predator fees paid by livestock producers – not from funds allocated by Sublette County.

Predator fees are collected with brand inspections. In Sublette County, that amount is 60 cents per head for sheep and 20 cents per head for cattle. This has generated just over \$10,000 in the current year, and with the exception of general fund contributions from the Sublette County Commission, and interest earned at the bank, is the only revenue received by the predator board. This year's decrease in revenue from predator fees is something we are watching closely, and we've requested the Wyoming Livestock Board conduct an investigation into the accuracy of accounting of predator fees paid on Sublette County livestock.

Budget changes: The proposed budget also reflects increases in the cost of providing animal damage control services. With this winter's severity, we have done more aerial predator control while there was still snow on the ground, both to provide relief to agricultural producers during livestock birthing seasons as well as to assist big game herds. We anticipate increasing these efforts next winter as well.

The Board: The board consists of seven volunteers: three cattle producers and three sheep producers elected by fellow livestock producers, and one sportsman appointed by the Sublette County Commission. We have no office or no paid staff and hold our administrative costs low (budgeted at \$800). Outside of this \$800, all expenditures made by the board go directly to animal damage control.

Conclusion: Every dollar of County funding that is spent by this board goes directly to control work to reduce damage to livestock and wildlife populations, or to protect human health by controlling ravens.

Board members: Chairman Pete Arambel (sheep); Vice Chairman Clay Olson (cattle); Jacques Downes (cattle); Kevin Campbell (cattle); Vacant - (sheep); Secretary/Treasurer Cat Urbigit (sheep); Josh Adams (sportsmen).

Sublette County Predator Management District

FY 2022 Actual (last year)

Actual Revenue:

County Commission \$47,469

Interest earnings \$135

Brand fees \$16,525

Total revenue: \$64,129

Actual Expenditures:

Administration \$190

Operations \$48,255

Total expenditures: \$48,445

(End of year carryover includes: \$99,824 in cash, and \$84,208 held in CDs, for a total of \$184,032 on July 1, 2022.)

FY 2023 Estimated (current year)

Estimated revenues:

County Commission \$50,000

Interest earnings \$135

Brand fees \$10,420

Total revenue: \$60,555

Estimated Expenditures:

Administration \$276

Operations \$50,200

Total expenditures: \$50,476

(End of year carryover includes: \$99,903 in cash, and \$94,208 held in CDs, for a total of \$194,111 on July 1, 2023.)

FY 2024 Proposed (next year)

Proposed revenues:

County Commission \$50,000

Interest earnings \$400

Brand fees \$15,000

Total revenue: \$65,400

Proposed Expenditures:

Administration \$800

Operations \$65,000

Total expenditures: \$65,800

(End of year carryover proposed to include: \$99,503 in cash, and \$94,208 held in CDs, for a total of \$193,711 on July 1, 2025.)