

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS26384

This is an FY 2019 appropriation bill that transfers \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Wolf Control Fund Other Money Subaccount.

Enabling legislation passed in 2014 found that additional financial resources are needed to continue the implementation of Idaho's Wolf Management Plan administered by the Department of Fish and Game. It established a five-member Wolf Depredation Control Board in the Governor's Office and created a set of new funds and subaccounts to be administered by the Department of Agriculture. The law established fees from the livestock industry, to be matched up to \$110,000 per year by sportsmen, to be transferred into the Wolf Control Fund.

The responsibility of the Wolf Control Board is to allocate the money for control actions for wolves where there is a depredation conflict between wolves and wildlife or between wolves and livestock. The board has a cooperative services agreement and a work plan with Wildlife Services. The Department of Fish and Game authorizes control actions when wolves are causing conflicts with people or domestic animals, or when they cause significant measured deer and elk population declines.

Wildlife Services reported to the board that it had conducted 121 depredation investigations as a result of wolf complaints from July 1, 2016, through June 30, 2017. These complaints came from 68 different livestock producers in 19 Idaho counties. The investigations confirmed 20 cows, 48 calves, 88 sheep, and three dogs killed by wolves. As a result of the confirmed wolf depredations on livestock, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game authorized Wildlife Services to initiate 62 control actions. These control actions resulted in the lethal removal of 42 wolves. Four wolves were captured, radio-collared and released to facilitate future control actions if needed.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill appropriates and transfers \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Wolf Control Fund Other Money Subaccount for FY 2019.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).