

MINUTES  
**SENATE AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 03, 2022

**TIME:** 8:00 A.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW53

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Burtenshaw, Vice Chairman Bayer, Senators Patrick, Den Hartog, Blair (Johnson), Zito, Ricks, Nelson, and Semmelroth

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Burtenshaw** called the meeting of the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee (Committee) to order at 8:02 a.m.

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** **Senator Ricks** moved to approve the Minutes of January 25, 2022. **Senator Bayer** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**Senator Ricks** moved to approve the Minutes of January 27, 2022. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

**PRESENTATION: Idaho Wolf Depredation Control Board (Board).** **Chanel Tewalt**, Deputy Director, Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), introduced herself to the Committee. **Ms. Tewalt** gave an overview of the Board's history, composition, and functions. She clarified that the Board does not compensate producers for livestock losses. **Ms. Tewalt** reviewed the Board's funding sources and fiscal year 2023 budget request (see Attachment 1).

**Ms. Tewalt** explained the Board's work agreements with IFG related to ungulate protection and radio collaring of wolves for conflict management. She observed that the Board also has agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services Wildlife Services (WS). **Ms. Tewalt** stated that WS responds to and investigates wolf depredation complaints and conducts wolf control actions. She provided information on the number of depredation investigations in 2020 and 2021 and their outcomes.

**DISCUSSION:** In response to questions from **Chairman Burtenshaw** about using private contractors to collar wolves, **Ed Schriever**, Director, IFG, introduced himself to the Committee. **Director Schriever** responded that IFG hires private contractors as needed on an hourly basis under State Division of Purchasing Rules. He explained that most wolf collaring is conducted by WS in high conflict areas in conjunction with other work. **Director Schriever** stated that it is sometimes necessary to hire additional personnel for wolf collaring. He added that an IFG veterinarian must be present when using tranquilizers. **Director Schriever** observed that one-third of wolves are removed every year. Consequently, it is difficult to keep them collared, he said.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Burtenshaw** adjourned the meeting at 8:20 a.m.

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Senator Burtenshaw  
Chair

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Jeanne Jackson-Heim  
Secretary