

**ALBERTA BEEF PRODUCERS
WILDLIFE COMMITTEE CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
MONDAY MAY 6, 2019, 8:30 am**

Present: Shane Hansen - *Zone 2*
Tim Smith - *CCC Chair*
Jodi Flaig - *@ Large*
Staff: Tom Lynch-Staunton - *Gov Relations & Policy*

Absent: Mike Nadeau - *Zone 9*
Jeff Bectell - *Waterton Biosphere*

2. Adjournment

Call ended at 9:30 am.

1. Discussion Items

(a) Predator Co-existence Pilot Project Draft Budget

General agreement that the pilot project proposal looks good and has most of the necessary elements.

Productive discussion around budgeting for “unconfirmed kills” and whether paying producers would create some moral hazard or create an expectation of always receiving this. One suggestion was to ask government to pay 50% of market price on unconfirmed first kill as an act of goodwill. Rules would likely be determined in the pilot by the oversight committee.

Clarification of pilot project would likely need two people to manage project- one in the south and a coordinator in the NW.

Draft budget for predator compensation includes current level of compensation (~\$200,000 per year) so overall total incremental is less than in draft budget. Lynch-Staunton will make this more clear on next draft.

(b) Overall Pilot Project Review

Flaig commented that many in her zone are disenchanted with current predator compensation program so thinks this project would be well supported by beef producers.

Committee supportive of trying to “deputize” more verifiers in addition to Fish and Wildlife officers to verify kills. This is working well in BC and we could model a program after them. Suggested that video and photos should be incorporated similar to how we do post-mortems with vets.

All see the importance of being coordinated with other provinces so that compensation programs are equal and fair.

Flaig suggested we write in the proposal how we would roll it out to the rest of the province so that momentum is maintained. Smith suggested we try to reinstate coyotes as an eligible predator for compensation. Hansen suggested we incorporate completion of the Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan in the project if possible. Supported hiring “specialty officers” specifically trained to verify kills and submit claims on behalf of landowners and teach verification courses.