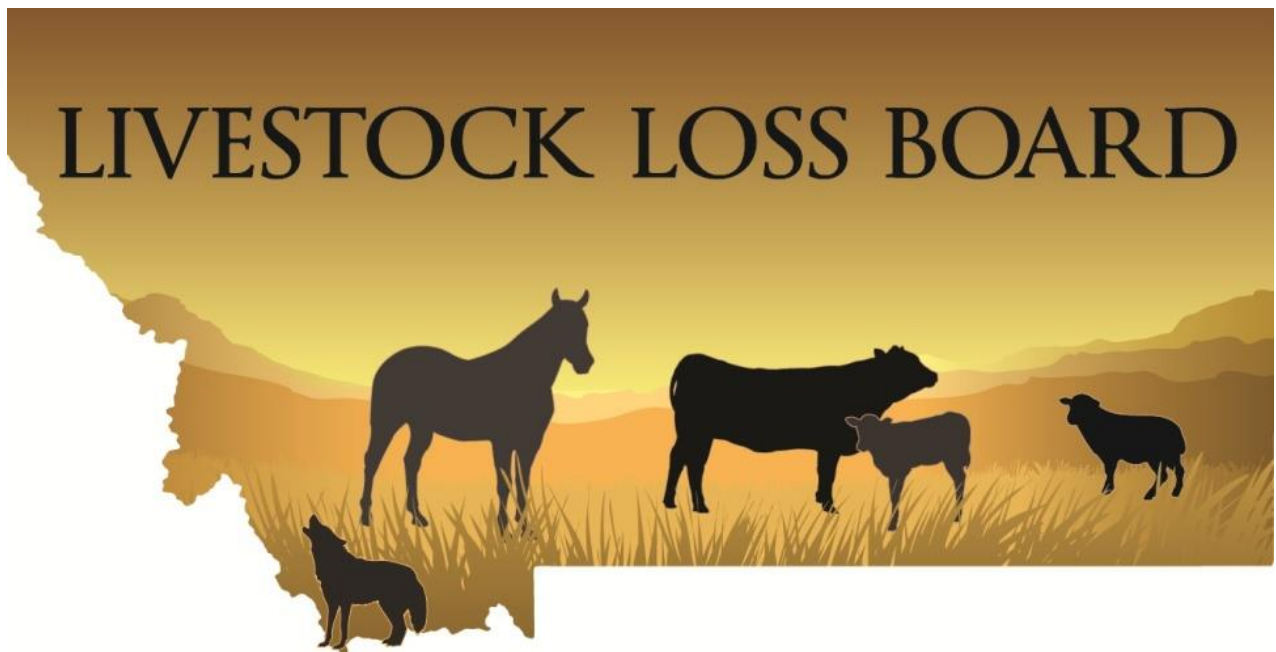


LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD

2016 Biennial Report



A report to
Legislative Economic Affairs Interim Committee
2015-2016 Interim

Table of Contents

Board Members	3
Overview	4
LLB Mission Statement	4
Board Meetings	4
Tribal Agreements	5
Program Funding	5
Payments	6
Animal Values	7
Reported Livestock Loss Numbers	7

Appendix

Appendix A – Losses by calendar year 2008.....	9
Appendix B – Losses by calendar year 2009.....	10
Appendix C – Losses by calendar year 2010.....	11
Appendix D – Losses by calendar year 2011.....	12
Appendix E – Losses by calendar year 2012.....	13
Appendix F – Losses by calendar year 2013.....	14
Appendix G – Losses by calendar year 2014.....	15
Appendix G – Losses by calendar year 2015.....	16
Appendix H – Losses January through July 2016.....	17

Livestock Loss Board

www.llb.mt.gov

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Overview

The Livestock Loss Board is a component of Montana's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. This board is responsible for two elements of the plan, livestock loss prevention and livestock loss compensation.

During the 2013 legislature grizzly bear caused losses were added to the board's programs via HB 323. Defenders of Wildlife had been paying for livestock losses due to grizzly bears until October 1, 2013. This organization had also been paying for wolf caused losses until April 15, 2008. Indications were that they would be discontinuing payments for grizzly bear caused losses due to impending delisting of grizzly bears.

Board programs are overseen by the Livestock Loss Board (LLB). LLB is a five member board appointed by the governor. LLB is administratively attached to the Department of Livestock. Currently three board members must be actively involved in the livestock industry and have knowledge and experience with regard to wildlife impacts or management. Two board members are selected from the general public who are or have been actively involved in wildlife conservation or wildlife management and who have knowledge and experience with regard to livestock production or management.

LLB Mission Statement

To help support Montana livestock communities by reducing the economic impacts of wolves and grizzly bears on individual producers by reimbursing their confirmed and probable wolf or grizzly bear caused losses and helping to reduce their losses by approving projects and funding programs that will discourage wolves or grizzly bears from killing livestock.

Board Meetings

LLB holds a minimum of two full board meetings each year. When loss prevention funding is available more board meetings are held for grant application review. Prior to each board meeting the board holds a listening session with livestock owners and other interested parties. The purpose of the listening sessions is to for members of the public to become acquainted with the board and for board members to listen to their concerns. Information from the listening sessions has helped board members with future decisions and as a basis for the best use of available funds. Meeting agendas are posted on the board's website www.llb.mt.gov prior to each meeting.

LLB has also held fundraising committee meetings. Membership consisted of agriculture, environmental and hunting groups as well as representatives from local,

tribal and federal governments. All committee members helped the board to try to obtain federal funds and funds from other sources but were unsuccessful. These same groups identified state funding as the next best option. The thought behind this is that individuals who want greater numbers of wolves and grizzly bears within the state should help fund the losses caused by these predators.

Tribal Agreements

2-15-3113 (2), MCA, states The Livestock Loss Board may enter into an agreement with any Montana tribe, if the tribe has adopted a wolf management plan for reservation lands that is consistent with the state wolf management plan, to provide that tribal lands within reservation boundaries are eligible for mitigation grants pursuant to [2-15-3111](#) and that livestock losses on tribal lands within reservation boundaries are eligible for reimbursement payments pursuant to [2-15-3112](#).

Agreements have been renewed with the Blackfeet and CSKT tribal governments. Livestock owners within these reservation boundaries are eligible to participate in LLB's compensation and loss prevention programs.

Program Funding

2-15-3114, MCA. Funding of programs -- contingency. The awarding of grants and reimbursements and the performance of duties pursuant to [2-15-3111](#) through [2-15-3113](#) are contingent upon the amount of money available in the accounts provided for in [81-1-110](#) through [81-1-112](#).

The board began accepting loss applications on April 15, 2008. Loss payments were made until the beginning of December 2008 when the board ran out of funds. Available funds for this time frame were the \$30,000 provided by a legislative appropriation and a \$50,000 donation from Defenders of Wildlife. Livestock owners were given a letter stating future loss payments would be made when additional funding was secured. Small donations started to come in and payments were continued as the donations were received. In the spring of 2009, Defenders of Wildlife provided an additional \$50,000 donation which allowed LLB to become current with livestock loss payments. Legislators provided a biennial \$150,000 appropriation for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. This fund was depleted by the end of the 2010 fiscal year. Federal funds became available about the same time that state funds were depleted. The federal funds allowed the board to stay current on death loss payments during fiscal year 2011.

HB 622 was passed by the 2011 legislature. This bill provided the board with a statutory appropriation of \$200,000 per year. Funds are restricted to pay producers for confirmed and probable livestock death losses and could not be used for administrative purposes or livestock loss prevention projects. These funds have allowed the board to stay current on all death loss payments. Funding via HB 622 expires on June 30, 2017. Because the statutory appropriation expires next year, no future death loss payments or loss prevention funds have been identified for state fiscal year 2018 unless the legislature chooses to renew an appropriation.

Additionally \$165,287 in federal grant funds was available for wolf caused livestock death losses from 2013 to 2016. Currently there is no federal grant opportunity for future losses in 2017. The federal funding was used first in order to offset using state general funds.

Legislation from the 2015 session (HB 145) capped rollover funds from the statutory appropriation at \$300,000. This law change has allowed the board to provide \$82,149 for loss prevention projects to reduce losses from grizzly bears and wolves in 2017.

Funding for loss prevention has been sporadic. The board has successfully applied for and received several one-time-only federal grants for death loss payments and loss prevention projects due to wolves. Federal grants were received in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2016. Unfortunately there was not a federal grant opportunity for calendar year 2017. Federal funding has been restricted to wolf caused losses and loss prevention projects. \$300,000 in federal funding has been provided via board grants for livestock loss prevention projects. Additionally each grantee had to provide an equal amount of matching funds for their projects. No federal funding has been available for death loss or loss prevention projects due to grizzly bears.

LLB has a specialty license plate that became available in February 2012. Revenue from license plate sales has been approximately \$4,000 per year.

Payments

LLB began accepting livestock loss claims on April 15, 2008. In state fiscal year 2015 the board provided \$127,186 for death loss payments. During state fiscal year 2016 the board provided \$221,082 for death loss payments. Since the board began providing death loss payments a total of \$909,393 has been provided to Montana's livestock owners by the end of fiscal year 2016. (Loss payments by calendar year and by county are listed in Appendix A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H)

Animals eligible for coverage for losses by wolves and grizzly bears are cattle, swine, horses, mules, sheep, goats, llamas, and livestock guard animals on state, federal, and private land and on tribal land that is eligible through a formal agreement. Payments are provided to livestock owners when livestock losses are verified by USDA Wildlife Services personnel as being confirmed or probable wolf or grizzly bears caused livestock loss. USDA Wildlife Services personnel are experts in performing investigations and necropsies to determine the type of predator causing livestock losses. Payments are not provided for livestock losses due to any other predators.

Animal Values

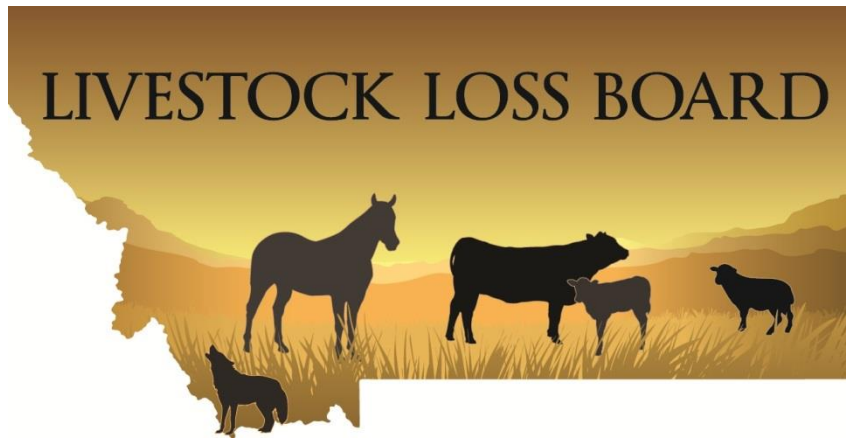
Cattle and sheep values are determined by using a Montana Weekly Auction Summary report compiled by USDA Market News, Billings, MT. Registered animal values are calculated by using sales receipts for registered animals of a similar age and sex. Horse values have been determined using Billings Livestock Commission horse sales averages. LLB reviewed an American Sheep Industry study on guard dogs to help determine livestock related dog values. Pets and hunting dogs are not covered under LLB's compensation program.

Reported Livestock Loss Numbers

Livestock loss numbers reported by LLB are only for claims submitted by livestock owners that have been verified by USDA Wildlife Service. Although most livestock owners submit a loss claim for livestock killed by wolves and grizzly bears, there are a few that do not. LLB reported loss numbers are for losses listed as confirmed or probable by USDA Wildlife Services.

In order to provide the public current loss claim activity, LLB posts the type of animal and the county where it was killed on a Facebook page "Livestock Loss Board". This page can be easily accessed from the board's website www.llb.mt.gov . Additionally a report "Livestock Loss Statistics" is available for each calendar year on the board's website. Each year contains losses by county, animal type and total dollar amounts paid in each county. Current year losses are updated as the claims are received.

LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD



APPENDIX

2008 Year End Report

Montana LLRMP
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	14	121						\$33,885.37
Flathead	12					1		\$9,521.42
Glacier	2							\$1,248.00
Granite	6	5						\$4,257.17
Judith Bas	2							\$1,436.50
L&C	6		3	2				\$5,236.28
Lincoln	9							\$6,035.49
Madison	8							\$8,091.86
Mineral	1							\$777.10
Park	1							\$677.28
Powell	4							\$2,673.80
Ravalli	4					3		\$2,392.52
Sanders	5				1			\$7,079.89
Stillwater		17	1					\$2,625.00
Sweet Gr		6	4					\$1,380.00
Totals	74	149	8	2	1	4	0	\$87,317.68

Confirmed	69	149	7	2	1	4
Probable	5		1			
Branded	58	17				
Mortgaged	21	127				
Owners	38	7	2	1	1	2

May to December

First payments made by the board began in May 2008

2009 Year End Report

Montana LLB
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	28	184					212	\$75,448.63
Cascade		10					10	\$1,295.00
Flathead	2						2	\$1,361.00
Glacier	14				1		15	\$8,809.42
Granite	5			1			6	\$5,742.41
Jefferson	2						2	\$1,118.25
Lake	7						7	\$5,152.77
L&C	12	7		2			21	\$11,153.58
Lincoln	4	1					5	\$2,861.00
Madison	12	14					26	\$10,979.41
Meagher		24					24	\$3,690.00
Missoula	1						1	\$684.00
Park	2						2	\$2,525.00
Pondera	1						1	\$707.06
Powell	9	1					10	\$5,437.58
Ravalli	1						1	\$732.88
Sanders	5						5	\$3,566.53
Stillwater		2	1				3	\$375.00
Sweet Gr		1	2				3	\$300.00
Teton	2						2	\$1,316.25
Wheatland		12					12	\$1,740.00
Totals	107	256	3	3	1	0	370	\$144,995.77

Confirmed	85	214	3	3	1	
Probable	22	42				
Owners	45	11	1	2	1	

2010 Year End Report

Montana LLB
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	29	15					44	\$22,725.74
Carbon	1						1	\$696.95
Cascade		29					29	\$8,286.25
Deer Lodge	1						1	\$754.00
Jefferson	2						2	\$1,390.59
L&C	3	12	2				17	\$5,145.31
Lake	1						1	\$704.00
Lincoln	8						8	\$8,459.07
Madison	25	10					35	\$20,633.40
Mineral					4		4	\$5,250.00
Missoula	3	1					4	\$2,324.03
Park	6	2					8	\$4,847.05
Powell	5				1		6	\$6,339.78
Ravalli	2						2	\$1,509.63
Sanders	11						11	\$9,144.43
Silver Bow	2						2	\$1,344.00
Totals	99	69	2	0	5	0	175	\$99,554.23

Confirmed	90	65	2		5	
Probable	8	4				
Value	\$76,752.32	\$13,481.91	\$1,370.00		\$7,950.00	
Owners	55	10	1		2	

2011 Year End Report

Montana LLB
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	23						23	\$20,848.06
Broadwater	3						3	\$2,852.84
Carter		2					2	\$700.00
Glacier	5						5	\$4,673.38
Granite	1						1	\$941.85
Jefferson	3						3	\$2,829.55
Lincoln	7						7	\$6,799.38
L&C	1	5					6	\$4,206.84
Judith Basin	1						1	\$797.50
Madison	13						13	\$13,132.96
Park	2						2	\$1,803.13
Powell	21	2		1			24	\$18,911.70
Ravalli	3	1				1	5	\$7,357.71
Totals	83	10	0	1	1	0	95	\$85,854.90

Confirmed	65	9		1	1	
Probable	18	1				
Value	\$75,389.31	\$4,327.59		\$1,500.00	\$4,638.00	
Owners	37	4		1	1	

2012 Year End Report

Montana LLB
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	12	24					36	\$27,625.51
Broadwater	1						1	\$799.12
Cascade	2						2	\$3,129.69
Deer Lodge	1						1	\$1,006.25
Flathead	5						5	\$5,118.57
Gallatin	1						1	\$901.55
Glacier	7				2		9	\$6,975.13
Jefferson	4						4	\$3,809.06
Lake	4						4	\$3,886.25
Lincoln	4						4	\$3,928.89
L&C	9	1		1			11	\$10,373.68
Madison	9	15					24	\$13,148.12
Missoula	2						2	\$1,884.00
Park	4						4	\$3,892.56
Pondera	3						3	\$2,925.00
Powell	5						5	\$5,192.63
Sanders	6						6	\$6,707.09
Stillwater		2					2	\$470.00
Sweet Gras	1						1	\$941.08
Totals	80	42	0	1	2	0	125	\$102,714.18

Confirmed	59	36		1	2	
Probable	21	6				
Value	\$78,089.93	\$22,524.25		\$1,500.00	\$600.00	
Owners	48	8		1	1	

2013 Year End Report

Montana LLB
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	14	1					15	\$22,170.86
Carbon	2						2	\$1,745.59
Deer Lodge	1						1	\$903.62
Flathead	6	1					7	\$7,212.18
Glacier	6		1		3		10	\$9,814.34
Granite	2						2	\$1,762.00
Jefferson	2						2	\$2,759.27
Lake	2						2	\$2,858.44
Lincoln	2						2	\$1,920.00
L&C	1	7					8	\$12,061.35
Madison	7						7	\$7,169.01
Meagher	1						1	\$945.01
Mineral	1						1	\$933.78
Missoula	6						6	\$6,068.96
Park	5	23					28	\$11,129.65
Powell	2						2	\$1,917.96
Ravalli	1						1	\$700.00
Sanders	4						4	\$3,793.01
Teton	1						1	\$959.86
Totals	66	32	1	0	3	0	102	\$96,824.89

Wolves

Confirmed	46	24	1		3
Probable	14	7			
Value	\$69,092.34	\$15,863.26	\$125.00		\$3,938.70
Owners	37	4	1		1

Grizzly Bears

Confirmed	6	1			
Probable					
Value	\$7,645.59	\$160.00			
Owners	2	1			

2014 Year End Report

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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	10	6					16	\$18,564.87
Carbon	9						9	\$15,462.74
Choteau	2						2	\$2,679.50
Deer Lodge	5						5	\$6,165.55
Flathead		1					1	\$156.80
Glacier	17				2		19	\$32,094.39
Granite	1						1	\$1,661.53
Jefferson	2						2	\$3,260.86
Lincoln	2						2	\$2,801.94
L&C	5	1					6	\$7,636.99
Madison	9						9	\$13,749.65
Missoula	2						2	\$3,140.91
Park	3						3	\$4,583.50
Powell	2						2	\$2,893.69
Pondera	2						2	\$2,836.68
Ravalli	2						2	\$2,347.83
Sanders	3						3	\$4,879.05
Sweet Gras	2						2	\$2,273.13
Teton		1					1	\$230.00
Totals	78	9	0	0	2	0	89	\$127,419.61

Wolves

Confirmed	35	6			1	
Probable	12					
Value	\$67,397.90	\$3,870.00			\$1,000.00	
Owners	34	2			1	

Grizzly Bears

Confirmed	28	3			1	
Probable	3					
Value	\$48,515.16	\$636.55			\$6,000.00	
Owners	18	3			1	

2015 Livestock Losses

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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	15	22		1			38	\$34,299.32
Carbon	27						27	\$40,544.33
Cascade		5					5	\$1,074.82
Choteau	2						2	\$3,047.50
Deer Lodge	1						1	\$1,613.40
Flathead	1						1	\$1,504.70
Glacier	6	14					20	\$13,070.79
Lake	3						3	\$4,368.00
L&C	6	3					9	\$10,214.79
Lincoln	2						2	\$3,268.50
Madison	17						17	\$28,918.62
Mineral	1						1	\$1,657.50
Park	2						2	\$2,873.44
Pondera	5	8				1	14	\$11,124.63
Powell	3	2				1	6	\$5,405.28
Ravalli	5						5	\$6,047.54
Sanders	1						1	\$979.83
Silver Bow	4						4	\$5,524.69
Stillwater	10						10	\$15,863.93
Sweet Grass	1						1	\$1,531.40
Teton		1					1	\$193.36
Totals	112	55	0	1	1	1	170	\$193,126.37

Wolves

Confirmed	39	22		1		
Probable	7					
Value	\$67,865.74	\$11,485.56		\$1,417.92		
Owners	26	2		1		

Grizzly Bears

Confirmed	50	32			1	1
Probable	16	1				
Value	\$103,815.99	\$7,882.83			\$400.00	258.33
Owners	32	7			1	1

January - July 2016 Losses

Montana LLB
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Counties	Cattle	Sheep	Goats	Guard	Horse	Llama	Totals	Payments
Beaverhead	6						6	\$6,295.26
Carbon	6						6	\$5,440.96
Cascade							0	
Choteau							0	
Deer Lodge	1						1	\$1,006.39
Flathead							0	
Glacier	18						18	\$19,792.05
Granite	1						1	\$1,129.03
L&C	7						7	\$8,272.46
Lincoln							0	
Madison							0	
Missoula	1						1	\$1,198.08
Park							0	
Pondera	6						6	\$6,302.26
Powell	6						6	\$6,381.15
Ravalli	5						5	\$5,688.83
Sanders							0	
Silver Bow							0	
Stillwater	3						3	\$3,490.50
Sweet Grass							0	
Teton	1						1	\$919.17
Toole	2						2	\$1,842.43
Totals	63	0	0	0	0	0	63	\$67,758.57

Wolves

Confirmed	23					
Probable	7					
Value	\$32,726.71					
Owners	18					

Grizzly Bears

Confirmed	13					
Probable	20					
Value	\$35,031.86					
Owners	21					