



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE STATE ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL BOARD

2118 West Airport Way  
Boise ID 83705

The regular annual meeting of the State Animal Damage Board was held June 2, 2026, at the Idaho State Department of Agriculture in Lower Conference Rooms 1 & 2 at 2270 Old Penitentiary Rd, Boise, ID 83712 and online via Microsoft Teams. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Wilder, at 1:34 p.m.

The following board members and guests were present: Steve Wilder, Chairman; Cody Chandler, Board Member; Jon Rachael, Deputy Director IDFG (proxy for Jim Fredericks, Board Member); Philip Soulen, District 2 Valley County Representative; Llyod Knight, Deputy Director ISDA; Jared Hedelius, USDA Wildlife Services Director; David Dalling, Producer and ISGHB Vice Chair; Kelly Nielsen, ISDA Administrator; Liz Wilder, IWGA Director; Jeff Flores, California USDA Wildlife Services Director; Cory Mosby, IDFG Large Carnivore Program Coordinator; Jack Blattner, IWGA President; Patxi Larrocea-Phillips, IWGA & ICA Legislative Liaison; and Jade Etelu, ADC Director. Virtual/Online attendees: Jennifer Ellis, Board Member, Oly Peterson, Board Member; and Dexon Lake, Idaho Farm Bureau Federation.

Jennifer Ellis moved to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Oly Peterson seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Steve Wilder provided the chairman's report. Steve introduced the new director of the Animal Damage Control Board, Jade Etelu. Steve acknowledged Executive Director of the Idaho Wool Growers Association, Liz Wilder, as she is resigning from her position in late September. Steve thanked Liz for all her hard work and highlighted the important partnership between ADC and IWGA.

Steve Wilder had Jade Etelu provide the treasurer's report. She opened with a brief overview of important contact information she compiled for ADC board members. She then provided a dedication in memoriam of Gary Chamberlain, Custer County ADC representative. Gary was a valued member of the board and helped to ensure support for ADC's District 5 from 2014 - 2026.

In financial review, Jade reported on the current financial status of the board. She explained the general outline of annual contribution requests sent to counties and district grazing boards. She shared that 42 out of 44 counties have contributed for fiscal year 2026, as well as the Boise and Burley District Grazing Boards. Requests for fiscal year 2027 were sent out March and April. Since the start of May, she has continued to follow up with counties and organize meetings with county commissioner boards and county ADC representatives. She will send out budget letters and invoices after the start of the new county fiscal year in October. Jade reported that ADC has received both fall and spring funding appropriations from ISDA and that we remain in healthy financial standing.

Jade introduced Kelly Nielsen and he shared a comprehensive financial update highlighting funding sources outside of county contributions. Kelly provided financial report trends for the 332-03 account that is shared with ISGHB but tracked separately. ISDA collects and distributes monies from general fund allocation, wool assessment, brand assessment, and Idaho Fish & Game to distribute to ADC, while county contributions are collected straight from counties to the ADC office.



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Steve Wilder introduced Patxi Larrocea-Phillips to give a legislative update. Patxi relayed the that the largest topic of concern for ADC during this year's legislative session involved abatement of Norway Rats in Ada County. While no pieces of legislation were passed, discussion around rats continues. Patxi highlighted that there is a lack of ADC resources to support Norway Rat abatement efforts and that prioritizing one species of concern in one to two counties could create an imbalance of district funding allocation as well as Wildlife Services response in other areas of Idaho.

Steve Wilder introduced Jared Hedelius to provide an annual report on activities over the past year. Jared explained how programs are funded as follows; ADC Districts 1-5 agreements pay for about 50% of trapper salaries for ADC work done every year, while Wildlife Services pays the remaining costs for ADC work (including aerial flights, vehicles, fuel, equipment, etc.), lion and black bear work is funded by Idaho Fish and Game, and wolf work is mostly funded by the Wolf Depredation Control Board. In relation to the legislative update, Jared stated that he has not received any complaints about rats thus far. Jared went on to report on work completed in each of the five ADC districts during 2025 and provided statistics for each district's species of concern.

Jade Etelu provided report on items of new business. She presented the findings of the 2025 NASS Idaho Sheep and Lamb Loss Report approved at the last annual meeting in May of 2025. The report provided insight on predator and non-predator loss reported from sheep producers via survey. Jared Hedelius weighed in on differences in reporting from NASS and Wildlife Services trapper reporting. In report collection through Wildlife Services databases, predator damage does not reflect the numbers seen in the 2025 NASS reporting. Jack Blattner, IWGA President and Cody Chandler, ADC District 2 Chair, stated that this could be due to a lack of reporting from ranchers and producers to Wildlife Services.

Jade presented a working draft of an "ADC Board Member Onboarding Guide" that will be a continuous project created under the direction of the board. This document provides Idaho statutes pertaining to ADC creation and purpose, important contacts, funding structure, and recommendations for new and existing board members. Cody Chandler made a motion to accept the guide as a working document in progress. Oly Peterson provided a second. Jennifer Ellis put forward concern about potential release of any unfinished documents before gaining full board approval. Cody Chandler withdrew the previous motion. Cody Chandler moved to have Jade Etelu continue creating the document for presentation back to the ADC Board at a later meeting. Oly Peterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jade presented the 5-year co-location agreement between the Animal Damage Control Board and the Idaho Wool Growers Association. This agreement allows ADC and IWGA to co-locate staff and services at 2118 West Airport Way in Boise, Idaho at an annual cost of \$2,400. Cody Chandler made a motion to accept the co-location agreement. Jennifer Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.