

1. Does your agency give landowners big game permits or vouchers that they can use or sell to compensate landowners or offset crop damage? If so, are the permits for antlerless animals, bucks/bulls, or both? Please explain the details of these permits or vouchers?

(Yes) Depending on the situation, we do provide opportunities for landowner to participate in the removal of big game causing problems on their property. This is usually accomplished through a depredation hunt or kill permit. The sale, barter and trade of these permits/vouchers is strictly prohibited. The sex of the animal targeted for removal depends on the situation. The vast majority of our efforts target antlerless animals, but we will occasional permit the removal of bulls or bucks.

Depredation hunts

In situations in which the Department see increased populations of wildlife within a given area that are causing damage to private property, the Department can establish a depredation hunt. The hunt structure and hunt area are established at the regional level to address the concern. The area can include only one landowner or a much larger area. ½ of the hunters are selected from a public list. The landowner can select the other ½ of the hunters receiving a tag.

Kill Permits

In certain situations the Department may issue a kill permit to a landowner. The permit will specify the species, number of and type of animal allowed to be harvested (antlerless or antlered). The permit will also outline any criteria that must be followed. Disposal of the carcasses is at the discretion for the Director, with the landowner allowed first refusal on 1 animal.

Idaho Fish and Game Rules and Laws: Idaho Statue, Title 36

Fish and Game's depredation compensation law has been in effect for nearly 30 years. To access the entire Idaho Damage Compensation Codes, use the links listed below.

36-1108: Control of Damage by Pronghorn Antelope, Elk, Deer or Moose - Compensation for Damages

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title36/T36CH11/SECT36-1108/>

36-1109: Control of Damage by Black Bears, Grizzly Bears or Mountain Lions - Compensation for Damages

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title36/T36CH11/SECT36-1109/>

36-1110: Control of Damage by Grazing Wildlife - Compensation for Damage

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title36/T36CH11/SECT36-1110/36-1110/>

2. Are landowners allowed to remove big game animals depredating on private lands in an effort to protect their agricultural resources? If so, under what circumstances?

(No) The only exception is if they received advance authorization/permit from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

3. Does your agency call depredation hunts to target populations on private lands?

(Yes)

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similar program that promotes hunting on private property?

(Yes) some of our controlled hunt permits are restricted to private land only or a 1 mile radius from private land .

5. What type of landowner incentive programs does your agency have that promotes wildlife and allows public hunters on private property (e.g., ranching for wildlife in CO or - programs where landowners financially benefit from big game)?

Providing access opportunities for the recreating public is a priority for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The Department uses a variety of tools to help accomplish this effort.

- *Access Yes!* program
- Idaho Department of Lands agreement maintaining access to 2.3 M acres
- Large Tracts Access Program

Access Yes!

This program started in 2003. Landowners receive a financial incentive to allow hunting/angling on their private lands or for the public to pass through their lands to public lands beyond.

- 2020-*Access Yes!* provided access to over 300,000 acres of private lands and improved access to over 500,000 acres of public lands. Over \$450,000 in payment to private landowners.

Idaho Department Of Lands Memorandum of Agreement

September 10, 2018 the Idaho State Board of Land Commissioners and the Idaho Fish and Game Commission entered into a Memorandum of Agreement to maintain public access to the 2.3 million acres owned by IDL. This MOA provides for a payment of \$.25 per acre/per year with a credit back to IDFG for the equivalent of the average salary of two conservation officers.

Large Tracts Access Program

In 2018 the Department, developed the “large tracts program” to incentivize longer term, cost-effective public access to large tracts of private lands. The Department invited proposals from large-acreage landowners ($\geq 50,000$ acres) to provide multi-year public access for hunting/fishing/trapping activities. Two proposals were funded:

- Potlatch-Deltic for privately owned timber lands in northern Idaho. Potlatch-Deltic owns parcels located in Benewah, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, and Shoshone Counties, totaling 567,002 acres.
- North Idaho Forest group (Stimson Lumber Co., Hancock Forest Management and Molpus Woodlands Group) for parcels in Bonner, boundary, Benewah,, Shoshone, Kootenai county totaling approximately 358,305 acres.

IDFG will pay Lessor for each calendar year, at a cost of one dollar (\$1.00) per acre. Recreational Activities include: lawful hunting, fishing, and trapping; wildlife viewing; hiking; and recreational travel limited to motor vehicle travel on roads open to full-sized vehicles and non-motorized travel.

6. Does your agency provide damage payments or fencing for big game on private lands? If so, how much per year is paid and how is it funded?

- (Yes) Idaho provides both compensation for valid claims submitted and can provide fencing. Claim amounts vary per year, last fiscal year we paid \$1.1 Million in claims.

Claims are funded through the nonexpendable big game depredation fund and a access depredation fee (\$5 res./\$10 non-res) on each annual license sold.

36-115: Nonexpendable Big Game Depredation Fund - Expendable Big Game Depredation Fund
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/statutesrules/idstat/Title36/T36CH1/SECT36-115/>

Big Game Prevention Program

Damage prevention is the highest priority of IDFG’s depredation program and a shared responsibility of both IDFG and the landowner. By law, landowners who wish to be compensated for damage also have an obligation to take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent or reduce damage to their property. It is essential that landowners and IDFG work together to resolve big game depredations. Cooperation and understanding are critical for solving depredation problems. Early notification of depredation activity or damage is essential to IDFG and landowner cooperative solutions. IDFG will work with landowner to provide hazing materials, pyrotechnics, materials for protecting stored forage, construction of permanent stack yards.

Big Game Compensation Program

In 1990 Idaho lawmakers enacted legislation establishing a cooperative program among landowners, IDFG, and sportsmen to limit damage caused by wildlife. The wildlife damage law specifies that landowners and IDFG are to work cooperatively to prevent as much wildlife damage as possible. When

damages cannot be sufficiently reduced or prevented, landowners can file a claim for compensation for the damage. IDFG pays compensation for four types of damage:

1. Crops (plants grown or stored for profit) damaged by pronghorn, deer, elk, or moose;
2. Use of privately owned rangeland forage (plants grown for livestock feed) by pronghorn, deer, elk or moose;
3. Livestock (domestic cattle, sheep, and goats) destroyed by black bears or mountain lions or delisted grizzly bears; and
4. Berries, bees, beehives, and honey damaged or destroyed by black bears or grizzly bears on private land.

Landowners are compensated for the amount of damages minus a \$750 deductible. However, this deductible is waived for landowners who file claims for damages of a similar nature in subsequent years in the same location. Livestock, honey and berry owners who suffer damage are responsible for only one deductible per year. After agreeing to a claim amount, up to half (1/2) will be paid within 45 days of approval with the remainder paid after the fiscal year ends (June 30) if funds are available. If funding is insufficient, the remaining balance in the depredation account will be distributed proportionally. If the landowner and IDFG cannot agree on the amount of damage, a 3-member arbitration panel will be convened to make the final decision.

In order to be compensated for a claim, landowners must notify IDFG verbally or electronically that damages are occurring within 72 hours of discovering the damages and must follow up this verbal notification with a written notice, which may be electronic, within twenty (20) days of discovering the damage. IDFG is not responsible for any damage occurring more than 20 days before the initial notification of damage. This period may be extended up to 30 days in exceptional circumstances.

Because hunting is an effective tool in reducing depredations, landowners must have allowed reasonable public access for hunting during the preceding hunting season or as a response to a current depredation, provided such access does not impact on their operations, or the claim for damage may be disallowed. Hunters must ask landowner permission before entering private property, and all aspects of the trespass law apply. Claimants who receive compensation for the same losses from another source (i.e., crop insurance) are not eligible

7. What mitigation measures does your agency employ to reduce big game damage (e.g., provide temporary fencing, hazing animals, agency removals of big game)?

Idaho uses temporary and permanent fencing, hazing, and agency removals along with other methods answered on the survey like depredation huts and kill permits. We try to use agency removal as a last result. Permanent fencing is expensive, however we have had a very successful effort in building permanent stack yards around the state. To date we have built several hundred and usually build several dozen per year.

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8. Does your agency have an urban deer program? If so, what does that entail?

(No)

9. What other programs does your agency have in place to promote tolerance of big game on private lands?

Idaho has several habitat funding sources and efforts to improve habitat on private land. One of the goals of these habitat projects is to promote increase appreciation of big game as well as provide enhanced habitat to potentially attract big game from private lands that do not want big game to lands that do.

10. Does your agency respond to all wildlife conflict calls or is it limited to specific species or guilds of species?

(Yes) In Idaho, we can respond to all calls that involve protected wildlife. Although there is usually a prioritization for species we are legally mandated to, such as big game. Staff can also respond to non-protected wildlife calls involving animals like raccoons and coyotes. We are mandated by code to respond to big game doing crop depredation and compensate producers for confirmed livestock losses to bears, cougars.

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11. What program(s) in your agency provide response to negative wildlife interaction (wildlife conflict) complaints and depredation. If the responsibility is split or shared between programs (i.e. Wildlife Program/Enforcement Program) or contracted or referred to another agency or private party, please describe how the work is assigned or shared.

(e.g. by species, commercial agriculture versus residential, public safety versus property damage, etc.)

In Idaho, we have a landowner Sportsman Coordinator and depredation technician located in each of our 7 regions. These staff are the regional leads for dealing with these conflicts, however, the rest of our wildlife staff and law enforcement sections frequently help. With the headquarters we have a Program coordinator that provides oversight and guidance on the program.

Idaho works closely with Wildlife Services personnel to verify livestock losses, and remove predators that are causing damage to livestock

Damage or nuisance caused by migratory birds is usually referred to US Fish and Wildlife Service.

12. Please describe what funding sources support wildlife conflict response and depredation payments if applicable in your agency. Please include specifics regarding where the funding comes from for expenses such as staff and equipment, commercial crop loss compensation, livestock predation compensation, non-lethal deterrent programs, outreach and education, or any other services or materials provided in response to wildlife conflict issues.

All funding for these programs is generated from the sale of hunting, fishing and trapping licenses or Department trust accounts. Idaho Department of Fish and Game receives no general fund money for these programs. House Bill 230 created an access/depredation fee that funds portions of both the prevention/compensation program as well as the public access program.

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