

STATE OF ARIZONA LIVESTOCK LOSS BOARD

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Arizona Livestock Loss Board Depredation Prevention Policy

BACKGROUND:

The Arizona Livestock Loss Board (ALLB) was established by Chapter 172, Article 6, Laws of 2015. The ALLB is authorized to address the depredation of Mexican wolves on livestock operations in Arizona. Further, the ALLB is authorized to reimburse livestock producers who incur costs to their operations through depredations. To reduce the cost of wolf depredation, the ALLB is required to research and develop measures to prevent wolf depredation on livestock. This policy establishes interim procedures to provide funding to determine the most effective measures to prevent or reduce interactions with Mexican wolves on the landscape (e.g., reduction in livestock production, transportation costs to relocate livestock, range riders, and fencing). The funding is to address the wolf-livestock conflicts and maintain healthy productive western landscapes.

The Legislature amended the power and duties of the ALLB by passing Chapter 66 Laws of 2020, which allows for compensation for the implementation of avoidance measures to prevent Mexican wolf depredation of livestock. This policy also establishes interim measures to compensate for implementation of avoidance measures.

POLICY:

The ALLB establishes this interim depredation prevention policy to provide funding for the research and development of measures to prevent wolf conflicts with and depredations upon cattle in Arizona and to compensate for implementation of avoidance measures. This interim policy is temporary until the ALLB adopts rules to implement a permanent depredation prevention policy.

Under this interim policy, the ALLB may provide grants to livestock operators to implement agreed upon measures to prevent wolf depredation. Each grant will require a dollar for dollar match from the applicant in the form of cash, in-kind contributions or third party contributions on behalf of the Applicant. All cost share information must be documented with the application. The ALLB will determine the grant payment schedule and term. The awarding of a grant is within the sole discretion of the ALLB and is based on the ALLB's determination of the proposed measures effectiveness at preventing wolf depredation.

Based on the ALLB's prior research, preference will be given to applicants that employ range rider strategies. In addition, preference will also be given to projects on ranches that have experienced depredation(s) and those with wolf packs present. Considering preference first, the ALLB will then consider applications in the order received and will award grants until all grant funds are exhausted.

To receive grant funding, a commercial cattle producer/operator (Applicant) shall apply to the ALLB on a form prescribed by the ALLB. The Applicant will be required to provide a detailed description of the proposed depredation prevention measure(s) and an itemized cost report showing how the grant monies will be spent (e.g. fencing, range riders, alternative ranges, guard dogs etc.). If approved, the ALLB will notify the Applicant and forward the approved amount and payment schedule to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for payment.