

Questions sent to Scott Fitzwilliams, USFS; Larry Sandoval, BLM; & Scott Becker, USFWS for Nov. 7, 2023 Wolf Reintroduction Meeting hosted by Holy Cross Cattlemen's Assoc.

Here are some of the questions livestock producers will most likely have.

1) If a denning or predating pack is identified in the allotment of a grazing permittee and the permittee has to move his cattle or sheep, will there be any alternative allotments/range/feed provided to the livestock producer affected by this? (I don't know if I am using correct terminology here, but I think you understand what I mean.)

2) If a specific permit has not allowed livestock guardian dogs (I hear there are some that do not allow LGD's), will there be accommodations made for the producer to have LGD's if he so desires? Also, there are some folks who use guard donkeys. Will they be allowed?

3) This may not even apply on permits but what about allowing the use of the mitigation methods such as fladry, flash bangs, flashing lights and sirens be allowed on USFS permits? (I know this all depends on the 10J as well.)

4) If a grazing permit is on Wilderness, what deterrents will be allowed? (I know this all depends on the 10J as well.)

5) How does USFS define the herds of cattle that are Cattlemen's Pools of cattle, say the N. Thompson Cattlemen's, Coal Basin, East Divide? Are the cattle defined as one herd, essentially one owner -- the pool is the owner while on the permits? This is important for indirect losses or losses of calves or lambs when a depredation has occurred and there are missing livestock. From what I remember in the plan CPW required the livestock to belong to the same individual owner. If USFS considers a pool as one owner while on the permit can we get CPW to consider the pool as one owner.

However, in a pool of cattle Rancher Jones could suffer an confirmed injury or death of a calf by a wolf and have potentially no missing calves and Rancher Smith's cows and calves were say 25 feet from Rancher Jones calf when it was killed or injured and Rancher Smith is missing two calves. Is Rancher Smith just out of luck or could CPW be convinced to change the definition of single ownership in a pool to the entire Pool (all ranchers as one owner)?

6) What if certain mitigation methods are required to be able to get compensation but USFS doesn't allow these methods on the permit/allotment?

7) My question for CPW has been how many of the mitigation tools do you have to be using to get compensation?

I may have more later. Sorry if the questions are clear as mud.

On another note this is something that has been brought to my attention -- Colorado did not get their Cooperative Agreement renewed yet -- the Cooperative Agreements entered into between Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and USFWS pursuant to Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA)(Co operative Agreements). They expired on September 30, 2023. Have you heard anything about this?

Thanks,
Ginny Harrington