



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

MBPM-7

Date: February 17, 2021

MIGRATORY BIRD PERMIT MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Black Vulture Livestock Protection Pilot Program

PURPOSE: This memorandum serves as guidance to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) personnel for issuance of Depredation Permits (50 CFR 21.41) under the Black Vulture Livestock Protection Pilot Program.

POLICY: The Service will implement a Black Vulture Livestock Protection Pilot (Pilot) program, not to exceed 5 years. On or before February 1, 2026, the Service will adopt the following approach as standard procedure or re-evaluate this pilot program.

Under the Pilot, a Public Entity may hold a statewide Depredation Permit (50 CFR 21.41) to protect commercial agriculture livestock (cattle, sheep, horses, goats, and other domestic livestock ordinarily raised or used on the farm) from Black Vulture predation in their state. Under the Pilot, only one Public Entity per state may hold a Depredation Permit. The entity must be Public (as defined in 50 CFR 10.12). The Public Entity must also demonstrate sufficient experience and/or capacity to provide government regulated services and/or contracts to the public. To apply, the Public Entity must submit a complete Depredation Permit Application (Form 3-200-13), including USDA-Wildlife Services Form 37 and appropriate fees. Applications will be reviewed according to Service procedures.

Upon receiving a Depredation Permit, the Public Entity may subpermit livestock producers to take Black Vultures for livestock protection. As the permittee, the Public Entity is responsible for complying with all permit conditions and ensuring subpermittee compliance with all permit conditions. This includes collecting and managing the required information for each subpermitted livestock producer, communicating expected and required non-lethal and lethal methods to livestock producers, ensuring livestock producer compliance with permit conditions, and tracking and reporting take.

Depredation Permits will be issued using Service template permit conditions. Permit conditions will specify a maximum number of Black Vultures per livestock producer. If a livestock producer determines the take is insufficient for their situation, the producer may apply for an individual Depredation Permit. Producers may not be double authorized under an entity's permit and an individual Depredation Permit.

Those interested in participating in the Pilot should contact their regional Migratory Bird Permit Office (<https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/permits/regional-permit-contacts.php>).

Assistant Director – Migratory Birds