

CPW's Wolf Conflict Minimization and Compensation Programs



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C.R.S. 33-2-105.8

“Assist owners of livestock in preventing and resolving conflicts between gray wolves and livestock.”



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Conflict Minimization Program

CPW will provide “temporary conflict minimization materials”.

- Fladry, fox lights, cracker shells, propane cannons.
- Materials loaned/delivered to livestock owners on a case-by-case basis.

CPW will provide conflict minimization “outreach/training”.

- Conflict minimization techniques in CPW’s Wolf Resource Guide.
- CPW Wolf Conflict Coordinator position.



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CRS 33-2-105.8

“Pay fair compensation to owners of livestock for any losses of livestock caused by gray wolves, as verified pursuant to the claim procedures authorized by sections 33-3-107 to 33-3-110.”

“Livestock”: *“cattle, horses, mules, burros, sheep, lambs, swine, llama, alpaca, and goats”*.



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Compensation Program

- Conflict minimization techniques are not required for compensation but are encouraged/incentivized.
- Depredation confirmations will be made by CPW and based on a “preponderance of evidence” - more likely than not.
- 100% FMV, not to exceed \$15,000 per head of livestock injured/killed.
- Cattle or sheep owners can receive compensation for injury or death of livestock, and missing calves, yearlings and sheep OR itemized production losses for cattle and sheep.



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Base Compensation

Confirmed death of livestock (33-2-105.8) & guard/herding animals:

- 100% fair market value (FMV) compensation, up to \$15k per animal.

Veterinarian costs for *injured livestock or guard/herding animals*:

- Up to 100% FMV of the animal, not to exceed \$15k.
- Additive, not inclusive of the \$15k FMV cap.

If a confirmed wolf depredation (injury or death) occurs to cattle or sheep, the livestock owner may choose between additional compensation options in addition to base compensation.



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Compensation Options

1. Compensation Ratio Option:

- Only applies to calves, yearlings and sheep.
- Missing calf, yearling and sheep losses, in larger open range settings.
- More simplified process.

OR

2. Itemized Losses Option:

- Only applies to cattle/sheep.
- Missing calf, yearling and sheep losses, decreased weaning weights and reduced conception rates.
- Requires additional/specific baseline documentation.



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Compensation Ratio Option

Missing calves, yearlings and sheep can be claimed IF:

- There is at least one confirmed cattle/sheep depredation.
- Large open range grazing situation.
- Animals must be from same band/herd/parcel where depredations occurred.
- Owner must reasonably believe missing livestock was lost to wolves.
- Number of missing animals claimed cannot exceed the actual number missing.



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Compensation Ratio Option

Compensation Ratio:

- *# eligible missing animals : # confirmed depredations*

Compensation ratio based on conflict minimization implementation:

Calves/Sheep:

- Higher ratio (7:1) IF techniques are implemented
- Lower ratio (5:1) IF techniques are not implemented

Yearling Cattle:

- A higher ratio (1.25:1) IF techniques are implemented.
- Lower ratio (1:1) IF techniques are not implemented



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Itemized Losses Option

Missing calves, yearlings and sheep can be claimed IF:

- There is at least one confirmed cattle/sheep depredation.
- Large open range grazing situation.
- Animals must be from same band/herd/parcel where depredations occurred.
- Owner must reasonably believe missing livestock was lost to wolves.
- Number of missing animals claimed cannot exceed the actual number missing.

To claim missing animals, livestock owner must submit:

- *Evidence* wolves were present throughout claim period.
- Documents establishing *baseline death loss*.
- Documents or self-certifying missing animals were *vaccinated*.

Eligibility for missing animals are limited to losses above the previous 3-year baseline death loss.



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Itemized Losses Option

For decreased cattle/sheep weight gains:

- Certify that calf, yearling and sheep reduced weights were caused by wolves.
- Documentation establishing their Baseline Weights (3 years, pre-wolf).
- Documentation establishing their current year weights.
- Documentation must show weights decreased below baseline weight.

For decreased cattle/sheep conception rates; required documentation:

- Certify that cattle and sheep reduced rates were caused by wolves.
- Documentation establishing their Baseline Conception Rate (3 years, pre-wolf)
- Documentation establishing their current year conception rates or self certify rates
- Self-certify no other causes contribute to decrease.
- Documentation must show current rates have decreased below Baseline Rate.



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Base Compensation

100% Fair Market Value for the type, age and weight of the animal for each confirmed wolf-livestock depredation.

Additionally, cattle and sheep owners may seek additional compensation for missing calves, yearlings and sheep and/or production losses

Option 1: Basic Compensation Ratio

What does this option compensate for?

- Missing calves/yearlings/sheep
- Does NOT apply to other livestock

OR

Option 2: Itemized Production Losses

What does this option compensate for?

- Missing calves/yearlings/sheep
- Decreased sheep/cattle weight gains
- Decreased sheep/cattle conception rates
- Does NOT apply to other livestock

Implementation of conflict minimization techniques?

Yes

Up to 7 missing calves/sheep can be claimed for each confirmed depredation, not to exceed the actual number of documented calves/sheep missing.

Up to 1.25 missing yearlings can be claimed for each confirmed depredation, not to exceed the actual number of documented yearlings missing.

No

Up to 5 missing calves/sheep can be claimed for each confirmed depredation, not to exceed the actual number of documented calves/sheep missing.

Up to 1 missing yearling can be claimed for each confirmed depredation, not to exceed the actual number of documented yearlings missing.

Livestock owner must provide specific baseline documentation to prove losses for all of the above.



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Base Compensation, Compensation Ratio, and Itemized Losses Examples



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Base Compensation Examples:

1. CPW confirms that wolves killed a llama:

Compensation = 100% FMV up to \$15,000 max cap.

2. CPW confirms that wolves killed 10 chickens:

Chickens are not considered livestock under CRS 33-2-105.8.

3. A mountain lion hunter's dog is killed by wolves:

Only dogs used for guard/herding are eligible for compensation.



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Compensation Ratio Example:

CPW confirms 2 cows were killed by wolves on a large Forest Service allotment in May and 1 calf was killed by wolves in July. A range rider checks on the cattle twice a week during the grazing season. When the cattle come home at the end of the season, 3 calves are missing.

Calculation: Eligible Compensation Ratio = 7 : 1

7 (Compensation Ratio) X 3 (Confirmed depredations) = 21 max eligible

Compensation:

2 cows and 1 calf confirmed depredated by CPW (100% FMV), **AND**
3 missing calves (100% FMV)



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Compensation Ratio Example 2:

Over the grazing season, CPW confirms 5 sheep were killed by wolves on a large Forest Service allotment. A shepherd is constantly with the band of sheep and there are guard dogs present. When the sheep are taken off the range 40 sheep are missing.

Calculation: Eligible Compensation Ratio = **7 : 1**

7 (Compensation Ratio) X 5 (Confirmed depredations) = 35 max eligible

Compensation:

5 sheep confirmed depredated by CPW (100% FMV), **AND**

35 missing sheep (100% FMV)



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Itemized Production Losses Example:

Over the grazing season, CPW confirms 5 sheep were killed by wolves on a large USFS allotment. A shepherd is constantly with the band of sheep and there are guard dogs present. The owner chose to itemize production losses instead of the basic compensation ratio.

The livestock owner provides 3-year baseline documentation for weaning weights, along with the current year weaning weights and there is a 5% reduction in average weaning weights at 95 lbs. per lamb.

The 5 confirmed sheep are compensated at 100% FMV.

Payment is based on the difference between the average weight of such animals in the claim year at the time of sale versus the average weight of animals at the time of sale in the 3-years prior .



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