

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS31921 / S1012

This bill provides an appeal option for individuals experiencing depredation from wolves, grizzly bears, black bears, and mountain lions. Currently, when an individual suffers loss, they must call APHIS-Wildlife Services, a division within a federal department, and have an investigator come inspect the injured or dead animal. Wildlife Services follows a grading system of confirmed, probable, possible, or unknown and generally only observe the body. An individual can only receive compensation from federal government grants if the depredation is confirmed and state funding from wolf and grizzly bear loss when the depredation is confirmed or probable. Confirmed depredation is also a statistic to determine control of wildlife throughout the state. In its current form, once this single federal investigator makes a determination, that is the end of it.

This bill would create an appeals board where three experts look at all the evidence and reconsider the determination of the initial federal investigator. This reconsideration would also assist the state in determining where control efforts should be prioritized.

This board expends no money. They review all evidence. Having a closed-door meeting will help protect the identities and locations of those who are appealing and all involved in the appeals process. Money an individual receives is still public information and will continue to be.

FISCAL NOTE

There would be no impact to the general fund. No additional FTEs are being requested and the board would likely meet virtually a couple times a year.

Contact:

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).