

The Truth about Idaho Predators and Livestock

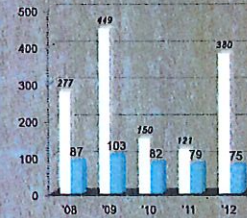
The animals listed below are the largest wild predators on Idaho's landscape. While predators are important to the ecosystems they live in, some are occasionally involved in livestock depredations – causing significant losses to producers. These predators are listed in order of the magnitude of damage, most to least, that has been verified by USDA Wildlife Services personnel over the last five years. Reported losses that were not verified were not included.

Gray wolves were reintroduced to Idaho in 1995. Adult wolves range in size from 65-130 pounds. They are present in 28 of Idaho's 44 counties. The most recent (2011) minimum population estimate was 746. Wolf depredations on livestock occur throughout the year, but mostly occur, at night, while the animals are on summer grazing allotments. Herders, range riders, guard dogs, fladry and pyrotechnics can all help prevent depredations by wolves. Wolves are managed as big game animals by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Gray Wolf (*Canis lupus*)

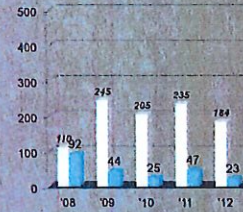


Verified Killed and Injured Sheep (in white) and Cattle (in blue) FY2008 – 2012



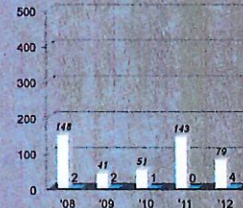
Coyotes are abundant throughout Idaho. Coyotes range in size from 20-35 pounds. Their population is estimated at 50,000. While they primarily feed on small mammals, they do prey on livestock throughout the year. Livestock are most vulnerable to coyotes during the lambing and calving seasons. Herders, range riders, guard animals and electronic guards are most effective at preventing coyote depredations. Coyotes are considered predators in Idaho and are not protected.

Coyote (*Canis latrans*)



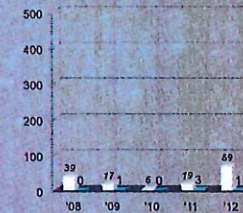
Black bears are common in the mountains of Idaho. Adult black bears range in size from 125-350 pounds. Their population is estimated at 20,000. Almost all of the black bear depredations on livestock in Idaho occur during the Summer months. Herders and guard dogs help prevent bears from attacking sheep. Black bears are managed as big game animals by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)



Even though most people may never see a Mountain lion, or cougar, they are hardly scarce in Idaho. Their population is estimated to be 2,000-3,000 and they can be found throughout the State. An adult mountain lion can weigh 75-200 pounds. Mountain lion depredations on livestock occur throughout the year, but most occur in the late Spring – early Summer. Guard dogs and herders are critical in preventing depredations. Mountain lions are managed as big game animals by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*)



Grizzly bears can be found in the counties adjacent to Yellowstone National Park and in the northern portion of the Idaho Pannhandle. Their population, statewide, is estimated at less than 100. They range in size from 150 – 500 pounds. Grizzly bear depredations on livestock in Idaho are fairly rare, mostly due to avoidance. Grizzlies can sometimes be excluded and harassed, but avoiding the areas they frequent is the best way to prevent a depredation. Idaho grizzly bears are listed as a "Threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Grizzly Bear (*Ursus arctos*)

