



**Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Administration**

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Physical field examinations

A complete physical field examination includes: (7-1-24)

01. Reporting Criterion. If a producer would like to be considered for compensation, once a dead carcass or injured animal is found, the producer must contact a state authorized investigator. This investigator will examine the incident, and a cause will be determined based on evidence collected at the scene. When the investigation is completed, the appropriate Species Depredation Investigation Report will be completed by the state authorized investigator. This report and supporting documentation are sent to the producer. If evidence shows a *validated (confirmed)* or *probable* finding, the state authorized investigator will also provide the producer with information regarding the Depredation of Livestock and Prevention Fund program. If the producer decides to participate in the program, they must contact the Office of Species Conservation (OSC) program manager. The OSC accepts compensation claims throughout the calendar year between January 1 and December 31. Compensation claims are compiled as they are received. Payment determinations are made after all claims have been received and reviewed for the calendar year. Submission of a compensation claim does not guarantee payment. *Validated (Confirmed)* claims are paid first, and if funding allows then *probable* claims are paid. If questions about the validity of a claim arise, OSC reserves the right to gather additional information.

02. Finding. A finding by the state authorized investigator of either *validated (confirmed)*, *probable*, *possible* or *negative/unknown*. (7-1-24)

Finding Name	Finding Description
Confirmed/ Validated	<i>Validated (confirmed)</i> kills are based upon field examination. A predation is confirmed in those cases where there is reasonable physical evidence that an animal was killed or injured by a grizzly bear or wolf. The primary confirmation factor would ordinarily be the presence of bite marks and associated subcutaneous hemorrhaging and tissue damage, indicating that the attack occurred while the victim was alive, as opposed to simply feeding on an already dead animal. Spacing between canine tooth punctures, feeding pattern of carcass, fresh tracks, scat, hairs rubbed off, and/or eyewitness accounts of the attack may help identify the specific species or individual responsible. Predation might be confirmed in the absence of bitemarks and associated hemorrhaging if there is other physical evidence to confirm predation of the live animal. This might include blood spilled or sprayed at a nearby attack site or other evidence of an attack or struggle. There may also be nearby remains of other victims for which there is still sufficient evidence to confirm predation, allowing reasonable inference of confirmed predation on the animal that had been largely consumed.

Probable	<p><i>Probable</i> kills are also based upon field examination. A predation is probable when there is some evidence to suggest predation, but the incident is lacking sufficient evidence to clearly confirm predation by a grizzly bear or wolf. A kill or injury may be classified as probable depending on several factors such as: 1) Has there been recently confirmed predation by the suspected depredate species in the same or nearby area? 2) How recently had the livestock owner or his employees observed the livestock? 3) Is there evidence (telemetry monitoring data, sightings, fresh tracks, etc.) to suggest that the suspected depredate species may have been in the area when the depredation occurred? All these factors and possibly others, should be considered in the investigator's best professional judgement.</p>
Possible	<p>Lacking sufficient evidence to classify an incident as either <i>validated/confirmed</i> or <i>probable</i> predation, the <i>possible</i> classification is appropriate if an investigator is not certain what the cause of death may have been, but it was possible. The investigator may or may not have much of a carcass remaining for inspection. The investigator would want to consider if the area has been frequented by a predator or if the habitat is one which the predator is likely to use. Possible predation may include cases where counts show that abnormal numbers of livestock are missing and where other known cases of predation have occurred previously in the area. Possible kills can be validated if there is enough supporting evidence along with associated validated confirmed and probable incidents in the same area.</p>
Negative/Unknown	<p><i>Negative</i> or <i>Unknown</i> findings on a physical field examination occur when the carcass or injured animal is deemed not to be caused by a grizzly bear or wolf attack, or the examination provided inconclusive results to determine if the livestock in question was killed or died of other causes. These are considered unvalidated.</p>

03. Species Depredation Investigation Report. A completed report signed by the state authorized investigator. (7-1-24)

04. Documentation Required. The following documentation is required to file a claim for depredation compensation: (7-1-24)

- a. Documentation verifying livestock loss (kill or injury) due to a grizzly bear or wolf (validated loss). Upon the discovery of a carcass, producers are instructed to contact their local state authorized investigator for an examination and field report (Appendix A.) (7-1-24)
- b. A completed application. (7-1-24)
- c. Any other supporting documentation or additional documentation that is requested by OSC to validate the claim. (7-1-24)