

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO  
Sixty-first Legislature Second Regular Session - 2012

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 544

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO WOLVES; AMENDING CHAPTER 4, TITLE 36, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 36-409B, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE LEGISLATIVE INTENT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DEPOSIT OF CERTAIN PROCEEDS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE WOLF DEPREDATION ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSFER OF PROCEEDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME, TO PROVIDE THAT MONEYS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION, TO PROVIDE FOR THE RETURN OF INTEREST EARNED TO THE ACCOUNT, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DIVISION AND USE OF MONEYS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF DEPREDATION PAYMENTS TO LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS BY THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SPECIES CONSERVATION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Chapter 4, Title 36, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 36-409B, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

36-409B. LEGISLATIVE INTENT -- WOLF DEPREDATION ACCOUNT. (1) Wolves forced upon Idaho in 1995 by the federal government and the U.S. fish and wildlife service have created unwarranted hardship and economic harm to wildlife, hunters, outfitters, the Idaho department of fish and game and livestock producers. Federal funding has never been adequate compensation for the damages incurred due to wolf depredation. An environmental group broke their original agreement to pay livestock producers for damages when they pursued wolf reintroduction. On two (2) occasions, the same group successfully sued to keep wolves on the federal endangered species list, which denied management of the aggressive predator for years, creating additional expenses and loss. The legislature believes that it is necessary to use proceeds from the sale of wolf tags and the sale of harvested wolves as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to compensate for the shortfall in funding for depredation.

(2) Proceeds from the sale of each wolf-related tag including, but not limited to, tags for wolf hunting and trapping, eight dollars (\$8.00) shall be placed in an account to be known as the "Wolf Depredation Account," to be administered by the governor's office of species conservation, to be created in and established in the state treasury for the deposit of such moneys. Proceeds from the sale of any harvested wolf returned to the Idaho department of fish and game due to a depredation action or illegal killing shall also be deposited in the wolf depredation account. The department of fish and game shall transfer proceeds for deposit into the wolf depredation account on July 1 of each year. All moneys so deposited are hereby subject to appropriation for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section. Any interest earned on the investment of idle moneys in the account shall be returned to the account. Upon deposit of the proceeds from the department of fish and game as provided in this subsection, moneys in the account shall

1 be equally divided, fifty percent (50%) of such moneys to be used equally  
2 for control actions of depredating wolves on wildlife and livestock, with  
3 the livestock portion paid to the Idaho state animal damage control board to  
4 be distributed to the respective animal damage control districts, and fifty  
5 percent (50%) of such moneys to be used for depredation payments to live-  
6 stock producers for losses caused by wolves. Depredation payments to live-  
7 stock producers for losses shall be administered by the governor's office of  
8 species conservation.

9 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
10 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
11 passage and approval.