

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 485

BY RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO DEPREDATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 11, TITLE 36, IDAHO CODE, BY THE
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 36-1121, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR COMPENSA-
3 TION FOR DEPREDATION OF LIVESTOCK BY GRIZZLY BEAR AND WOLVES, TO PROVIDE
4 FOR A FUND AND APPROPRIATION, TO PROVIDE A PROCESS FOR COMPENSATION, AND
5 TO DEFINE A TERM; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE
6 DATE.
7

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

9 SECTION 1. That Chapter 11, Title 36, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
10 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
11 ignated as Section 36-1121, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

12 36-1121. LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION BY GRIZZLY BEAR AND WOLVES. (1) It is
13 the intent of the legislature to provide compensation to livestock owners
14 that have experienced depredation of livestock by grizzly bear and wolves.

15 (2) The office of species conservation, in consultation with the de-
16 partment of fish and game and the Idaho state department of agriculture, is
17 authorized to carry out the purposes of this section and has spending author-
18 ity for compensation pursuant to this section to the extent of legislative
19 appropriation. The depredation of livestock and prevention fund is hereby
20 established in the state treasury. Beginning on July 1, 2024, and each July 1
21 thereafter, the legislature shall appropriate two hundred twenty-five thou-
22 sand dollars (\$225,000) annually to the fund. One hundred fifty thousand
23 dollars (\$150,000) of that amount shall be used annually to compensate val-
24 idated claims for depredation, and seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000)
25 of that amount shall be used annually for conflict prevention and education
26 as determined by the office of species conservation. All claims shall be
27 made to the office of species conservation on or before December 31 of each
28 year. Validated claims for depredation shall be paid on a pro rata basis in
29 the event moneys in the fund are insufficient to pay all validated claims in
30 full, until such time as moneys in the fund are depleted. Any moneys in the
31 fund after payment of validated claims shall then be paid to those livestock
32 owners with probable claims for depredation on a pro rata basis in the event
33 moneys in the fund are insufficient to pay all probable claims in full, until
34 such moneys in the fund are depleted. Any moneys in the fund after probable
35 depredation claims are paid shall be carried over to the next calendar year.
36 Interest accruing on moneys in the fund shall be retained in the fund. Moneys
37 shall be continuously appropriated to the fund, but the fund shall not exceed
38 four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000).

39 (3) Compensation for claims validated or deemed probable with the of-
40 fice of species conservation shall be based on current fair market value as
41 provided by the Idaho state department of agriculture or another reliable
42 source as determined by the office of species conservation. On an annual ba-

1 sis, the office of species conservation shall submit a policy regarding the
2 means by which claims are validated or deemed probable to the department of
3 fish and game and the Idaho state department of agriculture to solicit com-
4 ment. Any other compensation paid to a livestock owner for depredation shall
5 be deducted from the fair market value prior to payment.

6 (4) For purposes of this section, "livestock" means cattle, sheep,
7 goat, swine, poultry, bees, llamas, or equine animals used for food or in the
8 production of food, fiber, feed, or other agriculture-based consumer prod-
9 ucts, domesticated game, or other nonplant life; such term shall not include
10 aquatic animals.

11 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
12 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
13 July 1, 2024.