



Alberta Wolf Bounty Municipal Programs (MD/County)

Updated Feb 26, 2015 by Carolyn Campbell of Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA), ccampbell@abwild.ca. Filed documents or links to documents are available on request.

Sent to Wolf Matters March 17, 2015

Updated Municipal Wolf Bounty Payouts and Claims, latest available information as of Feb 26/15:

	Current Payout	Total payout	Total wolves
Big Lakes	\$300/adult	\$144,300 (July 2014)	481 (July 2014)
Clear Hills	\$250/adult, \$250/non-adult	\$141,300 (June 2014)	357 (June 2014)
Saddle Hills	n/a	n/a	n/a
Greenview	\$300/adult wolf	\$22,200 (Jan. 16, 2013)	74 (Jan. 16, 2013)
Smoky River	\$250/adult	n/a (started May 2012)	n/a
Northern Lights	\$200 (2015 program)	n/a (no info. on adult/juvenile mix in former program)	62 (in former 2011-12 program)
Bonnyville	\$75/wolf	\$3,960 (mid-March 2014)	128 (mid-March 2014)
St. Paul	\$75/wolf	At least \$30 (Apr 2013, coyote focused program)	At least 2 (Apr 2013)
Two Hills	At least \$15/wolf	n/a	n/a
Cardston	\$500/wolf	\$5000 in 2012 (May 2, 2013)	10 in 2012 (May 2, 2013)
Total		At least \$316,790	At least 1114

n/a – not available

MD Big Lakes

July 25, 2014: County e-mailed to D Rodtka updated statistics since program started in late 2010. Policy revision as of March 2012: \$300 per adult wolf, killed within MD Big Lake boundaries. Eligibility: a taxpaying M.D. resident on his own land, on a trapline by a licensed trapper and/or on private land by a licensed resident trapper, with landowner consent. Budget cap (unspecified) applies. (Sources: MD Big Lakes website article March 2013 and March 2012 pdf)

	Per MD Big Lakes, July 25, 2014	Per previous documents
2014	58 as of July 25, 2014 @\$300=\$17,400	
2013	86 @\$300=\$25,800	356 @300 = \$106,800 as of Feb 2013
2012	175 @\$300=\$52,500	
2011	162 @\$300=\$48,600	
Total	481 = \$144,300	

Update from Feb 20, 2013 South Peace News article posted by MD Big Lakes sheep rancher Louise Liebenberg: 356 wolves claimed to date @\$300 = 106,800





History, from July 31, 2012 EJ article: hunters have killed 290 wolves since 2010, at \$300 per wolf, paid out \$87,000 to date, season September to May

Clear Hills County

June 23, 2014: County e-mailed to D Rodtka updated statistics since program start in July 2010. Latest policy revision as of November 2012, effective Jan 1, 2013: \$250 per adult and non-adult wolf, killed on private property or grazing leases within County boundaries. Participation contract attached to current policy also adds that wolves can be killed on public lands within 5 miles of private property or a grazing lease. {Source: County Nov 2012 pdf}

Summary, based on history below: 357 wolves, total payout \$141, 300 to June 20, 2014 (@\$395)

	Per Clear Hills County, June 23, 2014	Per previous documents
2014	22 = \$5,250 (@\$239) (at June 20, 2014)	
2013	78=\$19,500 (@ \$250)	
2012	118 = \$49, 550 (@\$420)	118 wolves killed @\$350 = 41,300
2011	93 = \$44,750 (@\$481)	At least 60 @at least \$350 = 21,000 [might have been @\$500]
2010	46 wolves = \$22,250 total (@\$484)	At least 34 @\$500 = 17,000
Total	357 wolves = \$141,300	At least 212 wolves from 2010 to 2012, costing at least \$79k

History: June 23, 2014 MD e-mailed updated statistics. Previous sources: Jan 2013 County newsletter: 118 wolves claimed in 2012 and effective Jan 1, 2013, amount per wolf reduced from \$350 to \$250. November 2011 County newsletter: “the Wolf Hunt Incentive Program budget has been increased and the program continued. Since January 1, 2011 a total of 60 wolves have been brought in.” January 2011 County newsletter: as of December 6, 2010, 34 wolves claimed under program. Oct 28, 2010 Western Producer article: program started 2010 @ \$500 per wolf. 2010 county budget for wolf incentive program was \$30,000. 17 wolves killed as of article date. (Sources: County newsletters with relevant pages noted, plus Western Producer article)

Saddle Hills

Nov 2014 County Newsletter: states wolves have role in the natural environment but “Sometimes natural conditions cause Wolves to stock livestock. In those cases we must ensure that we are removing the entire pack” to prevent splintering. The incentive is offered “because there is a need to protect the investments and production of the livestock producers. The [ASB] encourages those in the incentive program to be “Predator Smart” and wishes to ensure that basic concepts in wolf removal are understood.” As of January 1, 2015, the wolf incentive will only be available to County residents and Registered Trappers who attend the County’s first two day training course.





December 2011: reference to Saddle Hills wolf bounty in meeting notes of Peace River Regional District Electoral Area Directors Committee, but start date and payouts not specified.

MD of Greenview

Eligibility: Adult wolf, lawfully killed by a resident of MD or designate, on lands within 8 kilometers of private property and grazing leases within MD Greenview. Payout \$300 per carcass. (Sources: MD 2014 Procedures and fees documents, MD 2012 policy and fees documents)

History: May 2014 Payment of \$300 confirmed in annual fees schedule. Apr 2014 Ag Services Board business plan includes both facilitating wolf carcass payouts and promoting nonlethal predator control (p. 81), mainly it seems through Wolf Awareness Seminar led by AB Trappers Assoc. Pres. Klassen. Mar 2014: 'Think Like a Wolf' seminar hosted in Debolt, led by ATA President Klassen. Jan 2013 ASB minutes: 69 wolves received 2012, and 5 to date in 2013. Jan 2013 Council minutes: Complaint of elk overpopulation due to wolf bounty leads Council to pass resolution asking ESRD to extend elk season due to overpopulation concerns. May 2012 ASB minutes: members requested data on wolves claimed under bounty. Jan 2012 Smoky River Express article states Council considering bounty. Established February 2012, per MD website.

County Northern Lights

Jan 2015 policy and contract document: lawfully harvested within County by landowner or under landowner's direction, on or within 3 miles of property or grazing lease. Will verify animal not poisoned, includes declaration wolf was killed humanely. Limit to 3 animals by or on behalf of each land/lease owner to enable wide participation within budget. Nov 2014 County newsletter item on "Problem Wildlife incentive policy": participants must come in advance to sign an agreement. Sept 25, 2014 notes from 8:30am phone call by Ag Fieldman Blake Gaugler to AWA, in answer to AWA letter. Old bounty was 2011-12: 62 wolves claimed, rate was \$250/adult, \$150/juvenile (no information on total payout). No bounty 2013-14. Had issues with people claiming bounties on non-problem, green area, and out-of-province/region wolves in the past. Will be a new, more restrictive bounty program in Northern Lights starting Jan. 2015 until budget of \$10,000 depletes. Bounty is \$200/wolf (not clarified if that includes juveniles). Only livestock producers and grazing lease holders are eligible. A producer or lease owner can designate a maximum of three additional bounty hunters. Maximum of three wolves are allowed to be claimed per year, per producer/holder – not per bounty hunter. Bounties are eligible only within a three mile radius of producer or lease holder's land.

Feb 2013 fees document states Predator Control fee no longer offered. Approved January 10, 2012. \$250 per adult wolf, \$150 per non-adult wolf. On private property and grazing leases within County, by land/lease owners or permitted by land/lease owners. Carcasses will be marked. Feb 2012 Council approved a budget increase of \$10,000 to program. (Sources: Jan 2012 and Feb 2012 County documents)

MD Bonnyville





Oct 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014 Wolf/Coyote Reduction program: \$75 per wolf (increase from previous year), \$15 per coyote carcass. In 2012-2013 season, brought in 40 wolves and 1300 coyotes.

Summary (from History notes below)

2013/2014: 34 to Mar. 12, 2014 @ \$75 = \$2,550

2012/2013: 38 @ \$15 = \$570

2011/2012: 32 @ \$15 = \$480

2010/2011: 24 @\$15 = \$360

History: Mar 12, 2014 Council highlights: 34 wolves claimed so far 2013/2014, ends March 31, ASB Director says predation calls have been reduced since program introduced. Oct 2013 Cold Lake Sun: In 2012-2013 season, brought in 40 wolves and 1300 coyotes. Ag Svcs Director said wolf payout increased to encourage more hunting after higher predation on livestock experienced. Asked LLB [only has coyote] and St. Paul counties to approve payout increase too, but so far they haven't. (Source: Cold Lake Sun, Oct 1, 2013. Mar. 27, 2013: Council highlights: 38 wolves claimed in 2012/2013 season (note: amount likely rounded to 40 in CLS article). Details Oct. 1, 2012-March 31, 2013: \$15 per wolf or coyote carcass, by residents only, for animals within MD limits. Wolves may be hunted (but not trapped) within 5 km of privately owned or grazing leased lands, provided access is authorized by resident or leaseholder. Wolves may be trapped under a registered or resident fur management license. (Source: MD website doc Oct 2012). Mar 28, 2012 Council highlights: 32 wolves claimed 2011/2012. Started 2010/2011 and continued in 2011/2012. In 2010/2011 season, took in 24 wolves. (Source: St Paul Journal article November 22, 2011)

County of St. Paul

Coyote/Wolf Reduction Programs will continue in County St. Paul from Nov 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. \$75 per wolf. Eligibility: For residents/landowners or owners of trap lines within county, for wolves within County boundaries.

For Jan 1-April 30, 2013 program: May 2013 ASB minutes note 1 wolf and 944 coyotes taken. St. Paul will budget \$20,000 plus \$10,000.00 for fall of 2013. Noted last year's program went well and County of Two Hills and MD Bonnyville also have programs in place. [Note: No public information found how many wolves claimed in either of these 2 counties since the programs started.] (Sources: Sept 2012, Dec 2012, May 2013, Oct. 2013 County St Paul documents, filed by AWA)

Nov 13, 2012 SPJ article: St Paul County adding wolf to its coyote bounty program starting Jan 2013, implies information came from St Paul-based F&W officer Barb Maile

April 12, 2012 ASB minutes: 1 wolf and 1413 coyotes claimed.

History: Dec 2011 County St. Paul agreed to partner with the MD Bonnyville and County of Two Hills on a Regional Coyote/Wolf Reduction Incentive Program, to run from January 1 to April 30, 2012 or until the annual budget of \$20,000 is reached. The County will pay \$15.00 per coyote/wolf. Each resident/landowner is limited to 20 coyotes/wolves per week to a maximum of 100 for the season and only one member per family is eligible to participate in this program. (Sources: Sept 2012 and Dec 2011 Ag Services Board minutes, filed by AWA)



**County of Two Hills**

April 3, 2014 ASB minutes: refer to Coyote program, 947 coyotes claimed to date that year, no wolves mentioned (updates in Jan, Feb, Mar only mention Coyote program).

Cardston County

Feb 10, 2014 Council minutes: approved \$500 bounty for up to 10 wolves. Dec 9, 2013 Council minutes: Jeff Bectell of Waterton Biosphere Reserve spoke to Council on composting facility (County gets payment from Biosphere) and bear and wolf population. May 2013 Rocky Mountain Outlook article: 10 wolves claimed in 2012, as of May 2013 none in 2013. March 11, 2013 Council minutes: renewed bounty for \$500/wolf up to \$5000. Glenwood Feeders and Cardston Cattle Breeders thanked Council for wolf bounty.

March 12, 2012 County councillors passed resolution to “give a wolf bounty of \$500.00 per carcass, up to a maximum of \$5,000.00 per year (ten carcasses) and that they must be registered with twenty-four (24) hours”

August 14, 2012 Fort McLeod Gazette article: Cardston paid on 6 wolves to date, MD Willow Creek turned down bounty request from Fort Macleod Fish and Game Association. (Sources: March 12, 2012 County minutes and Macleod Gazette article, filed by AWA)

