

**571—113.5(481A) Compensation.** The department will extend to the responsible person the opportunity to reach voluntary agreement as to the amount of damages and the compensation method. The method of compensation shall be solely in the discretion of the department. If the person disputes liability or the damage amount, these issues will be resolved through contested case proceedings.

**113.5(1) *Direct monetary payment.*** Compensation shall normally be by direct monetary payment to the department for projects in priority watersheds selected by the department. To the extent reasonable and practical, the money received will be used to replace, restore or rehabilitate the lost or injured animals. Resource enhancement projects, support of educational programs relating to resource protection or enhancement, or resource acquisition of equal or greater value also may be funded. If practical, such alternatives should provide similar services to the public.

**113.5(2) *Indirect monetary payment.*** In cases where the destruction of or injury to wild animals is in a selected priority watershed, an equal or greater amount of compensation may be made by monetary payment to another government agency or private nonprofit group in the natural resource field for the same purposes as provided in 113.5(1).

**113.5(3) *Direct funding of projects.*** With the approval and oversight of the department, the person may be allowed to contract directly for the same purposes as provided in 113.5(1).

[ARC 0285D, IAB 5/13/26, effective 6/17/26]