



Deschutes County
Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #12: Monday, November 17, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

MEETING FORMAT

In accordance with Oregon state law, this meeting is open to the public and can be accessed and attended in person or remotely.

Join Zoom Meeting

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Enter Meeting ID: 857 0395 6967

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TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Introductions	Welcome Committee Members <i>5 Minutes</i>
2. Approval of September 15, 2025, Minutes <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i>	Approve Minutes <i>2 Minutes</i>
3. Business Representative Candidates • Amy Knudsen • Karan Swaner • Karl Findling • Ryan McHugh	Meet and Greet <i>60 Minutes</i> <i>(15 minute per candidate)</i>
4. 2025 Grant Funds Balance • Remaining fund balance <i>See Packet: 2025 Grant Funds</i>	Information and discussion <i>25 Minutes</i>
5. Review Market Rate Sheet <i>See Packet: Deschutes County Market Rate Sheet</i>	Information and discussion <i>25 Minutes</i>

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
6. Public Comments Members of the public are welcome at every Wolf Committee meeting. Each person's time will be limited to allow time for everyone who wishes to speak. In addition, written comments will be accepted at any time.	Opportunity to hear from members of the public who are present.
7. Next steps ▪ Next meeting: January 13, 2026, 5:30 p.m. ▪ Potential agenda topics: Grant Applications	Meeting #13, agenda topics <i>3 Minutes</i>
8. Wrap up and adjourn	



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El condado de Deschutes anima a las personas con discapacidad a participar en todos los programas y actividades. Esta reunión/evento es accesible. Hay disponibles servicios de intérprete de lengua de señas y de otros idiomas, dispositivos de escucha asistida, materiales en formatos alternativos como braille, letra grande, formatos electrónicos, traducciones o cualquier otra adaptación, con solicitud previa y sin ningún costo. Haga su solicitud al menos 24 horas antes de la reunión/el evento llamando a Administrative Services al (541) 388-6570 o envíe un correo electrónico a DMAC@deschutes.org.



Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #11: Monday, September 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee | Deschutes County Oregon.](#)

I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner, committee member; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Sarahlee Lawrence; Steve Pappa, committee member; Ethan O'Brien, committee member; Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW); Brian Thomas, USDA, Wildlife Services, NW District Manager; Scott Duggan, OSU-Cascades, Livestock Extension Agent; and Matt Alex, USDA, Assistance District Supervisor. Present via Zoom: Johnny Leason, committee member.

II. Approval of April 21, 2025, Minutes

Ethan O'Brien moved to approve the minutes. Steve Pappa seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Update from Committee Chair, Commissioner Chang

Phil Chang announced the departure of two committee members. Donna Harris finished out her term and the County posted a recruitment announcement and appointed a new member. Sally Compton, Executive Director for Think Wild, was appointed to fill the position of Supporter of Wolf Conservation and Coexistence with Wolves.

Gordon Jones resigned his position due to personal conflicts with federal and state policy decisions regarding wolf management.

IV. Vacant Committee Position – Business Representative

Chang reviewed the process for filling the vacant seat for Business Representative. For this particular position the committee selects the nomination for the Board of County Commissioners to confirm the appointment. Jen Patterson reviewed the meeting notes from September 2023 and read back the categories for recruitment of business representative that were considered during the original round. Johnny Leason may know one or two people who may be interested and he will reach out to them. Aaron Bott has had several people inquire how they may be able to serve on the committee, he could refer them to the committee. Steve Pappa recommended reaching out to tourism organizations like Tour Bend to see if they have recommendations. Ethan O'Brien recommends not pigeonholing potential applicants into specific categories. Nick Lelack indicated that the best practice is to keep an open recruitment process and then the committee can make the selection from all interested applicants. Lelack suggested that the County's PIO could draft a Media Release that can be distributed by all committee members, partner agencies, and media contacts. Chang stated it would be ideal to have the position filled by December and if need be, the committee could hold a virtual meeting with just an

agenda item for application review. The committee agreed to open the recruitment process now and have all interested parties submit statements of interest to Patterson by October 17. If there are more than four applicants Patterson will send the statements to the committee via email and each committee member will rank the candidates. The top four will be asked to attend the November Wolf Committee meeting to meet the members. Following the November meeting the committee members will email Patterson their rankings and the top candidate will be nominated for BOCC appointment consideration.

V. Update on Carcass Removal Program and 2025 Grant Funds Balance

Jen Patterson updated the committee on the carcass removal program. The program is up and running and with a voucher program in place with Solid Waste. Vouchers have been distributed to ODFW, USDA, and OSU-Cascades. Patterson has received one invoice from Solid Waste and there were two carcasses disposed of to date. Pappa and O'Brien requested vouchers which Patterson will send.

The preventative measure grant fund balance has about \$5,000 remaining to be spent or returned to ODA by January 31, 2026. A correction later in the meeting confirmed the balance is about \$4,000 after the Fox Lights purchased for ODFW use.

Scott Duggan asked how someone could request Wildlife Services assistance with carcass removal. Patterson will connect Duggan and David Andrews with Wildlife Services.

Pappa suggested reaching out to the producers who received grant funds earlier this year to see if they would like to request additional funding. The committee would like past grant recipients interested in additional funds to provide a short report detailing how they have utilized previous grant funds, what is the status of wolf activity on the landscape, and how additional funding will go toward continued non-lethal preventative measures. The committee prefers additional grant requests not to exceed \$2,500.

Aaron Bott said wolf activity has been very quiet in Deschutes County since January. All the producers who received Deschutes County grant funds also received Crook County grant funds. ODFW has been working closely with those producers and there haven't been any recent wolf conflicts. Bott recapped that most wolf conflicts happen around calving season. Calving season begins in the fall and conflicts tend to spike around late winter.

Chang said it would make the most sense to get the remaining grant dollars out to producers ahead of the potential winter conflict time. The committee discussed the timeline for considering additional grant fund requests and would like to review the requests during the November meeting.

Pappa mentioned that he has heard from at least one producer the impact wolf conflict is having on lower fertility rates on cows. Bott has heard that it is on producers' minds but has not heard of specific cases. Pappa is working with one producer (through his veterinary practice) who is experiencing this issue. Bott said it sounds like it's in the area of the Paulina pack. There are two wolves in the Paulina pack who are radio collared and they have not been tracker north of Paulina Lake.

Duggan has a new publication from OSU that delves into the fertility impact on livestock when there is wolf conflict. Duggan will send to Patterson to distribute to the group.

Chang reviewed the new legislative bill pertaining to wolf depredation reimbursement. SB 777 added a multiplier for depredation; any confirmed depredation can be reimbursed up to five times the depredation rates (set by county Wolf Committees) and the missing and injured category has been removed. Additionally, it requires that at least 50% of the grant funds are designated to preventative measures.

The committee would like to add to next meeting's agenda an item to review and possible update the rate sheet that the committee established in 2023.

VI. Grant Application and Producer Outreach Process for 2026 Grant Cycle

Patterson reviewed the application process. ODA typically sets an application deadline by the end of February. Last year the committee discussed county grant asks for sponsored programs (i.e. carcass removal funds) during the January meeting and held a Zoom meeting in February to review last minute grant applications that were received from producers who were experiencing wolf conflicts in December and January. The committee finalized the grant application requests in February and Patterson submitted the applications to ODA by the end of February.

O'Brien asked Bott if there have been additional depredations outside of the ones that have been reported to the committee and if there are any producers who have had conflict that haven't worked with the committee in the past. Bott confirmed that there are no further known conflicts or depredations.

Bott gave a summary of the wolf population in and around Deschutes County and stressed that there could always be unknown wolves on the landscape that they are not aware of. There are three known packs in and around the county but are not known depredators. The Metolius Pack, the Upper Deschutes Pack, and the Paulina Pack. The Upper Deschutes Pack does not have a collar. One of the Metolius Pack has a collar but is not currently sending a GPS signal. It has a radio frequency collar. One of the Metolius Pack's breeding males was poached in March; a breeding male wolf from another pack migrated to join the Metolius Pack after March. Upper Deschutes pack has a full litter of pups and the Paulina pack has a litter of pups as well.

Pappa suggests not expanding the outreach to the general public as Bott is tune with wolf activity in the area from his work and relationships with partner agencies.

Patterson suggested posting a grant deadline and application link on the Wolf Committee page and alerting previous grant recipients to check the Wolf Committee page for information about the grant program. The committee is in agreement of this process and setting a grant application deadline of December 31, 2025, for the 2026 grant cycle.

Chang asked Bott if there are livestock producers in the Sisters/Lower Bridge zone who haven't had contact with the committee. Bott said that he has not heard of any new producers affected by wolf activity and all wolf activity is funneled to him.

The committee discussed whether to redact information on grant applications for meeting packets. O'Brien suggests redacting standard information as a standard practice. Pappa suggests including a line that acknowledges privacy, when appropriate, for grant applications.

VII. Public Comments

No public comments.

VIII. Next Steps

Next two meetings will take place in November and January, Patterson will send around doodle polls for the next two meetings to determine specific meeting dates and times. Next meeting topics will include interviewing top candidates for the vacant Business Representative position, review and distribution of remaining 2025 grant funds, and review and potentially update depredation rate sheet.

IX. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services

Statement of Interest

Deschutes County Wolf Compensation & Financial Assistance Committee
Business Representative

Amy Knudsen

Dear Deschutes County,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a Business Representative on the Deschutes County Wolf Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee. My background combines a lifelong commitment to wildlife coexistence with professional experience in business engagement, workforce training and development, education and outreach, and collaborative problem-solving across Central Oregon.

In my current role as a Program Manager for the Center for Business at Central Oregon Community College (COCC), I work closely with a wide range of businesses and industry partners throughout the region to strengthen workforce training and development and support community and economic resilience. While I am not representing COCC in my application, my position has allowed me to work with local industry partners, business leaders, community members, and students of all ages who balance the realities of operating within shared landscapes that include native wildlife. I believe this experience equips me to bring a realistic, business-minded, and collaborative perspective to the committee's work.

Prior to my time in Central Oregon, I served as the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project (GCWRP), a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the Mexican gray wolf to its historic range in the Greater Grand Canyon region.

During my tenure, I led outreach initiatives, facilitated public education events, and built partnerships among conservation groups, local businesses, state and federal agencies, and rural communities. This work deepened my understanding of how ecological conservation, public perception, and rural livelihoods intersect—and how thoughtful engagement can turn conflict into collaboration.

I have always felt a strong connection to wolves and a deep respect for the working lands that support both people and wildlife. I see the committee's role as essential in ensuring fair, transparent compensation processes and fostering coexistence strategies that sustain local economies and ecological balance. I would be honored to contribute my experience, perspective, and dedication to collaboration to the work of this committee.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Amy Knudsen

Karan Swaner
Sisters OR 97759

Jen Patterson
Deschutes County
Sent as email attachment to
Jen.patterson@deschutes.org

RE: Wolf Depredation Committee Statement of Interest

Dear Ms Patterson,'

I am very interested in serving on the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee. I have raised sheep on a small (75 acre) ranch in the Cloverdale area since I retired to Sisters in 2012. Previous to that, I was a diplomat in the Foreign Service, but I served earlier in my career as a legislative assistant and policy analyst in US Congress. My UC Davis graduate degree is in Animal Science. Last year I turned our lamb business over to my son, who lives on 40 acres about a mile south of my property, but I have retained a small flock of fine wool sheep. I continue to help him, especially during lambing, which we do in my large barn. We have livestock guardian dogs at both properties and our only predator losses have been when we were slow to replace an LGD who had died of old age.

I personally support reintroduction of wolves in Oregon, with the guard rails that have been implemented by ODFW. Compensation for losses and assistance in making the management changes to keep livestock safe from predation are essential elements of a successful re-introduction strategy. It is critically important to both livestock producers and the public at large that such programs operate effectively. I believe that my experience as a livestock producer and in executing public policy would contribute to that.

Sincerely

Karan Swaner

Dear Jen,

My name is Karl J. Findling, I'm a Small Business owner, living in Tumalo.

I grew up in far eastern Oregon, am a native Oregonian, and lifelong outdoorsman.

Position Statement: As a life member, current Oregon Chapter board member, and former employee of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (BHA), I firmly believe in the available science-based wildlife management, provided by ODFW. Relying on the ODFW biologists, and other researcher's studies into best practices, our goal should be "Balance" when considering wolf depredation incidents.

As a Life member of the Oregon Hunters Association, former board member representing southeastern Oregon, and former Lands Conservation Director (2018--2019), I have worked with various biologists to find reasonable balance in the management of the highly mobile, cryptic nature, and low-density gray wolf. It is a balancing act, due to the ecological, economic, and societal importance in game management, and making critical decisions such as payments, when working with all stakeholders to help humans understand the apex predator's role in the ecosystem. **[See attachment]**

Sincerely,

Karl J. Findling



■ ..

June 4, 2025

WOLF DEPREDATION COMPENSATION AND FINANCE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE - DESCHUTES COUNTY

1300 NW WALL ST BEND OR 97702

RE: Supplemental Letter of Interest for Volunteer Position

This letter is to supplement my volunteer application for the two-year term of this advisory committee to the County Commissioners. I feel that I would be a good candidate for this position given my rich work and educational background in natural resources and biological sciences, local knowledge as a 15-year Deschutes County resident, and acumen for business needs and finance.

I lived in Idaho and Montana during the early stages of wolf reintroduction and witnessed the those States early management conflict resolutions. The wolf populations in Oregon will continue to grow unchecked and eventual near-term contact between livestock owners and wolves is inevitable. I have also worked with many private landowners on occasions and have contacts in the ranching and agricultural communities directly and through 6 years of my children's 4-H participation at Deschutes County fair. I am also an avid sportsman/outdoorsman having regular outdoor visits throughout Oregon and Idaho helping me understand the needs and landscapes of our region.

I am sympathetic to the depredation and harassment that private landowners must endure to meet the greater societal goals and benefits of having wolves on our landscape. These goals implemented by conservation groups and Federal/State managers to have wolves on the landscape have succeeded in bringing wolves back from near extermination, but the rural/semi-rural landowners are the ones typically impacted with the negative effects of livestock conflicts. Since wolves are here to stay and will increase in population, I believe it is only necessary to easily compensate those harmed in the process of having wolves on the landscape to meet

Ryan P. McHugh

community and statewide compensation goals. Compensation helps to not only reimburse those harmed financially but shows goodwill in creating partnerships with private entities that are less enthusiastic about living with wolves. I also think providing financial incentives and resources for non lethal deterrent options like guard dogs or range riders can deflect depredation problems.

These are extra costs to owners and supporting those efforts with financial assistance will help them actually occur. I have a longtime friend that has weekly field work visits for the Ochoco National Forest serving as the liaison between private landowners and USFS grazing permits. He has colleagues in our local County National Forestlands that would have familiarity with potential landowners/livestock owners views and needs.

I would be available and happy to advise our Board of Commissioners on the administration of Oregon Department of Agriculture available funds for Wolf Depredation funds.

Sincerely,

Ryan McHugh

Deschutes County Wolf Committee

2025 Grant Funds

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) awarded Deschutes County Category 3 (non-lethal preventative measures) grant funds in the amount of \$50,000. Deschutes County has until January 31, 2026, to spend the funds, any unspent funds after that date must be returned to ODA.

Funds allocated to date:

Allocated Funds: Organizations/Programs	Amount
Carcass Removal Program	\$198
Fox Lights (ODFW/US Fish & Wildlife)	\$930.66
Desert Creek Ranch	\$5,000
Hatfield Hyde Land Trust	\$10,000
McCormack Ranch	\$30,000

Total Spent to Date	\$46,128.66
Remaining Balance	\$3,871.34

Additional Preventative Measure Funds Request

1. Hatfield Hyde Land Trust:

I am writing to apply for the funds remaining in the Deschutes County wolf grant. I am inquiring on behalf of my parents, Becky and Taylor Hyde from the Hatfield Hyde Land Trust (HHLT) who have already received wolf grant money.

The grant money allocated to the HHLT has successfully deterred wolves from our livestock. We were allocated \$10,000 from Deschutes County. The HHLT has purchased an \$8,000 drill stem and paid for range riding services at standard day rates when the wolf came to the ranch this winter. The drill stem is heavy-duty metal piping that we used to create the livestock corral to keep the wolves out. These preventative measures successfully deterred the wolf.

Wolf activity on the ranch continues to be dispersed. The wolves have not packed up. We are applying for \$2,500 in funding for finishing the drill stem wolf corral near the town of Brothers.

Please see the attached photo for reference.

Thank you for your time,

Lizzie Hyde, Hatfield-Hyde Land Trust





Deschutes County Market Rate Sheet

Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Category	Price per Pound	Max Pounds	Replacement Cost
Calves	\$2.86	600	\$1,716
Yearlings	\$2.15	900	\$1,935
Butcher Animals	\$1.50	1200	\$1,800
Cows	\$1.15	1500	\$1,725
Bulls	\$1.16	2000	\$2,320
Heifers	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lambs	\$2.00	100	\$200
Ewes	\$1.10	160	\$176
Goats	N/A	N/A	\$100
Livestock Guardian Dogs, Small animals	N/A	N/A	TBD