



## Deschutes County

### Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #14: Tuesday, April 20, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

#### MEETING FORMAT

The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee will conduct this meeting in person with a Zoom option. Members of the public may listen, view, and/or participate in this meeting using Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting free of charge

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82291230476?pwd=EikSMJNAI8ljBYKC03R0oz5bOZJHM.1>

Meeting ID: 822 9123 0476

Passcode: 076551

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
<b>1. Introductions</b>	Welcome Committee Members <i>1 Minutes</i>
<b>2. Approval of January 16, 2026, Minutes</b> <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i>	Approve Minutes <i>2 Minutes</i>
<b>3. Update on committee positions</b> Commissioner Phil Chang	Information and discussion <i>5 Minutes</i>
<b>4. Grant Allocations</b> Deschutes County Wolf Committee was granted \$18,192.42 in grant funds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$817.62 for depredation compensation</li> <li>• \$17,374.80 for non-lethal preventative measures</li> </ul>	Information and discussion <i>75 Minutes</i>
<b>11. Public Comments</b> 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.
<b>12. Next steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next meeting: To be discussed</li> <li>▪ Potential agenda topics: To be discussed</li> </ul>	Placeholders for Meeting #15, agenda topics <i>5 Minutes</i>
<b>13. Wrap up and Adjourn</b>	



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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 [admin@co.deschutes.or.us](mailto:admin@co.deschutes.or.us).



## Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #13: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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 5:34 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner, committee member; Steve Pappa, committee member; Ethan O'Brien, committee member; Sally Compton, committee member; Karl Findling, committee member; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Aaron Bott, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Wolf Biologis; Emily Weidner, US Fish & Wildlife; David Andrews, USDA Wildlife Services, Wolf Conflict Specialist; Brian Thomas, USDA; and Scott Duggan, OSU, Livestock Extension Agent ; Kanoe Godby, grant applicant; Kylie Lanuza, Cascadia Wild, grant applicant; Present on Zoom: Johnny Leason, committee member; and Ryan Kingsbury, McCormack Ranch, grant applicant.

### II. Approval of November 17, 2025, Minutes

Ethan O'Brien moved to approve the minutes. Stephen Pappa seconded the motion. Minutes approved by four members. Karl Findling abstained from voting and Johnny Leason had not joined the meeting at this time.

### III. 2026 Grant Application Review

Staff provided procedural background on the timing of SB 777 implementation and Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) materials, noting that ODA posted its updated rules and application format the same day the county's deadline closed. Because multiplier guidance had not yet been posted publicly at that time, applicants were told they could supplement multiplier requests at the meeting. Staff added that they complete and submit the final ODA application forms on behalf of the county and that ODA would accept the prior application format for this cycle.

For the depredation compensation request, the committee confirmed the underlying event as an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) verified depredation. The applicant, Ryan Kingsbury on behalf of McCormack Ranch, explained that his original valuation for a newborn calf of \$500 was a best estimate drawn from limited market references; staff reiterated that the committee's previously adopted approach is to use Oregon livestock market values from the month of the loss and adjacent months, but acknowledged that a "newborn" category is not reflected in those tables. The committee then examined ODA's multiplier framework, which allows up to 5x fair market value for certain categories or up to 3x for others, and discussed county discretion in applying a specific factor. Following discussion about the calf's very young age, transitory wolf presence in the area, and the absence of subsequent conflicts, the committee voted to apply a 3x multiplier to the request.

Karl Findling made a motion to approve a depredation grant request in the amount of \$1,500, Stephen Pappa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (note: Johnny Leason had not joined the meeting at this time and therefore did not participate in this vote).

Turning to prevention proposals, the committee first considered McCormack Ranch LLC. The proposal bundled several measures: additional cellular cameras, a vehicle-mounted thermal unit to augment existing handheld thermal capability, fencing work, and a spotting scope to improve daytime identification across large pastures. The total prevention request was \$34,000. The applicant described current practices of night monitoring using thermal optics and a drone and explained how a vehicle-mounted thermal system would allow safer, more efficient scanning while covering extensive ground. The committee discussed camera placement to support early detection along a known dispersal corridor, with ODFW adding regional context that the ranch is situated in an area used by transient wolves rather than a resident pack. Agency staff indicated that while there is no single tool that guarantees avoidance of depredation or establishment, information from cameras and producer coordination can be useful; ODFW also noted its existing monitoring and communication with producers in the corridor. The committee referenced the prior cycle, in which the county allocated \$30,000 to McCormack Ranch from a larger request and required year-end reporting with receipts; staff described the normal follow-up schedule and ODA's new guidance on reporting timelines.

The committee next heard from Cascadia Wild. The applicant explained that the proposal adapts the organization's Wolverine Tracking Project model for Central Oregon by using volunteer tracking trips and trail cameras to detect wolf presence where transient animals are expected rather than established packs. The discussion clarified that most current cameras are on public lands, with any potential private-land placement to be coordinated through agency guidance and landowner permission. Committee members asked about the number of outings, with the applicant describing 5–8 volunteer tracking trips depending on conditions and staff availability and confirming that part of the budget would support staff time and mileage. Committee members and staff emphasized that Deschutes County funds must be spent within the county and asked how the project would prioritize local sites and volunteers; the applicant indicated the effort is new in Central Oregon, intends to add survey effort in Deschutes County with agency input, and that volunteers assisting locally have been Deschutes County residents. Agency staff described the public and management value of volunteer-generated monitoring data while also noting that ODA funds are agricultural dollars that should be applied with agricultural objectives in mind.

The final prevention request came from Kanoe Godby for a small horse-breeding and boarding operation in the Sisters area. The applicants reported elk presence and recent wolf detections on game cameras, described an ongoing fencing project supported by NRCS, and noted existing non-lethal measures such as Foxlights and fladry as well as two livestock guardian dogs. They requested support to add at least one additional guardian dog. Agency staff stated that horse depredations are uncommon in Oregon but acknowledged that facility design and husbandry context matter; the property was described as potentially defendable when paired with improved fencing and guardian dogs, and the site is within the Metolius Pack's range. Committee discussion addressed statewide optics for the funding request, including whether to structure partial support consistent with typical guardian-dog acquisition and initial care costs.

After deliberation, staff read back a combined prevention request for inclusion in the county's submission to ODA: \$34,000 for McCormack Ranch LLC; \$5,000 for Kanoe Godby; and \$6,000 for a county-administered pool to support non-lethal tools such as Foxlights and to continue the carcass-removal program. A motion to submit this \$45,000 prevention package was made by Karl Findling and seconded by Ethan O'Brien. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. Attendance Policy**

The committee considered establishing an attendance policy by charter amendment. Based on staff research into other county bodies, members discussed adopting a standard of three unexcused absences per term, with implementation beginning prospectively after an amendment is adopted. The committee directed staff to bring

back charter language for consideration, with adoption targeted at the April 2026 meeting. Related membership status updates were noted, including reappointment of Dr. Stephen Pappa for another two-year term and upcoming term expirations to be addressed in April.

**V. Public Comments**

No public comments.

**VI. Next Steps**

Staff will email out a Doodle Poll to determine the date of the next Wolf Committee meeting to be held in April 2026.

**VII. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

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

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