



## Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #X: December 06, 2023, 5:30 PM

Deschutes Services Building, DeArmond Room (1<sup>st</sup> Floor), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

### MEETING FORMAT

The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee will conduct this meeting virtually and be available for those that want to attend in person. Members of the public may listen, view, and/or participate in this meeting using Zoom. Using Zoom is free of charge.

Via Zoom: (link)

Meeting ID: (ID) Passcode: (passcode)

#### 1. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81980094501?pwd=THNndXozTmx0b0ZIOFRZTlJzOEhxUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8009 4501

Passcode: 377548

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Introductions/Notices**
3. **Review/Approve minutes from [previous date's] meeting**

#### 2. Approval of September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Action:** Approve Minutes

4. **General Topics**
  3. a. Nominate Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee
  - b. Preventative Measures Discussion
  - c. Establish Compensation Rates (see attachment)

#### 5. **Public Comments**

6. **Other Discussion Items and Follow Up**

4. Next Steps:

- a. Next meeting: date and meeting frequency
- b. Potential agenda topics

7. **Closing & Adjourn**



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## Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #2: Monday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 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 6:03 p.m. by Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor, Oregon Department of Agriculture. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Jen Patterson, County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; and Ethan O'Brien

### II. Approval on June 26, 2023, Minutes

Donna Harris moved to approve the minutes. Johnny Leason seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

### III. Presentation on Committee Grant Process

Sunny Summers presented an overview of committee policies and processes. In June of 2011 the House passed HB 3560 which authorized the establishment of ODFW's Wolf Plan by creating a cooperative program that reduces conflicts between wolves and livestock. Grants are available to compensate for livestock and/or working dogs killed, missing, or injured by wolves and to those who use methods to prevent wolves from attacking livestock. Counties that received grants in 2023 were predominantly located in the eastern and south-eastern counties of the state. In 2023 the State granted all grant requests up to \$100,000 per county including funding every depredation and injured requests and most preventative measure grant requests. The state is funding the program at \$1.2 million for the 23-25 biennium, Sunny will get back to the Committee on the question of: if the money can roll over or gets clawed back at the end of the biennium. Grant applications open around February of each year. Grant applications are due in the spring and reporting for funds spent is due at the end of the year. Compensation grant fund requests are retroactive and preventative grant fund requests are for future measures. Ongoing yearly preventative measures include measures such as Range Riding and digging carcass holes. Onetime expenses can include flaggery (every few years) and drones.

### IV. Establish Priority Funding Procedure and Compensation Rates

Committee members reviewed 2022 compensation rates from Klamath, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties. The committee discussed different concepts including basic rate per animal, variable rate based on market value, livestock yard rates, fair and consistent rates, market rate plus 10-15% fee to accommodate for fluctuating pricing, in January look at average pricing for 2023 and use that for determining rates, or using the rates that Umatilla developed. Central Oregon Livestock Auctions will have livestock pricing and could potentially be able to provide an average rate for 2023 around Deschutes County or the committee could choose the first day of each quarter for the going rate in each category and then determine the average to establish compensation rates. State prioritizes paying out depredation requests first and almost always pays full grant requests for depredation/injured livestock.

Categories of livestock to include in compensation rates are:

- a. Calves (0-600 pounds)
- b. Yearlings (600-900 pounds)
- c. Butcher animal (900-1200 pounds)
- d. Cows (1200+ pounds, use weight of calculation of 1500 pounds)
- e. Bulls
- f. Heifers
- g. Lambs
- h. Ewes

A rancher can request a higher rate of compensation if they feel their livestock is worth more than fair market value. They will need to provide detailed information justifying their higher claim.

#### **V. Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee**

There are two open seats on the Wolf Committee which are to be filled by Business Representatives nominated by the existing committee members and confirmed by the Board of County Commissioners.

The committee discussed nominating representatives from the following categories:

- Eco/Tourism
- Supply chain for livestock
  - Feedlot owners
  - Livestock producer
  - Feed and farm store supplier
- Herding dog breeder
- Large animal vet
- Real estate
- Resource Management Consultant
- Grant writers
- Author/researcher/writer

Individual committee members reached out to several different interested parties. Several people declined to be nominated. An owner/manager from Wanderlust Tour indicated they would be interested in serving on the committee. During the original committee application, a couple of researchers/writers of wolf biology submitted resumes, Jen will share writing samples with the committee members. A vet could bring knowledge and experience to the committee, Ethan and Donna will reach out to large animal vets to gauge interest. Johnny will reach out to one or two people who own a small farm to gauge interest. Jen will pull all interested parties' information together by the end of November and email it out to committee members to review and rank priority of potential committee members. Ideally the group will have recommendations and be able to go before the Board for approval before the next committee meetings.

#### **VI. Public Comments**

No public comments.

#### **VII. Next Steps**

Grant recommendations, Business Representative committee members, preventative measures discussion with other county committee members who have gone through the process and invite Ashanti Samuels.

#### **VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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

<b>Steers</b>	
<b>Weight</b>	<b>Price</b>
<u>350-399</u>	<u>\$379.00-\$386.00</u>
<u>400-449</u>	<u>\$379.00-\$408.00</u>
<u>450-499</u>	<u>\$344.00-\$380.00</u>
<u>500-549</u>	<u>\$261.50-\$359.50</u>
<u>550-599</u>	<u>\$267.00-\$343.00</u>
<u>600-649</u>	<u>\$250.00-\$320.00</u>
<u>650-699</u>	<u>\$244.50-\$305.00</u>
<u>700-749</u>	<u>\$239.00-\$300.00</u>
<u>750-799</u>	<u>\$244.50-\$268.00</u>
<u>800-849</u>	<u>\$238.00-\$266.00</u>
<u>850-899</u>	<u>\$234.50-\$264.00</u>
<u>900-949</u>	<u>\$248.00-\$258.00</u>

<b>Heifers</b>	
<b>Weight</b>	<b>Price</b>
<u>350-399</u>	<u>\$358.00-\$368.00</u>
<u>400-449</u>	<u>\$328.00-\$357.00</u>
<u>450-499</u>	<u>\$311.00-\$351.00</u>
<u>500-549</u>	<u>\$242.00-\$344.00</u>
<u>550-599</u>	<u>\$245.00-\$305.00</u>
<u>600-649</u>	<u>\$241.00-\$287.00</u>
<u>650-699</u>	<u>\$252.00-\$272.00</u>
<u>700-749</u>	<u>\$241.00-\$266.00</u>
<u>750-799</u>	<u>\$219.00-\$252.00</u>
<u>800-849</u>	<u>\$240.00-\$254.00</u>
<u>850-899</u>	<u>\$215.50-\$239.00</u>
<u>900-949</u>	<u>\$209.50</u>

## Wallowa County 2022 Compensation Rates

Item 3.

The following are the rates a group of ranchers set for the 2022 livestock losses from wolves.

Description	Lb/ head	Rate	Cost
Calf – still on the cow, heifer or steer	Will consider it to be a 600 pound steer	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$2.08/pound \$1250/animal
Steer calf weaned	Will consider it to be an 875 pounder.	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$1.53/pound
Heifer calf weaned	Will consider it to be an 800 pounder.	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$1.41/pound
Open Replacement weaned heifers	Use the 800 pound rate plus \$300/head	Use average Aug-Dec rate for weight	\$1428/hd
Bred 2 to 5 year old cow	Use bred heifer rate	Use average rate for Aug-Dec	\$1700/hd
Bred 6 to 8 year old cow	Use bred heifer rate minus \$150		\$1550/hd
Bred 9 year old cow and over	Use bred heifer rate minus \$250		\$1450/hd
Mule	Used amount owner thought it was worth	Base price off of age and what it is trained for (packing, riding etc.)	
Injured Calf		A set rate	\$450/hd
Injured Cow		A set rate	\$850/hd
Bull	20% reduction each year 2 year old		\$4000/hd
1-3 year old bred Ewe		A set rate	\$160/hd
3-5 year old bred Ewe		A set rate	\$100/hd
Lamb	Will consider it to a 150 pound lamb	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$1.17/pound
Injured Lambs, baby goats		A set rate	\$80/hd
Injured Ewe, Ram, Goat		Set rate	\$90/hd
Llama		Set rate	\$100/hd
Goat – meat goat		Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	231/hd
Goat - Nanny		Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	124/hd

## Umatilla County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes 1-23-2023

Jerry Baker called the meeting together at 6:13pm

Andrew Rosenberg, ODFW, provided a summary of wolf activity for the 2022 season.

The committee discussed standards to help guide the committee through awarding producer equally regardless of the available funding for the year. Standards set go as follows:

1. Value of Animals – The committee decided to assess the fair market value of livestock annually based on the national average between August and October. This year’s values are as follows:
  - a. Calves - \$1,071
  - b. Cows - \$1,652
  - c. Bulls - \$3,500
  - d. Heifers - \$1,714
  - e. Lambs - \$200
  - f. Ewes - \$225
  - g. Any producer who feels their livestock are worth more than fair market value need to provide detailed information justifying their claim.

Dan moved to accept these prices. Karl seconded. Passed unanimously

#### **Confirmed Depredations - \$7,045.42**

**Cunningham Sheep Company** - \$1,691.45 –They requested funding for 1 lambs and 8 ewes. These animal were confirmed through ODFW.

**Eric Smith** - \$5,353.98 – Smith ranches requested the loss 5 calves. These were also all confirmed by ODFW.

#### **Missing Livestock - \$21,367.26**

The committee evaluated each application to identify that the missing animals were in fact in an AKWA and that each producers is doing their due diligence to protect their stock. All of the producers who requested assistance with missing stock also submitted claims for the non-lethal techniques which allows the committee to evaluate their practices. Each producer is asked to

drone pilots and personnel on hand to assist. From July 28 through October 11, 2022 staff was onsite for 51 days and had 95 interactions with wolves.

Conversation surrounding European guard dogs, 3 dogs would be sufficient; are in Colorado now.

Increased staff combined with drones and dogs would be potentially efficient for efforts.

Elizabeth Willy: discussion regarding federal protection and active litigation. Status review on delisting and ongoing litigation. "less than lethal" projectiles being added to toolbox.

**5. Group Discussion**

Non-lethal discussion regarding drone usage. USDA/APHIS is only permitted to use certain brand of drones, cost is roughly \$10,000 each; need to have 2 drones each. Discussion regarding Clint and Colby obtaining drone certifications.

Non-lethal grant request would be for \$20,000 for two drones plus \$60,000 for personnel.

**6. Depredation Compensation and 2023 ODA Grant**

23 Confirmed Depredations for July-November 2022. Committee discussion regarding flat rate payment versus date of death and sale rate. Committee agrees that the flat rate makes more sense. Committee determines rates as follows roughly based on prices from Summer 2022: 0-500 pounds \$750; 501-1000 pounds = \$1,250; replacement heifer = none reported during 2022/will determine at a later date.

Dayle motions for a flat rate per head; Chris seconds. Motion passed.

Group discussion on 2023 ODA Grant Fund request totaling \$105,750 as follow:

Compensation	\$25,750.00
<u>Non-lethal/APHIS</u>	<u>\$80,000.00</u>
Total	\$105,750.00
<u>Klamath County Match</u>	<u>\$10,575.00</u>
Total 2023 Funding	\$116,325.00

**7. Other Topics**

Natalie to update committee on grant application status; funding received to Klamath County. Other Counties receive grant funding for non-lethal deterrents, continue to ramp up these efforts for prevention.

Conversation regarding use of ODA funding on wolf packs, not necessarily per County. The wolves do not stay within County lines and travel fast and far. Conversation regarding ODA paying directly to APHIS for non-lethal involvement. Further conversation regarding use of preventative measures for grant funding for Counties without depredations.

Paul Wolf shared video footage of drone activity and wolf deterrent. Very informative videos.

**8. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.