



Deschutes County Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #4: Monday, January 29, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room (2nd 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.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81980094501?pwd=THNndXozTmx0b0ZlOFRZTIJzOEhxUT09>

Meeting ID: 819 8009 4501

Passcode: 377548





| TOPIC | DESIRED OUTCOME |
|---|--|
| 1. Introductions Welcome two new committee members: Stephen Pappa and Gordon Jones | Welcome Committee Members <i>5 Minutes</i> |
| 2. Approval of December 6, 2023, Minutes <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i> | Approve Minutes <i>1 Minute</i> |
| 3. Depredation Grant Request <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ashanti Samuels, Owner, Pitchfork T-Ranch and Long Hollow Ranch | Information and discussion <i>20 Minutes</i> |
| 4. Preventative Measures Grant Requests <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair Chang introduction and overview of grant application process (<i>10 minutes</i>)Ashanti Samuels preventative measure requests (<i>20 minutes</i>)Donna Harris, discuss education outreach and workshop opportunities (<i>15 minutes</i>)Committee discussion on preventative measure grant requests (<i>40 minutes</i>) | Information and discussion <i>1 hour 25 Minutes</i> |

| TOPIC | DESIRED OUTCOME |
|---|--|
| 7. Public Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. | <p style="text-align: center;">Opportunity to hear from members of the public who are present.</p> |
| 8. Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Next meeting: Discuss next meeting date and frequency of meetings ▪ Potential agenda topics: Allocation of grant resources | <p style="text-align: center;">Placeholders for Meeting #5 agenda <i>5 Minutes</i></p> |
| 9. Wrap up and adjourn | |

Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee Board Order

On August 31, 2022 the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) approved the formation of a Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee. In May, 2023, the BOCC appointed 5 members to the committee. The BOCC appointed the committee to meet bi-annually, and on an as needed basis, and be tasked with recommending the following:

1. Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for compensation will provide sufficient evidence of actual livestock and/or working dog losses attributed to wolf depredation.
2. Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for financial assistance for the cost of livestock management or nonlethal deterrence provides an estimate of the potential cost.
3. Establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses from death, injury or missing all of which are attributed to wolf depredation.
4. Distributing grant program funds.
5. Preparing an annual report to ODA.

| | |
|--|--|
|   | <p>Deschutes County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This event/location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need accommodations to make participation possible, please call (541) 388-6584 or send email to erik.kropp@deschutes.org.</p> |
|   | <p>Condado de Deschutes alienta a las personas cualificadas con discapacidad a participar en sus programas y actividades. Esta evento/ubicación es accesible para personas con discapacidad. Si necesita hacer arreglos para hacer posible la participación, llame al (541) 388-6584 o envíe un correo electrónico a erik.kropp@deschutes.org.</p> |



Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #3: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 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 via Zoom: Heidi Martin, Baker County; and Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Nick Lelack, Deschutes County Administrator; Angie Powers, Deschutes County Administrative Assistant; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Gordon Jones; Stephen Pappa; and Samuel Frank

II. Approval on September 26, 2023, Minutes

Ethan O'Brian moved to approve the minutes. Donna Harris seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Nomination of Two Business Representatives

Dr. Stephen Pappa, Gordon Jones, and Samuel Frank were invited to attend the Wolf Committee meeting after they expressed interest in filing one of the open positions. 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. Commissioner Chang acknowledged that a week ago there were two candidates and now there are three. If someone is not selected, they are always welcome to join future meetings as all meetings are open to the public. Several committee members acknowledged that it is a bit awkward that there are now three candidates in person to fill only two positions. Each candidate will take a few minutes to discuss their interest.

Samuel Frank runs a small business and lives in Sisters. He has a depth of experience working with wolf re-population, landowners, and policy implementation across several states. He has been working on topics pertaining to wolves for the past 25 years.

Gordon Jones is in the eco-tourism industry as well as living in a Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) in Camp Sherman. He is well versed in re-wilding and the conflict between wolves and humans. The other two candidates are very good choices, and Gordon would be happy to serve on the committee but acknowledges the other two candidates have relevant knowledge that may be more directly related to the committee work.

Stephen Pappa has owned a business in the County for a very long time but would not be approaching the role from the business side more from the impact on the animals. He is long time large animal Veterinarian in

Deschutes County.

Commissioner Chang commented that Stephen Pappa and Gordon Jones experience expressly fall into the categories the committee originally determined the business representative should fall under.

Jen will check in with the state to see if the committee can add an additional position or an ex officio position to serve on the committee.

Jen will email the committee members asking for their preference of candidates and add in context to preferences if appropriate.

IV. Preventative Measures Discussion

Heidi Martin, Baker County Wolf Committee, joined the discussion to discuss preventative measures grant opportunities that Baker County has pursued. Baker County has taken advantage of two grant opportunities: one through Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the other from Western Landowners Alliance (WLA).

Baker County started applying for grants back in 2012 with ODA. Through the preventive measures grant Baker County have used the funds for fladry, Range Riders, receivers to pick up signal from wolves (which allows ranch hands to pace the wolves away), rental of back hoes to dig up carcasses, and box lights (deterrence). ODA requires that ranchers/livestock owners will need to implement preventative measures to be reimbursed for depredation. Range Riding is one of the most effective preventative measures Baker County has implemented. They have also partnered with a Sage Grouse Conservation group to pick up dead carcasses; the Wolf Committee purchased a dump trailer to pick up dead carcasses from ranch owners. It is a pilot program to work with landowners to pick up the carcasses and haul them to the dump. The dump recently received a grant to build a carcass disposal area. Baker County has found that over the years the preventative measures have not been fully funded by the state. Not every ranch submits claims, they see about 5 depredation claims a year and about 10 preventative measures grant requests a year. They have not set a flat rate for Range Riding, there are not a lot of people who can fill that role, and the County lets the landowner determine the rate for the requests.

What is the process for identifying missing livestock? Baker County asks that the producer show documentation or provide a statement that they have checked with their neighbors to try and locate missing livestock. The County also requests that the ranchers provide documentation demonstrating that they have checked in with the brand inspector and any other records to show there was an attempt to locate their livestock throughout the year. If it is a probable depredation, the County submits the claim under missing claim grant reimbursement (versus depredation).

WLA approached Baker County to participate in a grant program; last year Baker County received \$10,000 from WLA. Baker County put \$5,000 towards radios and \$5,000 to Range Riders. There was a non-federal grant match requirement; Baker County was able to tap into ODA grant funds for the match. This year Baker County has discussed partnering with three other counties in the area for a \$100,000 grant with a \$25,000 match. The hope is to buy a heat sensor drone to be able to spot the wolves moving in at night and haze them out. Heidi will share WLA contact information. Wildlife services would operate the drone and if a wolf was spotted, they could haze them out using voice control from the drone.

Is there a price range that Baker County uses to request grant funding for Range Riding? Heidi will send that information over to the committee, best guestimate would be around \$25-50 an hour. Baker County has also received flat day rate requests.

Are there certain preventative measures you would recommend over others? There is no possible way to have enough fladry when you turn out on summer pasture. Using fladry in those areas is just not possible. Using Range Riders in those areas is much more effective. During calving season if they are brought in close to home then the fladry could be a good deterrent method, however, over time the wolves become desensitized to it.

V. Establish Compensation Rates

Wolf Committee established the below numbers, in part, based off Central Oregon Livestock rates from December 4.

Committee established rates are:

| | <u>Price/Pound</u> | <u>Max Lbs.</u> | <u>Replacement Cost</u> |
|---|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 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 |
| Lambs | \$2.00 | 100 | \$200 |
| Ewes | \$1.10 | 160 | \$176 |
| Goats | | | \$100 |
| Livestock Guardian Dogs, Small animals | | | TBD |

Any producer who feels their livestock are worth more than fair market value will need to provide detailed information justifying their claim.

VI. Public Comments

No public comments.

VII. Next Steps

Grant applications.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program

GRANT APPLICATION PACKET 2024

Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532
503-986-4550

Introduction and Purpose

In June 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 3560 (HB 3560) directing the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. HB 3560 established the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund to provide grants to counties to assist in implementing their wolf depredation compensation programs. These programs can be used to:

- Reimburse persons for livestock or working dogs that are injured or killed due to confirmed or probable wolf depredation.
- Assist with the implementation of livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.
- Reimburse persons for livestock or working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation.
- Reimburse counties for allowable expenses associated with implementing the block grant program in their county.

ODA's wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program complements the ODFW Wolf Conservation and Management Plan in developing and maintaining a cooperative livestock producer assistance program that proactively minimizes wolf-livestock conflict and assists livestock producers experiencing wolf-related livestock losses.

*** Note:** At least 30% of ODA's total grant program award for each year must be distributed for livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.

Grant Schedule – 2024 Timelines

Application Schedule

February 1, 2023

Grant application process opens for counties.

March 1, 2023

Grant applications due to ODA.

March 22, 2023

Award notification and grant agreements to be mailed.

* Late submissions may be accepted at the discretion of ODA.

County Eligibility

Counties must meet specific requirements – OAR 603-019-0015. In short, they include:

- Establish a county advisory committee to oversee the county wolf program.
- Establish a procedure by which producers experiencing a high rate of depredation are given priority.
- Establish compensation rates for death/injury of livestock or working dogs.
- Establish compensation rates for missing livestock attributable to wolf depredation.
- Establish eligibility requirements for producers to access grant funds based on current statutes and rules.
- Assure that at least 30% of a county's total grant funds are used for nonlethal prevention.
- Contribute money equal to 10% of the allowable expenditures needed to implement the program.

Submission Process

Complete the attached grant application and attach required documentation (see page -5-) for consideration of funds. **The completed grant application must be received by ODA by Friday – March 1, 2023 – by 5:00 pm.**

Address applications to:

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program
635 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301
wdcfa@oda.oregon.gov

2024 County Block Grant Application

Applicant Agency Legal Name:

Mailing Address:

City:

ZIP:

Name of County Contact:

County Contact Title:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| | |
| Phone No: | FAX No: |
| County Contact Email: | |
| Grant Fund Request | |
| Category 1 – Grant funds requested for compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. | \$ |
| Category 2 – Grant funds requested for livestock and working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024. | \$ |
| Category 3 – Total requested grant funds to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs from March 22, 2024 through January 31, 2025. | \$ |
| Category 4 – Grant funds requested for the expenses allowed under OAR 603-049-0015(g) to implement the County Block Grant Program for 2024. (May only request 90% of actual expenses. The remaining expenses are to be included under Item 5 as a monetary contribution.) | \$ |
| Total grant funds requested | \$ |
| Category 5 – County contribution. The County must contribute money equal to 10% of the total expenditures incurred for implementing the grant program (OAR 603-049-0015(g)). | \$ |
| Authorized Official: | Title: |
| Signature of Authorized Official: | |
| Date: | |

Advisory Committee Membership

In the space below, list your Advisory Committee members' names, contact phone number, and email (if available).

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|--------|
| Co. Commissioner: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Livestock Owner: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Livestock Owner: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Coexist. Member: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Coexist. Member: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Business Rep: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Business Rep: | Ph#: | Email: |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

Certification

I certify that this application is a true and accurate representation of the proposed work that will be performed by this county in relationship with the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program and that I am authorized to sign as the Applicant. By the following signature, the Applicant certifies that they are aware of the requirements of the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program as stipulated OAR 603-019-0001 to 603-019-0040, are in full compliances with the requirements specified in OAR 603-019, and are prepared to distribute the grant funds to qualified participants as summarized in this document.

Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____

Print name: _____ Title: _____

Required Documentation

Attach documents and materials for each one of the categories included in the application.

Category 1 – Death or injury of livestock

If your county is applying for Category 1 funds for compensation of death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation, provide the following for each claim:

1. Producer name.
2. Location of death/injury incident (within or outside area of known wolf activity).
3. Copy of ODFW Wolf Depredation Investigation Summary Report.
4. Animal type.
5. Was the animal insured.
6. Number of animals included in the claim.
7. Determined value of the animal(s).
8. Was the producer using wolf deterrence methods before depredation?

Category 2– Missing livestock/working dogs

If your county is applying for Category 2 funds for missing livestock or working dog/s due to wolf depredation, provide the following for each claim:

1. Logistics information (map or other documentation) showing that the missing animals were within an area of known wolf activity.
2. What tools, documentation, or other information did the committee use to rule out or eliminate other possible causes of the missing animals?
3. What tools, documentation, or other information did the committee use to rule out circumstances that may have attracted wolves or encouraged conflict between wolves and the animals for each specific claim?
4. What tools, documentation, or other information did the committee use to determine that each producer filing a missing animal claim was implementing best management practices and reasonable non-lethal methods to deter wolves?

Category 3 – Prevention

If your county is applying for Category 3 funds to assist with implementing livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock/working dogs, provide a brief description of the preventative techniques you will be offering and the estimated costs.



CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

| Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form | |
|---|----------------|
| Name: | |
| Mailing Address: | |
| City: | ZIP: |
| Home Phone No: | Cell Phone No: |
| Email: | |

| Certification and Signature |
|---|
| <p>By signing below, I certify that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I am the claimant, or I represent the claimant listed on this document. 2. All information provided in the application is true and accurate to the best of my ability. 3. I understand the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. I am in full compliance with the program’s requirements specified in OAR 603-019. <p>Applicant signature: _____ Date: _____</p> |

Identify the non-lethal measures you are requesting funding for:

- Reducing attractants (removal of bone piles, carcass disposal)
- Barriers (fladry and fencing)
- Human presence (range riders, hazers, herders, individual response)
- Alarm or scare devices (alarm systems, lights, and sound devices)
- Livestock management/husbandry changes (changing pastures, night feeding, changes in calving season and herd structure, etc.)
- Experimental practices (bio-fencing, belling cattle, airman, etc.)
- Other

| Explain | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Total grant funds requested (\$) | Project start date | Project end date |

| |
|--|
| Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects) |
|--|

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?

- Yes (If yes, provide the information below)
- No

| Contact Name | Contact Number |
|--------------|----------------|
|--------------|----------------|

Compensation for Wolf-Caused Losses

ODA's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program provides four types of financial assistance options. It provides direct compensation for confirmed and probable wolf depredations during the previous grant period and payment for livestock reported as missing as a result of wolf depredation. Grant money is also awarded to participating counties to assist with costs to purchase supplies and implement preventative measures during the upcoming grant period, and lastly, covers some county program implementation costs.

The department's primary roles are to delineate areas of known wolf activity and investigate dead or injured livestock to determine if wolf depredation has occurred. Some counties request the department provide input on wolf activity and appropriate preventative non-lethal measures. ODA awarded

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife – 2021 Wolf Annual Report

\$130,814 to ten counties, down from \$251,529 awarded in 2020 (Table 2). The USFWS federal prevention grant awarded to ODA to augment the compensation program was competitively awarded by continuing to use the salaries of the three department wolf biologists as part of the requirement for in-kind state matching funds.

Table 2. Funds awarded through the County Block Grant Program in 2021 (source; Oregon Department of Agriculture).

| County | Death/Injury | Missing | Prevention | Admin | Total |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Baker | \$1,500 | 0 | \$13,500 | \$495 | \$15,495 |
| Douglas | 0 | 0 | \$8,000 | 0 | \$8,000 |
| Jackson | \$1,200 | 0 | \$12,000 | 0 | \$13,200 |
| Klamath | \$16,296 | 0 | \$10,000 | 0 | \$26,296 |
| Lake | 0 | 0 | \$1,000 | 0 | \$1,000 |
| Morrow | \$1,260 | 0 | \$13,000 | \$650 | \$14,910 |
| Umatilla | 0 | \$4,000 | \$17,000 | \$750 | \$21,750 |
| Union | \$1,413 | 0 | \$6,000 | 0 | \$7,413 |
| Wallowa | \$3,150 | \$900 | \$17,000 | \$700 | \$21,750 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | \$1,000 | 0 | \$1,000 |
| Award Amount | \$24,819 (19%) | \$4,900 (4%) | \$98,500 (75%) | \$2,595 (2%) | \$130,814 |

Compensation for Wolf-Caused Losses

ODA's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program provides four types of financial assistance options. It provides direct compensation for confirmed and probable wolf depredations (deaths and injuries) during the previous grant period and payment for livestock reported as missing as a result of wolf depredation. Grant money is also awarded to participating counties to assist with costs to purchase supplies and implement preventative measures during the upcoming grant period, and lastly, covers some county program implementation costs.

ODA awarded \$393,682 to twelve counties, a large increase from \$130,814 awarded in 2021 (Table 3). ODA fulfilled 100% of county requests for confirmed and probable depredation compensation and prevention assistance; missing livestock claims were fulfilled at 50% of the requested amounts.

The department's primary roles in ODA's compensation program are to delineate areas of known wolf activity and investigate dead or injured livestock to determine if wolf depredation has occurred. Some counties request the department provide input on wolf activity and appropriate preventative non-lethal measures. The USFWS federal prevention grant awarded to ODA to augment the compensation program was competitively awarded by continuing to use the salaries of the three department wolf biologists as part of the requirement for in-kind state matching funds.

Table 3. Funds awarded through the County Block Grant Program in 2022 (source; Oregon Department of Agriculture).

| County | Confirmed/Probable Death/Injury | Missing | Prevention | Admin | Total |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Baker | \$8,490 | \$13,235 | \$50,680 | \$495 | \$72,900 |
| Crook | 0 | 0 | \$12,000 | 0 | \$12,000 |
| Douglas | 0 | 0 | \$8,000 | 0 | \$8,000 |
| Grant | 0 | 0 | \$40,000 | \$2,000 | \$42,000 |
| Jackson | \$9,000 | 0 | \$47,153 | 0 | \$56,153 |
| Klamath | \$4,632 | 0 | \$8,700 | 0 | \$13,332 |
| Lake | 0 | 0 | \$1,500 | 0 | \$1,500 |
| Morrow | 0 | 0 | \$11,000 | 0 | \$11,000 |
| Umatilla | \$8,026 | \$17,027 | \$50,000 | \$750 | \$75,803 |
| Union | \$9,308 | \$11,307 | \$21,000 | 0 | \$41,615 |
| Wallowa | \$6,750 | \$15,300 | \$33,880 | \$700 | \$56,630 |
| Wheeler | 0 | 0 | \$2,750 | 0 | \$2,750 |
| Award Amount | \$46,206 (12%) | \$56,868 (14%) | \$286,663 (73%) | \$3,945 (1%) | \$393,682 |