



Deschutes County
Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #13: Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 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 Enter Passcode: 964305

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Introductions Welcome new committee member, Karl Findling	Welcome Committee Members <i>5 Minutes</i>
2. Approval of November 17, 2025, Minutes <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i>	Approve Minutes <i>2 Minutes</i>
3. 2026 Grant Application Review <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kanoe Godby• McCormack Ranch LLC• Cascadia Wild	Information and discussion <i>90 Minutes</i>
4. Attendance Consideration of establishing an attendance policy	Information and discussion <i>5 Minutes</i>
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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Next meeting: April 2026▪ Potential agenda topics: Grant Allocations	Meeting #14, agenda topics <i>3 Minutes</i>
8. Wrap up and adjourn	



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Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #12: Monday, November 17, 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 5:30 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner, committee member; Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Steve Pappa, committee member; Ethan O'Brien, committee member; Johnny Leason, committee member; Sally Compton, committee member; Aaron Bott, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Wolf Biologist; Emily Weidner, US Fish & Wildlife; David Andrews, USDA Wildlife Services, Wolf Conflict Specialist; Zach Kendall, ODFW Assistant District Wildlife Biologist; and Scott Duggan, OSU-Cascades, Livestock Extension Agen.

Chang opened the meeting, described the purpose of the session in the context of preparing for the next state grant application cycle for depredation compensation and prevention funding, and previewed the agenda items: business representative candidates, the 2025 grant funds balance, and a review of the market rate sheet.

II. Approval of September 15, 2025, Minutes

Johnny Leason moved to approve the minutes. Ethan O'Brien seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Business Representative Candidates

The committee conducted a meet-and-greet with the four candidates for the open business representative seat, scheduled in first-name alphabetical order. Staff explained that official committee members would submit post-meeting rankings one through four by email, and that the lowest aggregate score would be recommended to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment.

Amy Knudson introduced herself as a program manager with Central Oregon Community College's Center for Business, participating in a personal capacity. She described a background in science education and prior involvement with the Grand Canyon Wolf Recovery Project. She outlined current work building workforce trainings and frequent engagement with regional businesses and agencies, along with volunteer outreach with Think Wild. She discussed coalition-based efforts she has seen in Arizona, recurring conflict dynamics around depredation and poaching, and the use of trained volunteers to help deter wolves where producers are interested. She emphasized informed decision-making and consistent communication among stakeholders.

Karan Swaner stated that she is a retired U.S. State Department employee who moved to Central Oregon to develop a sheep operation. She explained that her son has taken over the business. As part of their operations

they use livestock guardian dogs and brings animals in at night on a 70-acre property. She described regular interactions with a broad cross-section of residents through riding, an interest in improving local integration of wolves on the landscape, and the importance of public understanding. She referenced observations from the Sierra Valley in California and noted potential effects on local prey species such as elk and deer.

Karl Findling introduced himself as a 37-year Deschutes County resident with family ties to the sheep industry, and a background as a hunter, outdoorsman, and small business owner. He summarized conservation and public-lands involvement with organizations including Oregon Hunters Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, and Friends of Hart Mountain, and recounted observing an early Oregon wolf breeding pair in Hells Canyon. He stated a preference for non-lethal management first and described his intent to work in a middle-ground role between producers and wolf advocates. He referenced management approaches used in other western states and in Europe and discussed the challenges producers face during losses while seeking coexistence.

Ryan McHugh introduced himself as a wealth management professional and longtime Central Oregon resident with prior experience in biology, wildfire, and forestry, board service with local organizations, and personal ties to ranching and 4-H. He described himself as a hunter and discussed perspectives shaped by time in Idaho and Montana, noting differences in state management approaches. He stated that wolves are a keystone species and also a predator and discussed balancing outcomes so that large landowners who bear most costs of wolf presence are made whole. He suggested that compensation should give producers clear assurance of coverage and consider secondary impacts beyond the direct value of lost livestock, and he described community connections that he views as relevant to the committee's work.

IV. Grant Funds Balance

Staff reported a remaining balance of \$3,871.34 in 2025 funds that must be spent by January 31, 2026. The carcass removal program has seen increasing monthly invoices and cannot be held in reserve against the current balance. Consistent with prior committee direction, staff contacted producers who previously received grants to request brief updates and any additional funding needs not to exceed \$2,500. One request was received from Lizzie Hyde on behalf of her parents for the Hatfield Hyde Land Trust, seeking \$2,500 in additional prevention funds for drill stem and range-riding services. The drill stem, described as heavy-duty metal pipe, is being used to build a small enclosure for young and wounded animals; a diagram was provided with the request. The applicants were invited but did not attend.

The committee also reviewed timing for the 2026 ODA grant cycle, noting that applications are due December 31 and will be reviewed at the January 13 meeting; the County website was updated accordingly, and no applications had been received as of this meeting.

During discussion, members asked whether the approximate \$1,300 that would remain after a \$2,500 award, could be reallocated. Staff explained that the committee has broad discretion to allocate remaining prevention dollars if they are spent before the deadline, citing last year's end-of-cycle purchase of additional Foxlights for the shared deterrent "library." Staff also stated the committee could allocate more to the Hatfield Hyde Land Trust than the amount requested, or return unspent funds to the state.

A motion was made and seconded to allocate \$3,000 to the Hatfield Hyde Land Trust, to reserve the remaining \$871.34 for the carcass removal program, and to purchase batteries for Fox Lights in mid-January with any remaining unspent grant funds. The motion passed unanimously. In discussion of the motion, members asked whether \$871.34 would be sufficient given rising landfill costs. County staff explained that, if a minor shortfall occurred due to billing timing, costs could be addressed in the subsequent 2026 cycle within County fiscal-year constraints; members commented that leaving roughly \$800 for the final months appeared reasonable.

During this discussion, staff summarized statewide funding context and statutory requirements discussed on a recent inter-county call: of \$1.2 million budgeted for the biennium, \$600,000 is slated for the 2026 ODA grant round, with at least 50 percent required for preventative measures pursuant to SB 77, potentially limiting the pool available for depredation reimbursement. Staff also noted a potential—but not yet confirmed—federal contribution of \$100,000.

V. Review Market Rate Sheet

The committee discussed current requirements for setting market value rates used in depredation claims. Staff relayed that statute requires establishing a market value rate before reimbursement but does not require an annually adopted rate sheet, meaning rates could be set case-by-case. Chang proposed seeking input from the prior subcommittee that developed last year's rates on what, if anything, should be updated this year. Members and agency partners discussed the practicality of a simplified approach used in other counties, including averaging Central Oregon Livestock Auction rates for the week of a depredation and the weeks immediately before and after, with weight-class considerations.

The committee further discussed use of multipliers above market value in specific circumstances. Staff and members agreed the standard remains market rate; applicants who believe a multiplier is warranted should describe the circumstances and intended use supporting that request. Staff stated they would incorporate language into application materials indicating that the committee will evaluate rates based on the Central Oregon Livestock Auction averages during the month of the depredation and the month prior and after, and will add guidance on how to present multiplier requests. Staff also noted the importance of caution to avoid creating an expectation of automatic multipliers.

VI. Public Comments

No public comments.

VII. Next Steps

The chair and staff briefly addressed committee attendance and quorum. County Administration offered to bring options—consistent with practices on other county committees—for handling absences and participation to the next meeting for committee consideration; the chair reserved a brief time on the January agenda for that discussion.

Staff will circulate an email to committee members to capture post-meeting rankings of the four business representative candidates; the resulting recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners for appointment. Staff will update the Wolf Committee website and application materials to reflect the December 31 application deadline, the January 13 review date, the current rate-evaluation approach based on Central Oregon Livestock Auction averages for the relevant period, and guidance for any multiplier requests. County Administration will prepare attendance-policy options for discussion at the next meeting. The committee will reconvene on Monday, January 13 at 5:30 p.m. to review any applications received.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

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



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Wolf Depredation Compensation Program
635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
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CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form	
Name: Kanoe Godby	
Mailing Address: [REDACTED]	
City: SISTERS	ZIP: 97759
Home Phone No:	Cell Phone No: 5419774599
Email: [REDACTED]	

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: <u>Kanoe Godby</u> Date: <u>11/24/2025</u></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 Purchase and import of livestock guardian dogs.		
Total grant funds requested (\$) \$10,000	Project start date 01/01/2026	Project end date 07/01/2026

Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects) Identify, purchase, and import guardian dogs.

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Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?

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

Contact Name	Contact Number

To: Wolf Depredation Compensation Program

I have submitted the application for grant funds for livestock guardian dogs and would like to give you some additional information. We are a small horse breeding farm in Sisters, we also board a few retired horses.

In March of 2025, we found wolf tracks at our barn. They were verified by Brian Cyrus, USDA – Wildlife Services – Deschutes County Wildlife Specialist. The next day we found tracks again by a gate that leads in to the horse paddocks. In the next days, we captured a wolf on our game camera that is further out on our property, also verified by Brian Cyrus.


We applied and were approved for a grant from the NRCS to put in wolf proof fencing. We have been working with David Andrews, USDA Wildlife Specialist, to install non-lethal deterrents. We currently have fladry and fox lights.

We are in the territory of the Metolius pack, per Aaron Bott, wolf biologist. We are also right in the middle of a large elk herd that moves off Green Ridge. We regularly have 100 of them in the season. We have been told that if we have elk, we will have wolves.

We would like to add another guardian dog or two to our program. Having wolves on the property definitely has an influence on our business. People will not want to board their beloved, retired horses here if they are worried about their safety from predators, and I must be able to keep mares and foals safe. We've selected Armenian Gampr dogs. Their qualities suit our situation perfectly. They are very friendly with our clients yet are very serious about guarding their charges.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kanoe Godby





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CATEGORY 1 – DIRECT LOSS CLAIM APPLICATION

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form	
Name: McCormack Ranch, LLC	
Mailing Address: [REDACTED]	
City: Prineville	ZIP: 97754
Home Phone No: [REDACTED]	Cell Phone No: [REDACTED]
Email: mccormackranch@gmail.com	

Certification and Signature	
By signing below, I certify that: 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.	
Applicant signature: 	Date: 11/30/25

Complete information below for ODFW confirmed losses.						
Date	Quantity	Species	Age	Ave. Weight	Killed/Injured	Est. Fair Market Value
3/17/25	1	beef, calf	4days	100	killed	\$500
Total amount of direct loss compensation being requested:						\$ 500

Are any of the above losses covered by insurance?

- ☐ Yes (If yes, provide the insurance information below.)
☒ No

Insurance Company	Policy No.	Anticipated Settlement

ODFW Investigation Reports**Date reported to ODFW**

3/17/2025

Name of ODFW investigator

Zack from bend

Brief description of loss

Rancher was feeding cattle in AM, noticed ravens concentrated in an area. Located a dead calf and wolf tracks at site. Called ODFW in come investigate. Depredation confirmed by ODFW. Calf carcass removed from area.

Describe method used to determine value (provide documentation if applicable)

no 100# calves were at the Central Oregon Livestock Auction yard for several weeks before and after depredation. Value was determined from Facebook Market Place advertisements.

Is there a current ODFW Wolf-Conflict Deterrence Plan in effect at the location of your loss?

- ☒ Yes
☐ No
☐ Unknown

Check each of the non-lethal wolf deterrent techniques that were being implemented during the date of this depredation incident and give a brief description of activities and frequencies:

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

Brief description of non-lethal wolf deterrence

Fox lights, battery AM/FM radio's and game cameras put up. Day and night surveillance for a few days after depredation. Cows moved to a new pasture a few days later.

Depredation Property Description

County Deschutes		Total grazing acreage 1900 acres
Township 20 S	Range 18 E	Section 5

Is the location designated as an Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) by ODFW?

- ☒ Yes (If yes, attach a current AKWA map showing the location of wolf depredation.)
☐ No

Is the claimant the owner of the property where livestock loss occurred?

- ☐ Yes
☒ No (If leased, rented, or publicly owned, provide the information below.)

Property owner/manager name Golden Sage, LLC	Property owner/manager phone no. [REDACTED]
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CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form

Name: McCormack Ranch LLC

Mailing Address:

City: Prineville

ZIP: 97754

Home Phone No:

Cell Phone No:

Email:

Certification and Signature

By signing below, I certify that:

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 603019.

Applicant signature:

Ryan Kuznetsov

Date:

12-9-26

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, bellling cattle, airman, etc.)
- ☐ Other

Explain

- | | |
|-------------------|----------|
| 1) Cameras | \$5,000 |
| 2) Fencing | \$20,000 |
| 3) Thermal | \$6,000 |
| 4) Spotting Scope | \$3,000 |

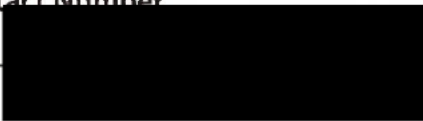
Total grant funds requested (\$) \$34,000	Project state date Jan 2026	Project end date Dec 2026
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Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects)

- 1) Remote cell cameras to spread out on Ranch where makes sense. Will aid in Real Time detection and whereabouts of wolves in real time. Will help if extra measures need to be taken such as human presence or heard relocation. This will be for cell cameras as well as solar for the cameras.
- 2) Fencing Materials. We would construct an enclosure where wolves cannot get into cattle. This would be used if problematic wolves are not willing to leave an area and we need to gather the cattle. Fence will be constructed out of Pipe Braces and woven wire fence.
- 3) Thermal camera that can be mounted on vehicle. This would be hugely beneficial as I need to cover a lot of ground while checking cattle at night. Primary concerns are during weaning and calving times of year. Last year I purchased a handheld unit and it has proven extremely advantageous in monitoring the cattle. At the same time its capability is limited while driving along the fields and through the pastures. A vehicle mounted camera would greatly enhance my capabilities in covering more area quickly.
- 4) Spotting scope. We have vast open areas of ground and there is a lot of it that my binoculars are not adequate in determining what something is at the distance needed. A high-quality spotting scope would save fuel and time in checking on cattle and seeing what all is running around amongst them

Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?

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

Contact Name Aaron Bott	Contact Number 
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CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form

Name: Kylie Lanuza on behalf of Cascadia Wild

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City: Bend

ZIP: 97702

Home Phone No: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone No:

Email: Kylie@cascadiawild.org

Certification and Signature

By signing below, I certify that:

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.

Applicant signature: Date:

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:

This project focuses on early detection and information sharing to enable livestock producers and agencies to respond proactively to wolf presence before conflicts escalate. It uses community science methods, including camera monitoring and tracking surveys, to collect reliable, non-invasive data on wolf activity and movement.

Grant funds will be used to:

- Support staff time to coordinate with ODFW, and USFWS; identify emerging wolf activity areas; and share timely information on wolf presence in areas with transient or newly established wolves
- Train and coordinate volunteers
- Support the cost of mileage and gas to travel to and from survey and tracking sites
- Purchase, maintain, and deploy monitoring equipment (trail cameras, tracking supplies, and field gear)

Total grant funds requested (\$) 8,000**Project start date Jan 1 2026****Project end date December 31 2026****Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects)**

Cascadia Wild's Wolverine Tracking Project is a long-running community science program founded in 2002 in the Mt. Hood National Forest to monitor and track rare carnivores to inform statewide management. The Project expanded into central and eastern Oregon beginning Summer 2025 for the purpose of collecting data on local wolf populations to help guide ODFW and USFWS personnel in predicting movement and potential landholder conflicts. The project supports wolf monitoring and conflict prevention through non-invasive field methods and close coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

As wolf distribution continues to expand in central Oregon, early detection of wolf activity is critical for reducing wolf–livestock conflicts. The project maintains motion-detecting camera stations strategically placed using GIS analysis of ideal habitat between known areas of wolf activity, informed by the regional wolf biologist, and engages trained volunteers operating under confidentiality agreements to conduct tracking surveys in priority areas. Funds will specifically support approx. 5-8 tracking and trail camera surveys (typically 1-2x a month) with 30 trained volunteers throughout 2026.

This project aims to:

- Provide ODFW and livestock producers with timely, location-specific information about wolf activity, particularly in areas with transient wolves where data is limited, so producers can implement deterrents before depredation occurs
- Educate and engage the public on wolf management
- Use non-capture monitoring methods to identify wolf presence and predict areas of potential conflict
- Provide data on wolf–ungulate interactions and interactions with other carnivores

All of these goals are consistent with objectives outlined in the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?

☒ Yes (If yes, provide the information below)

☐ No

Contact Name Aaron Bott**Contact Number** charles.a.bott@odfw.oregon.gov

