



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: January 28, 2026

SUBJECT: Request to Apply for 2026 Grant Funds for the Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

Move to apply for the grant funds.

BACKGROUND:

The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners established a Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee in May of 2023. The committee has been meeting regularly since June 2023. As part of the committee's work the committee has an established process to apply for depredation compensation grant funding, including the recently enacted multiplier, and non-lethal preventative measures grant funding. The committee works closely with State and Federal agency partners and regularly receives updates and information from wolf biologists and other experts in the field on wolf activity in and near Deschutes County. Additionally, the committee has frequently engaged with ranchers and producers who have known wolf activity on or near their lands.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture opens a grant opportunity once a year. Counties who have established Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committees are eligible to apply for grant funding. There are three categories of grant funds:

Depredation Funds - Funds requested to compensate for livestock or working dog deaths or injuries caused by wolves between February 1 of the previous year and January 31 of the current year (e.g., February 1, 2024–January 31, 2025).

Prevention Funds - Funds requested for livestock management or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to be used during the current grant year to reduce wolf depredation of livestock or working dogs by the county or individual producers.

Necessary Expenses - The county may request funds to cover up to 90% of the necessary expenses to operate the grant program. By requesting these funds, the county agrees to contribute the remaining 10%. Examples of necessary expenses are described in OAR 603-019-0010(2).

GRANT FUNDS REQUEST:

Depredation Funds:

In March 2025 there was a confirmed depredation of a livestock caused by a wolf in Deschutes County. A depredation grant application has been submitted to the committee and the committee recommends submitting the funding request on behalf of the affected ranch.

Preventative Funds:

The committee is also recommending applying for grant funds on behalf of two producers who are seeking non-lethal preventative measures grant funding. Both applicants have confirmed wolf activity on their property and own and/or manage livestock in the area of the wolf activity.

Additionally, the committee is recommending applying for funds to support county-wide preventative measure tools which will include continued funding of an established carcass removal program and purchasing and maintaining deterrent devices like Foxlights. Agency partners, including, ODFW, USDA - Wildlife Services, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife, are able to implement these preventative measure tools working with local producers and ranchers who have experienced, or reside in areas, with known wolf activity.

Requestor	Amount Requested
McCormack Ranch (Depredation Funds)	\$1,500
McCormack Ranch (Preventative Measures Funds)	\$34,000
Kanoe Godby (Preventative Measures Funds)	\$5,000
Deschutes County Wolf Committee	\$6,000
TOTAL	\$46,500

Budget Impact:

If awarded, this grant would result in increased revenues of \$46,500 for FY 26, which would be passed through to grant recipients. Grant funds are expected to be expended in the 2026 calendar year.

ATTENDANCE:

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager