



AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 31, 2022

SUBJECT: Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Program

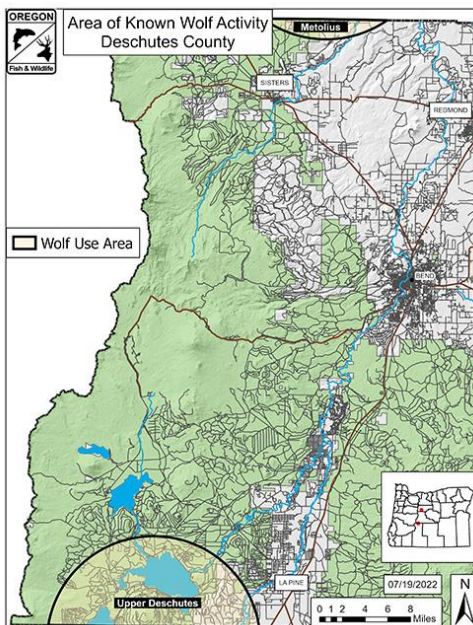
BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

In December, the Board Discussed the State's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance program.

Since that time, the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's wolf program has designated a new Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) in the Upper Deschutes wildlife management unit in Klamath and Deschutes Counties. AKWAs are created where and when wolves have become established in an area.

ODFW had been monitoring reports of a single wolf in the area since August 2021 and one wolf was counted during the winter count. On July 4, 2022 a trail camera captured an adult wolf with five pups. Depending on how many wolves are in the group of wolves at the end of 2022, it may be designated the Upper Deschutes Pack. A pack is defined as at least four wolves traveling together and typically includes at least two adult wolves and offspring.

Below is a map that shows the AKWA within the county (the half circle at the bottom left of the image).



Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance program

In 2011, the State Legislature created the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance program, which is administered by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

Through this program, ODA provides pass-through grants to counties to establish and implement county wolf depredation compensation programs. Through the program:

- Compensation can be paid to residents who have livestock or working dogs that are killed or injured due to wolf depredation.
- Financial assistance can be provided to residents to assist them in implementing livestock management and/or nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.
- Compensation can be paid to residents for livestock or working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation.
- Compensation can be paid to counties to cover allowable expenses incurred while implementing a wolf depredation compensation program in their county.

ODA's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program complements and supports Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan by working to proactively minimize wolf-livestock conflict and assist livestock producers experiencing wolf-related livestock losses.

Committee Requirements

The State requires that a committee be established before a grant application is submitted. The State requires that County advisory committees include:

- (i) One county commissioner;
- (ii) Two members who own or manage livestock; and
- (iii) Two members who support wolf conservation or coexistence with wolves.
- (iv) Two county business representatives

Additional Requirements

The state requires that participating counties contribute an amount of money equal to 10% of the allowable expenditures necessary to implement the county program during the calendar year. Allowable expenditures are:

- (a) Establishing a county advisory committee.
- (b) 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.
- (c) 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.
- (d) Establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses from death, injury or missing all of which are attributed to wolf depredation.
- (e) Distributing grant program funds.
- (f) Preparation of an annual report to ODA.

Options for Board Consideration

Staff seeks Board direction on the potential creation of a Wolf Depredation Compensation Committee. Options for Board consideration include:

1. Begin work to establish a committee so the framework is in place if a need arises.
2. Consider creating a committee at a later date.
3. Do not create a committee

BUDGET IMPACTS:

Grant funds were not included in the FY 2022 budget.

ATTENDANCE:

*Whitney Hale, Deputy County Administrator
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager*