



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 19, 2025

SUBJECT: Application for 2025 Grant Funds for the Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

Move to authorize staff to apply for grant funds from the Oregon Department of Agriculture for distribution and use by the Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee.

BACKGROUND:

The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners established a Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee in May of 2023. The committee has met regularly since June 2023. As part of its work, the committee has established depredation compensation rates as well as regularly receiving updates and information from wolf biologists and other experts in the field. The committee has also frequently engaged with ranchers and producers who have known wolf activity on 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. The three categories of grant funds are:

Category 1 - Grant funds requested for compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Category 2 - Grant funds requested for livestock and working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2024, through January 31, 2025.

Category 3 - Grant funds to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs from March 31, 2025, through January 31, 2026.

From February 1, 2024 – January 31, 2025 Deschutes County did not have a confirmed wolf depredation of livestock or working dog(s) and the county committee did not receive any applications for Category 1 (depredations) or Category 2 (missing).

The committee received three applications for Category 3 (non-lethal preventative measures) grant funding from producers in Deschutes County. Additionally, the committee is recommending applying for funds to support county-wide preventative measure tools such as carcass removals and equipment like Fox Lights. Agency partners such as Wildlife Services and ODFW are able to implement these tools when resources are available.

The Deschutes County Wolf Committee recommends applying for the following Category 3 grant award:

	Requestor	Amount Requested
	Deschutes County Wolf Committee	\$30,000
	McCormack Ranch	\$81,000
	Hatfield Hyde Land Trust	\$16,800
	Desert Creek Land, Cattle, & Timber Co.	\$5,000
TOTAL		\$132,800

Budget Impact:

If awarded, this grant would result in increased revenues of \$132,800 for FY 25, which would be passed through to grant recipients. Grant funds are expected to be expended in the 2025 calendar year.

ATTENDANCE:

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager