



## Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #2: Monday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 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 6:03 p.m. by Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor, Oregon Department of Agriculture. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Jen Patterson, County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; and Ethan O'Brien

### II. Approval on June 26, 2023, Minutes

Donna Harris moved to approve the minutes. Johnny Leason seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

### III. Presentation on Committee Grant Process

Sunny Summers presented an overview of committee policies and processes. In June of 2011 the House passed HB 3560 which authorized the establishment of ODFW's Wolf Plan by creating a cooperative program that reduces conflicts between wolves and livestock. Grants are available to compensate for livestock and/or working dogs killed, missing, or injured by wolves and to those who use methods to prevent wolves from attacking livestock. Counties that received grants in 2023 were predominantly located in the eastern and south-eastern counties of the state. In 2023 the State granted all grant requests up to \$100,000 per county including funding every depredation and injured requests and most preventative measure grant requests. The state is funding the program at \$1.2 million for the 23-25 biennium, Sunny will get back to the Committee on the question of: if the money can roll over or gets clawed back at the end of the biennium. Grant applications open around February of each year. Grant applications are due in the spring and reporting for funds spent is due at the end of the year. Compensation grant fund requests are retroactive and preventative grant fund requests are for future measures. Ongoing yearly preventative measures include measures such as Range Riding and digging carcass holes. Onetime expenses can include flaggery (every few years) and drones.

### IV. Establish Priority Funding Procedure and Compensation Rates

Committee members reviewed 2022 compensation rates from Klamath, Umatilla, and Wallowa Counties. The committee discussed different concepts including basic rate per animal, variable rate based on market value, livestock yard rates, fair and consistent rates, market rate plus 10-15% fee to accommodate for fluctuating pricing, in January look at average pricing for 2023 and use that for determining rates, or using the rates that Umatilla developed. Central Oregon Livestock Auctions will have livestock pricing and could potentially be able to provide an average rate for 2023 around Deschutes County or the committee could choose the first day of each quarter for the going rate in each category and then determine the average to establish compensation rates. State prioritizes paying out depredation requests first and almost always pays full grant requests for depredation/injured livestock.

Categories of livestock to include in compensation rates are:

- a. Calves (0-600 pounds)
- b. Yearlings (600-900 pounds)
- c. Butcher animal (900-1200 pounds)
- d. Cows (1200+ pounds, use weight of calculation of 1500 pounds)
- e. Bulls
- f. Heifers
- g. Lambs
- h. Ewes

A rancher can request a higher rate of compensation if they feel their livestock is worth more than fair market value. They will need to provide detailed information justifying their higher claim.

#### **V. Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee**

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.

The committee discussed nominating representatives from the following categories:

- Eco/Tourism
- Supply chain for livestock
  - Feedlot owners
  - Livestock producer
  - Feed and farm store supplier
- Herding dog breeder
- Large animal vet
- Real estate
- Resource Management Consultant
- Grant writers
- Author/researcher/writer

Individual committee members reached out to several different interested parties. Several people declined to be nominated. An owner/manager from Wanderlust Tour indicated they would be interested in serving on the committee. During the original committee application, a couple of researchers/writers of wolf biology submitted resumes, Jen will share writing samples with the committee members. A vet could bring knowledge and experience to the committee, Ethan and Donna will reach out to large animal vets to gauge interest. Johnny will reach out to one or two people who own a small farm to gauge interest. Jen will pull all interested parties' information together by the end of November and email it out to committee members to review and rank priority of potential committee members. Ideally the group will have recommendations and be able to go before the Board for approval before the next committee meetings.

#### **VI. Public Comments**

No public comments.

#### **VII. Next Steps**

Grant recommendations, Business Representative committee members, preventative measures discussion with other county committee members who have gone through the process and invite Ashanti Samuels.

#### **VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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