



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Request to Accept Grant Funds for Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:

Move to accept the grant funds awarded.

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., January 1, 2024 - December 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).

In February 2026, after BOCC approval, the County submitted grant fund requests for the following:

	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

Oregon Department of Agriculture recently notified the County that it has been awarded the following grant funds for 2026:

	Award Type	Amount Awarded
	Depredation	\$817.62
	Prevention	\$17,374.80
TOTAL		\$18,192.42

Budget Impact:

If awarded, this grant would result in increased revenues of \$18,192.42 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