



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** February 28, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Application for Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Grant Funds

**RECOMMENDED MOTIONS:**

Move to authorize staff to submit an application for Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Grant Funds.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners established a Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Committee in May of 2023. The first committee meeting took place on June 26, 2023. The committee has been meeting regularly since June and has established depredation compensation rates per the requirements of the statewide program as well as received expert advice on preventative measures that have been successfully implemented in other counties in the state.

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 the committee is recommending the County apply for:

**Category 1** – Grant funds requested for compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

**Category 2** – Grant funds requested for livestock and working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.

**Category 3** – Total requested grant funds to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs from March 22, 2024 through January 31, 2025.

A requirement of the grant program includes a county contribution equal to 10% of the total expenditures incurred for implementing the grant program. The County contribution requirement will be met by staff time dedicated to supporting the committee setup and meetings.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed one wolf depredation in Deschutes County on Ashanti Samuels' Long Hollow Ranch. Additionally, Mr. Samuels is providing documentation attesting to missing livestock within Deschutes County. The committee is recommending applying for grant funding on behalf of Ashanti Samuels in all three categories. A requirement of accepting depredation funds is to implement preventative measures, which Mr. Samuels has extensively demonstrated before the committee.

The committee is also recommending applying for funds to use for educational and outreach to other Deschutes County producers (ranch and livestock owners and managers) and additional preventative measures for Central Oregon producers to be determined.

Grant funds to be requested are as follows:

**Category 1:**

- \$1,935 (one confirmed depredation of a yearling)

**Category 2:**

- \$5,371.50
  - Missing livestock funded at 50% of the established depredation rates

**Category 3:**

- \$45,000 on behalf of Long Hollow Ranch
  - One tower for invisible fencing
  - One year lease for collars on livestock
  - One seasonal Range Rider for 200 days at four hours per day
- \$5,000 for general committee fund
  - Educational and outreach campaign
- \$20,000 for general committee fund
  - Preventative measures to be distributed to ranchers and livestock owners as requested in the upcoming calendar year

Grant funds can be used on other eligible expenses that arise that may not be specifically listed above. Grant funds not used can be returned to the state at the end of the year.

Committee established depredation compensation rates are:

	<b><u>Price/Pound</u></b>	<b><u>Max Lbs.</u></b>	<b><u>Replacement Cost</u></b>
Calves	\$2.86	600	\$1,716
Yearlings	\$2.15	900	\$1,935
Butcher Animals	\$1.50	1200	\$1,800
Cows	\$1.15	1500	\$1,725
Bulls	\$1.16	2000	\$2,320
Heifers			N/A

Lambs	\$2.00	100	\$200
Ewes	\$1.10	160	\$176
Goats			\$100
Livestock Guardian Dogs, Small animals			TBD

Any producer who feels their livestock are worth more than fair market value would need to provide detailed information justifying their claim.

**Budget Impact:**

If awarded, this grant would result in increased revenues of up to \$77,306.50 for FY '24, which would be passed through to grant recipients and used for committee work as detailed above. Grant funds are expected to be expended in the 2024 calendar year.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager