



Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #3: Wednesday, December 6, 2023, 5:30 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 5:34 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Heidi Martin, Baker County; and Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Nick Lelack, Deschutes County Administrator; Angie Powers, Deschutes County Administrative Assistant; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Gordon Jones; Stephen Pappa; and Samuel Frank

II. Approval on September 26, 2023, Minutes

Ethan O'Brian moved to approve the minutes. Donna Harris seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

III. Nomination of Two Business Representatives

Dr. Stephen Pappa, Gordon Jones, and Samuel Frank were invited to attend the Wolf Committee meeting after they expressed interest in filing one of the open positions. 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. Commissioner Chang acknowledged that a week ago there were two candidates and now there are three. If someone is not selected, they are always welcome to join future meetings as all meetings are open to the public. Several committee members acknowledged that it is a bit awkward that there are now three candidates in person to fill only two positions. Each candidate will take a few minutes to discuss their interest.

Samuel Frank runs a small business and lives in Sisters. He has a depth of experience working with wolf re-population, landowners, and policy implementation across several states. He has been working on topics pertaining to wolves for the past 25 years.

Gordon Jones is in the eco-tourism industry as well as living in a Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) in Camp Sherman. He is well versed in re-wilding and the conflict between wolves and humans. The other two candidates are very good choices, and Gordon would be happy to serve on the committee but acknowledges the other two candidates have relevant knowledge that may be more directly related to the committee work.

Stephen Pappa has owned a business in the County for a very long time but would not be approaching the role from the business side more from the impact on the animals. He is long time large animal Veterinarian in

Deschutes County.

Commissioner Chang commented that Stephen Pappa and Gordon Jones experience expressly fall into the categories the committee originally determined the business representative should fall under.

Jen will check in with the state to see if the committee can add an additional position or an ex officio position to serve on the committee.

Jen will email the committee members asking for their preference of candidates and add in context to preferences if appropriate.

IV. Preventative Measures Discussion

Heidi Martin, Baker County Wolf Committee, joined the discussion to discuss preventative measures grant opportunities that Baker County has pursued. Baker County has taken advantage of two grant opportunities: one through Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the other from Western Landowners Alliance (WLA).

Baker County started applying for grants back in 2012 with ODA. Through the preventative measures grant Baker County have used the funds for fladry, Range Riders, receivers to pick up signal from wolves (which allows ranch hands to pace the wolves away), rental of back hoes to dig up carcasses, and box lights (deterrence). ODA requires that ranchers/livestock owners will need to implement preventative measures to be reimbursed for depredation. Range Riding is one of the most effective preventative measures Baker County has implemented. They have also partnered with a Sage Grouse Conservation group to pick up dead carcasses; the Wolf Committee purchased a dump trailer to pick up dead carcasses from ranch owners. It is a pilot program to work with landowners to pick up the carcasses and haul them to the dump. The dump recently received a grant to build a carcass disposal area. Baker County has found that over the years the preventative measures have not been fully funded by the state. Not every ranch submits claims, they see about 5 depredation claims a year and about 10 preventative measures grant requests a year. They have not set a flat rate for Range Riding, there are not a lot of people who can fill that role, and the County lets the landowner determine the rate for the requests.

What is the process for identifying missing livestock? Baker County asks that the producer show documentation or provide a statement that they have checked with their neighbors to try and locate missing livestock. The County also requests that the ranchers provide documentation demonstrating that they have checked in with the brand inspector and any other records to show there was an attempt to locate their livestock throughout the year. If it is a probable depredation, the County submits the claim under missing claim grant reimbursement (versus depredation).

WLA approached Baker County to participate in a grant program; last year Baker County received \$10,000 from WLA. Baker County put \$5,000 towards radios and \$5,000 to Range Riders. There was a non-federal grant match requirement; Baker County was able to tap into ODA grant funds for the match. This year Baker County has discussed partnering with three other counties in the area for a \$100,000 grant with a \$25,000 match. The hope is to buy a heat sensor drone to be able to spot the wolves moving in at night and haze them out. Heidi will share WLA contact information. Wildlife services would operate the drone and if a wolf was spotted, they could haze them out using voice control from the drone.

Is there a price range that Baker County uses to request grant funding for Range Riding? Heidi will send that information over to the committee, best guestimate would be around \$25-50 an hour. Baker County has also received flat day rate requests.

Are there certain preventative measures you would recommend over others? There is no possible way to have enough fladry when you turn out on summer pasture. Using fladry in those areas is just not possible. Using Range Riders in those areas is much more effective. During calving season if they are brought in close to home then the fladry could be a good deterrent method, however, over time the wolves become desensitized to it.

V. Establish Compensation Rates

Wolf Committee established the below numbers, in part, based off Central Oregon Livestock rates from December 4.

Committee established rates are:

	<u>Price/Pound</u>	<u>Max Lbs.</u>	<u>Replacement Cost</u>
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 will need to provide detailed information justifying their claim.

VI. Public Comments

No public comments.

VII. Next Steps

Grant applications.

VIII. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

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