



Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #8: Tuesday, January 21, 2025, 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 5:31 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Johnny Leason; Stephen Pappa; Gordon Jones; Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Emily Weidner, Fish and Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife; Scott Duggan, OSU Extension, Department of Animal & Rangeland Science; Paul Wolf, SW District Supervisor for Wildlife Services; Matt Alex, Assistant District Supervisor out of the NE for Wildlife Services; Brian Thomas, Wildlife Services; David Andrews, non-lethal Wolf Specialist for Central Oregon Wildlife Service; Holli Kingsbury, McCormack Ranch; Ryan Kingsbury, McCormack Ranch; and Nick Lelack County Administrator.

II. Approval of October 8, 2024, Minutes

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

III. Introductions

David Andrews, the new non-lethal wolf-livestock conflict prevention specialist for Wildlife Services in Central Oregon introduced himself and provided background information. David will operate in Deschutes, Wasco, Jefferson, and Crook Counties. He has been in wildlife management for the past 5 years with ODFW and prior to that with the Deschutes National Forest. His position is a termed position for one year with an opportunity to extend another 4 years contingent on funding.

David's position will be a boots on the ground position to implement non-lethal preventative measures as well as providing a connection between ranchers and funding sources. Oftentimes ranchers aren't aware of funding sources for non-lethal wolf conflict. David will also work directly with ODFW to coordinate efforts and share knowledge between wolf activities and the impacts on the ranchers.

IV. ODFW/USFW Update

Aaron Bott provided an update on wolf activity in the greater Deschutes County area. There is not an established pack near the McCormack Ranch (which operates in Deschutes and Crook Counties) however they continue to see dispersing wolves using the area as a corridor. Wolves can cover a lot of terrain in a very short period of time. This past winter there was one collared wolf from the eastern part of the state starting to spend time in the McCormack Ranch area near Brothers. Ultimately that wolf traveled down to California but had

returned to the McCormack Ranch area within a week. As of this evening the wolf is back on the California border but he is at prime breeding age and breeding time is in February. ODFW believes he is in search of a breeding mate. Another wolf has been spotted in the area and is currently not collared.

Wolves can be anywhere and they travel extensively.

A pack that had their breeding female poached and killed has been roaming and has been seen in the McCormack area as well – they continue to roam covering large areas in the south, central and eastern part of the state.

The Metolius Pack has been confirmed to have a breeding pair and three pups – which are now considered to be full grown. The pups were born in the Spring of 2024.

Just north of the Metolius Pack is the Warm Springs pack which have been known to go through Deschutes County but are not believed to be currently in Deschutes County.

Wolf density is not considered to be particularly high in Deschutes County, but wolves can be anywhere throughout the County at any time.

There has been a probable depredation associated with Wolf 158 and a confirmed depredation of wildlife with Wolf 158 in Crook County.

Deschutes County did not have a confirmed depredation in 2024 however wolves who have been known to spend a lot of time in Deschutes County have been associated with confirmed depredations in neighboring counties.

Generally speaking, ODFW response times to a depredation call (when the producers notices an injury or mortality) is within 2 hours.

V. 2024 ODA Grant Fund Expenditures Update and 2025 ODA Fund Availability Update

Jen Patterson provided an update on ODA funding availability.

For the 2024 grant cycle, ODA granted the following:

- **Prevention Requests:** Capped at \$100,000 per applicant. Then paid at 60% or 40%, depending on the number of Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) designations and the number of groups depredated in the prior year.
- **Administrative Requests:** Capped at \$1,000. And then paid 100%
- **Depredation (killed/injured) Claims:** Paid at 100%.
- **Missing Livestock Claims:** Paid at 50%.

There is interest to reach out to Jefferson County to see what stage, if any, they are at with getting a Wolf Committee up and running. Jen Patterson will follow up with Jefferson County.

Phil Chang mentioned that there is a tri-county government structure through COIC for Crook, Jefferson, and Deschutes County. It would be interesting to see if it would be possible to have a similar structure for the Wolf Committees.

Paul Wolf discussed how USDA/Wildlife Services is a fee for service agency. In 2018 Jackson and Crook County came to Paul to ask for help with the impact the wolves were having on livestock in their counties. There was not a lot of money at the beginning, and it was hard to keep paid staff sticking around. They need

equipment, more personal, and support from other agencies. The program is growing leaps and bounds and has allowed for David Andrews to be brought on board but there is still a need for additional funding to support staff and non-lethal preventative measures.

Emily Weidner talked about how a lot of the non-lethal preventative measures Wildlife Services provides is night work.

Jen will ask Sunny Summers with ODA about having a multiple county entity for a wolf grant fund opportunity.

VI. 2025 ODA Applications and Grant Requests

Holli Kingsbury spoke about how Deschutes County needs to remember the rural parts of the County and the impact it is having on their ranch.

Aaron Bott would like the committee to help compensate producers for their non-lethal efforts. A trailer for carcass removal would be helpful.

Covering the cost of the County landfill dump fee for disposal of carcasses would help. Emily encourages the County to have a dumping program for mitigation for wolves and sage grouses. Jen Patterson will look into how to charge/pay for carcass removals.

The Kingsbury's have been working with Ellie Gage on what kind of preventative measures they want to implement as they are becoming more impacted, and wolf activity is increasing in and near their ranch. They have been looking at a wide variety of methods including guard dogs, night penning, carcass removals, lighting, and fladry. They are still putting together a preventative measure plan together and plan on being very pro active going forward.

Aaron reported that the producer who has implemented preventative measures through funding from Deschutes County Wolf Committee and other resources is very happy with the success of the programs they implemented. Including increased Range Riding and other resources. No confirmed depredation occurred on the Deschutes County portion of their land in 2024.

The committee members discussed options for applying for non-lethal preventative measure grant funds on behalf of the committee/County. Johnny Leason asked if the grant applications review could be through email since at this time there are no producer applications before the committee. Jen reminded the committee of the public meeting laws and that the reviews would need to be in a public meeting format, which could be via Zoom.

Stephen Pappa recommended having a firm deadline for when all applications are due. Gordon Jones asked how we figure out how much we might need for carcass removals. Emily Weidner added that fox lights are always needed and put to use. Gordon suggested putting together a budget for carcass removal. Phil mentioned that there are many options for carcass removal programs from buying equipment to just contracting out the services. Aaron Bott mentioned that having a trailer would be very helpful. Jen and Nick can work with Solid Waste to see if we could setup an account with the County grant funds to be charged for any carcass haul to the dump.

Jen ballparked a carcass removal program to run \$5,000 - \$7,000. Stephen Pappa thought the ballpark would be closer to \$15,000. David Andrews said having a dump trailer on hand would be very helpful. Donna Harris called Crook County today to find out how many carcass removals they did in 2024, and it was only 3. Brian Thomas suggested having a shared cost for a trailer between Deschutes and Crook County as David works in both counties. Jen recapped that the committee is talking about requesting \$15,000 for a carcass removal program and \$10,000 as part of shared costs for purchasing a trailer for a total \$25,000 grant request from the committee not including any producer's applications. Jen asked the committee if they wanted to add an additional request for \$5,000 toward fox lights. Gordon Jones moved to have the committee request \$30,000 in grants - \$15,000 for

a carcass removal program, \$10,000 toward a trailer purchase, and \$5,000 for fox lights. Donna Harris seconded the motion. The committee approved the motion unanimously.

The committee will meet via Zoom in mid-February to review any producer grant applications that are submitted. Jen will send around a doodle poll to determine a Zoom meeting date and time.

VII. Public Comments

The Kingsbury's currently have relationships with members of the Crook County Wolf Committee and have already experienced a confirmed depredation on their land located in Crook County. Their ranch also encompasses Deschutes County. This winter, wolf activities have increased.

VIII. Next Steps

Next meeting will take place in February, Jen will send around a doodle poll to determine meeting date and time. Next topics will include review and determination of producer grant applications.

IX. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:35p.m.

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