



Deschutes County

Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #9: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Zoom

MEETING FORMAT

The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee will conduct this meeting on Zoom. Members of the public may listen, view, and/or participate in this meeting using Zoom. Using Zoom is free of charge.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81739267960?pwd=LLos5cw9aWifQLY11ubuAuiVw0Cmcf.1>

Meeting ID: 817 3926 7960

Passcode: 728060

TOPIC		DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Introductions		Welcome Committee Members <i>1 Minutes</i>
2. Approval of January 21, 2025, Minutes <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i>		Approve Minutes <i>2 Minutes</i>
3. Review Grant Applications		Information and discussion <i>45 Minutes</i>
McCormack Ranch	\$81,000	
Hatfield Hyde Land Trust	\$16,800	
Desert Creek Land, Cattle, & Timber Co.	\$5,000	
11. Public Comments Members of the public are welcome at every Wolf Committee meeting. Each person's time will be limited to allow time for everyone who wishes to speak. In addition, written comments will be accepted at any time.		Opportunity to hear from members of the public who are present.
12. Next steps <ul style="list-style-type: none">Next meeting: AprilPotential agenda topics: Grant funds disbursement		Placeholders for Meeting #10, agenda topics <i>1 Minutes</i>
13. Wrap up and adjourn		

Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee Board Order

On August 31, 2022 the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) approved the formation of a Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee. In May, 2023, the BOCC appointed 5 members to the committee. The BOCC appointed the committee to meet bi-annually, and on an as needed basis, and be tasked with recommending the following:

- 1. Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for compensation will provide sufficient evidence of actual livestock and/or working dog losses attributed to wolf depredation.
- 2. Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for financial assistance for the cost of livestock management or nonlethal deterrence provides an estimate of the potential cost.
- 3. Establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses from death, injury or missing all of which are attributed to wolf depredation.
- 4. Distributing grant program funds.
- 5. Preparing an annual report to ODA.



Deschutes County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This event/location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need accommodations to make participation possible, please call (541) 388-6584 or send email to erik.kropp@deschutes.org.

Condado de Deschutes alienta a las personas cualificadas con discapacidad a participar en sus programas y actividades. Esta evento/ubicación es accesible para personas con discapacidad. Si necesita hacer arreglos para hacer posible la participación, llame al (541) 388-6584 o envíe un correo electrónico a erik.kropp@deschutes.org.



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



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Wolf Depredation Compensation Program
635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
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CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form

Name: McCormack Ranch, LLC

Mailing Address:

City:

ZIP:

97754

Home Phone No:

Cell Phone No:

Email:

Certification and Signature

By signing below, I certify that:

1. I am the claimant, or I represent the claimant listed on this document.
2. All information provided in the application is true and accurate to the best of my ability.
3. I understand the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. I am in full compliance with the program's requirements specified in OAR 603-019.

Applicant signature: By Runinda McCormack Date: 2/3/2025

Identify the non-lethal measures you are requesting funding for:

- ☒ Reducing attractants (removal of bone piles, carcass disposal)
- ☐ Barriers (fladry and fencing)
- ☒ Human presence (range riders, hazers, herders, individual response)
- ☒ Alarm or scare devices (alarm systems, lights, and sound devices)
- ☐ Livestock management/husbandry changes (changing pastures, night feeding, changes in calving season and herd structure, etc.)
- ☒ Experimental practices (bio-fencing, bellling cattle, airman, etc.)
- ☐ Other

Explain See below

Total grant funds requested (\$)
\$81,000

Project state date 1/1/2025

Project end date 12/31/2025

Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects)

We plan to continue with non-leath wolf techniques we have begun in 2024. Our ranch is new to the amount of wolf presence we have seen in 2024 and are learning how to manage our ranch in a way that keeps us open and available to all wildlife. Adding fox lights, sound systems, drones,

human presence, carcass removal and herd management are the tools we are familiar with at this time.

Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?

- ☒ Yes (If yes, provide the information below)
☐ No

Contact Name	Contact Number
Aaron Bott	[REDACTED]

Non-Lethal measures requesting listed in order of priority:

- Individual Response/Human presence/range rider in livestock herds \$30,000
- Thermal Drone w/speaker \$2,500
- Purchase of 10 fox lights and batteries \$1,500
- Night Vision goggles \$5,000
- Game Cameras \$1,000
- sound systems/ squawk boxes -\$1,000
- Camper for possible range rider or employee to be closer to livestock in times of calving and other times of conflict \$10,000
- Livestock Virtual fence for 250 head of cattle \$30,000

McCormack Ranch is a larger cattle ranch with upwards of 1,200 head of mother cows and 900 head of yearlings. during the year. Our Ranch at any time also has 8-10 different herds scattered over 130,000 acres between Deschutes and Crook Counties. What we are asking is a portion of what we will need to prevent wolf/livestock conflicts but realize we can't do everything at once. This winter we experienced our first wolf/livestock collisions that we know of and hope to be as preventative as possible and learn how to avoid these conflicts as much as we possibly can. As we learn what works and what doesn't for our ranch, our priority lists will change. The list below is what we feel is what we need to be successful mitigating conflicts at this time.

Deschutes County Non-Lethal measures request listed in order of priority:

-Individual Response/Human presence/range rider in livestock herds \$30,000

Our plan is to continue what we have done this winter spending extra hours with our herds, especially after weather events or when biologists can tell us a wolf has come through our property to look for tracks and to hopefully haze them away with human presence. Extra time will be spent with the cattle during calving and weaning because those are higher times of vulnerability and conflict. We do not know if a new employee as a range rider is in our budget at this time, but we would like to hope someday that is an option for us.

-Thermal Drone w/speaker \$2,500

Total Cost of this type of drone was \$5,000, but we are asking a 50% from Crook County committee as well, because it will be used in both counties.

-Purchase of 10 fox lights and batteries \$1,500

-Night Vision goggles \$5,000

Knowing that wolves typically hunt during dark hours, this tool will be helpful when night riding herds on ATV's and Horseback. The total cost of night vision is up to \$10,000 but we are asking 50% from the Crook County committee as well, because it will be used in both counties.

-Game Cameras \$1,000

-sound systems/ squawk boxes -\$1,000

-Camper for possible range rider or employee to be closer to livestock in times of calving and other times of conflict \$10,000

We do not have extra housing for a range rider. A camper seems like a good item to help provide housing to whomever stays with the cattle during times of conflict and the availability to move around to different herds as needed.

-Livestock Virtual fence for 250 head of cattle \$30,000

This would get one herd set up with a virtual fence system to see if it's something that would work for our ranch. It has been brought up to us on several different occasions in different settings including sage grouse conservations and regenerative grazing seminars, so we are interested in it, but unsure if it would truly work on our entire operation.

Jenn. Patterson@deschutes.org



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CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form	
Name:	Becky Hatfield Hyde / Hatfield Hyde Land Trust
Mailing Address:	[REDACTED]
City:	[REDACTED]
Home Phone No:	[REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]
ZIP:	97754
Cell Phone No:	[REDACTED]

Certification and Signature	
By signing below, I certify that:	
1. I am the claimant, or I represent the claimant listed on this document.	
2. All information provided in the application is true and accurate to the best of my ability.	
3. I understand the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. I am in full compliance with the program's requirements specified in OAR 603-019.	
Applicant signature:	Becky Hatfield Hyde Date: Feb 3, 2024

Identify the non-lethal measures you are requesting funding for:

- ☒ Reducing attractants (removal of bone piles, carcass disposal)
- ☒ Barriers (fladry and fencing)
- ☒ Human presence (range riders, herders, herders, individual responses)
- ☒ Alarm or scare devices (alarm systems, lights, and sound devices)
- ☒ Livestock management/husbandry changes (changing pastures, night feeding, changes in calving season and herd structure, etc.)
- ☒ Experimental practices (bio-fencing, bellling cattle, airman, etc.)
- ☒ Other Guardian animals

Explain to go see back —		
Total grant funds requested (\$)	Project start date	Project end date
\$16,800		

Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects)

Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?



Yes (If yes, provide the information below)



No

Contact Name

Aaron Bott

Contact Number

10 Fox lights (solar) \$2,000

Sound machine \$500.

Additional human presence \$5,000

Carcass removal \$1,000

Fencing cost share \$5,000

Livestock Guardian animals \$1,000

Camping on desert additional

\$12,800

labor \$2,000

~~12,800~~



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CATEGORY 3 – NON-LETHAL PREVENTATIVE TECHNIQUES

Claimant information – livestock/working dog owner completing this form

Name: Desert Creek Land, Cattle, & Timber Co., LLC

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

ZIP: [REDACTED]

Home Phone No:

Cell Phone No: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Certification and Signature

By signing below, I certify that:

1. I am the claimant, or I represent the claimant listed on this document.
2. All information provided in the application is true and accurate to the best of my ability.
3. I understand the requirements of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. I am in full compliance with the program's requirements specified in OAR 603-019.

Applicant signature: [Signature]

Date:

02/03/2025

for Desert Creek Ranch

Identify the non-lethal measures you are requesting funding for:

- ☐ Reducing attractants (removal of bone piles, carcass disposal)
- ☒ Barriers (fladry and fencing)
- ☐ Human presence (range riders, hazers, herders, individual response)
- ☐ Alarm or scare devices (alarm systems, lights, and sound devices)
- ☐ Livestock management/husbandry changes (changing pastures, night feeding, changes in calving season and herd structure, etc.)
- ☐ Experimental practices (bio-fencing, belling cattle, airman, etc.)
- ☐ Other

Explain Desert Creek Ranch's calving grounds are in need of welded or woven wire fencing to help detour wolves from the area. This area has continuous human presence during calving and is too large for other methods to be effective. Cost = 5,000' fence/100' roll = 50 rolls x \$100/roll = \$5,000

Total grant funds requested (\$) \$5,000.00

Project state date 08/2025

Project end date 10/2025

Project description (including history on existing projects or estimated length for multi-year projects)

With increasing presence and harassment from wolves on our ranch, we would like to take a proactive approach to non-lethal, preventative techniques. This will include adding welded wire to the existing 4-strand perimeter fence of our "calving lots." We will be applying for NRCS funds in March 2025 to help match and supplement the cost of this project.

The wire will be installed by ranch employees; therefore we are asking for the cost of the wire and clips, but no labor.

Has ODFW or USFW been consulted regarding the prevention project?

☒
☐

Yes (If yes, provide the information below)

No

Contact Name	Contact Number
Jamie Bowles	