



Deschutes County

Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #2: Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room (2nd Floor), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

MEETING FORMAT

The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee will conduct this meeting virtually and be available for those that want to attend in person. 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/86925649319?pwd=SDQ5RHh4WFhkVTBHYVZrMkU2UGp0dz09>

Meeting ID: 869 2564 9319

Passcode: 030146

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Introductions	Welcome committee members
2. Approval of June 26, 2023 Minutes <i>See Packet: Draft minutes</i>	Approve Minutes
3. Presentation on Committee Grant Process Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor, Oregon Department of Agriculture	Information and discussion
4. Establish Priority Funding Procedure and Compensation Rates <ul style="list-style-type: none">Committee must establish a procedure by which livestock owners and managers experiencing expected death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to wolf depredation shall be given priority by the committee for grant moneys received under the County Program.Committee must establish compensation rates for death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributable to wolf depredation that are based on fair market value.	Information and discussion
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Two Business Representatives to Serve on CommitteeCommittee members discuss and potentially nominate business representatives to fill two committee seats	Information and discussion

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives to be considered from the following industries: Eco/Tourism Supply chain for livestock Feedlot owners Livestock producer Feed and farm store supplier Herding dog breeder Large animal vet Real estate Resource Management Consultant Grant writers Author/researcher/writer 	
<p>5. Committee Name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members discuss and determine official committee name 	Discussion
<p>7. Public Comments</p> <p>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.</p>	Opportunity to hear from members of the public who are present.
<p>8. Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting: Discuss next meeting date and frequency of meetings Potential agenda topics: Recommended grant fund applications for preventative measures and depredation activities <p>Expert Presenters – Committee Member from another established County Wolf Committee</p>	Placeholders for Meeting #3 agenda
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 #1: Monday, June 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, DeArmond 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 6:00 p.m. by Jen Patterson. Present via Zoom: Emily Weidner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Dave Doyle, County Legal Counsel; Jen Patterson, County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Bridget Moran, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife; Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Ashanti Samuels, Owner, Pitchfork T-Ranch and Long Hollow Ranch; Andrew Walch, District Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Jack Harvel, Reporter, The Source Weekly.

II. Review and Adoption of Committee Charter

Jen Patterson presented an overview of the committee charter highlighting the mission and purpose, record keeping, membership, ground rules and expectations. Sarahlee Lawrence moved to adopt the charter. Donna Harris seconded the motion. Adoption passed unanimously.

III. Nominating a Chair

Nick Lelack presented an overview of committee chair responsibilities. The committee discussed chair nominations and Donna Harris nominated Commissioner Chang for Chair. Commissioner Chang agreed to serve an interim term of 6 months. Donna Harris moved to nominate Commissioner Chang. Ethan O'Brien seconded the motion. Nomination was passed unanimously.

IV. Presentation on Public Meetings

Dave Doyle presented an overview of public meetings and public official roles referencing the following documents, available on the public committee website: Reference Guide – Public Meeting Laws and A Guide for Public Officials. A quorum (3 or more) of committee members cannot talk about committee meeting concerns or business outside of this meeting unless it has been publicly noticed. Minutes are kept and will be reviewed by committee members, once adopted the minutes will be posted publicly. Legal Counsel recommended that committee members develop and adopt a media policy to include consensus on whether individual committee members can speak to the media or nominate a representative or staff liaison to field media requests.

Commissioner Chang asked: If a quorum wanted to meet outside for a field trip, can that be publicly noticed and if so are committee members free to participate in that type of activity? Dave Doyle stated that is appropriate

activity as long as it is publicly noticed. Typically public notices should occur seven days in advance however an emergency notice can be done within 24 hours

Donna Harris asked if committee members can publicly discuss committee business. Dave Doyle stated yes as it is public record. Meetings are recorded and posted publicly.

Saralee Lawrence requested to discuss and determine media policy. Ethan O'Brien asked if the committee would like to have a united front. Saralee indicated she would not like to publicly comment to media and suggested that for the first six months no individual take a position on behalf of the committee. Commissioner Change stated that sometimes a lack of information/media response can lead to dis-information on the subject and suggested that a response could focus on facts about committee roles and responsibilities and not (for the time being) address hard committee decisions. Jen Patterson stated that, if preferred by the committee, a staff member or committee chair could respond to media inquiries. If there is a media inquiry that is opinion based Jen will work with committee members to coordinate a unified statement before responding to the media inquiry. Any committee member is able to provide individual statements to the media as long as the response is not represented as being on behalf of the committee as a whole.

V. Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee

Due to time restraints committee members opted to have this discussion at the next committee meeting.

VI. Presentation from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist with ODFW, presented on the history and nature of wolves in the region. Wolves have the greatest distribution of any terrestrial animals except for humans with a territorial range from Canada to Central Mexico. Wolverers were eradicated from the region in the early 20th century. They were re-introduced in the mid-1990's and in 1999 the first wolf siting in Oregon was confirmed. Wolves are highly territorial and will defend their territory to the death. Wolves live in family groups called packs with an average size of 6 which is typically made up of a mother and father and several generations of off-spring. Their home range is 100-240 square miles.

Deschutes County has a pair of wolves, known as the Metolius Pair, which is most likely a male and a female. ODFW has been documenting the pair for the last 2 years. Cameras have been deployed across the county to monitor the pair. One of ODFW's responsibility is to monitor the wolves by coordinating with federal and state agencies along with many public citizens who monitor wolf activity. The pair has yet to have a radio collar placed on them – however ODFW is working on attempting to collar the pair. Radio collars are not a save all for information as they can be unreliable and undependable due to a variety of factors. Wolves are able to move about quite freely. ODFW is pretty confident the Metolius pair are the only two wolves in the area however it should be expected that more wolves will come into the area in the future because it is a very favorable habitat and it is expected that the Metolius pair will breed at some point. This could change as soon as tomorrow or in 2 or 3 years. The pair will become more active in the fall and at that time it could be determined if the pair have pups, however at this time there is no indication that they have pups.

The ODFW District Biologist is responsible for confirming a wolf depredation. It needs to be a confirmed or probable wolf depredation for eligibility of funds from the depredation wolf grant program. Preventative measures are eligible grant funds and if preventative measures are employed it is likely other depredation sources will also be reduced. At least 30% of the grant monies need to go toward preventative measures. Depredation compensation can include livestock and working dogs. Ethan O'Brien asked if there is a definition for working dogs. Aaron Bott indicated that defining a working dog is one of the responsibilities of the committee members.

ODFW's responsibility is to determine if a wolf was the source of the depredation and in order to do so they need to be on the scene pretty quickly after the kill. The fresher the kill the easier it is to determine the source of the kill. Wolves are scavengers – they would rather choose to eat a carcass than kill a livestock but they will kill if they need food. Wolf predation, like any predator, has a pattern to the kill.

Wolf activities are new to this part of the world and this generation. There are other parts of the world that have ranched with wolves for many generations, a lot can be learned from them in providing education tools and resources to assist in preventative measures. There are tools that work including: removal of attractants

(carcasses, bone pits, etc...), grant money to hire people to patrol land and bury carcasses, livestock protection dogs, husbandry adjustments, fladry, fencing (a 4'-5' fence has been shown to work), and alarm systems (flashing strobe lights).

Ashanti Samuels spoke to the depredation that occurred on his land, he has ranch land that crosses over Deschutes County, Jefferson County, and the Warm Springs Reservation – grazing range encompasses over 100,000 acres. A confirmed depredation from the Metolius Pack occurred in May and he has seen wolf activity on a weekly if not daily not basis. Ashanti has been working closely with ODFW in implementing preventative measures. Having the type of cattle who protect their calves' helps in prevention of depredation, he considers the breed of cattle to help defend against predators. The cattle that have been predated upon are typically weaned from their momma and are around teen age. Wolves don't only kill the cattle, they stress them as well – which can run the weight off them and impacts their ability to breed. As a rancher, cowboy, and steward of the land Ashanti values all the wildlife, even wolves and coyotes, as long as they are doing the right thing. Sharing the landscape with wolves is going to take persistence and more hours and time to work on preventative measures. It is another full time piece of the ranching operation and Ashanti is committed to doing so. Ashanti's ranching operation has spent about \$25,000 this year on extra preventative measures. They collar the cattle with a tracking device which allows them to know where the cows are located and create electric fence boundaries in real time.

Ethan O'Brien asked what Ashanti would like to see from the committee to specifically help with his, and others, operations.

Ashanti stated that compensation definitely helps and to have committee members: educate themselves; ask questions to find out more about wolves; make sure to learn why it is important to have some compensation; why ranchers commit to preventative measures; evaluate who wants funding and why; and; consider if those requesting depredation funding have preventative measures in place to help with depredation issues.

Commissioner Chang asked if there are any specific preventative measures that this committee can look at to submit funding requests.

Ashanti Samuels responded that he would really need to think about that; money can be used in a lot of ways and they are pretty new at this process. It will be important to make sure the funds are available because they will be needed and will be used.

VII. Next Steps

Jen Patterson will send out a doodle poll to determine a time for the next meeting, either late summer or early fall, and an email to the committee members for ideas of next meeting topics including filling the business representative positions.

VIII. Public Comments

Andrew Walch, District Wolf Biologist with ODFW, thanked the committee members for serving and is available to any individual who has any questions or comments.

Bridget Moran, Field Supervisor with U.S. Fish & Wildlife, thanked the committee members for serving and offered to present at a future committee meeting.

IX. Wrap up and Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

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

drone pilots and personnel on hand to assist. From July 28 through October 11, 2022 staff was onsite for 51 days and had 95 interactions with wolves.

Conversation surrounding European guard dogs, 3 dogs would be sufficient; are in Colorado now.

Increased staff combined with drones and dogs would be potentially efficient for efforts.

Elizabeth Willy: discussion regarding federal protection and active litigation. Status review on delisting and ongoing litigation. "less than lethal" projectiles being added to toolbox.

5. Group Discussion

Non-lethal discussion regarding drone usage. USDA/APHIS is only permitted to use certain brand of drones, cost is roughly \$10,000 each; need to have 2 drones each. Discussion regarding Clint and Colby obtaining drone certifications.

Non-lethal grant request would be for \$20,000 for two drones plus \$60,000 for personnel.

6. Depredation Compensation and 2023 ODA Grant

23 Confirmed Depredations for July-November 2022. Committee discussion regarding flat rate payment versus date of death and sale rate. Committee agrees that the flat rate makes more sense. Committee determines rates as follows roughly based on prices from Summer 2022: 0-500 pounds \$750; 501-1000 pounds = \$1,250; replacement heifer = none reported during 2022/will determine at a later date.

Dayle motions for a flat rate per head; Chris seconds. Motion passed.

Group discussion on 2023 ODA Grant Fund request totaling \$105,750 as follow:

Compensation	\$25,750.00
<u>Non-lethal/APHIS</u>	<u>\$80,000.00</u>
Total	\$105,750.00
<u>Klamath County Match</u>	<u>\$10,575.00</u>
Total 2023 Funding	\$116,325.00

7. Other Topics

Natalie to update committee on grant application status; funding received to Klamath County. Other Counties receive grant funding for non-lethal deterrents, continue to ramp up these efforts for prevention.

Conversation regarding use of ODA funding on wolf packs, not necessarily per County. The wolves do not stay within County lines and travel fast and far. Conversation regarding ODA paying directly to APHIS for non-lethal involvement. Further conversation regarding use of preventative measures for grant funding for Counties without depredations.

Paul Wolf shared video footage of drone activity and wolf deterrent. Very informative videos.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Wallowa County 2022 Compensation Rates

The following are the rates a group of ranchers set for the 2022 livestock losses from wolves.

Description	Lb/ head	Rate	Cost
Calf – still on the cow, heifer or steer	Will consider it to be a 600 pound steer	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$2.08/pound \$1250/animal
Steer calf weaned	Will consider it to be an 875 pounder.	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$1.53/pound
Heifer calf weaned	Will consider it to be an 800 pounder.	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$1.41/pound
Open Replacement weaned heifers	Use the 800 pound rate plus \$300/head	Use average Aug-Dec rate for weight	\$1428/hd
Bred 2 to 5 year old cow	Use bred heifer rate	Use average rate for Aug-Dec	\$1700/hd
Bred 6 to 8 year old cow	Use bred heifer rate minus \$150		\$1550/hd
Bred 9 year old cow and over	Use bred heifer rate minus \$250		\$1450/hd
Mule	Used amount owner thought it was worth	Base price off of age and what it is trained for (packing, riding etc.)	
Injured Calf		A set rate	\$450/hd
Injured Cow		A set rate	\$850/hd
Bull	20% reduction each year 2 year old		\$4000/hd
1-3 year old bred Ewe		A set rate	\$160/hd
3-5 year old bred Ewe		A set rate	\$100/hd
Lamb	Will consider it to a 150 pound lamb	Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	\$1.17/pound
Injured Lambs, baby goats		A set rate	\$80/hd
Injured Ewe, Ram, Goat		Set rate	\$90/hd
Llama		Set rate	\$100/hd
Goat – meat goat		Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	231/hd
Goat - Nanny		Use average Aug-Dec rate for this weight	124/hd

Umatilla County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes 1-23-2023

Jerry Baker called the meeting together at 6:13pm

Andrew Rosenberg, ODFW, provided a summary of wolf activity for the 2022 season.

The committee discussed standards to help guide the committee through awarding producer equally regardless of the available funding for the year. Standards set go as follows:

1. Value of Animals – The committee decided to assess the fair market value of livestock annually based on the national average between August and October. This year’s values are as follows:
 - a. Calves - \$1,071
 - b. Cows - \$1,652
 - c. Bulls - \$3,500
 - d. Heifers - \$1,714
 - e. Lambs - \$200
 - f. Ewes - \$225
 - g. Any producer who feels their livestock are worth more than fair market value need to provide detailed information justifying their claim.

Dan moved to accept these prices. Karl seconded. Passed unanimously

Confirmed Depredations - \$7,045.42

Cunningham Sheep Company - \$1,691.45 –They requested funding for 1 lambs and 8 ewes. These animal were confirmed through ODFW.

Eric Smith - \$5,353.98 – Smith ranches requested the loss 5 calves. These were also all confirmed by ODFW.

Missing Livestock - \$21,367.26

The committee evaluated each application to identify that the missing animals were in fact in an AKWA and that each producers is doing their due diligence to protect their stock. All of the producers who requested assistance with missing stock also submitted claims for the non-lethal techniques which allows the committee to evaluate their practices. Each producer is asked to

ODA Wolf Depredation Grant Program

Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor



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Introduction



- **June 2011 - HB 3560 passed**
- **Helps ODFW's Wolf Plan by creating a cooperative program that reduces conflicts between wolves and livestock.**
- **Also aids livestock producers who face losses due to wolves**



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County wolf programs

Pass-through grants to counties to establish and implement their own county wolf depredation compensation programs



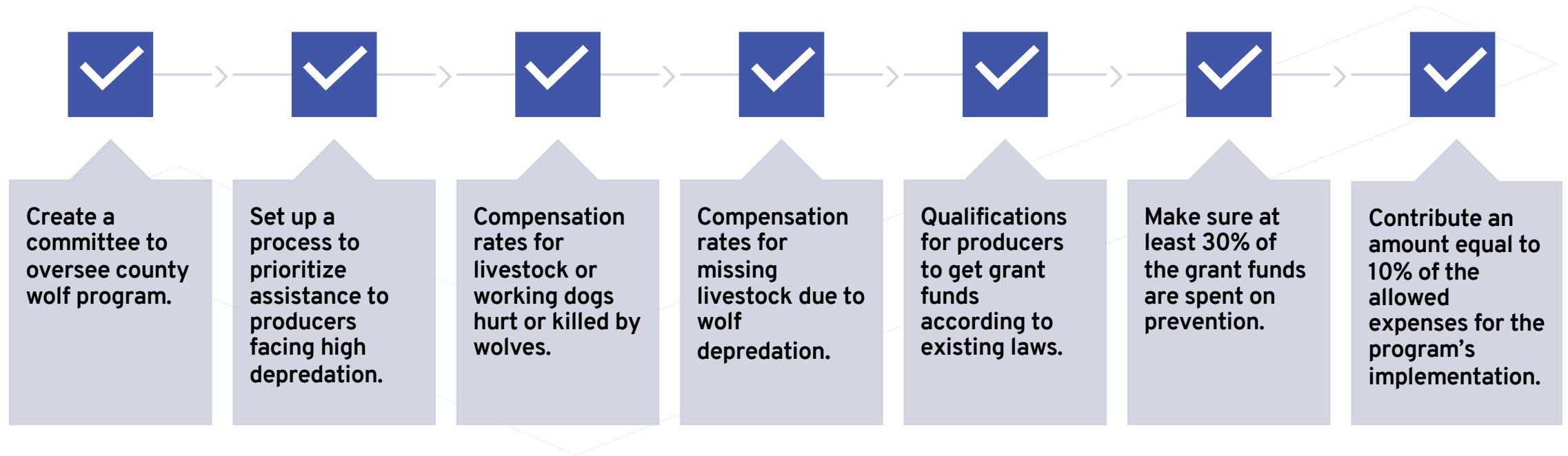
Payment for livestock or working dogs killed or injured by wolves.

Payment to those who use methods to prevent wolves from attacking livestock.

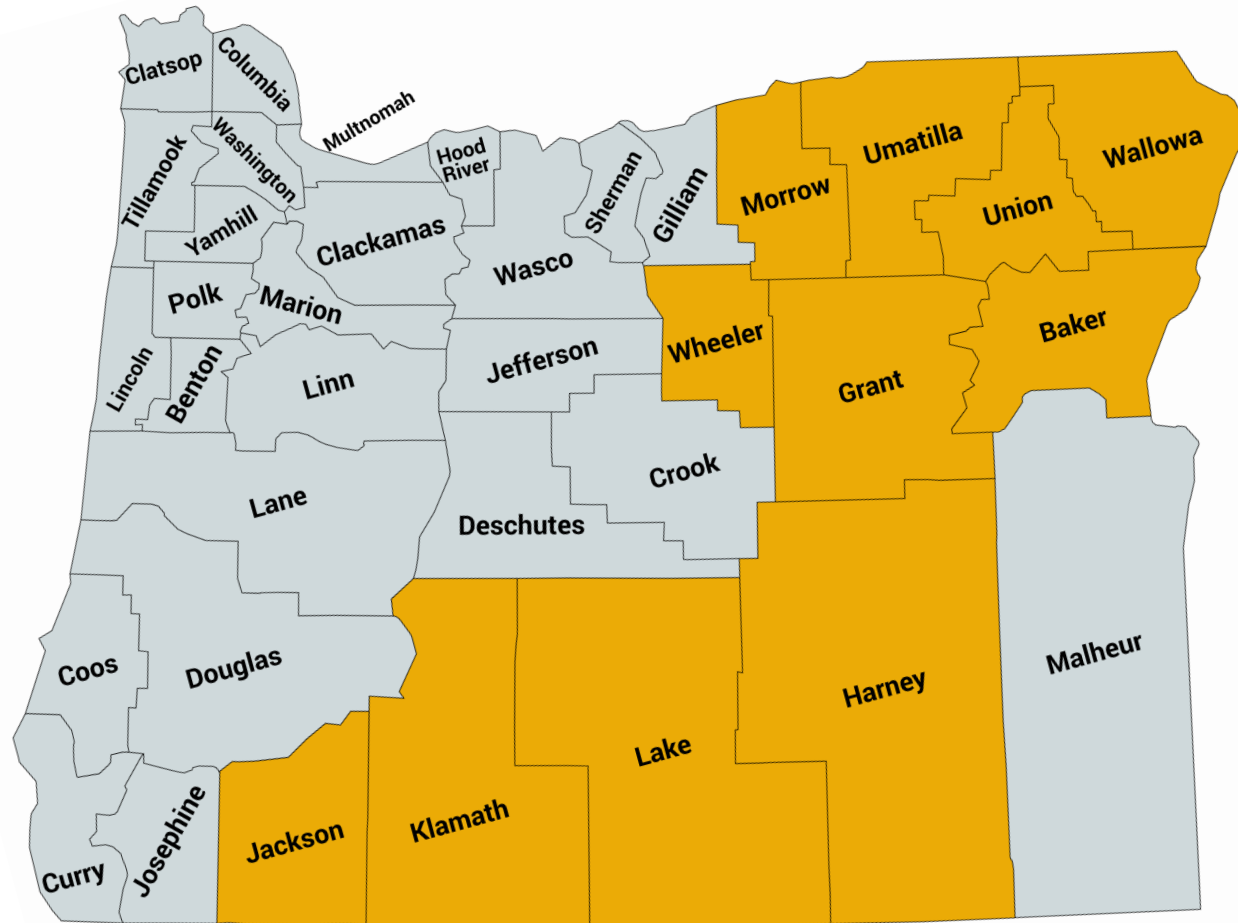
Payment for livestock or working dogs missing due to wolves.

Counties can receive money to cover cover allowable expenses incurred while implementing a wolf depredation compensation program in their county.

County requirements



Counties that received grants in 2023



Funding



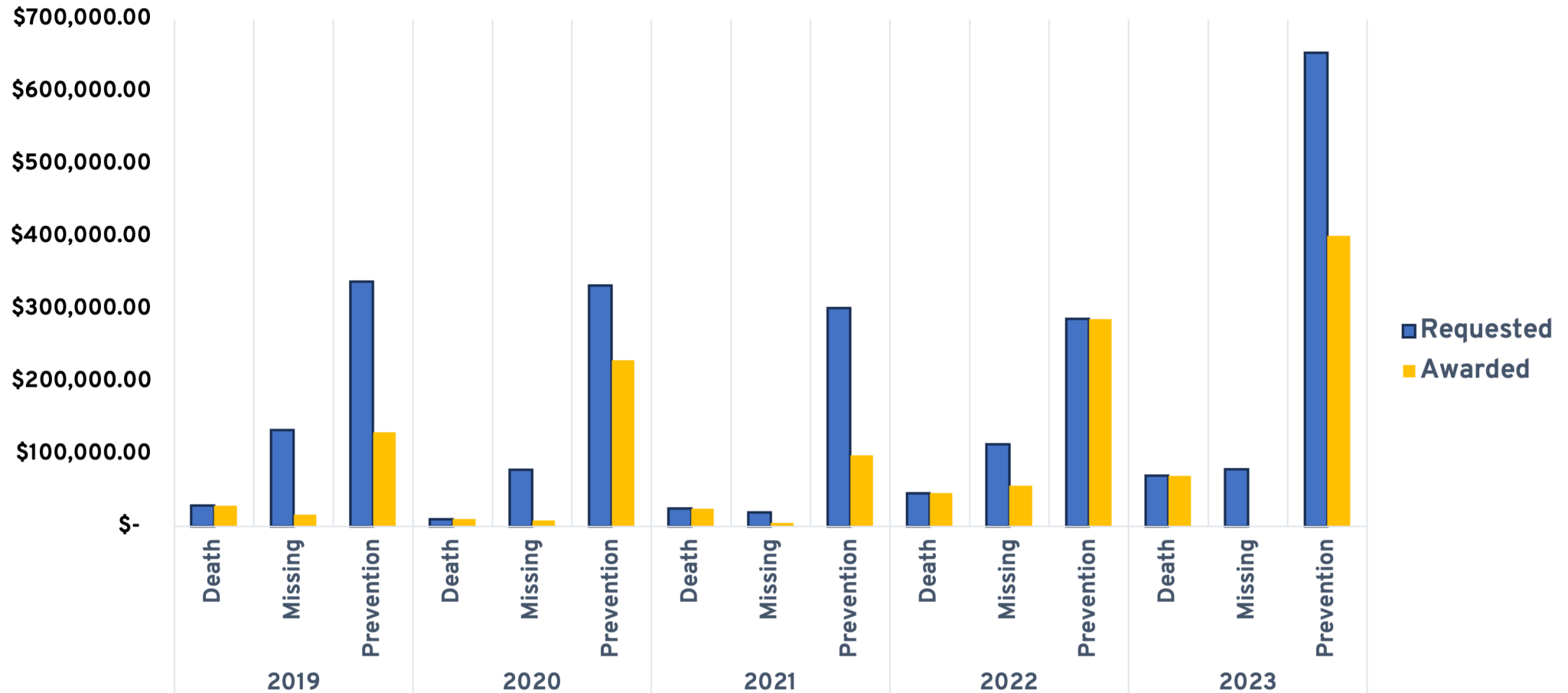
- Approx. \$200,000 state general fund/biennium
- 23-25 biennium = ~\$1.2 million
- Federal funds as Oregon qualifies



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Payments

Wolf Grant Breakdown from 2019 to 2023






The End

Any questions?

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