

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	6 - 0 - 2
Yeas:	Cowan, Esquivel, Johnson, Schaufler, Sprenger, Jenson
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Boone, Clem
Prepared By:	Beth Herzog, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	3/30, 4/5, 4/15

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires Department of Agriculture to establish wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. Stipulates grants are to assist counties to implement county programs to: establish program to compensate person who suffers loss or injury due to wolf depredation or provide financial assistance to persons who implement livestock management or nonlethal wolf control techniques; contribute amount of money equal to _ percent of amount necessary to implement program; establish procedure for person applying for compensation for loss or injury to provide evidence, which must include county investigation and finding that wolf was probable cause of loss or injury; and establish procedure for providing estimate of potential costs of implementing techniques to discourage wolf depredation. Establishes Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund (Fund). Establishes Fund consist of money appropriated by Legislature and any donations. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of wolf management in Oregon
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is aware of three packs of wolves in Oregon, two of which they are currently monitoring
- Population objective for phase one of Oregon Wolf Plan is four breeding pairs in eastern Oregon for three consecutive years
- Federal delisting of gray wolves
- Livestock depredations

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND: In 2010, there were at least 14 known adult wolves residing in Oregon. In 2005, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to “ensure the conservation of gray wolves as required by Oregon law while protecting the social and economic interests of all Oregonians.” The plan includes provisions for monitoring and managing populations, developing education and communication programs, and responding to wolf interactions with wildlife, humans, and livestock. House Bill 3560 A would direct the Department of Agriculture to establish a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program to assist in the establishment of county programs.