



House bill 4005

House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
2.2.2012 Peggy Woolsey

In Oregon, we currently have two fur bearing predators on the federal Endangered Species List; the lynx and the wolf.

Wolves account for 1/0 of 1% of all losses in Montana, a state with a larger wolf population. Coyotes, bears, dogs, and mountain lions each kill many more livestock than wolves.

According to news sources, the estimated number of Oregon livestock lost to wolves from Spring of 2010, to the end of 2011, is about 19.

Prior to creation of the \$100,000 compensation fund by the 2011 Legislature, Defenders of Wildlife, has paid \$1.4 million to ranchers throughout the west since 1987.

The IRS allows a deduction of the amount of the investment in the livestock lost to depredation.

Our current statute ORS 610.150 which directs compensation for wolf depredation based on fair market value.

One study in Minnesota found that rapid removal of dead animals from livestock operations could reduce a second predation event by 55 times!

Most predator losses are completely avoidable with proper animal husbandry techniques.

In the past 12 years, tax expenditures have increased, from 36% to 46% of the General Fund.

Conclusion: It seems this is amending and complicating the tax code for a very small problem.