



# OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

## Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, and Water  
Support for HB 4127

Chair Helm, Vice-chairs McLain and Owens, committee members,

The Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) advocates for sound, science-based wildlife management of all animals, game or non-game species, in Oregon. OHA leadership was part of the hard work that went into the wolf management plan adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) in 2019 and we continue to be supportive of the department as it works toward accomplishing the management goals and benchmarks outlined in the plan.

There is much controversy around wolves in Oregon and, consequently, many arguments will arise which are tangential to the bill currently before the committee. Clarity around the appropriation request in HB 4127, and the existing fund, are therefore paramount to the committee's support of the bill.

HB 4127 does not create a fund or program in itself, it is simply an appropriation of funds to an existing program: the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. This fund has been established to provide grants to assist counties in implementing programs which compensate persons who suffer loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation and to provide financial assistance to persons who implement livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to discourage wolf depredations. These county programs are prescriptive in how they must be established and operated, outlined clearly in ORS 610.050, including an advisory committee, annual reporting, and the necessity of findings from ODFW regarding the probability of wolf depredation as the cause.

Several testimonies have been submitted arguing that money is being distributed to those who have 'lost' animals, referring to animals going missing. In actuality, all funds are used to assist those who have 'suffered loss' of animals due to wolf depredation; the distinction is perhaps nuanced but wildly important - these animals have been lost because they have been killed, not because that have simply wandered off.

In addition to the loss of livestock experienced by landowners, OHA is also extremely concerned about the effects of the growing wolf population on Oregon's ungulate populations, particularly in critical big game wintering areas. Numerous wolf management objectives have yet to be undertaken, including population modeling, establishment of management zones, and the evaluation and implementation of the plan metrics for controlled take. OHA supports ODFW in undertaking these imperative management objectives and supports HB 4127, and the established fund, as one tool in the much needed, and ever-evolving, toolbox of wolf management in Oregon.

Thank you for your time,  
Amy Patrick, OHA Policy Director