



SIERRA CLUB

OREGON CHAPTER

OPPOSE HB 4127 – Wolf Management and Compensation Fund

Testimony by Terry J. Harris, Sierra Club Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, and Water - February 7, 2022

The Sierra Club Oregon Chapter submits this **testimony in OPPOSITION to HB 4127**, which asks for \$1 million to be appropriated for “managing” wolves in Oregon and compensating ranchers for wolf depredation losses. The fund received \$400,000 just last year.

For perspective, according to Oregon Wild, there were only 56-60 confirmed wolf depredations of cattle, sheep and goats combined in 2021. Meanwhile, wolf poaching and illegal poisonings have killed at least 8 wolves in recent months. The Department of Fish and Wildlife can count fewer than 200 wolves statewide.

The trust fund at the Oregon Department of Agriculture was established in 2011 to provide financial assistance to counties and compensation to ranchers for wolf depredation of livestock. The problem is that it’s being turned into a mismanaged slush fund. Oregon taxpayers should not be on the hook for undocumented claims or government mismanagement or negligent ranching. We strongly urge the Committee to reject this ill-considered bill.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club represents some 63,000 members and supporters as the state chapter of the oldest conservation organization in the United States.

Contact: Terry J. Harris
Oregon Chapter Legislative Committee
terryjharris@gmail.com
509-995-4754