

SB 471 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 1/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$800,000 General Fund moneys to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for deposit into the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2023.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3560, which directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. The program provides grants to assist counties in implementing programs to prevent wolf depredation and to compensate ranchers when wolf depredation occurs. The grant program sources moneys from the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.

According to the "2021 Annual Wolf Report" prepared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the minimum known count of wolves in Oregon at the end of 2021 was 175 wolves. ODFW received 90 requests from livestock producers to investigate dead or injured livestock suspected to be caused by wolf depredation. Of those investigations, 49 were confirmed as wolf depredation, compared to 31 in 2020, 16 in 2019, and 28 in 2018.

Senate Bill 471 would appropriate \$800,000 to ODA for deposit in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.