



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

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Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Support for SB 471

Chair Golden, Vice-chair Girod, committee members,

Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) supports SB 471's request to appropriate \$800,000 to the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund (Fund).

OHA advocates for sound, science-based wildlife management of all animals, game or non-game species. 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.

As part of that plan, the Fund was established to assist landowners and producers by attempting to offset damage incurred by a growing wolf population. OHA supports the request to appropriate \$800,000 to the Fund and asks the committee to consider increasing the amount due to the exponential increase in wolf depredation over the last two years.

Compensation of landowners and producers is an important component of wolf management efforts, showing those most impacted by wolves that they are a valued part of the management process. With the vast majority of the Fund expenditures directed toward defraying the costs of deterrent efforts, the allocation requested in SB 471 directly supports conflict deterrence between landowners and wolves.

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