

Oregon Cattlemans Association

Multiplier Bill talking points

February 2024

The current compensation program in Oregon pays for depredations that are confirmed or probably wolf kills and missing livestock. Additionally, 30% of compensation funds must be used on non-lethal methods in an attempt to reduce losses.

The Oregon Cattleman's Association has reacted to two concerns with the current program:

1. Missing livestock (payment recognizes that in rough country only 1 in 8 carcasses are found):
 - a. Are impossible to prove that they were killed by wolves.
 - b. Environmental groups have objected to the current process.
 - c. Missing livestock have never been paid at full value (55% to 0% in various years)
2. Compensation does not pay for increased management costs and reduced production costs:
 - a. Reduced weaning weight
 - b. Reduced conception rate or delayed breeding
 - c. Reduced body condition of cows
 - d. Increased management costs
 - i. Cost of non-lethal implementation
 - ii. Cattle behavior unmanageable, cattle fighting cow dogs, increased checking

The losses are not just economic, **they are also emotional and social**. Management costs relating to the expected non-lethal are both time and money. The time issue becomes critical as ranchers work to protect their herds, losing family time and time away from their normal ranching activities.

To address these concerns The Oregon Cattleman's' association is offering to **eliminate the compensation for missing livestock in return for a multiplier payment on confirmed and probable wolf kills**. We recommend the following multiplier for the various livestock compensation.

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Calves/Yearlings | 7 to 1 |
| Sheep/Goats (all age classes male and female) | 7 to 1 |
| Cows & Bulls* | 3 to 1 |
| Horses/ Working dogs/ Other livestock* | fair market value |

Maximum of \$15,000 per animal

*Pure Bred breeding stock, horses and dogs or other high value animals will be paid at the regular rate set by the local compensation committee using local annual prices unless producers with livestock or dogs valued above the locally set prices choose to work with the local committee to establish a fair price for their animals. The producer should supply some form of evidence as to their valuation. This could include sale records of like livestock purchase price information, sale of prodigy or any other valid information that supports their valuation.

At the present time many ranchers have not been participating in the compensation program for many reasons. Included in those reasons: 1). they don't trust the process of investigations to confirm the carcass as a wolf kill (this is being addressed outside compensation process); 2). the cost of implementing non-lethal; 3). Missing livestock are not paid even close to their value. Ranchers have compared the possibility of getting paid for some of their losses vs. the cost of time and money they will pay to participate..... they chose to not participate. (This is called a lack of social tolerance for wolves).

This bill would help improve the rancher's participation by streamlining the process; increasing the amount received if a depredation is confirmed, helping pay for those missing livestock, production losses and increased management costs. Lastly, the science supports that ranchers' costs far exceed the 7 to 1 ratio offered in this bill.