

Submitter: Donn Harris
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

I continue to be opposed to any form of “new” or reintroduced bills to change what is already working well with regards to the compensation available through the ODA’s grant funds for injured / killed livestock from wolf depredation. County wolf committees already allow for market replacement value to be awarded to producers who have had wolf depredation! Our county’s wolf committee paid full market value for the livestock killed / injured by wolves in 2023 within our county. Most of our funding from grants supplied by ODA from our county applications was paid out to producers who wanted to be reimbursed for non—lethal preventative tools that they set up by themselves or under the direction from ODFW wolf biologists. These included fladry, Vence systems, and range riders. This amount was almost 2/3’s of the entire funding received by our county’s wolf committee. Now, for over a year, our county’s producers have not had even one wolf depredation! Non -lethal wolf management works!

Also producers can apply for other sources of grants through the Federal indemnity Program which rewards up to 75% of the fair market value of livestock.

Statistics from our own USDA records of livestock mortality due from wolves clearly show that less than 1% of mortality of livestock is due to wolves. In Oregon, there were about 122 livestock killed / injured by wolves in 2024 out of 1,250,000 cattle. This equals a .01% depredation rate in Oregon. When almost 40% of livestock deaths are due to respiratory and digestive tract diseases , it appears that the livestock industry is entirely misguided and wrongly focused on the main cause of livestock losses. Perhaps administering better livestock animal husbandry would put dollars back in the pockets of the livestock industry. One excellent method would be using range riders ,who , if actually present 24/7 , could quickly identify any injuries, diseases, etc. in one’s livestock out on the pastures and could render immediate treatment for these livestock. This not only would allow a quicker return to health, but could also prevent wolf depredation by wolves who prey on the weakest.

This bill appears to be only an ask for a money making policy by the livestock industry by increasing compensation at a 7X’s multiplier rate. This tremendous and uncalled for increase in compensation has been rejected twice here in OR. Do not allow it to reappear again!