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Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Urges Support for Meaningful Compensation for Wolves and Other Wildlife Causing Damage Through Increased TLT Funding – HB 4134

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association (OCA) was established in 1913 and continues to serve Oregon's 11,000 ranchers today. The ranches of Oregon are distributed across the state in every County. Oregon's ranchers raise more than 1.1 million head of cattle. This ag sector contributes more than \$1 billion in cash receipts to Oregon's economy annually.

As support for wildlife and wolf compensation continue to diminish and the demands for general fund dollars increase, the Oregon Cattlemen's Association is requesting the support of the Legislature with an "aye" vote for HB 4134 – Increase in Transient Lodging Tax.

The bill as drafted would result in the following benefits:

Wolf Compensation Program

- Provides approx.. \$3M per biennium (indexed to inflation), ensuring stable, predictable support for livestock losses and ending the uncertainty of funding renewals every two years.

Livestock producers in Oregon must manage under a federal "protected" structure and a State managed program. This division is inequitable and places a drain on the financial and staff resources of the state agency.

Wolf depredation compensation programs are crucial for balancing wildlife conservation with rural economies, supporting livestock producers financially for losses to wolves, ensuring the economic viability of ranching in wolf-occupied areas. SB 777 was passed in the 2025 Session. That policy bill must have a funding mechanism to make it meaningful for ranchers.

Anti-Poaching Enforcement

This legislation will provide much needed resources to law enforcement agencies who safeguard Oregon's wildlife.

Data provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife helps to inform and support the need for the passage of HB 4134:

- **2024 wolf/livestock depredation**
 - Federally listed portion of Oregon, 20 confirmed depredation events causing loss or injury to 21 livestock (19 cattle, 2 sheep) and no working dogs
 - De-listed portion of Oregon, 51 confirmed depredation events causing loss or injury to 94 livestock (32 cattle, 62 sheep) and 3 working dogs
- **2025 wolf/livestock depredation (as of 12/1/2025)**
 - Federally listed portion of Oregon, 53 confirmed depredation events causing loss or injury to 68 livestock (cattle) and no working dogs
 - De-listed portion of Oregon, 47 confirmed depredation events causing loss or injury to 60 livestock (50 cattle, 8 sheep, 2 goats) and 3 working dogs

Bottom Line: This funding strengthens the partnership between ODFW and Oregon's landowners—keeping working lands productive, reducing risks, and conserving the wildlife that makes Oregon unique.