

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY BUSINESSES SUPPORT HB 4134

We live and work on land where wolves and other large carnivores are part of the landscape. Sharing the land with wildlife is a daily reality for ranching families across Oregon, and while we enjoy seeing the wildlife on the land, it comes with real costs. That's why HB 4134 matters: it provides the durable funding vehicle needed to deliver on the commitments the state has already made to rural communities living with wolves.

When livestock, horses, or working dogs are killed by a wolf, the loss goes far beyond the market value of that animal. It's time, stress, paperwork, disrupted operations, and uncertainty about whether compensation will ever materialize. For family ranches operating on thin margins, the chronic mental and financial stress of repeated losses can threaten whether a ranch stays intact at all.

Last legislative session, Oregon made progress by passing SB 777 to strengthen wolf compensation programs. The legislation acknowledged that landowners need support when living and working with wolves on the landscape. But without a stable funding source, those commitments remain incomplete.

Compensation alone is not enough. Ranchers also need consistent access to conflict reduction tools and resources. These tools can help reduce losses, locate depredation events, and help avoid escalating conflicts. But they only work when funding is reliable and available long-term.

HB 4134 supports a broader set of needs as well, including wildlife connectivity, invasive species management, wildfire risk reduction, and rural workforce development. These investments matter in Oregon, where healthy landscapes and working lands are inseparable from rural community stability.

HB 4134 would modestly increase Oregon's transient lodging tax and dedicate those funds to habitat, wildlife, wildfire prevention, as well as wolf depredation compensation and conflict reduction tools. It is an opportunity to redistribute resources to help ensure the costs of conservation aren't borne solely by the people who live with it every day.

The presence of wolves in Oregon may provide a public benefit, but it comes with serious private costs. If Oregon is serious about wildlife, healthy habitat, conservation, and keeping ranches intact across Oregon, those costs must be shared.

We urge community members, local leaders, and legislators to support HB 4134 and ensure that the promises made to rural Oregon translate into real, durable support on the ground.

Complete List of More Than 50 Ranchers and Ranches That Support HB 4134
Counties Represented: Umatilla, Klamath, Deschutes, Union, Morrow, Baker, Crook, Lake, Wallowa

Name/Ranch Name

- Cunningham Sheep Co.
- Jacobs Ranch
- Birkmaier Ranch
- Lightning Bolt Cattle Co.
- Dougherty Cattle Co.
- Hatfield Hyde Land Trust
- Rawley Bigsby
- T7 Cattle Co.
- Flynn Veterinary Clinic
- Jeff Parker/Highview Angus Ranch
- Klint and Kylie Shaffer
- Andy E. Vanderplat/KA Ranch
- Robert L. Levy/ L&L Farms
- Kristen Yeager
- Raider Heck
- Levi Hermens
- Shirley Parker/Highview Ranch
- Daniel Parker/Highview Ranch
- Vickie Witherrite/Witherrite Cattle Co.
- Gary Witherrite/Witherrite Cattle Co.
- Daniel Wurdinger/Wurdinger Ranch
- Barry Cox/ Del Sol
- Ray Wurdinger/Wurdinger Ranch
- Liz Wurdinger/Wurdinger Ranch
- Carolyn Schmidt
- Dennis Sheehy
- Marcie Sheehy
- Echo Canyon Ranch
- Carrie Hermens
- Bret Witty/Witty Ranch
- Sheila Dalton/Witty Ranch
- Rory Mallory/Mallory Ranch
- Echo Canyon Ranch
- Sandra G. Mallory/Mallory Ranch
- Deborah Wentz
- Don Wentz
- Triple Creek
- 7n7 Ranch
- Margaret Kassahn/Kassahn Family Farms
- Jessy Kassahn/Kassahn Family Farms

Complete List of More Than 50 Ranchers and Ranches That Support HB 4134
Counties Represented: Umatilla, Klamath, Deschutes, Union, Morrow, Baker, Crook, Lake, Wallowa

- Robert Scott/Echo Canyon
- Jackie Tippett/Tippett Ranch Inc.
- Tim Melville/Autim Ranch
- Audry Melville/Autim Ranch
- Tyler Coppin/Coppin Farms
- Yamsi Ranch
- Yainix Ranch
- Laughing Water Ranch
- Douglas Mallory/Mallory Ranch
- Scott Siebe/Aspen Springs Ranch
- Kathy Siebe/Aspen Springs Ranch
- Jackie M./Echo Canyon