



## Deschutes County Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #6: Monday, June 10, 2024, 5:30 p.m.  
Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room (2nd Floor), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

### MEETING FORMAT

The Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee will conduct this meeting in person, with the option to join remotely on Zoom. Members of the public may listen, view, and/or participate in this meeting using Zoom. Using Zoom is free of charge.

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85358924638?pwd=TTVuaHhJRDNiMkt5cjhyVVQ3ZXBUdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 5892 4638

Passcode: 795087

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
<b>1. Introductions</b>	Welcome Committee Members <i>3 Minutes</i>
<b>2. Approval of April 1, 2024, Minutes</b> <i>See Meeting Packet: Meeting Minutes April 1, 2024 - Draft</i>	Approve Minutes <i>2 Minutes</i>
<b>3. Update on Sub-Committee Meeting</b> Steve Pappa, Ethan O'Brien, and Donna Harris will provide updates and review the application Cover Letter <i>See Meeting Packet - WDCFAC Cover Letter Draft</i>	Information and discussion <i>10 Minutes</i>
<b>4. Update on Agency Partners and County Committees Meeting</b> Jen Patterson	Information and discussion <i>5 Minutes</i>
<b>5. Oregon Department of Fish Wildlife Update on Wolf Activity in and around Deschutes County</b> Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist, ODFW	Information and discussion <i>10 Minutes Presentation</i> <i>15 Minute Q &amp; A</i>
<b>6. Mitigating Political Impact on Producers and Ranchers</b>	Information and discussion <i>20 Minutes</i>
<b>7. Outreach and Education Strategy</b> Consideration of Press Release Announcing Grant Funding <i>See Meeting Packet - DRAFT Wolf Committee Grant Release</i>	Information and discussion <i>25 Minutes</i>

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
<b>8. Volunteer County Email Policy</b> <i>See Meeting Packet – Public Records of Volunteer Boards Commissions and Committees</i>	Information and discussion <i>5 Minutes</i>
<b>9. Review Media Policy</b> <i>See Meeting Packet – Meeting Minutes June 26, 2023, Section IV, Paragraph 4</i>	Information and discussion <i>10 Minutes</i>
<b>10. Committee Chair Consideration</b>	Information and discussion <i>10 Minutes</i>
<b>11. Public Comments</b> Members of the public are welcome at every Wolf Committee meeting. Each person’s time will be limited to allow time for everyone who wishes to speak. In addition, written comments will be accepted at any time.	Opportunity to hear from members of the public who are present.
<b>12. Next steps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next meeting: Discuss next meeting date and frequency of meetings – <b>Do committee members prefer to schedule regular occurring quarterly meetings?</b></li> <li>▪ Potential agenda topics: Community engagement, workshops, guest speakers</li> </ul>	Placeholders for Meeting #7 agenda <i>5 Minutes</i>
<b>13. Wrap up and adjourn</b>	

### Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee Board Order

On August 31, 2022 the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners (BOCC) approved the formation of a Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee. In May, 2023, the BOCC appointed 5 members to the committee. The BOCC appointed the committee to meet bi-annually, and on an as needed basis, and be tasked with recommending the following:

1. Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for compensation will provide sufficient evidence of actual livestock and/or working dog losses attributed to wolf depredation.
2. Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for financial assistance for the cost of livestock management or nonlethal deterrence provides an estimate of the potential cost.
3. Establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses from death, injury or missing all of which are attributed to wolf depredation.
4. Distributing grant program funds.
5. Preparing an annual report to ODA.



Deschutes County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This event/location is accessible to people with disabilities. If you need accommodations to make participation possible, please call (541) 388-6584 or send email to erik.kropp@deschutes.org.

Condado de Deschutes alienta a las personas cualificadas con discapacidad a participar en sus programas y actividades. Esta evento/ubicación es accesible para personas con discapacidad. Si necesita hacer arreglos para hacer posible la participación, llame al (541) 388-6584 o envíe un correo electrónico a erik.kropp@deschutes.org.



## Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #5: Monday, April 1, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Allen Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee | Deschutes County Oregon.](#)

### I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Commissioner Phil Chang. Present via Zoom: Sarahlee Lawrence. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Jen Patterson, Deschutes County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Gordon Jones; Stephen Pappa; and Scott Duggan, OSU Extension, Department of Animal & Rangeland Science.

### II. Approval of January 29, 2024, Minutes

Ethan O'Brien moved to approve the minutes. Donna Harris seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

### III. Update on Wolf Committee Activities throughout the State

Jen Patterson provided an update from a webinar hosted by ODA ahead of the grant applications. During that webinar, which was attended by committee representatives from around the state, several representatives from several counties indicated interest in meeting as a smaller group to develop committee templates and toolboxes. Currently when a county establishes a Wolf Committee it is up to that county's committee to educate themselves on how the program is run, establish relationships with state agencies like ODA and ODFW and develop any outreach and educational materials. County representatives have expressed interest in coming up with a more statewide uniformed process in implementing and running county committee programs. There is a lot of institutional knowledge throughout the state and a lot of lessons learned as some counties have had committees established for years.

Additionally, during that meeting a committee member (and support staff) invited several representatives to her ranch in Wheeler County. ODA, ODFW, and local representatives will be meeting in Wheeler County on April 12 to review recommended processes for implementing non-lethal preventative measures and to continue the broader discussion on pooling resources and ideas for working in a more cohesive manner throughout the state.

### IV. Depredation Grant Allocations

ODA has announced the grant awards for 2023. Deschutes County requested a total of \$77,306.50 in grant funding and was awarded \$32,620.75. Below are tables detailing the requested and awarded amounts by category.

Requested:

Grant Fund Request	
Category 1 – Grant funds requested for compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.	\$ 1,935
Category 2 – Grant funds requested for livestock and working dogs that are missing due to wolf depredation from February 1, 2023 through January 31, 2024.	\$ 5371.50
Category 3 – Total requested grant funds to implement livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques to prevent interactions between wolves and livestock or working dogs from March 22, 2024 through January 31, 2025.	\$ 70,000
Category 4 – Grant funds requested for the expenses allowed under OAR 603-049-0015(g) to implement the County Block Grant Program for 2024. (May only request 90% of actual expenses. The remaining expenses are to be included under Item 5 as a monetary contribution.)	\$
<b>Total grant funds requested</b>	<b>\$ 77,306.50</b>

Awarded:

Table 2.01 BUDGET

AWARD TYPE	BUDGET AMOUNT
#1 (Death/Injury)	\$1,935
#2 (Missing)	\$2,685.75
#3 (Prev./Nonlethal)	\$28,000
#4 (Admin)	\$0
Total Award	\$32,620.75

The committee discussed the fact that they are missing a set process for producers to submit grant requests in all three eligible categories. Gordon Jones would like to see a process where the livestock owners need to justify/provide documentation with more detail when submitting grant requests for missing livestock. Stephen Pappa also mentioned that there should be a process for requesting a depredation claim. Sarahlee Lawrence commented that as a livestock owner they were not aware when their ranch had experienced the first depredation from wolves as they didn't know the signs to look for. After contacting and working with ODFW to investigate the depredation they now have a much better sense of what to look for and can respond more timelier if future incidents should occur. Phil Chang questioned how new livestock producers would recognize a wolf depredation from the onset. How does the committee create a process to address first time producers experiencing wolf activity on their ranch? Sarahlee stated that it has now become much more public through being in the news, with the committee business, and other avenues through state ODA and ODFW resources and that it is not the same experience they had personally experienced as the first known depredation in Deschutes County.

Phil Chang brought up that the state is ramping up committee funding and that probably has a correlation to why missing funds were granted this year when they weren't in previous years.

The committee will establish a process in applying for grant funds ahead of next year's funding opportunity. The committee can establish a sub-committee, with 3 or fewer members, to do more in depth committee work and bring that work back to the full committee for consideration.

The committee moved into a discussion on how to divide out the awarded preventative measures funds. A group discussion on how to best use funding sources for outreach and education workshops brought up the idea to use existing organizations that conduct work with ranchers and livestock owners as a partner with the committee. Scott Duggan from OSU Extension mentioned that he puts on a lot of workshops and would be interested in

working with the committee on potential educational workshops.

Phil Chang posed the question on whether there is a season on where depredations occur more frequently and therefore if it would be more beneficial to target an educational workshop ahead of that season.

Ethan O'Brien motioned for the depredation and missing funds be awarded to Long Hollow Ranch. Gordon Jones seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

Johnny Leason suggested allocating 40% of preventative measure funds requested to Long Hollow Ranch and the committee retain 40% of their funds requested for preventative measures. Ethan O'Brien proposed allocating some to Long Hollow, keeping funds for the committee to use throughout the year, and re-visiting later in the year any unspent funds. If the committee funds have not been spent they can be allocated to Long Hollow before January 31, 2025 when preventative measure grant funds need to be expended or returned to the state.

Phil Chang discussed that it may take the committee time throughout the year to determine the best use of the funds the committee has available to use toward preventative measures.

The committee continued the conversation on other preventative measure practices. Johnny Leason discussed the experience on his land and is not worried about wolves coming into his pits. He has cameras up on all corners of his property and has not had a wolf show up on the cameras. He sees a lot of bobcats, coyotes and other predators and has not had the problem or concerns that Long Hollow has.

Gordon Jones suggested having a Range Rider effectiveness workshop potentially sponsored by Scott Duggan with financial support provided by committee preventive measure funds. Sarahlee Lawrence reiterated that Range Riding is an effective measure as are collars. The collars allow them to see when the livestock are being agitated and allowing them to respond in real time with the virtual electronic fence.

Scott Duggan was asked if he could put together a budget to host an educational workshop. Scott indicated he would be willing to do this and work with the newly formed Deschutes Livestock Association, which is in the process of community outreach and building a local contact list. Ethan brought up that there are not a lot of actual ranchers within the county and posed the question on whether it might be beneficial to put together a multi-county workshop to target a broader audience.

Sarahlee Lawrence stated that it seemed fair to allocate the preventative measure funds at the rate the state allocated – 40% of requested amount be allocated to Long Hollow Ranch for a total of \$18,000 and 40% of committee requested funds of \$10,000. Other committee members mentioned that \$10,000 is lot for the committee to hang onto without specific items to spend the money on.

Ethan suggested the committee allocate \$20,000 to Long Hollow Ranch and retain \$8,000 for committee purposes throughout the year. If the committee doesn't spend the full \$8,000 the unspent funds can be allocated to Long Hollow Ranch later in the year.

Johnny Leason so moved Ethan's suggestion. Stephen Pappa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; Sarahlee Lawrence abstained from voting.

## **V. Outreach and Education Strategy**

The committee discussed financially supporting an educational workshop that Scott Duggan would organize. The committee supports a more detailed workshop that focuses on providing preventative measure techniques to local ranchers and bringing awareness to funding opportunities to implement preventative measures.

Phil Chang brought up that building an outreach list takes resources and a plan and suggested the committee consider using some funds to support an outreach plan. Scott Duggan said he could send out a survey to build up an outreach list.

A sub-committee will work on creating application forms to consider deprecation, missing, and preventative measures future grant funding requests. Stephen Pappa, Ethan O'Brien, and Donna Harris volunteered to establish and serve on the sub-committee.

#### **VI. Discussion on Engagement Opportunities with Experts for Workshops and Techniques on Preventative Measures**

See notes from agenda items III and IV.

#### **VII. Public Comments**

No public comments.

#### **VIII. Next Steps**

Next meeting will be in June, Jen will send around a doodle poll to schedule a meeting time. Agenda items will include further discussions on preventative measures and education, developing a process for applying for grant funding, and electing a permanent committee chair. The committee requested Aaron Bott be invited and available to answer questions during the meeting.

#### **IX. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,  
Deschutes County Administrative Services



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## **Deschutes County**

### **Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee**

The Oregon State Legislature has established a Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program to assist in implementing each county's Wolf Depredation Compensation Program. This committee has been assembled to establish and assist individuals with procedures to apply for direct compensation or financial assistance for livestock management and non-lethal deterrence.

Enclosed are the three categories of the Oregon Department of Agriculture applications:

1. Death or injury of livestock or working dogs– Category 1 Application
2. Missing livestock or working dogs– Category 2 Application
3. Implementation of preventative management activities and deterrence techniques—Category 3 Application

These applications are designed to produce the needed information for this committee to successfully process, allocate, and distribute grant program funds. The committee will provide as much assistance as possible in completing each application. It is strongly recommended that each applicant meet with the committee either in person or electronically to facilitate the grant application process. Each application would include:

1. Discussion and reports from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Wolf Biologist
2. Individual herd records to quantify depredation issues
3. Techniques implemented to minimize conflict and maximize non-lethal wolf deterrence

The Wolf Committee accepts grant applications throughout the year, however grants are awarded from the Oregon Department of Agriculture once a year, typically in April. To be considered for a grant opportunity the committee asks that all grant applications are received no later than January 15. Grants for depredation and missing livestock are reimbursement grants for claims that occurred in the previous calendar year. Grants for non-lethal preventative measures assist with the implementation of livestock management techniques in the current calendar year.

Please ask for any needed assistance. This committee is here to successfully implement the Oregon Wolf Depredation Compensation Program in this county.

## County offering grants to prevent wolf depredation of livestock

The Deschutes County [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee](#) is offering grants to ranchers who plan to implement preventative measures that mitigates conflict between wolves and livestock.

The funds are to be used for non-lethal preventative measures including, but not limited to:

- Reducing attractants (removal of bone piles, carcass disposal)
- Barriers (fladry and fencing)
- Human presence (range riders, hazers, herders, individual response)
- Alarm or scare devices (alarm systems, lights, and sound devices)
- Livestock management/husbandry changes (changing pastures, night feeding, changes in calving season and herd structure, etc.)
- Experimental practices (bio-fencing, bellling cattle, airman, etc.)

The available grant funds for the program come from the remaining portion of a \$32,620 grant awarded to the County Wolf Depredation and Financial Compensation Program by the Oregon Department of Agriculture in April 2024. \$8,000 in grant funding is available. There is no set deadline for ranchers or producers to apply for a grant, but the funds must be spent by January 31.

To apply or get more information about the grants please contact Jen Patterson at [jen.patterson@deschutes.org](mailto:jen.patterson@deschutes.org) or (541) 388-6654.

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Media Contact:

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager

[jen.patterson@deschutes.org](mailto:jen.patterson@deschutes.org)

(541) 388-6654





**Deschutes County Administrative Policy No. GA-25**  
**Effective Date: May 1, 2024**

**VOLUNTEER BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES –  
PUBLIC RECORDS**

**In General**

Deschutes County appreciates the valuable contributions of volunteers who serve on County committees and boards. Through their work, they play a vital role in supporting County government.

Volunteers serving on designated County boards, commissions, and committees must use a County-provided e-mail for any e-mail communication related to matters associated with the work of said board, commission, or committee.

The County Administrator will determine which boards, commissions and committees this policy applies to. The designated list will be communicated to departments/offices annually.

Use of County-provided e-mail ensures that the County can access public records for production in a timely and thorough manner as required for compliance with associated public records requests.

The use of private e-mail accounts by a volunteer serving on a designated County board, commission, or committee and concerning a matter(s) associated with the work of said board, commission, or committee is deemed misconduct and is strictly prohibited. Such actions support immediate removal from said board, commission or committee. County staff who serve as committee liaisons are permitted to send informational emails (meeting notifications, etc.) to a secondary email provided by volunteers.

**E-mail Use**

E-mail should be used as a tool by County volunteers only for County business purposes. Users should not expect privacy and shall observe courtesy and good security practices. There are a variety of ways an e-mail communication can be disclosed to people other than the intended recipient.

Deschutes County has the right to monitor the usage of volunteer's e-mail. All e-mail sent to or from the County's e-mail systems are public records, whether in printed or electronic form, and are subject to the disclosure and inspection provisions of ORS 192 as it currently exists or may from time to time be amended.

## **Use of Email**

Volunteers should be mindful that emails associated with board/committee work are public record and those conversations are subject to public meetings laws.

A series of emails can violate public meetings law if they are used for the purpose of deliberation toward a decision. Volunteers should refer to the public meetings training provided by County Legal Counsel for additional information on this topic.

## **Multi-Factor Authentication**

In order to access the County's e-mail system, volunteers can download an application on their personal cell phone or request a physical token.

## **Passwords**

Volunteers must take prudent and reasonable steps to prohibit access to accounts and passwords. Passwords and accounts must remain confidential to that volunteer and should not be disclosed to any other person. If a volunteer's password is disclosed to another person, the volunteer must change their password immediately.

Passwords should not be kept in written form or in a manner that would enable access to it by another person. Passwords should be changed frequently. When changing a password, common personally related words, such as family member or pet names, should be avoided. Each volunteer shall immediately change their password if the volunteer believes any unauthorized person may have gained access to the volunteer's password information.

In the event that a volunteer becomes aware of, or suspects, that (a) any information contained in their email has been accessed by an unauthorized individual or otherwise compromised, or (b) any security system has been breached or compromised (including, without limitation, the unauthorized disclosure or use of any password), the volunteer shall immediately notify the County staff member assigned to the committee or Board they serve on.

No volunteer shall leave their e-mail open and unattended in a manner that would allow unauthorized use of such Resource. Passcodes are required to be on personal devices that access County resources.

## **County Records**

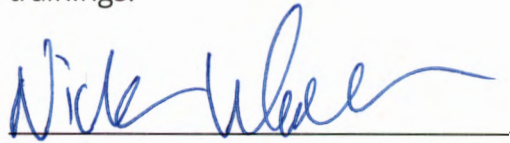
Unless otherwise specified by written agreement, all electronic documents and data generated by a volunteer using the County's e-mail system are County property. The County reserves the right to access and disclose all messages sent over the e-mail system for any purpose, including the right to disclose e-mail messages to law enforcement officials without prior notice. E-mail messages may be accessed and reviewed at any time

by the Department Head, the County Administrator, the Information Technology Director or County Legal Counsel; they may also be accessed and reviewed by computer support staff for the limited purpose of providing support services. The County further retains the discretion to assert any applicable privileges and objections if a public records request or discovery request is made for any County e-mail. Volunteers will be notified if their emails are responsive to a public records request. A volunteer desiring the County assert a privilege or objection under the Public Records law with respect to County e-mail shall notify the staff member assigned to the committee or Board they serve on, who will coordinate with Legal Counsel to make a final determination.

### **Volunteer Attestation and Training**

Volunteers serving on designated County boards, commissions, and committees are required to sign a *Volunteer Acknowledgement* addressing the use of County-provided e-mail for communication related to matters associated with the work of said board, commission or committee.

Volunteers will also be required to attend virtual Cybersecurity and Public Records trainings.



Nick LeLack  
County Administrator



## Minutes Deschutes County Wolf Depredation and Financial Assistance Committee

Meeting #1: Monday, June 26, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, DeArmond Room, 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Committee | Deschutes County Oregon](#).

### I. Introductions / Call to Order

This meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jen Patterson. Present via Zoom: Emily Weidner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife. Present in person: Phil Chang, Deschutes County Commissioner; Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Dave Doyle, County Legal Counsel; Jen Patterson, County Strategic Initiatives Manager; Donna Harris; Sarahlee Lawrence; Johnny Leason; Ethan O'Brien; Bridget Moran, Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife; Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Ashanti Samuels, Owner, Pitchfork T-Ranch and Long Hollow Ranch; Andrew Walch, District Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Jack Harvel, Reporter, The Source Weekly.

### II. Review and Adoption of Committee Charter

Jen Patterson presented an overview of the committee charter highlighting the mission and purpose, record keeping, membership, ground rules and expectations. Sarahlee Lawrence moved to adopt the charter. Donna Harris seconded the motion. Adoption passed unanimously.

### III. Nominating a Chair

Nick Lelack presented an overview of committee chair responsibilities. The committee discussed chair nominations and Donna Harris nominated Commissioner Chang for Chair. Commissioner Chang agreed to serve an interim term of 6 months. Donna Harris moved to nominate Commissioner Chang. Ethan O'Brien seconded the motion. Nomination was passed unanimously.

### IV. Presentation on Public Meetings

Dave Doyle presented an overview of public meetings and public official roles referencing the following documents, available on the public committee website: Reference Guide – Public Meeting Laws and A Guide for Public Officials. A quorum (3 or more) of committee members cannot talk about committee meeting concerns or business outside of this meeting unless it has been publicly noticed. Minutes are kept and will be reviewed by committee members, once adopted the minutes will be posted publicly. Legal Counsel recommended that committee members develop and adopt a media policy to include consensus on whether individual committee members can speak to the media or nominate a representative or staff liaison to field media requests.

Commissioner Chang asked: If a quorum wanted to meet outside for a field trip, can that be publicly noticed and if so are committee members free to participate in that type of activity? Dave Doyle stated that is appropriate

activity as long as it is publicly noticed. Typically public notices should occur seven days in advance however an emergency notice can be done within 24 hours

Donna Harris asked if committee members can publicly discuss committee business. Dave Doyle stated yes as it is public record. Meetings are recorded and posted publicly.

Saralee Lawrence requested to discuss and determine media policy. Ethan O'Brien asked if the committee would like to have a united front. Saralee indicated she would not like to publicly comment to media and suggested that for the first six months no individual take a position on behalf of the committee. Commissioner Change stated that sometimes a lack of information/media response can lead to dis-information on the subject and suggested that a response could focus on facts about committee roles and responsibilities and not (for the time being) address hard committee decisions. Jen Patterson stated that, if preferred by the committee, a staff member or committee chair could respond to media inquiries. If there is a media inquiry that is opinion based Jen will work with committee members to coordinate a unified statement before responding to the media inquiry. Any committee member is able to provide individual statements to the media as long as the response is not represented as being on behalf of the committee as a whole.

#### **V. Two Business Representatives to Serve on Committee**

Due to time restraints committee members opted to have this discussion at the next committee meeting.

#### **VI. Presentation from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Aaron Bott, Wolf Biologist with ODFW, presented on the history and nature of wolves in the region. Wolves have the greatest distribution of any terrestrial animals except for humans with a territorial range from Canada to Central Mexico. Wolves were eradicated from the region in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. They were re-introduced in the mid-1990's and in 1999 the first wolf sighting in Oregon was confirmed. Wolves are highly territorial and will defend their territory to the death. Wolves live in family groups called packs with an average size of 6 which is typically made up of a mother and father and several generations of off-spring. Their home range is 100-240 square miles.

Deschutes County has a pair of wolves, known as the Metolius Pair, which is most likely a male and a female. ODFW has been documenting the pair for the last 2 years. Cameras have been deployed across the county to monitor the pair. One of ODFW's responsibility is to monitor the wolves by coordinating with federal and state agencies along with many public citizens who monitor wolf activity. The pair has yet to have a radio collar placed on them – however ODFW is working on attempting to collar the pair. Radio collars are not a save all for information as they can be unreliable and undependable due to a variety of factors. Wolves are able to move about quite freely. ODFW is pretty confident the Metolius pair are the only two wolves in the area however it should be expected that more wolves will come into the area in the future because it is a very favorable habitat and it is expected that the Metolius pair will breed at some point. This could change as soon as tomorrow or in 2 or 3 years. The pair will become more active in the fall and at that time it could be determined if the pair have pups, however at this time there is no indication that they have pups.

The ODFW District Biologist is responsible for confirming a wolf depredation. It needs to be a confirmed or probable wolf depredation for eligibility of funds from the depredation wolf grant program. Preventative measures are eligible grant funds and if preventative measures are employed it is likely other depredation sources will also be reduced. At least 30% of the grant monies need to go toward preventative measures. Depredation compensation can include livestock and working dogs. Ethan O'Brien asked if there is a definition for working dogs. Aaron Bott indicated that defining a working dog is one of the responsibilities of the committee members.

ODFW's responsibility is to determine if a wolf was the source of the depredation and in order to do so they need to be on the scene pretty quickly after the kill. The fresher the kill the easier it is to determine the source of the kill. Wolves are scavengers – they would rather choose to eat a carcass than kill a livestock but they will kill if they need food. Wolf predation, like any predator, has a pattern to the kill.

Wolf activities are new to this part of the world and this generation. There are other parts of the world that have ranches with wolves for many generations, a lot can be learned from them in providing education tools and resources to assist in preventative measures. There are tools that work including: removal of attractants

(carcasses, bone pits, etc...), grant money to hire people to patrol land and bury carcasses, livestock protection dogs, husbandry adjustments, fladry, fencing (a 4'-5' fence has been shown to work), and alarm systems (flashing strobe lights).

Ashanti Samuels spoke to the depredation that occurred on his land, he has ranch land that crosses over Deschutes County, Jefferson County, and the Warm Springs Reservation – grazing range encompasses over 100,000 acres. A confirmed depredation from the Metolius Pack occurred in May and he has seen wolf activity on a weekly if not daily not basis. Ashanti has been working closely with ODFW in implementing preventative measures. Having the type of cattle who protect their calves' helps in prevention of depredation, he considers the breed of cattle to help defend against predators. The cattle that have been predated upon are typically weaned from their momma and are around teen age. Wolves don't only kill the cattle, they stress them as well – which can run the weight off them and impacts their ability to breed. As a rancher, cowboy, and steward of the land Ashanti values all the wildlife, even wolves and coyotes, as long as they are doing the right thing. Sharing the landscape with wolves is going to take persistence and more hours and time to work on preventative measures. It is another full time piece of the ranching operation and Ashanti is committed to doing so. Ashanti's ranching operation has spent about \$25,000 this year on extra preventative measures. They collar the cattle with a tracking device which allows them to know where the cows are located and create electric fence boundaries in real time.

Ethan O'Brien asked what Ashanti would like to see from the committee to specifically help with his, and others, operations.

Ashanti stated that compensation definitely helps and to have committee members: educate themselves; ask questions to find out more about wolves; make sure to learn why it is important to have some compensation; why ranchers commit to preventative measures; evaluate who wants funding and why; and; consider if those requesting depredation funding have preventative measures in place to help with depredation issues.

Commissioner Chang asked if there are any specific preventative measures that this committee can look at to submit funding requests.

Ashanti Samuels responded that he would really need to think about that; money can be used in a lot of ways and they are pretty new at this process. It will be important to make sure the funds are available because they will be needed and will be used.

## **VII. Next Steps**

Jen Patterson will send out a doodle poll to determine a time for the next meeting, either late summer or early fall, and an email to the committee members for ideas of next meeting topics including filling the business representative positions.

## **VIII. Public Comments**

Andrew Walch, District Wolf Biologist with ODFW, thanked the committee members for serving and is available to any individual who has any questions or comments.

Bridget Moran, Field Supervisor with U.S. Fish & Wildlife, thanked the committee members for serving and offered to present at a future committee meeting.

## **IX. Wrap up and Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,  
Deschutes County Administrative Services