

SB 642 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 4/5, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$800,000 from General Fund to State Department of Agriculture for deposit in Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2021.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal impact issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund
- Use of fund to compensate persons for nonlethal deterrence techniques and loss of livestock or working dogs due to wolf predation
- Transparency of use of funds

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

According to "2019 Annual Wolf Report" prepared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the minimum known count of wolves in Oregon at the end of 2019 was 158 wolves. The Department received 50 requests from livestock producers to investigate dead or injured livestock suspected to be wolf depredation. Of those investigations, 16 were confirmed as wolf depredation, compared to 28 in 2018.

The 2011 Legislative Assembly directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program. The program provides grants to assist counties in implementing programs to prevent wolf depredation and compensate ranchers when wolf depredation occurs. (House Bill 3560) The grant program uses moneys in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund .

Senate Bill 642 would appropriate \$800,000 to ODA for deposit in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.