

**SB 642 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery**

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**Action Date:** 04/07/21

**Action:** Do pass and refer to Ways and Means by prior reference.

**Vote:** 4-1-0-0

**Yeas:** 4 - Golden, Kennemer, Patterson, Prozanski

**Nays:** 1 - Heard

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** No revenue impact

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**Meeting Dates:** 4/5, 4/7

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**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.

**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 depredation
- Transparency of use of funds
- Committee request for report on the efficacy of Fund to achieve original goals

**EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

According to the "2019 Annual Wolf Report" prepared by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department), 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.

In 2011, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 3560 which 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. 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.