

I would like to encourage the support of SB642. My husband and I have a ranch in Imnaha and we have been impacted by the wolves in the past and have received funding for calves that were killed by the wolves. We also have used non-lethal equipment that the County had purchased using this funding and we currently have predator lights up around our calving pastures that were purchased by the county for non-lethal measures. Other livestock producers have used the fladry that the county has. The non-lethal portion of this funding has allowed Wallowa County to hire a range rider giving the livestock producers an extra set of eyes to help them know where the wolves are. This last year we also paid a livestock producer for all the extra time he spent out on the range with his cows to try and prevent wolf depredation to his livestock.

This funding has helped in the past to pay for livestock that were killed by wolves. In Wallowa County we have had calves, cows, a pack mule, a llama and several stock dogs either killed or injured. It has helped offset the financial loss of animals. Not all of these attacks were on public lands like many believe them to be and some of the attacks on private lands have not been far from a residential house.

As long as there are wolves, there will be predation on livestock or other domestic animals. Not all packs depredate on livestock, but once they do they will continue to do so. This funding does help livestock producers with their loss and also with the non-lethal measures they use so please support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Cynthia Warnock