

HB 4127 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, and Water

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/7, 2/9, 2/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Appropriates \$1 million General Fund to the Oregon Department of Agriculture for deposit into the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued.

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

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 sources moneys from the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.

According to the "2020 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 173 wolves. ODFW received 73 requests from livestock producers to investigate dead or injured livestock suspected to be wolf depredation. Of those investigations, 31 were confirmed as wolf depredation, compared to 16 in 2019, and 28 in 2018.

House Bill 4127 would appropriate \$1 million to ODA for deposit in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.