

Submitter: Mark Carlton

On Behalf Of: Carlton Ranch

Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Measure: HB2631

The true loss values suffered from wolf depredation is almost impossible to measure. It is also very difficult to prove "beyond doubt" that livestock were taken by a wolf. Wolf numbers are reported as actual counted known individual wolves, not estimated numbers as reported in other species. Therefore there are likely many more wolves than reported and likely many more livestock losses than reported. Due to this one sided preference in the wolfs favor, ranchers seldom get just compensation for their losses. As for the wolf population, it is no longer an endangered species in North America, the USA, or Oregon for that matter. Different wolf populations are established throughout Oregon and are here to stay regardless of any future efforts to control the species. Therefore, the negative impacts of wolves need to be realized, recognized, and mitigated. And anybody suffering losses from confirmed wolf depredation needs to be compensated at an inflated rate to account for the other losses incurred, but impossible to confirm. These include livestock attacks, and kills. They also include lack of livestock weight gains due to wolf pressure on animals grazing on large pastures or allotments. Other losses also include missing livestock numbers that are never found.