

I OPPOSE [HB 2633]...The wolf depredation program funding is being hijacked.

The wolf population and habitat area is expanding. The wolf population needs to be relocated or culled.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HB2633/Introduced>

Staff Measure Summary:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2023R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/266859>

[ORS 610.155]: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_610.155

I Oppose [HB 2633] for the following reasons:

[HB 2633] states, "... (2) *The State Department of Agriculture* shall establish and implement a wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program, using moneys in the *Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund* established under ORS 610.155, **to provide grants** to assist counties to implement county programs under which:... (b) **Contributes an amount of moneys equal to 10 percent of the amount necessary to implement, during the calendar year, the county program.**" What is the source of the remaining [90%] to fund the program? Grants?

[HB 2633] states, "... (d) **Establishes a county advisory committee to oversee the county program**, consisting of one county commissioner, two members who own or manage livestock and two members who support wolf conservation or coexistence with wolves. **The county advisory committee, once established by the county, shall agree upon two county business representatives to serve as additional county advisory committee members...**"

***[HB 2633] is underfunded and highly politicized. The majority of Committee Members are probable stooges. Only "two members who own or manage livestock" on the, "county advisory committee to oversee the county program?" C'mon, who are you trying to fool? The wolf depredation program regulations are intentionally designed to eliminate the cattle industry.

[HB 2633] states, "... the compensation is provided **only if owners have demonstrated** implementation of best management practices to deter wolves, including reasonable use of nonlethal methods when practicable and (C) **Any compensation is based upon a finding by the local advisory committee** that the person **did not unreasonably or purposefully create circumstances** that attract wolves or encourage conflict between wolves and livestock or working dogs."

*Note: The aforementioned illustrates the abject absurdity of [HB 2633]. There will be staff increases to investigate and hold inquisition based determinations to establish compensation and or criminal conduct. Screw this setup.

[HB 2633] states, "...The department **may use moneys in the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund** established under ORS 610.155 **to pay expenses incurred in administering the wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance grant program.**" There you have it, the creation of an administration to manage the program.

*Note: Monies allocated for compensation are being systematically consumed by oppressive regulations and bigger government. An entire section of the Department of Agriculture will be created to manage the wolf depredation program.

*Opinion: The wolf depredation program is part of a long-term strategy to kill-off the cattle industry to obtain land. More regulations are being forced upon the cattle industry. Over time, if the political climate does not change, regulations will continue to erode the profitability of the cattle industry in Oregon. Small producers will be forced out first, their land sold.

We need to change the political climate to protect our cattle industry. Strategic planning is a requirement.

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