

# Wolf Compensation Multiplier HB 4107

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# Current Compensation Plan

- Pays for Depredation that are Confirmed or Probable wolf Kills
- At least an additional 30% of the value of Confirmed/Probable payments must be spent on non-lethal activities
- If there is funds left then the program pays for missing livestock
- Does not recognize all the production losses and management cost increases that ranchers endure

# Issues with Current Compensation Plan

- Amount paid for non-lethal has been high leaving limited funds for missing
  - From 2012- 2021
    - Direct Compensation \$143,126
    - Prevention (non-lethal) \$1,172,743
    - Missing \$220,200
      - Missing livestock paid between 0% and 97% of requested
      - Missing Livestock paid average of 42% of submitted missing livestock
      - 2023 missing livestock was paid at 0%
- Ranchers not bothering to participate as last 4 years have been 25%<

# Increased Management Costs & Production losses

- Reduced weaning weight
- Reduced conception rate or delayed breeding
- Reduced body condition of cows
- Increased management costs
  - Cost of non-lethal implementation
  - Cattle behavior unmanageable, cattle fighting cow dogs, increased checking

# Missing livestock

- Missing livestock (payment recognizes that in rough country only 1 in 8 carcasses are found):
  - Are impossible to prove that they were killed by wolves.
  - Many groups have objected to the current process.
  - Missing livestock have never been paid at full value in various years)

# HB4107 Multiplier

**Eliminates compensation for missing livestock in return for Multiplier payment on confirmed and probable wolf kills.**

- Calves/Yearlings 7 to 1
  - Sheep/Goats (all age classes male and female) 7 to 1
  - Cows & Bulls 3 to 1
  - Horses/Working dogs/ Other livestock fair market value
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- Maximum of \$15,000 per animal

# Calves and Yearlings

- Only one in 8 carcasses found in rough country
- Production costs & Management Increased costs exceed 7 times value of confirmed/probable losses
- Social Tolerance is needed to help ranchers begin to participate in programs
- Participation is needed to help ranchers be able to keep ranching

# Cows and Bulls

- Ranchers offered this reduced Multiplier in hopes of gaining support for the other livestock multiplier
- The group with the largest production losses.
- Cows become wild, mean in corrals
- Fight cow dogs
  - OSU research confirmed these are real physiological responses
- Some of these cattle are high value breeding stock
  - Program encourages in these situations for producer to work with local Compensation committee to appropriately value these animal
    - Documentation would be required for these instances



# Sheep & Goats

- Wolves do not discriminate in which sheep or goats that they kill
  - Rams/Ewes/lambs/kids ..... When an attack occurs all are targets
- There are production losses with these animals
- With sheep many times carcasses are not found or completely consumed

# Horses/Dogs/Other livestock

- Most carcasses are found
- There is not usually production losses to these
- Therefore Fair Market Value is appropriate
- Many of these individuals are valuable
  - Horses and cow dogs are many times high value livestock
  - Program encourages in these situations for producer to work with local Compensation committee to appropriately value these animal
    - Documentation would be required for these instances
- Limit of \$15,000 per animal

# Thank you for your time

- *Oakleaf J., Mack C., Murry D. EFFECTS OF WOLVES ON LIVESTOCK CALF SURVIVAL AN MOVEMENTS IN CENTRAL IDAHO*
- *Cooke R., Cappelozza B., Reis D., Johnson D., Borman M., Williams J., Bohnert D. Special Report----Impact of previous exposure to wolves on and physiological responses of beef cattle following a simulated wolf encounter*
- *Lehmkuhler J., Palmquist G., Ruid D., Willging B., Wydeven A. Effects of Wolves and Other Predators on Farms in Wisconsin: Beyond Verified Losses*
- *Steele J., Rashford B., Foulke T., Tanaka J., Taylors D. Wolf (Canis lupus) Predation Impacts on Livestock Production: Direct Effects, Indirect Effects, and Implications for Compensation Ratios*
- *Sommers A., C. Price, C. Urbigkit, & E. Peterson. 2010. Quantifying Economic Impacts of Large-Carnivore Depredation on Bovine Calves\_Journal of Wildlife Management 74(7):1425-1434.,*
- *Wolves —A Primer for Ranchers, J. Williams, D.E. Johnson, P.E. Clark, L.L. Larson, and T.J. Roland*
- *Williams, J. Estimates of Economic Losses to Stock Growers due to the Presence of Wolves in North Eastern Oregon.*