

SB 985 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Natural Resources and Wildfire

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 2/27

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2,000,000 of General Fund moneys to the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund. Declares emergency, effective upon passage.

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

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

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

HB 3560 (2011) directed the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to create the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. This program is funded by the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund, which provides grants to counties for wolf depredation compensation and assistance. The funds can be used to:

- Reimburse for livestock or working dogs injured or killed by confirmed or probable wolf depredation.
- Support nonlethal wolf deterrence and livestock management techniques to prevent depredation.
- Reimburse for missing livestock or dogs due to wolf depredation.
- Reimburse counties for implementing the program.

The program works alongside the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Wolf Conservation and Management Plan to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts. At least 30% of the annual grant funds must be dedicated to nonlethal deterrence techniques. Oregon Revised Statutes 610.155 establishes the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund as separate from the General Fund, with interest credited back to it. Moneys are continuously appropriated for the program's implementation.