



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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The Honorable Ken Helm

The Honorable Mark Owens

Co-Chairs

House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

900 Court St NE, H-490 & H-475

Salem, OR 97301

Representative Helm and Representative Owens,

The department is following up on questions raised by the committee during the public hearing on SB 777A: Relating to the Depredation of Livestock. Specifically, a question was asked regarding the number of Areas of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) the department has mapped in Oregon.

Areas of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) are delineated to show where an individual or group of wolves have been repeatedly documented. AKWA boundaries are determined based on observed data as well as estimated use area based on an average home range size. When multiple resident packs or individuals overlap, those individual AKWAs are combined into one large AKWA to delineate contiguous areas of wolf activity.

The most current AKWA map, as of December 31, 2024, includes 45 resident individuals or group of wolves. This map is included in the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management [2024 Annual Report](#). This represents an increase from the prior years map which consisted of 36 resident individuals or groups of wolves.

Additionally, the committee had questions about current and proposed funding for activities associated with the wolf plan. The following outlines current funding (23-25) and proposed funding for 25-27 (Governors Recommended Budget)

Compensation: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Since the compensation program was established in 2011, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has typically received about \$200,000 in General Fund support each biennium. For the 2023–2025 biennium, this amount was increased to \$1.2 million. The Governor's recommended budget for 2025–2027 includes the base funding level of \$200,000. By statute, at least 30% of these funds must be used for non-lethal deterrence measures, although historically 70–80% of the funding has been directed to those activities.

Wolf Management: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

The departments wolf management program consists of 5 biologists (23-25 biennia: 1,035,052 General Fund, \$108,373 Lottery Funds, \$67,206 Other Funds, \$402,009 Federal Funds). The GRB includes full funding for these positions.

Additionally, in areas with wolves, district wildlife biologists and assistant district wildlife biologists can spend significant amounts of time working on wolf management issues. These

positions are funded by a mix of license and federal dollars. The GRB includes full funding for these positions.

In recent biennia, the department has provided base funding of \$108,000 OF per biennium to US Department of Agriculture - Wildlife Services (WS) to support their work addressing conflict with bears, cougars, furbearers, and wolves. In response to the need for increased capacity to address wolf conflict through increased nonlethal deterrents, depredation investigations, and lethal control where necessary, the department increased funding for WS to \$258,000 (OF) for the 2023-25 biennium. The GRB maintains base level funding for 25-27.

Last, ODFW has entered into a two-year agreement with Western Landowners Alliance (WLA) and provided \$399,908 in grant funding (\$299,931 FF, \$99,977 OF) to reduce wolf-livestock conflict through increased resources and outreach to landowners and producer communities in areas with potential for conflict with wolves.

Wolf Management: Federal

The NRCS is providing \$4M grant funding over 5 years for non-lethal deterrence through the Stewarding the Working Wild Program. The Western Landowners Alliance is a lead in stewarding this funding in Oregon.

I hope this information addresses the committee's question and please feel free to reach out if there are any follow-ups needed.

Regards,



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