

Submitter: Wally Sykes
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

Chair Golden, Co-Chair Nash, Committee Members:

My name is Wally Sykes, resident in Wallowa County nearly thirty years and a member of the Wallowa County Wolf Compensation Committee since its inception nearly 15 years ago. I am therefore familiar with the issues involved with this Bill.

My objections to Bill 777 are as follows.

The multipliers impose rigid mandates that prevent the Compensation Committees from making informed decisions about compensation claims using its extensive local knowledge about the credibility and circumstances of claims for missing stock and/or recompense for time and expense in implementing nonlethal wolf deterrence. I recall some instances where the Wallowa County Committee reduced claims for this type of compensation. At most meetings, these issues were thoroughly discussed.

Indirect losses such as weight loss can be affected by weather conditions (heat, drought), wildfire (I believe one of the studies claimed as justification for the 7x multiplier was conducted while or just after a wildfire burned through the allotment), rugged terrain, and range quality. Thus compensation for some indirect losses may not be justified, although they are included in the 7x and 3x multipliers under SB 777.

The multipliers themselves would seem to cause payment of 7x the value of one wolf -predated goat, say, of a herd of 10 even though the other animals are clearly present and uninjured. The 3x multiplier would apply to a predated bull in a herd in which he was the only bull.

This hardly seems right.

The mandates of SB 777 are open to abuse.

Please kill this Bill.

Thank you.