

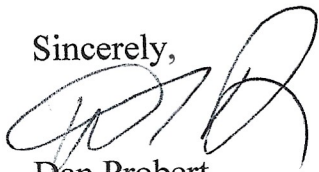
Dear Distinguished Legislators,

We have experienced tremendous loss of livestock on our deeded and public lands. Working with ODFW to implement best practices to avoid depredations, we believe we have been a good partner in creating a resource for wildlife, predators and our livestock. Even our best efforts, however, do not allow us to stop every conflict. Our resource is heavily timbered and quite extensive and we often do not find evidence of carnivore kills. Our only way of knowing we have had significant depredation is our final count of livestock in the fall. Oftentimes our loss is well over 10% of what we turned out in the spring.

Engaging in wolf-livestock conflict reduction takes additional producer labor, time, and infrastructure. Given that wildlife is a public resource and the American public, as a whole, values the presence of diverse wildlife across the West, including large carnivores, funding sources for compensation should reflect the fact that these species are a public resource. Landowners face costs associated with production losses, and in addition, landowners bear hidden costs to manage resources and time needed to engage in conflict reduction and provide habitat for wildlife.

Compensation for production losses, as well as time to implement wildlife conflict reduction and steward quality habitat, is needed to support biodiversity on working landscapes and their economic viability. Federal funding for compensation should reflect the extent and geographic scope of public support for wildlife conservation and recognize the value of private lands in maintaining biodiversity. We recommend expanding federal, state, and private funding sources to supplement existing state efforts to support compensation for depredations and distribute the costs of providing habitat for wildlife.

Sincerely,



Dan Probert  
Probert Ranches  
Lightning Bolt Cattle Co.

Joseph Oregon