

TO: Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire
FROM: Amaroq Weiss, Center for Biological Diversity
DATE: February 11, 2025
RE: Testimony in Opposition to SB 777

Chair Golden, Vice Chair, Nash and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Center for Biological Diversity and our 32,778 Oregon members and supporters, we submit the following comments opposing SB777. Since the arrival of Oregon's first wolf in 1999, the Center has been deeply involved in wolf recovery and conservation here.

Oregon's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, adopted in 2005, recommended creating a state-funded Wolf Compensation and Proactive Measures Trust Fund to increase social tolerance for coexisting with wolves. Compensation can be a crucial tool for this purpose – **if** it aids to increase social tolerance for wolves. Evidence of social tolerance includes:

- A willingness by livestock owners to proactively implement nonlethal strategies, tools, and livestock handling techniques most likely to be effective for their operation.
- A willingness by livestock owners to monitor and steward their livestock rather than demand the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife ("department") kill wolves after conflicts have arisen in part because the livestock owners did not implement conflict prevention measures, or because they used whatever method was easiest to employ rather than using the most effective methods for their individual operation.
- A reduction in illegal killings of wolves.

But this bill decreases social tolerance for living with wolves. SB777:

- *disincentivizes proactive use of nonlethals;*
- *does nothing to reduce ongoing requests by ranchers that the department kill wolves;*
- *ignores an exponential increase in wolf poachings across Oregon which include use of poisons placing all wildlife, humans, and their livestock and pets at risk; and*
- *fails to address the current compensation program's shortcomings.*

The following pages and attached exhibits elaborate on each of these crucial reasons why you should vote "No" on SB777.

I. SB 777 Is Irrational, Fiscally Irresponsible, And Decreases Social Tolerance for Living with Wolves by Disincentivizing the Use of Proactive Nonlethal Measures to Deter Conflicts – Exactly the Opposite of the Purpose of the Wolf Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.

SB777 is Irrational

SB 777 adds an enormous multiplier to all payments made to livestock owners for confirmed or probable wolf kills. The bill digest for SB777, which amends the language of ORS 610.150, says its amendments remove an existing provision authorizing compensation for *missing* livestock. This implies that bill proponents are asserting the multiplier is intended to instead compensate for *indirect losses* (such as reduced weight gain or fewer pregnancies). However:

- There should not be a multiplier for indirect loss because indirect loss is hard to quantify and lacking in scientific research.
- Indirect loss due to a single predator is even harder to define and correctly identify.
- Even if there were adequate scientific research supporting the concept of indirect loss, this bill binds indirect loss to direct loss. This means a livestock operator must first have a confirmed or probable wolf-caused loss to receive the benefit of the indirect loss formula. However, most Oregon livestock operators have no direct losses due to wolves, as described below.

SB777 is Fiscally Irresponsible.

A producer is unlikely to have any missing cattle in small pastures (<40 acres) and pastures in open landscapes (*e.g.*, Wood River Valley, Klamath County), so applying this multiplier to every predation is unjustified and fiscally irresponsible.

- Please refer to written testimony that was submitted in March 2023 by livestock producer Shella DelCurto, regarding a nearly identical bill, House Bill 2631, that was being heard at that time before the House Agriculture, Lands, Water and Natural Resources Committee. Ms. DelCurto is a member of the Baker County compensation committee, who agrees with this sentiment. (*See Exhibit A - Copy of Ms. DelCurto's Testimony.*)

SB777 Disincentivizes the Proactive Use of Nonlethal Measures to Deter Conflicts

It is a simple fact -- not a derogatory characterization -- that a multiplier provides a perverse incentive for producers to be less inclined to use non-lethal conflict deterrent measures. Proponents at times assert the multiplier is needed to compensate for *missing livestock* whose cause for going missing can never be determined. Now the bill is being touted as a way to compensate for *indirect loss*. In either case, however:

- Paying a multiplier flouts the very reason the state Wolf Plan advocated for a compensation fund – to build social tolerance for living with wolves. The multiplier has the exact opposite effect. It creates an incentive to be reckless and decline to use

proactive conflict-prevention methods and techniques. Why bother to implement those methods if, when one of your livestock becomes a confirmed or probable wolf kill, you'll receive payments of up to seven times their value?

- Providing a multiplier payment to those livestock owners who want to cut corners penalizes those livestock owners who are using the correct non-lethal measures for their operation and preventing conflicts and predations; they will bear the consequence of getting paid less (that is, only the Fair Market Value when they sell their livestock) than their neighbors who may not be using any non-lethal conflict prevention measures and facing predations, but now get paid a great deal more.
- Adopting this multiplier removes all incentive for the good actor to invest resources and time to implement better practices which result in fewer conflicts when someone who is not doing so is getting significantly greater financial benefit.
- Finally, it's worth noting that there is no verification made or enforcement on requiring that non-lethal tools have been used before compensation is paid out because the Oregon Department of Agriculture does not have the capacity or ability to do that.

II. SB777 does nothing to stem ongoing calls by ranchers for the department to kill more wolves each year.

SB777 fails to address an unabated call by individual livestock owners and the ranching industry in Oregon that the department kill more wolves. Yet very few of Oregon's livestock owners experience predations by wolves. And, best available science concludes that proactive use of nonlethals is more effective to prevent conflicts over the long haul than simply killing wolves, killing wolves can increase conflicts, and legal killing of wolves reduces social tolerance for wolves and results in increased wolf poaching.

Very few ranchers in Oregon experience wolf predations on their livestock.

- While wolves reside in at least 17 Oregon counties, 90% of all confirmed wolf predations on livestock over 13 years (2009-2022) have taken place in only six counties.¹
- Despite the fact there were 9,811 farms in Oregon raising beef cows as of 2022², only a minute percentage of livestock owners are affected by wolves. For example, the department reported that 32 livestock owners were affected in 2022, and of those, 8 of these producers experienced 50% of all of the losses.³

¹ PowerPoint presentation 1 by ODFW Dec 13, 2023 to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/23/12_Dec/Oregon%20Wolf%20Conservation%20and%20Management%20Workshop_Presentation%201_12-14-23.pdf

² <https://greatamericancrop.com/news-resources/article/2024/05/23/oregon-cafo-regs-stifle-family-farms>

³ PowerPoint presentation 1 by ODFW Dec 13, 2023, *supra*.

- Sixty-two percent of wolf packs are not known to have preyed on livestock at all.⁴ (**See Exhibit B - Copy of Slides 24, 25, and 29 from the Department's December 13, 2023 PowerPoint Presentation to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.**)

Despite how few livestock owners are affected, calls by individual ranchers and the livestock industry to kill more wolves continues unabated and the department responds by killing more wolves for them.

- Updates the department posts to its gray wolf webpage document ongoing, unabated requests by livestock owners for the department to kill wolves or give ranchers permits to kill wolves for conflicts. This is so despite the conclusions of best available science that proactively using nonlethal methods deters conflicts over the long haul more effectively than simply killing wolves, and that killing wolves can exacerbate livestock conflicts.⁵
- Over the past four years the number of department orders authorizing the killing of wolves has skyrocketed and the number of wolves killed legally due to those orders has skyrocketed.
 - In 2021, the department killed eight wolves for conflicts, including five puppies too young to hunt anything other than grasshoppers and meadow mice.⁶
 - In 2022, the department killed six wolves for conflicts.⁷
 - In 2023, 16 wolves were killed due to departmental kill orders issued after conflicts. This is twice as many wolves killed for conflicts compared to any prior year; and included kill orders on members of 10 different

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ Santiago-Avila, F.J., Cornman, F.A., Treves, A., 2013. Killing wolves to prevent predation on livestock may protect one farm but harm neighbors. PLoS ONE 13(1): e0189729. Available at:

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0189729>; McManus, J.S., Dickman, A.J., Gaynor, D., Smuts, B.H., and D.W. Macdonald, 2014. Dead or alive? Comparing costs and benefits of lethal and non-lethal human-wildlife conflict mitigation on livestock farms. *Fauna and Flora International*, Oryx, Page 1 of 9. Doi:10.1017/S0030605313001610; Imbert, C., Caniglia, R., Fabbri, E., Milanese, P., Randi, E., Serafini, M., Torretta, E., and A. Meriggi, 2016. Why do wolves eat livestock? Factors influencing wolf diet in northern Italy. *Biological Conservation* 195: 156-168; van Eeden, L.M., Ann Eklund, A., Miller, J.R.B., Lopez-Bao, J.V., Chapron, G., Cejtin, M.R., Crowther, M.S., Dickman, C.R., Frank, J., Kropfel, M., Macdonald, D.W., Manus, J., Meyer, T.K., Middleton, A.D., Newsome, T.M., Ripple, W.J., Ritchie, E.G., Schmitz, O.J., Stoner, K.J., Tourani, M. and A. Treves, 2018. Carnivore conservation needs evidence-based livestock protection. PLoS Biol 16(9): e2005577; Lennox, R.J., Gallagher, A.J., Ritchie, E.G., and S. J. Cooke. 2018. Evaluating the efficacy of predator removal in a conflict-prone world. *Biological Conservation* 224:277-289; Lorand, C., Robert, A., Gastineau, A., Mihoub, Jean-Baptiste, and Carmen Bessa-Gones. 2022. Science of the Total Environment 838:156195; Louchouart, N. X. and A. Treves. 2022. Low-stress livestock handling protects cattle in a five-predator habitat. *PeerJ* in press, PeerJ 11:e14788 <http://doi.org/10.7717/peerj>. 14788.

⁶ Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2021 Annual Wolf Report.

https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon_wolf_program/2021_Annual_Wolf_Report_FINAL.pdf

⁷ Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2022 Annual Wolf Report.

https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon_wolf_program/2022_Annual_Wolf_Report_Final.pdf

wolf packs, with wolves from five different packs ultimately killed, the largest number of packs ever targeted compared to any prior year.⁸

- In 2024, the department has so far reported two wolves killed due to an agency kill order, and two wolves killed by ranchers who each shot a wolf in the act of attacking livestock. The full tally for 2024 will be included in the department's 2024 Annual Wolf Report which is expected to be released in April.⁹
- From 2020-2023, confirmed wolf numbers in Oregon have ranged from 173-178 (*see annual wolf reports for each year*), so there has not been a large increase in the state wolf population – in fact the population has stagnated -- yet the killing of wolves by the agency and at the request of ranchers has increased greatly.
- During the four-year period of 2021 – 2024, confirmed wolf predations on livestock reported by the department were 49, 73, 76, and 67, so there also has not been a large increase in wolf predations on livestock and in fact the number of predations in 2024 was nine fewer than in 2023 -- yet the killing of wolves by the agency and at the request of ranchers has increased greatly.¹⁰
- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Oregon currently is home to 1.24 million cattle and calves.¹¹ The losses noted above for 2021-2024 amount to an average annual loss of 0.005% of Oregon's cattle, in response to which the agency has been killing nearly 9% of Oregon's wolves. By itself, *that's an unconscionably disproportionate response to losses, but the legal killing authorized by the agency also is spurring high levels of additional illegal killing of wolves.*

Best available science concludes that when legal killing of wolves is allowed or increases, social tolerance for wolves goes down and illegal killings (poaching) of wolves increases.

- Over the past four years, as legal killing of wolves for conflicts has skyrocketed, there has been a simultaneous explosion in the number of wolves illegally killed by poachers:

⁸ Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2023 Annual Wolf Report.

https://dfw.state.or.us/Wolves/docs/oregon_wolf_program/2023_Annual_Wolf_Report_4-2-24.pdf

⁹ The 2024 Annual Wolf Report won't be posted until mid-April, but the department updates the public on its gray wolf webpage the number of confirmed wolf-caused losses, wolves killed by ranchers or due to agency kill orders for conflicts, and wolves killed illegally. <https://dfw.state.or.us/wolves/index.html>

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=OREGON

- In 2021, when the department killed eight wolves for conflicts, an additional eight wolves including an entire pack plus members of two additional packs were illegally killed by poisoning.¹²
- In 2022, when the department killed six wolves for conflicts, an additional seven wolves were illegally killed, most by shooting.¹³
- In 2023, when the department killed 16 wolves for conflicts, the number of wolves illegally killed soared to a known 12 animals poached, 10 by poison and two by shooting. This is 1.5 times higher than any previous year, and 3-4 times higher than most previous years.¹⁴
- In 2024, four wolves which were poached have been publicly announced via the department's gray wolf website updates, but we won't know the full extent for 2024 until the department's 2024 Annual Wolf Report is released in April.
- The increase in illegal wolf killings was highly predictable and conservation organizations have cautioned the department, the commission and the legislature of this concern for years, because best available science concludes that increased legal killing of wolves – whether by an agency, by individual ranchers, or through wolf hunting and trapping seasons – decreases social tolerance for wolves, is associated with an increased inclination by people to poach wolves, and an actual increase in poaching.¹⁵
- Best available science also concludes that for every poached wolf that is found, another one to two illegally killed wolves will never be discovered, meaning that the number of wolves poached in Oregon may be up to three times the number that are confirmed.¹⁶

III. The Oregon Wolf Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund (“Fund”) Has Been Implemented Abusively, and What is Most Needed is An Audit, Evaluation and Reform Measures – Not Beefing Up a Problematic Fund with Even More Funding.

The Fund was envisioned to be built on transparency, consistent state-wide application, and with measures installed that would prevent the Fund from being abused. But an [investigative journalism piece published by Oregon Public Broadcasting in 2017](#) revealed the opposite – lax documentations, payments for claims which defy biological evidence and extreme

¹² Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2021 Annual Wolf Report, *supra*.

¹³ Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2022 Annual Wolf Report, *supra*.

¹⁴ Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife 2023 Annual Wolf Report, *supra*.

¹⁵ See Chapron, G. and Treves, A. 2016. Blood does not buy goodwill: allowing culling increases poaching of a large carnivore. *Proc. R. Soc. B* 283: 20152939. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2015.2939>; Laaksonen, M. and Sanchez-Molina, F. 2018. Keeping the wolf from the door. Analysis of derogation-based wolf hunting permits in Finland. Report published by Luonto-Liiton susiryhma / The Wolf Action Group; and Oliynyk, R.T., 2023. Human-caused wolf mortality persists for years after discontinuation of hunting. *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), p.11084.

¹⁶ Liberg, O., G. Chapron, P. Wabakken, H.C. Pedersen, N.T. Hobbs, and H. Sand, *Shoot, shovel and shut up: cryptic poaching slows restoration of a large carnivore in Europe*. *Proceedings of the Royal Society of London Series B*, 2012. **270**: p. 91-98; Treves, A., J.A. Langenberg, J.v. Lopez-Bao, M.F. Rabenhorst 2017. (1.8 Mb) Gray wolf mortality patterns in Wisconsin from 1979 to 2012. *Journal of Mammalogy* 98(1): DOI:10.1093/jmammal/gyw145.

inconsistency in how the Fund is operated county by county. A few examples from the article include the following:

- Since 2012, payments for missing cattle increased while actual confirmed losses did not. Experts say those rates should track together. Even the Department said there was no biological explanation for why claims for missing livestock had gone up.
- The vast majority of compensation went to three Northeast Oregon Counties, but only two of them had large wolf populations and a history of confirmed wolf predations. The third county had little of either, yet it received more money than anywhere else in the state. There also is no biological explanation for this. The Department notes it would expect wolf-caused missing livestock to be more likely in areas of confirmed predations and high wolf density.
- Payments for livestock losses in Eastern Oregon have far surpassed what state officials had predicted based on data from other states. A single study out of the Northern Rockies predicted that in *very* rugged country, for every wolf-caused loss discovered, another seven could simply be missing. Yet in Oregon, payments given by counties to individual livestock producers for missing animals compared to found animals have been as high as 85 to 1.
- All of the above does not speak to a problem of missing livestock but, rather, to poor governance and oversight of the Fund – meriting a full audit by the Secretary of State’s office. Given these facts, the very last thing the Oregon legislature should do is enact a bill which fails to address known abuses of the Fund, and which further enables the abuses to continue.

IV. No Surveys Have Ever Been Conducted to Assess if the Fund is Even Achieving Its Sole Purpose, *i.e.*, to Increase Social Tolerance by Livestock Owners to Coexist with Wolves.

The state Wolf Plan, adopted in 2005, proposed creating the Oregon Wolf Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund to build social tolerance by livestock owners to coexist with wolves. Yet:

- Between 2005 and 2010, every single attempt to enact a bill in the legislature to create the Fund (HB 3478 in 2005, and HB 2295 in 2007) was fought against by the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association and Oregon Farm Bureau. It was only in 2011, when these entities realized they were harming the very industry and individual livestock owners they claimed to be protecting, that these associations relented and joined conservation groups and others who had long been advocating for the Fund, to finally get enabling legislation passed (HB 3013).
- While the Fund has been in effect since 2011, neither the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife nor the Oregon Department of Agriculture have conducted surveys of livestock owners in Oregon to determine whether the Fund’s existence and application has resulted in increased social tolerance for coexisting with wolves by livestock owners. Ideally, longitudinal surveys (surveys conducted every few years, over time) would have

been conducted. This is a missed opportunity that has had no action taken during the Fund's 14-year existence.

- In the ensuing years, the livestock industry has continued to demand that the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife kill more wolves and kill them faster, for conflicts with livestock. This suggests the Fund is not achieving its goal of increasing social tolerance for wolves.
- In the ensuing years, since 2011, 48-50 known illegal killings of Oregon wolves have been discovered. Since the science concludes that for every known poached wolf another one to two poached wolves never will be discovered, this means that in Oregon as many as 150 wolves may have been illegally killed since 2011. This is shockingly high, given the state's most recent wolf count concludes Oregon only has a confirmed 178 wolves. This, too, suggests the Fund is not achieving its goal of increasing social tolerance for wolves.
- At least four peer-reviewed, published papers conclude that compensation funds do NOT increase tolerance for coexisting with wolves. (**See Exhibit C – Abstracts of four published papers on compensation and tolerance.**)
- We highly recommend that, as opposed to throwing more money at the Fund, a multi-year program of attitude surveys be commenced.

V. If, Despite All Cited Reasons Above, Committee Members Still Wish to Consider Some Means to Compensate Livestock Owners for Livestock Which are Missing or for Indirect Losses, Please Consider Using the Approach Adopted in Washington.

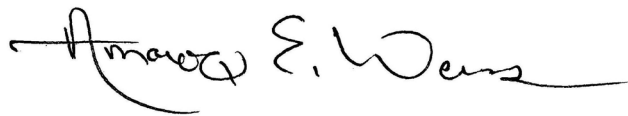
Regarding wolf compensation for livestock losses, the state of Washington uses a 2x multiplier for confirmed losses related to *acreage*. This is a much more rational and fiscally responsible approach than simply paying a huge multiplier for all losses.

- As noted above, in smaller acreage pastures it is possible to watch over one's livestock and not have animals simply go missing or be unattended and incur indirect losses, so Washington recognizes that losses on small acreage should not be granted a multiplier.
- In Washington, verified livestock losses deemed to be confirmed or probable wolf-caused losses are compensated for. But *if a confirmed loss takes place on land that is greater than 100 acres in size, then – and only then -- it will be compensated at twice the amount, due to the potential for missing livestock.* (**See Exhibit D – Washington Language on Compensation with 2x Multiplier for Confirmed Losses on Larger Than 100 Acres.**)
- Washington does not provide a multiplier for working/guarding dogs which are killed or injured by wolves – because, unlike with cattle or sheep, no livestock owner has herds of dogs on the landscape.

Conclusion

We urge you to vote NO on SB 777. The bill would use valuable Fund monies in ways contrary to the Fund's intention. It de-incentivizes coexistence and decreases social tolerance for living with wolves. It does nothing to fix the problems which were made public in 2017. Don't throw good money after bad. What is needed instead are explicit plans and timelines for Fund reform and surveys to assess its effectiveness.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these issues.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amaroq E. Weiss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Amaroq Weiss, M.S., J.D.

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Attachments: Exhibits A, B, C and D

Exhibit A

Testimony of Livestock Producer

Shella DelCurto

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

FROM: Barry & Shella DelCurto, Eastern Oregon Ranchers

DATE: March 23, 2023

RE: HB 2631

I am taking an opposing position on this bill. I would like to offer these thoughts on this bill. As a producer and compensation committee member our ranch has had depredations. We do use non-lethal, co-existence practices. I feel like this bill is a step in the right direction. My suggestion would be to not pass 2631 and go with 2633-3. I would like to see a committee set up to help fine tune the multiplier piece if it should pass.

When I look at some of the various ways a multiplier could be used, I envision it bankrupting our compensation program. For example, a producer has 160 acres where he has cattle. The wolves come in and over a short period of time they depredate and kill 4 head of cattle. This is confirmed by ODFW. As a wolf committee we could then compensate the producer. Say the cattle are worth \$1000 per head. That would give the producer \$4000 plus we add the multiplier of 5 and we would then pay the producer \$20,000 for his lost livestock. In this instance I feel the multiplier shouldn't be allowed as the producer should have been able to adequately monitor his cattle. This is where we need qualifiers for the multiplier. A multiplier of 5 or 7 would not be sustainable under our current program. The language below from HB 2633-3 would take care of the multiplier. The multiplier should only be used for confirmed depredation of livestock excluding dogs which this bill does not do. In Wyoming the multiplier is only allowed when there is a confirmed depredation on cattle, on Public Lands. Private lands are excluded. Again the bill does not have a guideline of when and how to use the multiplier.

I feel the following proposed language from bill 2633-3 would clean up all scenarios without having to use a multiplier.

“(B)(i) One hundred percent of the fair market value of yearling cattle and sheep, of adult male cattle and sheep and of working dogs. “

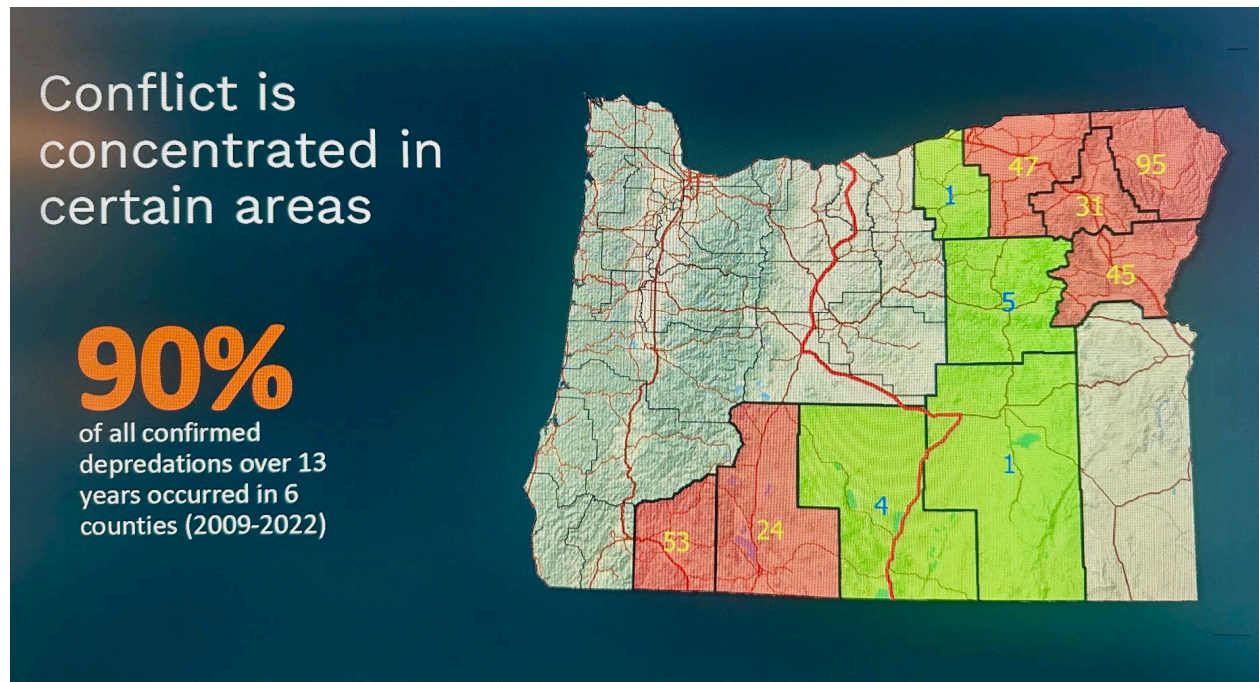
(ii) Two hundred percent of the fair market value of breeding female cattle and sheep and of juvenile cattle and sheep that are less than one year old.

This language would have less chance of depleting our programs resources. Let's move forward and work towards an amicable agreement for all.

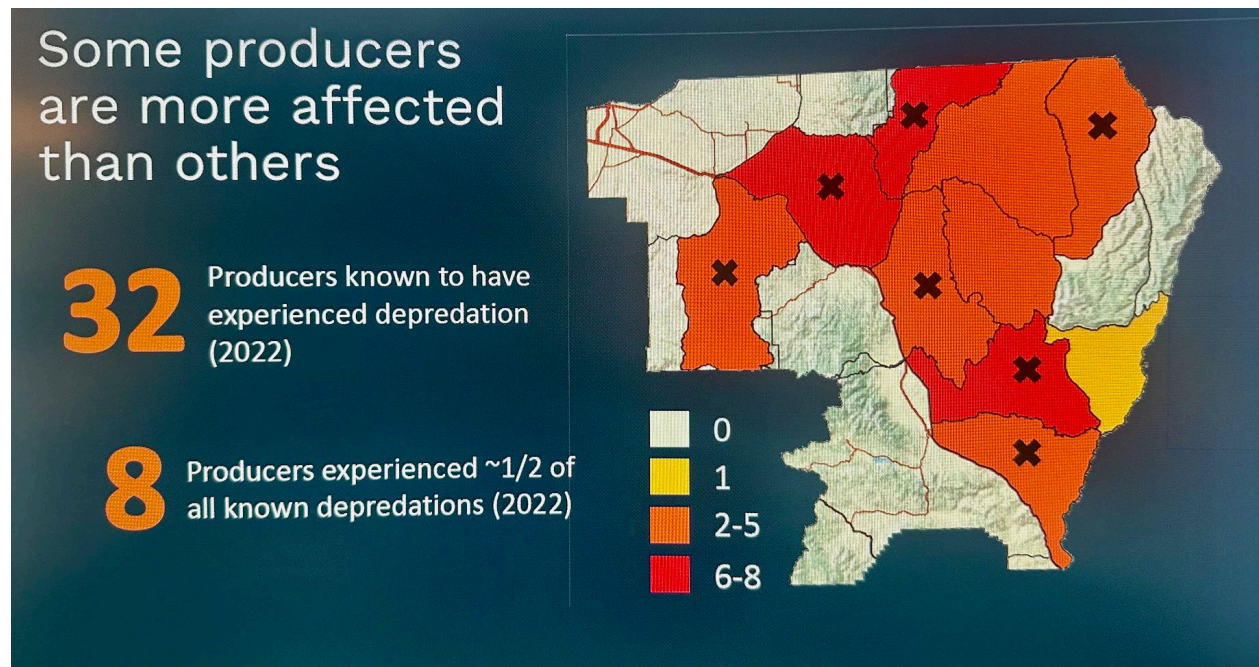
Exhibit B

Screenshots of Slides 24, 25, and 29 from
the December 13, 2023 PowerPoint
Presentation by ODFW to the Oregon Fish
and Wildlife Commission

PowerPoint Slide 24



PowerPoint Slide 25



PowerPoint Slide 29



Exhibit C

Abstracts of Four Papers Analyzing
Compensation and Tolerance for Wolves,
and Finding That Compensation Does Not
Increase Tolerance

Four papers finding that paying/receiving compensation does not increase tolerance for wolves / willingness to share the landscape with wolves/reduce illegal wolf killing.

Conservation Biology



Paying for Tolerance: Rural Citizens' Attitudes toward Wolf Depredation and Compensation

[LISA NAUGHTON-TREVES](#), [REBECCA GROSSBERG](#), [ADRIAN TREVES](#)

First published: 01 December 2003

<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1523-1739.2003.00060.x>

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Abstract

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Abstract: *As wolf (Canis lupus) populations recover in Wisconsin (U.S.A.), their depredations on livestock, pets, and hunting dogs have increased. We used a mail-back survey to assess the tolerance of 535 rural citizens of wolves and their preferences regarding the management of "problem" wolves. Specifically, we tested whether people who had lost domestic animals to wolves or other predators were less tolerant of wolves than neighboring residents who had not and whether compensation payments improved tolerance of wolves. We assessed tolerance via proxy measures related to an individual's preferred wolf population size for Wisconsin and the likelihood she or he would shoot a wolf. We also measured individuals' approval of lethal control and other wolf-management tactics*

*under five conflict scenarios. Multivariate analysis revealed that the strongest predictor of tolerance was social group. Bear (*Ursus americanus*) hunters were concerned about losing valuable hounds to wolves and were more likely to approve of lethal control and reducing the wolf population than were livestock producers, who were more concerned than general residents. To a lesser degree, education level, experience of loss, and gender were also significant. Livestock producers and bear hunters who had been compensated for their losses to wolves were not more tolerant than their counterparts who alleged a loss but received no compensation. Yet all respondents approved of compensation payments as a management strategy. Our results indicate that deep-rooted social identity and occupation are more powerful predictors of tolerance of wolves than individual encounters with these large carnivores.*

Biological Conservation

Volume 143, Issue 12, December 2010, Pages 2945-2955

Paying for wolves in Solapur, India and Wisconsin, USA: Comparing compensation rules and practice to understand the goals and politics of wolf conservation

Author links open overlay

panelMeghna Agarwala ^a, Satish Kumar ^b, Adrian Treves ^c, Lisa Naughton-Treves ^d

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biocon.2010.05.003>Get rights and content

Abstract

With growing pressure for conservation to pay its way, the merits of compensation for wildlife damage must be understood in diverse socio-ecological settings. Here we compare compensation programs in Wisconsin, USA and Solapur, India, where wolves (*Canis lupus*)

survive in landscapes dominated by agriculture and pasture. At both sites, rural citizens were especially negative toward wolves, even though other wild species caused more damage. Wisconsin and Solapur differ in payment rules and funding sources, which reflect distinct conservation and social goals. In Wisconsin, as wolves recolonized the state, some periodically preyed on livestock and hunting dogs. Ranchers and some hunters were more likely to oppose wolves than were other citizens. The Wisconsin compensation program aimed to restore an iconic species by using voluntary contributions from wolf advocates to pay affected individuals more for wolf losses than for other species. By contrast, wolves had been continuously present in Solapur, and damages were distributed amongst the general populace. Government-supported compensation payments were on offer to anyone suffering losses, yet claims registered were low. There were no significant differences in attitudes of any particular segment of the population, but those losing high value livestock applied for compensation. Residents at both sites did not report (Wisconsin) or expect (Solapur) a change in attitude towards wolves as a result of compensation, yet they support the existence of such programs. To assess the merits of any compensation program, one must disentangle the multiple goals of compensation, such as reducing wolf killing or more fairly sharing the costs of conserving large carnivores.

Ex post and insurance-based compensation fail to increase tolerance for wolves in semi-agricultural landscapes of central Italy

- [Agnese Marino](#),
- [Chiara Braschi](#),
- [Simone Ricci](#),
- [Valeria Salvatori](#) &

- [Paolo Ciucci](#)

[European Journal of Wildlife Research](#) volume 62, pages227–240 (2016)[Cite this article](#)

Abstract

Range expansion by large carnivores in semi-agricultural landscapes represents a serious challenge for managing human-carnivore conflicts. By focusing on an area of recent re-colonization by wolves in central Italy, where livestock owners lost traditional husbandry practices to cope with wolves, we assessed an ex post and a subsequent insurance-based compensation program implemented from 1999 to 2013. We cross checked official depredation statistics and compensation records from various registries, complementing them with a questionnaire survey of sheep owners. Compared to ex post compensation (1999–2005), under the insurance program (2006–2013) compensation paid annually dropped on average by 81.1 %, mostly reflecting that only 4.6 (± 0.7 SD) % of sheep owners stipulated the insurance annually. Officially, only 5.5 % of active sheep owners were annually afflicted by wolf depredation during the insurance scheme, but we estimated this proportion to be as high as 34.3 % accounting for the proportion of affected sheep owners who did not officially claim depredations. Coupled with substantial retaliatory killing (minimum of five wolves killed/year), this large amount of cryptic conflict is a symptom of distrust by livestock owners of past and current conflict mitigation policies, despite more than two decades of compensation. We conclude that compensation may fail to improve tolerance toward carnivores unless it is integrated into participatory processes and that lack of reliable data on depredations and damage mitigation strategies exacerbates the conflict. Being advocates of the evidence-based paradigm in management, scientists share a key responsibility in providing objective data concerning progress of conflict management.

Attitudes towards compensation for wolf damage to livestock in Viana do Castelo, North of Portugal

Sérgio Milheiras

&

Ian Hodge

Pages 333-351 | Received 30 Jan 2011, Accepted 12 Apr 2011, Published online: 14 Oct 2011

- [Download citation](#)
- <https://doi.org/10.1080/13511610.2011.592071>

Abstract

The payment of a compensation as a response to damage to livestock is a measure used by policy-makers to attenuate severe human-wildlife conflicts, which allows that economic burden to be shared with the rest of society. This study focuses on the case of wolf depredation on livestock in the county of Viana do Castelo, located in the north of Portugal. Wolf attacks are frequent in the county, which results in a high expenditure with the current compensation scheme for livestock owners. Nevertheless, illegal killing of wolves continues to occur in the area. The paper aims to evaluate the attitudes of the general public, livestock owners and hunters towards the existing compensation scheme and the presence of wolves in Viana do Castelo. In addition, it analyzes the implications of the results for the management of damage caused by wolves in the county.

Exhibit D

Washington State Compensation Rules for
Depredation Incidents – 2x Multiplier for
Confirmed Losses on Acreage Larger Than
100 Acres

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/species-recovery/gray-wolf/compensation>

Compensation rules for depredation incidents

Sheep, cattle, or horses killed or injured by bears, cougars, or wolves may be eligible for compensation using state funds. Compensation for other animal losses depends on availability of federal or private funds.

The claimant is required to provide documentation that includes the commercial value of the lost livestock, an estimate of the percentage loss of value for the injured livestock, and a completed claim form. State law requires that only claims of \$500 or more may be filed with the department for compensation from state funds.

For confirmed depredations by wolves, the owner will be paid for verified losses on acreage of less than 100 acres. The owner will be paid an amount of twice the verified losses on acreage greater than 100 acres. Payment at twice the verified losses assumes that multiple animals are missing.

For depredations classified by WDFW as “probable” wolf depredations, the owner will be paid for the verified loss, no matter the acreage.