

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

My name is Wally Sykes, resident in Wallowa County nearly thirty years and a member of the Wallowa County Wolf Compensation Committee since 2011. I'm pretty familiar with the issues involved here.

I strongly oppose this Bill.

Compensation Committees have extensive local knowledge about the credibility and circumstances of claims. Automatic multipliers prevent the Committees from making informed decisions about claims for indirect loss and wolf deterrence expense. For the year 2023, the Wallowa County Committee reduced missing stock claims from two producers by 64%, totaling \$183,850. The committee also disallowed 100% of a nonlethal management expense claim of \$25,000. Committee members know the producers, the grazing land and the circumstances, and can judge the validity of claims. Indirect loss claims receive a lot of attention at meetings.

Other indirect losses like weight loss can come from weather conditions like heat and drought, rugged terrain, range quality, wildfire, etc. In fact I think one of the studies cited for this Bill occurred while or just after a wildfire burned through the allotment. SB 777 doesn't allow consideration of local events like this.

SB 777 would cause automatic payment of 5x the value of, say, one predated goat out of a herd of 10 even though the other animals are clearly present and uninjured.

This is not right.

Please kill this Bill.

Thank you.