

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

My name is Jennifer Ackley and I live with my two daughters in Bonanza, Oregon. However we spend about half our time in Bonanza, specifically Langell Valley, and half our time at the ranch in Paisley Oregon. Before moving here we lived in Modoc County California producing commercial cattle. Currently we raise registered quarter horses. One common denominator at all 3 locations has been the threat of wolves and the inability to protect ourselves and our livestock. It is a wide spread issue that affects producers (and in a way the public) economically, emotionally, and socially.

In Modoc county I would go water our cows with my daughters on the forest ground and several times I would find wolf tracks cutting the trail. As a young mother I was fearful that we would run into a wolf in person instead of just the massive tracks. With two young children in tow it was always in the back of my mind, what would I do? Surely my 30 lb cow dogs wouldn't hold a candle to a 100 lb wolf to protect us if we were in the wrong place at the wrong time.

More recently a wolf was seen in the Paisley and tracks passed within unnervingly close vicinity to my bred mares. So close in fact that we decided to move them out of their pasture, and into corrals off the property in order to better protect them. Just like calves, foals stand no greater chance against these predators. We have built these bloodlines on the cattle and horses over years of effort both physical and financial, along with immeasurable blood, sweat and tears. It's hard to even fathom loosing all that effort to another animal and not even having the opportunity to protect it.

The stresses of financial losses are steep, the inability to protect your livestock and livelihood is even more costly. The goal is not to "kill all the wolves" but simply to find common ground and ensure that if need be, a producer has the ability to protect themselves and their assets. Please consider all voices in this discussion, and especially listen to the people who are out here living under the fear of these animals. Living with trying to keep their family and animals safe, and, living with the death and destruction left behind them. I support SB777. Thank you for your time and consideration.