

Submitter: Holli Kingsbury
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB985

I am urging you to support SB SB985 to fund the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.

I am a 4th generation rancher in Central Oregon and as the next generation to manage our family ranch, we are deeply concerned about how much it is going to cost us to update and change our management practices to successfully co-exist with wolves. The ranch has lived through 3 generations of not needing to know how to manage for this predator and this 2024-25 winter we have had a known 6 wolves come through our ranch, including OR158 who sadly gave us our first wolf depredation. We knew that the wolves would eventually become part of our wildlife population, but the reality is much faster and more expensive than we could have imagined. As we talk with Ranchers and ODFW employees that have much more experience with coexisting, there is no perfect recipe for handling wolf-livestock conflicts. Each ranch operates in a manner that works for them and possibly not their neighbor. We have been working closely with our county wolf committee and are so thankful that this money has been available to help us navigate this new lifestyle. The suggestions to add or change have a very wide range from putting fox-lights up every 500 feet, a cost of \$10,000 for our largest pasture, to hiring full time range riders to live with the cattle which can be in the \$100,000s for several full time employees, housing for them, equipment, and all the other expenses that come with adding employees to a business. In truth, it will take a combination of tools, and each individual wolf or pack will function differently, adding to the complication of managing and co-existing.

The hope that we keep holding onto is that the wolf will be delisted someday and we will not need this assistance, but while we wait for that to happen, there needs to be assistance. Livestock owners did not ask for this predator to be dropped at their back door and yet here it is for generations to come. The wolf doesn't care where it is or how it gets food, he is only concerned about survival and the Oregon Rancher is concerned about their survival as well.

Thank you for your attention on this topic.

Sincerely,
Holli Kingsbury