

Submitter: Katie Starr
On Behalf Of: Desert Creek Ranch
Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and
Wildfire
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB777

March 11, 2025

RE: 5th amendment to SB777

The current "solutions" for wolf management and depredation are not sustainable for long term.

As a livestock producer in a known wolf depredation area, I can see the writing on wall. The funds are not there to provide efficient non lethal measures to all of us being affected.

In my previous testimony I provided mathematical information to support this. Just myself would require over \$690,000 per year for range riders to provide constant human presence.

Almost \$40,000 per pasture to provide fox lights.

What about my neighbors? What about other counties?

It's impossible.

Many are worried about the cost of added funds for depredations, but I'm here to say that high depredation payouts will be minuscule compared to the cost of assisting with non lethal measures.

Wolf numbers are growing, wolf depredations are growing. It's only going to get worse for livestock producers.

Loss is only a small percentage of our actual losses.

Stress on the cattle, lower milk production, lower breed up rates, lower weaning weights on calves.

None of that is compensated for and is generally a much higher cost of loss than actual depredations.

The simple answer is to increase depredation funds per animal in order to help with the cost of these other losses.

When a newborn calf is killed the producer gets a few hundred dollars for an animal that would have been worth \$1600 plus at weaning. How is that fair compensation?

When a replacement heifer is killed the producer receives current market value for that one animal. Nothing for the next 10 years of income that one animal would have produced.

Katie Starr
Cattle Manager

Desert Creek Ranch