

**Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present In-Person

Committee Member: Chair Dean Robinson, John Gould, Paul Hisler, Bob Mahoney, Al Scott, Cam Sweeney; Non-Committee Attendees: Steve Cherry, Terry Harper, Roberta Lutchner, Jason Proudfoot, Steve Puntenney

Present Via Zoom

Chris Schachtschneider, Matt Scrivner

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions: 7:02 p.m.

Election of Officers

Mr. Hisler moved to retain all the same officers as last year – Dean Robinson as Chair, Al Scott as Vice Chair and Roberta Lutchner as Secretary. Mr. Sweeney seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes

Mr. Scott moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2020 and December 17, 2020, as presented. Mr. Hisler seconded. Motion carried.

Agency Updates

Steve Cherry, Wildlife Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Mr. Cherry reported the survey for the winter was completed and they will submit the following as part of their annual report for the total wolf count, unless something comes up in the next few weeks:

- Heppner Pack – Five wolves, consisting of two adults and three pups, and possibly a black yearling
- Five Mile Pack – Two adults and two pups but no pictures of yearlings since last October

Mr. Cherry said there was a working GPS collar on OR-79, the breeding female from the Heppner Pack. However, there was still no collar data on the Five Mile Pack but there were plans to attempt to collar one in March or next spring.

Mr. Cherry handed out copies of an information sheet from ODFW, which can also be found on their website, entitled, “Harassment and Take of Wolves in Oregon – What Can a Livestock Producer Do?” He proceeded to review the handout, which included the circumstances in which a wolf can be legally taken and the circumstances in which it cannot.

Timeline for the 2021 Oregon Department of Agriculture, Wolf Compensation & Financial Assistance Grant Process

Using the 2020 grant application as a guide, the Committee reviewed the form and determined what to request in the 2021 grant cycle:

- Category 1 – Death or injury of livestock: \$1,260 for one proven wolf depredation (Proudfoot Ranches, date of loss: October 5, 2020). It was clarified that funds for proven wolf depredations come from the grant in the year following the depredation, not from the grant year in which the depredation actually occurred.
- Category 3 – Grant funds for implementation of livestock management activities and nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques: \$45,000
- Category 5 – County contribution: \$1,000

Discussion took place on range riders as a non-lethal deterrent and how to properly document it. Mr. Cherry talked about the intent of the grant funds and provided an example: If a livestock producer spent 15 range rider days on his/her allotment before wolves showed up, then that is the baseline. If that producer now has to spend 30 range rider days on that allotment, then the grant funds can help with those extra 15 days. It's to assist with what is done above and beyond what is normally done and it has to be documented.

Chris Schachtschneider, OSU Animal & Rangeland Sciences, said there was a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request for the entire wolf program out of concern that some people were submitting applications for normal activities. He cautioned people to be careful as the program is being scrutinized.

Review Depredation Application

Chair Robinson discussed the new "Producer Wolf Depredation Compensation Claim Application" that will be implemented statewide by the State of Oregon.

The deadline to submit applications to the Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee will be Friday, November 19, 2021.

Good of the Order: No items

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m., same location

Adjourned: 8:10 p.m.