

**Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon**

Present In-Person

Committee Members: Chair Dean Robinson, Paul Hisler, Bob Mahoney, Al Scott, Cam Sweeney; Non-Committee Members: John Bowles, Steve Cherry, Roberta Lutchter, Brian Thompson

Present Via Zoom

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 7:04 p.m.

Minutes

*Mr. Mahoney moved to approve the minutes of January 26, 2021. Mr. Scott seconded.
Unanimous approval, motion carried.*

Agency Updates

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

- Heppner Pack: the alpha male and female died in February. The results from labs at Oregon State University, Texas A&M University and Michigan State University could not determine a cause of death due to the poor condition of the bodies. They tested for a broad range of poisons with no results. Mr. Cherry said he suspected they got into something they shouldn't have, but whether that was on purpose or not, they just don't know. It's uncommon for two adult wolves to die at that time of year and the veterinarians also discussed the possibility of disease. The Heppner Pack is completely gone now, as far as ODF&W can determine.
- Five Mile Pack: appears to be "dennd up." There are rumors the alpha female is dead but that hasn't been confirmed. ODF&W will attempt to figure out the Pack's patterns and try to trap this summer in order to obtain better information.
- Wolves were federally delisted and now fall under the purview of Oregon only. There are six pending lawsuits against delisting and the length of the legal process is unknown.
- Percent increase in numbers this year vs. last: 8-9% increase from last year; in 2019-2020 it was also up 9%.

Review 2021 Oregon Department of Agriculture, Wolf Compensation & Financial Assistance Grant Award

- Chair Robinson said \$13,000 was awarded but the County's share will come out of that, leaving \$12,000. In addition, \$1,260 will go to the Proudfoots for their proven depredation.
- The deadline for livestock producers to submit applications is Friday, November 19, 2021, which was decided at an earlier meeting. Chair Robinson requested a meeting be

held in September, if possible, and asked the Committee members to read the grant before then.

- Chair Robinson asked members to start spreading the word about the grant funds, and the importance of tracking expenses. It will be more critical now, he said.

Miscellaneous

- Undersheriff John Bowles said Terry Harper, now retired from the Sheriff's Office, was still classified as a special deputy and, as such, can help with depredation investigations. His replacement is Brian Snyder. If anything happens, contact Undersheriff Bowles.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, October 12th

7:00 p.m.

Bartholomew Building

Heppner

Adjourned: 7:40 p.m.