

Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Committee Members: Chair Dean Robinson Bob Mahoney, Al Scott

Non-Committee Members: Steve Cherry, Tiffany Clement, Tony Clement, Roberta Lutchter, Chris Schachtschneider, Brian Thompson

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Introductions: 7:06 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Scott moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2021. Mr. Mahoney seconded. Motion carried.

Agency Updates

Steve Cherry, Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

- ODF&W continues to monitor for the Heppner Pack but they haven't found any sign of them. There have been a few pictures a month apart of two different gray wolves up in the area they were in but Mr. Cherry didn't know if they were just moving through. He talked to adjacent landowners and nobody had a photo or had seen tracks. It appears that Pack is indeed completely gone. At some point, something will fill in that area.
- Fivemile Pack – Staying in the same area they've been in the last few years. That Pack still stands at six or seven, including a female and two pups this year.
- ODF&W did a few depredation investigations this summer and neither one was related to wolves. One was probably by a cougar, as for the other, he was "not sure."
- Umatilla County – A depredation occurred the week before buck season in the Ukiah Valley (Ukiah side). ODF&W issued a kill permit to the landowner as a result of two separate incidents: 1.) One dead calf and five injured calves (they had to put down two of them); and 2.) Another calf three days later. The landowner requested lethal removal and it was granted a few days later. The pasture of weaned calves was moved to a feedlot to get them out of the area. ODF&W will continue to determine which Pack was part of this. Mr. Cherry notified the majority of Fivemile landowners that this was occurring and to keep an eye out.
- Trapping was tried again this year but was unsuccessful. The wolves are in the south side of Matlock but they don't consistently use a trail that ODF&W has been able to find.
- There have been depredations in Baker County where four or five wolves were removed, as well as some incidents in La Grande and Pendleton.

Discussion on Depredation Forms and Dates

Chair Robinson said November 19th will be the due date for applications and the State's draft application form will be used. He went on to review the form for the group and said it should be a little easier to fill out but asks a few more questions.

Good of the Order

- Mr. Thompson asked Mr. Cherry about statewide numbers. Mr. Cherry said they were only done once a year, adding he hadn't heard anything about the lawsuits that were filed.
- Mr. Clement asked if there was any more information on the cause of death for the wolves in the Heppner Pack. Mr. Cherry said the bodies were sent off but the cause couldn't be determined. That's the end of it, he said.
- Mr. Schachtschneider said he was the OSU staff person for the Umatilla County Depredation Advisory Committee and would be happy to answer questions and help with the process in Morrow County. He discussed a paper he and his colleagues have been working on that outlines things others have developed, such as what wolves pick out as vulnerabilities and how to protect livestock. He said he's working with people in the east Yellowstone area who now say wolves aren't an issue, however, grizzly bears are. He went on to provide additional details on the topics that will be incorporated in the professional paper.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, November 30th, 7:00 p.m., Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room

Mr. Mahoney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Mr. Scott seconded. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 7:35 p.m.