

Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person

Committee Members: Chair Dean Robinson, John Gould, Bob Mahoney, Al Scott, Commissioner David Sykes. Others: Roberta Lutchter, Steve Cherry, Tim Adams, Mike Radcliffe

Committee Members Absent: Cameron Sweeney, Paul Hisler, Jr.

No Attendees Via Zoom

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance & Roll Call: 7:01 p.m.

Minutes: Postponed

Agency Updates

Steve Cherry, Biologist, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODF&W)

- There is still a Washington wolf that's been around last summer and this winter with another gray. It appears they've been up on Madison since about April 10th. In the last month or so, ODF&W received a few pictures and sightings of a black along with a gray male. Whether they're connected together is hard to say. She is in a den and has an undetermined number of pups. Once ODF&W can access some areas this summer, they'll try to trap and collar the male. He said they will try to keep people informed on their activities as cows get turned out.
- 2022 Annual Report:
 - Wolf population up by three wolves from last year.
 - There are more packs in the Cascades and eastern Oregon.
 - This was the first year the western zone of Oregon met the Phase 1 requirement of four breeding pairs at the end of the year.
 - Western Oregon is starting to move toward more abilities to address damages.
- Five Mile Pack: The Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) is still in place but the Pack appears to have disbanded. They suspect the alpha female died or left, however, the alpha male is still around. There is another black and a gray but the black is not the alpha female – probably a pup from a few years ago. They will try to trap it if it stays in an area consistently. This male was trapped nine years ago at the age of two but it's likely he won't last much longer since that makes him about 11 years old.
- There are more wolves farther east in the Tower Mountain area. They had pups that seem to be in the Ukiah Valley but they are not crossing Highway 395. They will monitor in the summer and try to trap the male.
- One depredation investigation was conducted this spring but it did not involve wolves.

Mike Radcliffe, USDA/Animal Plant Health Inspection Services, Morrow County Wildlife Specialist, introduced himself but had no information to add to Agency Updates, at this time.

Review Oregon Department of Agriculture, Wolf Compensation & Financial Assistance 2023 Grant Agreement #ODA-4429-GR

The County was awarded the following:

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 1. Category 2 – Missing livestock and working dogs: | \$ 0 |
| 2. Category 3 – Nonlethal wolf deterrent methods: | \$8,194 |
| 3. Category 4 – Administrative Expenses: | <u>\$1,728</u> |
| Total: \$9,922 | |

Miscellaneous

- The due date for producer claim applications will be Friday, December 8th. The Committee will meet on December 12th to review applications; final determinations will be made on January 9th.

Review Committee Member Appointment Dates

The terms for Chair Robinson, Mr. Hisler and Mr. Sweeney will end on December 31, 2023. Chair Robinson said if anyone wasn't interested in continuing, please let him know.

Good of the Order

- Chair Robinson said there was talk at the legislature about putting more money into the Wolf Compensation & Assistance program.
- There is a push by the Cattlemen's Association to move away from paying for missing livestock and instead increasing the amount by eight times for confirmed depredations. For every confirmed depredation, it is estimated there are eight more unconfirmed.

Next Meeting: September 12, 2023

Adjourn: 7:42 p.m.