

Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Meeting
November 12, 2024
Upper Conference Room, Bartholomew Building
Heppner, Oregon

Present In-Person: Committee Chair Dean Robins, Commission Chair David Sykes, John Gould, Al Scott, Valerie Ballard, Luke McCormack, Melody Henderson, Jerad Mitchell, Ryan Christensen

Call to Order

7:07 p.m.

Minutes

Mr. Scott motioned to approve the minutes from September 17, 2024. Mr. Gould seconded the motion. Vote: Unanimous approval.

Agency Updates

Melody Henderson, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW)

The collared wolf in the Madison Butte Pack is deceased, as of Friday. There is no new location information on the pack and while there is another collared wolf, no information has been reported and the collar is presumably not working.

A depredation was confirmed on October 31 after the wolf spent a week in the John Day area. The wolf was deemed to be in poor shape and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) was contacted for euthanasia approval. The euthanasia was approved, but the wolf succumbed to its injuries prior to being put down.

Good of the Order

Jerad Mitchell, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services

Mr. Mitchell referenced a video on YouTube of a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) presentation (https://youtu.be/qMKFVtQ4vvU?si=AwE9-lpexm7xjv_V) on using drones to haze wolves. Strengths and weaknesses of drone hazing were reviewed, and he spoke on how some counties are working together to fund drone purchases.

Producer Claim Applications Review

With no depredations in recent years, Morrow county doesn't receive much funding. Thoroughly documenting preventative measures, losses, and confirmed depredations are important and will help increase future funding.

Claim forms were reviewed, and tips for filling out the forms were offered. If the depredation occurred on government land, photos must be included; depredations on privately owned land need clear descriptions.

Next Meeting Date

December 10, 2024

Adjourn

7:37 p.m.