
CHAPTER 293
County Wolf Advisory Committee

- 293.01 Establishment; Purpose.
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293.03 Compensation.

CROSS REFERENCES

Wolf Depredation Compensation ORS 610.160 - 610.155
Committees generally – see ADM. Ch. 250

293.01 ESTABLISHMENT; PURPOSE.

There is hereby established the County Wolf Advisory Committee. The purpose of the County Wolf Advisory Committee is to provide advice and guidance to the Board of County Commissioners on issues related to wolves, including the interaction of wolves and livestock operations located in the County.

293.02 COUNTY WOLF ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSITION; TERMS OF OFFICE, FUNCTIONS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) The County Wolf Advisory Committee (“Advisory Committee”) shall consist of seven (7) members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners (“Board”) to serve four (4) year staggered terms that begin on July 1 and end on June 30. Should a vacancy occur prior to the expiration date of any term, the vacancy shall be filled by the Board after receiving recommendations from the Advisory Committee.

(b) The Advisory Committee membership shall include:

- (1) One (1) Jackson County Commissioner;
- (2) Two (2) members who own or manage livestock;
- (3) Two (2) members who support wolf conservation or coexistence with wolves;
and
- (4) Two (2) members who have business interests within Jackson County shall be selected by the other members of the Advisory Committee.

- (c) If a member fails to attend more than three (3) meetings, unexcused, the Advisory Committee may, upon a majority vote, recommend to the Board that the office held by that member be declared vacant and that a replacement be appointed to serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
- (d) The Advisory Committee shall hold a regular meeting at least once annually, with additional meetings at the request of the Board or the Advisory Committee.
- (e) The Advisory Committee shall organize and select officers.
- (f) If the Board establishes a Jackson County Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Program (“Program”), the Advisory Committee shall, for the period during which the County maintains such a program, oversee the Program pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 610.150 which includes:
- (1) Advising the County on establishing a procedure by which person applying for compensation under the Program provide evidence of the loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation. Evidence of the loss or injury must include a finding by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or the department’s designated agent that wolf depredation was the probable cause of the loss or injury.
 - (2) Advising the County on establishing a procedure by which persons applying for financial assistance under the Program provide an estimate of the potential cost of the livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation.
 - (3) Advising the County on establishing a procedure by which livestock owners and managers experiencing above expected death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to wolf depredation shall be giving priority by the Advisory Committee for grant monies received under the Program.
 - (4) Establishing compensation rates for death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributable to wolf depredation that are based on fair market value. Compensation for death or injury of livestock or working dogs takes priority over compensation for missing livestock.
 - (5) Within an area of known wolf activity, establishing compensation rates for missing livestock attributable to wolf depredation. Compensation for missing livestock may be at a lower value than compensation for death or injury as allowed in Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) 603-019-0015(2)(c) at the discretion of the Advisory Committee.

- (6) Advising the County on establishing eligibility requirements for compensation that ensures, contingent upon available funds, that:
- A. In order to consider awarding any compensation for death or injury to livestock or working dogs, or missing livestock and working dogs attributed to wolf depredation, the Advisory Committee must determine that the person did not unreasonably or purposefully create circumstances that attract wolves or encourage conflict between wolves and livestock or working dogs, excluding accepted normal husbandry and grazing activities.
 - B. Compensation for documented death or injury to livestock or working dogs that is attributed to wolf depredation that occurred outside an area of known wolf activity shall be compensated regardless of the preexistence of wolf deterrence techniques.
 - C. Compensation for documented death or injury to livestock or working dogs that is attributable to wolf depredation that occurred within an area of known wolf activity shall be compensated if owners have demonstrated implementation of best management practices to deter wolves including reasonable non-lethal methods when practicable.
 - D. Compensation for missing livestock or working dogs that is attributed to wolf depredation that occurred within an area of known wolf activity may be granted if owners document that other possible causes for their animals to be missing, not including wolf depredation, have been eliminated for the number of missing animals they are claiming.
 - E. Compensation for the cost of livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to limit wolf/livestock interactions and discourage wolf depredation of livestock.

293.03 COMPENSATION.

Members of the Advisory Committee shall serve without compensation. However, all expenses necessarily incurred by members shall be paid from budgeted funds of the Health and Human Services Department, subject to County policy and budgetary limitations.

(E Ord. 2016-2. Passed 02-10-16; Ord. 2016-1. Passed 02-24-16; Ord. 2016-11. Passed 8-10-16.)