Baker County Wolf Depredation and Compensation Committee Policy

The purpose of the Baker County Wolf Depredation and Compensation Committee (Committee) is outlined in OAR 603-019-001 through OAR 603-019-0040. The duties of the Committee are as follows:

1. Establish compensation rates for death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to wolves.
2. Establish priority for grant monies received under the County program.
3. Establish a procedure by which people applying for compensation will provide sufficient evidence of actual losses to wolf depredation.
4. Establish procedure to purchase and distribute non-lethal deterrents to affected people.
5. Establish any other criteria which allows the Committee to fulfill the mission stated in OAR 603-019.

The Compensation rates were previously established by the Committee and are attached as Exhibit A. To further clarify compensation rates the following is added to our policy:

Direct Loss

1. Compensation for livestock killed due to wolf depredation confirmed by an ODFW or USDA Wildlife Services employee would be based on the average price received or expected by the livestock owner.
2. Compensation for immature animals would be based on the market value** of the animal at the expected time of sale. (e.g., calves sold as weaned calves averaging 650 pounds at an average price per pound of $1.00 would be compensated at $650/head, a missing cow-calf pair in spring 2010 would be compensated at $1,000/head).
    a. **Market value would be based on price at the time the depredation occurred if possible or current market price.
3. If the animal is treated, but subsequently dies, the cost of treatment will be additive to the compensation provided for a lost animal. If the animal is treated, recovers and is ultimately sold, compensation will be calculated according to the value received for sale of non-injured animals in the same age class if higher, plus the treatment cost.

Indirect Loss

Applications requesting compensation for decreases in livestock body condition and potential decreases in conception rates may be considered for compensation at this time.

Application Guidelines

1. **December 1;** Deadline for all applications for future **preventative** funding and for range riding or other preventative measures that occurred between February 1 to November 30 each year must be submitted by December 1.
2. **December 15;** Soft deadline, on or around December 15th, for BCWDCC to meet and review all applications for **preventative** compensation and funding requests.
3. **December 31;** Deadline for submitting a report of **preventative** money expected to be spent, allocated or unspent money expected to be returned to ODA.
4. **January 31;** Deadline for actual expenditures of all **preventative** money requests.
5. **February 7;** Deadline for all applications for compensation due to wolf depredation that occurred between February 1 and January 31 the following year must be submitted by February 7

   a. All applications submitted must be accompanied by an ODFW confirmation of the loss as a wolf depredation. The Committee will supply forms which garner all pertinent data on losses and may require any other documentation which they deem pertinent. Any applications received after the deadline of February 1 cannot be accepted for consideration as per ODA rules for compensation.
6. **February 15;** Soft deadline, on or around February 15 for BCWDCC to meet and review all applications for **depredation** compensation.
7. **February 28;** Deadline to submit total funding request for previous year depredations and current year preventative funds.

The Committee will annually assess needs for non-lethal deterrents. This may include fladry, carcass removal, range riders, communication systems, etc. The Committee will base their decisions on the facts at the time. If subsequent facts or details arise which change the depredation landscape, the Committee will have discretion to move assets to best adapt to the behavior of wolves and their interactions with livestock. The Committee will work with the Oregon Department of Agriculture to assure that the requirements of the grant funding are being met.

The Committee shall be the final arbitrator of compensation claims and non-lethal deterrents. As the amount of wolf activity increases in Baker County, it will be important for the Committee to remain flexible to adapt to changing conditions.

EXHIBIT "A"

Baker County Wolf Depredation Cost Reimbursement

It will be the policy of Baker County to set wolf depredation rates for all domestic species at market rates.

For domestic livestock that is traded, Intermountain Livestock Auction will be the baseline. Baker County will establish a baseline for all traded animals at 100% of the top price quoted for each class of livestock for the week following the receipt of the reimbursement claim. The Baker County Wolf Depredation Committee will make the final decision on individual compensation depending on documentation provided by applicants. It is expected that producers will be eligible for full compensation for losses at contracted prices, historical or actual pen of livestock sold, or any other mechanism which producers can justify to the Committee.

It is the intent of Baker County to pay full market price for classes of animals that have been purchased with unique character and abilities. The applicant will need to provide documentation for these special qualities. Examples of this would be working cattle or sheep dogs, guard dogs, working saddle horses, purebred or breeding cattle and horses, etc.

Baseline prices for other animals

Goats-Male: To be determined

Goats-Breeding Does: To be determined

Goats-Market: To be determined

Horses: No documentation: $2000.00

Llamas and Alpacas--Breeding: To be determined

Llamas and Alpacas: To be determined

Guard dogs: $1000.00

Working dogs without documentation: $500.00

Other Exotic Species: Paid with documentation provided by the owner

Application of Multipliers

Under guidelines set forth by SB 777 Baker County may apply multipliers to the compensation award by multiplying the fair market value of livestock killed or injured by wolves—as determined by a "confirmed" or "probable" ODFW investigation—by a factor based on the animal type, as follows:

Multiplier	Animal Type

Up to 5x Fair Market Value	Cow-calf pairs, yearlings, sheep, goats
Up to 3x Fair Market Value	Cows that are not a cow-calf pair or yearling
1x (No Multiplier)	Horses, working dogs, or other livestock

The Baker County Wolf Depredation Committee determines the appropriate multiplier based on the economic impact on the rancher. Compensation is capped at $25,000 per livestock animal or working dog.

The Wolf Depredation Committee shall review each individual claim, request supporting documentation including reports by ODFW and make a final determination as to compensation due to the applicants. The Committee will have full authority to alter any of the above payment guidelines depending on individual circumstances. The action of the Committee will be final.