

## **WOLF DEPREDAATION COMPENSATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM**

### **603-019-0001**

#### **Definitions**

As used in 603-019-0001 to 603-019-0030, unless the context requires otherwise:

- (1) "Area of known wolf activity" means an area designated by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as having known wolf activity.
- (2) "County program" means a county government wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance program that meets all requirements established under this rule.
- (3) "Department" means the Oregon Department of Agriculture.
- (4) "Depredation" means death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to wolf depredation that occurred in the previous calendar year.
- (5) "Livestock" means, ratites, psittacines, horses, mules, jackasses, cattle, llamas, alpacas, sheep, goats, swine, bison, domesticated fowl and any fur-bearing animal bred and maintained commercially, or otherwise, within pens, cages or hutches.
- (6) "Probable or confirmed loss or injury" means a finding by the ODFW, or a designated agent of ODFW, that wolf depredation was the probable cause of the loss or injury.
- (7) "Prevention" means livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock or working dogs anticipated to occur in the current calendar year.
- (8) "Trust Fund" means the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.
- (9) "Working dog" means any animal of the species *Canis familiaris* used to aid in the herding or guarding of livestock.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

#### **History:**

[DOA 8-2023, minor correction filed 03/24/2023, effective 03/24/2023](#)

DOA 25-2011, f. & cert. ef. 12-28-11

### **603-019-0005**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of these rules is to provide criteria and procedures for the implementation and administration of the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program. Grant funds may be awarded to a county program for the following purposes:

- (1) Compensation to persons who suffer probable or confirmed loss or injury of livestock or working dogs;
- (2) Financial assistance to persons who implement livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf-livestock interactions and reduce wolf depredations; and
- (3) Expenses associated with up to ninety (90) percent of the cost of implementing a county program, as defined in 603-019-0010(3).

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

**History:**

[DOA 9-2023, minor correction filed 03/24/2023, effective 03/24/2023](#)

DOA 25-2011, f. & cert. ef. 12-28-11

### **[603-019-0010](#)**

#### **Eligible Applicants**

Eligible applicants are county governments that have established a county program that meets the following requirements:

- (1) Establishment of a county advisory committee to oversee the county program whose membership includes:
  - (a) One county commissioner;
  - (b) Two members who own or manage livestock;
  - (c) Two members who support wolf conservation or coexistence with wolves; and
  - (d) Two county business representatives selected by the county advisory committee after it is established to serve as additional county advisory committee members.
- (2) The county must agree to contribute an amount of money equal to ten (10) percent of the necessary expenditures. Necessary expenses shall include:
  - (A) Establishing a county advisory committee;

(B) Establishing a procedure for persons applying for depredation compensation to provide sufficient evidence of probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs;

(C) Establishing a procedure for persons applying for financial assistance for prevention to provide an estimate of potential costs;

(D) Establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses from death or injury attributed to wolf depredation;

(E) Distributing grant program funds; and

(F) Preparing and submitting an annual report to the Department.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

**History:**

[DOA 10-2023, minor correction filed 03/24/2023, effective 03/24/2023](#)

DOA 25-2011, f. & cert. ef. 12-28-11

### **603-019-0015**

#### **Standards to Determine Grant Award Eligibility**

(1) The Department will consider applications, subject to available funding in the Trust Fund, from county programs that meet the stated purpose of this rule and include the elements specified in this section.

(2) The county program must:

(A) Prioritize persons experiencing above-normal death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to wolf depredation;

(B) Determine an amount of depredation compensation for each probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation as follows:

(a) Not more than \$25,000 per livestock animal or working dog;

(b) Up to five times the fair market value of a cow-calf or yearling, sheep, or goat;

(c) Up to three times the fair market value of a cow not described in paragraph (b) of this subsection; and

(d) The fair market value of a horse, a livestock animal not specifically described in this rule, or a working dog; and

(C) Apply the following criteria when determining eligibility for depredation compensation:

(a) Outside an area of known wolf activity, provide compensation regardless of prevention techniques used;

(b) Within an area of known wolf activity, provide compensation only if the owner demonstrates implementation of best management practices to deter wolves, including reasonable use of nonlethal methods when practicable; and

(c) Ensure that compensation is not provided if the person unreasonably or purposefully created conditions that attract wolves or increase the likelihood of conflict between wolves and livestock or working dogs.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

**History:**

[DOA 11-2023, minor correction filed 03/24/2023, effective 03/24/2023](#)

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### **603-019-0020**

#### **Application Procedures**

(1) Grant application forms will be made available and distributed by the Department.

(2) Each county shall submit its proposal for funding on the Department's application form, including any necessary attachments.

(3) Applications for grant funds must be submitted to the Department by February 28 of each year. Late submissions may be accepted in the discretion of the Department, consistent with applicable law.

(4) Grant applications may be made for the following purposes:

(a) Compensation for the loss or injury of livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation;

(c) Financial assistance for the implementation of nonlethal management techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock; and

(d) Up to 90% of the necessary expenses for one calendar year of implementing a county program as described in 603-019-0010.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

**History:**

[DOA 13-2023, minor correction filed 03/24/2023, effective 03/24/2023](#)  
DOA 25-2011, f. & cert. ef. 12-28-11

**[603-019-0025](#)**

**Application Review and Grant Awards**

(1) The Department will review each application for completeness, accuracy, and consistency with these rules. Incomplete applications may be returned for correction or completion.

(2) The Department will review grant applications to evaluate the reasonableness of the amount of money requested. The Department may develop and use formulas to allocate available funds equitably among grant requests.

(3) After reviewing a county application, the Department will make one of the following determinations regarding the county's grant request.

(a) Approval of the full amount requested;

(b) Approval of a partial amount. In this instance, the Department may elect to fund a portion of grant request;

(c) Deferral of the request for further consideration, based upon submission of additional information; or

(d) Denial of request. Applications not meeting the standards established in these rules may be denied. If an application is denied, the Department may identify standards necessary for approval of a future grant application. Applicants whose proposals are denied may reapply in subsequent years.

(4) Trust Fund moneys will be distributed in a balanced manner between payments for depredation compensation and payments for prevention, with not less than 50 percent of Trust Fund moneys distributed for prevention.

(5) Any Trust Fund moneys not allocated by the Department within the current calendar year shall be carried forward in the Trust Fund to the following year.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

**History:**

[DOA 14-2023, minor correction filed 03/24/2023, effective 03/24/2023](#)  
DOA 25-2011, f. & cert. ef. 12-28-11

**603-019-0030**

**Grant Administration**

(1) The Department and the recipient county must enter into a grant agreement that includes but is not limited to the following:

(a) A description of the county program and the work elements for which grant funding is received;

(b) A payment schedule as determined by the Department;

(c) A condition requiring the recipient county to prepare an annual report detailing actions taken, depredation compensation paid, and prevention financial assistance provided under the grant. This report will be due to the Department on June 1 of each year;

(d) A condition allowing the Department to withhold the payment pending resolution of identified deficiencies in grant administration or if the Department finds a report unsatisfactory;

(e) A condition allowing termination of the grant agreement if the county is consistently unable to comply with the terms of the grant agreement or with applicable law;

(f) A condition requiring the recipient county to maintain any and all records necessary to allow the Department to monitor administration of the grant;

(g) A condition specifying that the recipient county and the Department may amend timelines specified in the grant agreement, provided such amendments are in writing and are mutually agreed to;

(h) A condition specifying that any grant moneys disbursed to the recipient county that remain unobligated or unexpended as of the termination date of a grant agreement must be returned to the Department; and

(i) A condition specifying that, as part of its duty to monitor county programs, the Department may audit and review county program grant application documents, subsidiary record documentation, and source documents, including but not limited to, invoices, cost computations by the county or by the county advisory committee, and all other instruments and documents upon which expenditure of grant funding was determined and which the Department determines is necessary to access compliance with a county program.

(2) The Department may establish additional requirements or conditions consistent with this rule.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 610.150

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 610.155

**History:**

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