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## NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & FISCAL IMPACT

CHAPTER 603  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**FILED**

10/21/2025 3:04 PM  
ARCHIVES DIVISION  
SECRETARY OF STATE

FILING CAPTION: Updates to the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program

LAST DAY AND TIME TO OFFER COMMENT TO AGENCY: 12/05/2025 5:00 PM

*The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.*

CONTACT: Sunny Summers  
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Salem, OR 97301

Filed By:  
Sunny Summers  
Rules Coordinator

### HEARING(S)

*Auxiliary aids for persons with disabilities are available upon advance request. Notify the contact listed above.*

DATE: 12/02/2025

TIME: 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

OFFICER: Sunny Summers

### REMOTE HEARING DETAILS

MEETING URL: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

PHONE NUMBER: 503-446-4951

CONFERENCE ID: 2904400829499

#### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Meeting ID: 290 440 082 949 9

Passcode: a52vV3q4

Dial in by phone

+1 503-446-4951,,816616286#

### NEED FOR THE RULE(S)

The Oregon Department of Agriculture administers grants to support county programs that mitigate wolf-related livestock losses. Updates to the rules are needed following the passage of Senate Bill 777 to ensure alignment with new statutory requirements. These rules establish clear eligibility criteria, application processes, and standards for funding allocation, ensuring consistent, transparent, and effective use of the Wolf Compensation and Financial Assistance Fund.

### DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE

Senate Bill 777 – OR Legislative Website

### STATEMENT IDENTIFYING HOW ADOPTION OF RULE(S) WILL AFFECT RACIAL EQUITY IN THIS STATE

The adoption of these rules is not expected to have a disproportionate impact on any racial or ethnic group. The rules establish objective, criteria-based processes for grant eligibility and funding allocation, ensuring that all eligible county programs and livestock producers have access to support regardless of race or ethnicity.

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#### FISCAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT:

The adoption of these rules is not expected to result in significant new costs to state or local governments beyond the existing Wolf Compensation and Financial Assistance Fund. The rules provide clarity and consistency in grant administration. For livestock producers, the rules help ensure timely access to financial assistance for wolf-related losses, supporting the economic stability of affected agricultural operations.

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#### COST OF COMPLIANCE:

*(1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s). (2) Effect on Small Businesses: (a) Estimate the number and type of small businesses subject to the rule(s); (b) Describe the expected reporting, recordkeeping and administrative activities and cost required to comply with the rule(s); (c) Estimate the cost of professional services, equipment supplies, labor and increased administration required to comply with the rule(s).*

1) Identify any state agencies, units of local government, and members of the public likely to be economically affected by the rule(s):

County governments implementing grant programs and livestock producers who apply for or receive assistance are likely to be affected by these rules. The rules clarify eligibility, application processes, and reporting requirements but are not expected to impose significant new costs.

(2) Effect on Small Businesses

(a) Number and Type of Small Businesses:

Small businesses affected are primarily livestock operations, including ranches and farms, that may experience wolf-related losses. The number varies by county and region.

(b) Reporting, Recordkeeping, and Administrative Activities:

Affected producers will need to maintain basic records of livestock losses, submit grant applications, and provide documentation to county programs. These requirements are consistent with standard recordkeeping practices already used by livestock operations. County programs will need to update and/or establish new processes to reflect changes required by these rule updates.

(c) Estimated Cost of Compliance:

Costs are expected to be minimal. Producers may incur nominal administrative time for completing applications and recordkeeping. There is no anticipated need for additional professional services, equipment, or substantial labor beyond existing operational practices.

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#### DESCRIBE HOW SMALL BUSINESSES WERE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THESE RULE(S):

Small businesses, primarily livestock producers, were actively involved in the development of these rules. The Oregon Department of Agriculture conducted three public listening sessions to gather input from affected producers and other members of the public. In addition, a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) composed of livestock operators, county representatives, and other partners reviewed proposed updates, provided feedback, and helped shape the final rule language.

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#### WAS AN ADMINISTRATIVE RULE ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTED? YES

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#### RULES PROPOSED:

603-019-0001, 603-019-0005, 603-019-0010, 603-019-0015, 603-019-0020, 603-019-0025, 603-019-0030, 603-019-0035, 603-019-0040

AMEND: 603-019-0001

RULE SUMMARY: Updates wolf grant rule definitions

CHANGES TO RULE:

603-019-0001

Definitions ¶¶

As used in 603-019-0001 to 603-019-00430, unless the context requires otherwise:¶¶

(1) "Livestock" means, ratites, horses, mules, jackasses, cattle, llamas, alpacas, sheep, goats, swine, bison, domesticated fowl and any fur-bearing animal bred and maintained Area of known wolf activity" means an area which is designated by ODFW showing where resident wolves and/or packs have become commercially, or otherwise, within pens, cages or hute establishesd.¶¶

(2) "~~Working dog~~" means any animal of the species *Canis familiaris* used to aid in the herding or guarding of livestock 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 State Oregon Department of Agriculture.¶¶

(4) "~~Trust Fund~~ Depredation" means ~~the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund~~¶¶

(5) "~~County Program~~" means an established county government wolf depredation compensation and financial assistance program meeting death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to one or more wolves that occurred during 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 commercial of the requirements established under this rule.¶¶

(6) "~~Attributed to wolf depredation~~" means a finding by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), or otherwise, within pens, cages or hutches.¶¶

(6) "ODFW" means the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.¶¶

(7) "Probable or confirmed loss or injury" means a finding by the ODFW, or a designated agent of or ODF&W, that wolf depredation was the probable cause of the death loss or injury.¶¶

(78) "~~A~~ rea of known wolf activity" means an area of known wolf activity that is designated as such by the ODF&W vention" means livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques during the current grant year to discourage wolf depredation of livestock or working dogs.¶¶

(9) "Trust Fund" means the Wolf Management Compensation and Proactive Trust Fund.¶¶

(10) "~~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, SB 777 (2025)

AMEND: 603-019-0005

RULE SUMMARY: Updates the purpose of these wolf grant rules.

CHANGES TO RULE:

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 ~~will~~may be awarded to ~~qualified~~a county programs for; the following purposes:¶

(a)1) Compensation to persons who suffer ~~death of~~probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs ~~that is attributed to wolf depredation as well as compensation for certain missing animals that qualify~~ and/or;¶

(b)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¶

(c)3) Expenses associated with up to ~~90% of the~~ninety (90) percent of the cost of implementation ~~of~~ing a county program, as defined in 603-019-0015(60(2)).

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 610.150

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 610.155, SB 777 (2025)

AMEND: 603-019-0010

RULE SUMMARY: Updates requirements for eligible applicants for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

603-019-0010

Eligible Applicants ¶

Eligible applicants are county governments that have established an advisory committee and otherwise met the requirements listed in OAR 603-019-0015 and are prepared to assess applications from persons who are eligible to apply for grant funds from the ~~cou~~ 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 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;¶

(f) Advertising for recruiting committee members; and¶

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

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 610.150

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 610.155, SB 777 (2025)

RULE SUMMARY: Outlines county program responsibilities for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

603-019-0015

Standards to Determine Grant Award Eligibility County Program Responsibilities ¶

(1) The Department will consider applications for funds from the Trust Fund from county programs that meet the stated purpose of this rule and contain the elements specified in this section.¶

(2) Grants are subject to available funding in the Trust Fund. A county may qualify for a grant if a county has a county program that meets the following requirements:¶

(a) A county must establish a county advisory committee to oversee the county program.¶

(A) Advisory committee membership shall include:¶

(i) One county commissioner;¶

(ii) Two members who own or manage livestock; and¶

(iii) Two members who support wolf conservation or coexistence with wolves.¶

(B) Once established, the county advisory committee shall agree upon two county business representatives to serve as additional county advisory committee members.¶

(b) A county must establish a procedure by which livestock owners and managers experiencing above expectThe county program must:¶

(1) Prioritize awarding grants to livestock owners and managers experiencing above-normal probable or confirmed death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed due to wolf depredation shall be given priority by the committee for grant moneys received under the County Program.¶

(c) A county program must require that an advisory committee must establish.¶

(2) Determine an amount of depredation 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 probable or confirmed loss or injury to livestock or working dogs takes priority over compensation for missing livestock due to wolf depredation as follows:¶

(da) A county program must require that within an area of known wolf activity, a county advisory committee must establish compensation rates for missing livestock attributable to wolf depredation. To qualify for compensation for missing livestock producers must 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.

Compensation for missing livestock may be at a lower value than compensation for death or injury as allowed in 603-019-0015(2)(c) at the discretion of the county advisory committee. Losses confirmed as due to wolf depredation shall be given priority over losses for missing livestock.¶

(e) A county program must establish eligibility requirements for compensation that ensures, contingent upNot 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; available funds, that:nd¶

(Ad) 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 county 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 wolfThe fair market value of a horse, a livestock animal not specifically described in this rule, or a working dog.¶

(3) Apply the following criteria when determining eligibility for depredation that occurred ocompensation:¶

(a) Outside an area of known wolf activity shall b, provide compensatedion regardless of the preexistence of wolf deterrence techniques.¶

(C) Compensation for documented death or injury to livestock or working dogs that is attributed to wolf depredation that occurred wprevention techniques used:¶

(b) Within an area of known wolf activity shall b, provide compensated if owners haveion only if the owner demonstrateds implementation of best management practices to deter wolves, including reasonable use of 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; and¶

(c) Ensure that compensation is not provided if the number of missing animals they are claiming.¶

(f) A county program must distribute grant program funds, to the extent possible, in an equal and balanced manner between payments to compensate for death or injury to livestock or working dogs attributed to wolf depredation and payments to implement livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock, with a minimum of 30% of a county's grant funds, as distributed by the Department to that county, distributed for livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrence techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation of livestock.¶¶

(g) The county must contribute an amount of money equal to 10% of the allowable expenditures necessary to implement the county program during the calendar year. Allowable expenditures are:¶¶

(A) Establishing a county advisory committee.¶¶

(B) Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for compensation will provide sufficient evidence of actual livestock and/or working dog losses attributed to wolf depredation.¶¶

(C) Establishing a procedure by which persons applying for financial assistance for the cost of livestock management or nonlethal deterrence provides an estimate of the potential cost.¶¶

(D) Establishing compensation rates for livestock or working dog losses from death, injury or missing all of which are attributed to wolf depredation.¶¶

(E) Distributing grant program funds.¶¶

(F) Preparation of an annual report to the Department 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, SB 777 (2025)

AMEND: 603-019-0020

RULE SUMMARY: Outlines application procedures for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

603-019-0020

~~Distribution of Grant Funds by County Advisory Committee~~Application Procedures ¶

(1) Grant funds received by a county program from the Department may only be used to reimburse the following expenses or losses:¶

(1) Compensation for documented death or injury to livestock and working dogs determined as attributed to wolf depredation.¶

(2) Compensation for missing livestock or working dogs only when the animals in question became missing from with application forms will be made available and distributed by the Department.¶

(2) Each county program shall apply for funding on the Department's application form, including an area of known wolf activity and the livestock owner or manager has satisfied the requirements described in 603-019-0015.¶

(3) Compensy necessary attachments.¶

(3) Applications for death, injury or missing livestock or working dogs within a known area of wolgrant funds must be submitted to the Department by February 28 of eactivity requires the livestock owner or manager to demonstrate to the county advisory committee, that they implemented best management practices to deter wolves, including reasonable use of nonlethal methods when practicable.¶

(4) 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. These funds must amount to at least 30% of the total grant funds distributed by the Department to a county program.¶

(5) A county may submit up to 90% of expenses incurred by implementation of a county program meeting the requirements specified in OAR 603-019-0015. The county must make a money contribution equaling at least 10% of theh year. Late submissions may be accepted at the discretion of the Department, consistent with applicable law.¶

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

(a) Compensation for depredation;¶

(b) Financial assistance for the prevention; and¶

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

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 610.150

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 610.155, SB 777 (2025)



AMEND: 603-019-0025

RULE SUMMARY: Outlines application review and grant award process for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

603-019-0025

Application ~~Procedure~~ Review and Grant Awards ¶

- (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 attachments as necessary.~~¶
- (3) ~~Applications for grant funds may be submitted to the Department by February 15th of each year. Late submissions may be accepted in the discretion of the Department.~~ 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 among county programs.¶
- (3) ~~After reviewing an application, the Department will make one of the following determinations regarding the county's grant request:~~ After reviewing an application, the Department will make one of the following determinations regarding the county's grant request:¶
- (a) ~~Approval of the full amount requested.~~¶
- (4b) ~~Grant applications may be made for:~~¶
- (a) ~~Funds to compensate for the loss or injury of livestock or working dogs due to wolf depredation.~~ 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~~¶
- (bd) ~~Funds to compensate for missing livestock consistent with OAR 603-019-0015;~~¶
- (c) ~~Funds for financial assistance for the implementation of nonlethal management techniques designed to discourage wolf depredation.~~ 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 of livestock; and~~¶
- (d) ~~For up to 90% of the expense for one calendar year of implementing a county program as described in 603-019-0015 and 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, SB 777 (2025)

AMEND: 603-019-0030

RULE SUMMARY: Outlines grant administration process for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

603-019-0030

~~Application Review~~Grant Administration ¶

~~(1) The Department may process grant applications to evaluate the reasonableness of the amount of money requested. The Department may use formulas it may derive for allocating available funds equitably among grant requests, and the recipient county must enter into a grant agreement that includes but is not limited to the following:¶~~

~~(1) A description of the county program and the work elements for which grant funding is received;¶~~

~~(2) A payment schedule as determined by the Department;¶~~

~~(3) 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;¶~~

~~(24) The Department will review each application~~A condition allowing the Department to withhold the payment pending resolution of identified deficiencies in grant administration for completeness, accuracy, and consistency with these rules. Incomplete applications may be returned for correction or completion. Applications not meeting the standards established in these rules may be denied. If an application if the Department finds a report unsatisfactory;¶

~~(5) 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;¶~~

~~(6) A condition requiring the recipient county to maintain any and all records necessary to allow the Department to monitor administration of the grant;¶~~

~~(7) 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;¶~~

~~(8) 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¶~~

~~(9) A condition specifying that, as part of its denied, the Department may identify standards necessary 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 for approval by the county advisory committee, and all of a further instruments and documents upon which expenditure of grant application funding was determined and which the Department determines is necessary to access compliance with a county program.~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 610.150

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 610.155, SB 777 (2025)

REPEAL: 603-019-0035

RULE SUMMARY: Repeals rule no longer needed for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~603-019-0035~~

~~Grant Awards ¶¶~~

~~(1) After reviewing a county application, the Department will make one of the following decisions for each county's grant request.¶¶~~

~~(a) Approval of grant award for the full amount requested;¶¶~~

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

~~(c) Deferral of request for further consideration based upon submission of additional information;¶¶~~

~~(d) Denial of request. Applicants whose proposals are denied may reapply the following year.¶¶~~

~~(2) Any funds not allocated within the current calendar year by the Department shall be carried forward in the Trust Fund into the following year.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 610.150~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 610.155~~

REPEAL: 603-019-0040

RULE SUMMARY: Repeals rule no longer needed for wolf grant program.

CHANGES TO RULE:

~~603-019-0040~~

~~Grant Administration ¶¶~~

- ~~(1) The Department and the recipient county will enter a grant agreement that includes but is not limited to the following:¶¶~~
- ~~(a) A description of the county program and a description of the work elements for which grant funding is received.;¶¶~~
- ~~(b) A payment schedule as determined by the Department.¶¶~~
- ~~(c) A condition requiring the participating county to prepare an annual report that specifies the actions taken, compensation paid and financial assistance provided under the grant. This report will be due to the Department on June 1st of each year beginning in the year 2012.¶¶~~
- ~~(d) A condition allowing the Department to withhold the relevant payment pending resolution of the identified deficiencies in grant administration or in the event the Department finds a report unsatisfactory.¶¶~~
- ~~(e) A condition allowing, termination of the grant agreement if a county is consistently unable to meet performance standards as identified in the grant or as consistent with law.¶¶~~
- ~~(2) A condition requiring each recipient to submit a final report to the Department within six months of the official close of the grant period. The final report must detail the actions taken consistent with the grant agreement, compensation paid and financial assistance provided under the grant.¶¶~~
- ~~(3) A condition requiring counties to maintain any and all records necessary to allow the Department to monitor administration of the grant.¶¶~~
- ~~(4) A condition specifying that grantees and the Department may amend timelines specified in the grant agreement provided such amendments are in writing and are mutually agreed to.¶¶~~
- ~~(5) A condition specifying that unexpended grant funds not used by the grantee must be returned to the Department for reallocation to the Trust Fund.¶¶~~
- ~~(6) A condition specifying that as part of its duty to monitor the 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 a County Advisory committee and all other instruments and documents upon which expenditure of grant funding was determined and which the Department ascertains is necessary to determine compliance with a county program.¶¶~~
- ~~(7) A condition specifying that any grant moneys disbursed to a county that remain unobligated or unexpended as of the termination date of a grant agreement must be returned to the Department.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 610.150~~

~~Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 610.155~~