



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

**Wolf Depredation Compensation and
Financial Assistance
County Block Grant Program
2023-2025 Report**

1. Executive Summary

The ranching and farming industries are vital to Oregon's economy. The return of gray wolves to Oregon has sparked conflicts with livestock and working dogs, causing some livestock producers to lose money due to wolf depredations. This report to the Oregon Legislature outlines the expenditure of the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance (WDCFA) County Block Grant Program funds for the 2023-2025 biennia.

The program aims to support Oregon's economy by reducing wolf-livestock conflicts and assisting producers affected by wolf-related losses, in alignment with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

Below is a breakdown of the desired outcomes:

- *Reduce wolf-livestock conflicts:* Decrease wolf depredation on livestock, reducing economic losses and human-wolf conflicts.
- *Improve livestock management techniques:* Encourage producers to adopt and implement effective livestock management techniques and nonlethal wolf deterrence strategies.
- *Enhance trust and partnerships:* Strengthen collaboration between ODA, ODFW, local communities, and livestock producers; facilitating communication, coordination, and support for addressing wolf-livestock conflicts.
- *Sustainable coexistence:* Support livestock producers and empower local communities to coexist with wolves.
- *Effective use of funding:* Use state general funds and federal grant funds are used to provide timely and effective assistance to livestock producers in participating counties, ensuring resources are allocated to the most pressing wolf-livestock conflicts.

Since its beginning in August 2011, the WDCFA Grant Program has expanded from eight (8) to 18 counties with 16 currently active, using state and federal funds to provide annual block grants. Use of these funds increases confidence in viable wolf populations, supports positive economic outcomes, and strengthens collaborative conservation efforts.

2. Grant Overview

Realizing that the ranching and farming industry are important components of Oregon's economy, House Bill (HB) 3560 was signed into effect on August 2, 2011, directing ODA to establish and implement the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program. Grants are awarded to County Wolf Advisory Committees/Programs for:

- Compensating individuals who experience loss or harm to livestock or working dogs because of wolf depredation.
- Reimbursing individuals for livestock or working dogs that are confirmed missing due to wolf depredation.
- Financial assistance to individuals for livestock management or nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques aimed at preventing wolf depredation on livestock.
- Compensating counties for eligible expenses related to establishing and administering county wolf advisory committees and grant programs.

(Note: Federal wolf grant funds may only be used for direct compensation and prevention, not for missing livestock or county administrative expenses.)

The structure of ODA's WDCFA Grant Program is specifically designed to place a large portion of decision-making, administration, and control at the county level with the goal of enhancing public involvement and participation. Local county wolf advisory committees/programs convey the needs and challenges of their respective local producers into an annual WDCFA grant application to the ODA. To be eligible for the grants, counties must meet certain statutory requirements:

- Have a county advisory committee overseeing the wolf depredation compensation program. Committees are required to include a county commissioner, livestock owners/managers, supporters of wolf conservation, and two business representatives chosen by the committee.
- Set eligibility criteria for compensation, ensuring that livestock owners did not attract wolves on purpose, implemented best practices to deter wolves, and eliminated other reasons for missing livestock.
- Prioritize funds for livestock owners facing high losses and set compensation rates based on market value.
- At least 30% of the grant funds must go towards techniques to discourage wolf attacks on livestock.
- Contribute 10% of the expenses needed to administer the program each year.

ODA reviews grant applications for completeness, accuracy and consistency with applicable statutes and rules. Each County Wolf Compensation Program participating in the ODA's WDCFA Grant Program is responsible for establishing fair market compensation rates for death or injury to livestock attributable to wolf depredation.

The depredation grant component of the WDCFA Grant operates a year in arrears and reimburses those claims that have a “confirmed” or “probable” investigative finding by ODFW during the previous year, (i.e., confirmed or probable depredation losses occurring in 2024 will be compensated with the 2025 grant award.) The prevention grant component is awarded for the remainder of the current grant cycle. Counties have until January 31 of the following year to expend all WDCFA grant funds. Any unspent funds must be returned to ODA and are re-deposited back into the Wolf Trust Fund.

Effective, proactive, non-lethal measures depend on the type of livestock and the size of the area being protected. Removing attractants, such as carcasses and bone piles, may be one of the most effective ways to keep wolves away from livestock areas. Other non-lethal and preventative measures include hazing or harassment of wolves, increased vigilance and monitoring of wolf activity, installing radio activated guard (RAG) devices, using Fox lights, installing fladry (protective fencing) or electro-mesh around livestock, and supporting of county operated range rider programs.

3. Participating Counties

Currently, 16 counties have active county wolf advisory committees.

- Baker
- Crook
- Deschutes
- Douglas
- Grant
- Harney
- Jackson
- Jefferson
- Klamath
- Lake
- Morrow
- Umatilla
- Union
- Wallowa
- Wasco
- Wheeler

4. Grant Money Expenditures by County and Type 2023-2025

Grant Money Expenditures by County and Type (2023)

Requested					
County	Death/Injury	Missing	Prevent	Admin	Total
Baker	\$5,835	\$5,775	\$60,000	\$495	\$72,105
Grant	\$0	\$0	\$40,000	\$2,000	\$42,000
Harney	\$0	\$0	\$60,000	\$700	\$60,700
Jackson	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
Klamath	\$25,750	\$0	\$80,000	\$0	\$105,750
Lake	\$3,272	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$4,272
Morrow	\$0	\$2,200	\$17,000	\$1,728	\$20,928
Umatilla	\$7,045	\$21,367	\$100,000	\$750	\$129,163
Union	\$12,900	\$18,810	\$100,000	\$0	\$131,710
Wallowa	\$15,463	\$30,710	\$90,000	\$700	\$136,873
Wheeler	\$0	\$0	\$5,575	\$0	\$5,575
Totals	\$70,264	\$78,862	\$653,575	\$6,373	\$809,075
Awarded					
County	Death/Injury	Missing	Prevent	Admin	Total
Baker	\$5,835	\$0	\$40,920	\$495	\$47,250
Grant	\$0	\$0	\$19,280	\$2,000	\$21,280
Harney	\$0	\$0	\$28,920	\$700	\$29,620
Jackson	\$0	\$0	\$48,200	\$0	\$48,200
Klamath	\$25,750	\$0	\$54,560	\$0	\$80,310
Lake	\$3,272	\$0	\$482	\$0	\$3,754
Morrow	\$0	\$0	\$8,194	\$1,728	\$9,922
Umatilla	\$7,045	\$0	\$68,200	\$750	\$75,995
Union	\$12,900	\$0	\$68,200	\$0	\$81,100
Wallowa	\$15,463	\$0	\$61,380	\$700	\$77,543
Wheeler	\$0	\$0	\$2,687	\$0	\$2,687
Totals	\$70,264	\$0	\$401,023	\$6,373	\$477,661

Grant Money Expenditures by County and Type (2024)

Requested					
County	Death/Injury	Missing	Prevent	Admin	Total
Baker	\$23,096	\$27,086	\$70,000	\$495	\$120,677
Crook	\$5,222	\$0	\$24,131	\$0	\$29,353
Deschutes	\$1,935	\$5,371.50	\$70,000	\$0	\$77,306.50
Grant	\$37,500	\$75,613	\$250,000	\$1,000	\$364,113
Harney	\$3,600	\$0	\$60,000	\$1,000	\$64,600
Jackson	\$5,100	\$0	\$116,750	\$0	\$121,850
Klamath	\$7,500	\$46,150	\$100,000	\$0	\$153,650
Lake	\$0	\$0	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
Morrow	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$1,000	\$21,000
Umatilla	\$3,200	\$7,060	\$100,000	\$1,000	\$112,760
Union	\$14,850	\$53,964	\$250,000	\$0	\$318,814
Wallowa	\$29,968.75	\$121,243.75	\$90,000	\$1,000	\$242,212.50
Wheeler	\$0	\$0	\$5,505	\$0	\$5,505
Totals	\$131,972	\$336,488	1,240,881	\$5,495	\$1,716,336
Awarded					
County	Death/Injury	Missing	Prevent	Admin	Total
Baker	\$23,096	\$13,543	\$42,000	\$495	\$79,134
Crook	\$5,222	\$0	\$9652.40	\$0	\$14,874.40
Deschutes	\$1,935	\$2,685.75	\$28,000	\$0	\$32,620.75
Grant	\$37,500	\$37,806.50	\$60,000	\$1,000	\$136,306.50
Harney	\$3,600	\$0	\$24,000	\$1,000	\$28,600
Jackson	\$5,100	\$0	\$60,000	\$0	\$65,100
Klamath	\$7,500	\$23,075	\$60,000	\$0	\$90,575
Lake	\$0	\$0	\$36,000	\$0	\$36,000
Morrow	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$1,000	\$9,000
Umatilla	\$3,200	\$3,530	\$40,000	\$1,000	\$47,730
Union	\$14,850	\$26,982	\$60,000	\$0	\$101,822
Wallowa	\$29,968.75	\$60,621.88	\$54,000	\$1,000	\$145,590.63
Wheeler	\$0	\$0	\$2,202	\$0	\$2,202
Totals	\$131,972	\$168,244	\$481,652	\$5,495	\$787,353

Grant Money Expenditures by County and Type (2025)

Requested					
County	Death/Injury	Missing	Prevent	Admin	Total
Baker	\$1,350	\$0	\$70,000	\$495	\$71,845
Crook	\$2,840	\$0	\$119,400	\$0	\$122,240
Deschutes	\$0	\$0	\$132,800	\$0	\$132,800
Douglas	\$0	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000
Grant	\$20,000	\$50,000	\$250,000	\$900	\$320,900
Harney	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$110,000
Jackson	\$9,300	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$129,300
Klamath	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$4,498.25	\$104,498.25
Lake	\$3,232	\$0	\$120,000	\$0	\$123,232
Morrow	\$4,556	\$44,400	\$150,000	\$2,000	\$200,956
Umatilla	\$2,250	\$0	\$100,000	\$1,000	\$103,250
Union	\$15,980	\$75,214	\$100,000	\$0	\$191,194
Wallowa	\$44,970	\$19,140	\$90,000	\$1,000	\$155,110
Wheeler	\$350	\$0	\$58,519	\$0	\$58,869
Totals	\$104,828	\$188,754	\$1,518,719	\$19,893	\$1,832,194
Awarded					
County	Death/Injury	Missing	Prevent	Admin	Total
Baker	\$1350	\$0	\$38,196.31	\$495	\$40,041.31
Crook	\$2840	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$52,840
Deschutes	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000
Douglas	\$0	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Grant	\$20,000	\$0	\$53,196.31	\$900	\$74,096.31
Harney	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$2,000	\$52,000
Jackson	\$9,300	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$59,300
Klamath	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$2,000	\$52,000
Lake	\$3,232	\$0	\$35,854	\$0	\$39,086
Morrow	\$4,556	\$0	\$50,000	\$2,000	\$56,556
Umatilla	\$2,250	\$0	\$53,196.31	\$1,000	\$56,446.31
Union	\$15,980	\$0	\$53,196.31	\$0	\$69,176.31
Wallowa	\$44,970	\$0	\$48,196.31	\$1,000	\$94,166.31
Wheeler	\$350	\$0	\$29,259.50	\$0	\$29,609.50
Totals	\$104,828	\$0	\$615,095	\$9,395	\$729,318