



Crook County Wolf Committee

Committee Board Meeting Minutes

November 3rd, 2025 | 3 PM

Extension Office Conference Room
498 SE Lynn Blvd, Prineville OR 97754

Committee Members in Attendance

Hunter Neuharth – Chair

Seth Crawford

John Dehler

Linda Stelle

David Condron

Elaina Huffman (via Zoom)

GUESTS: Scott Duggan. Aaron Bott – ODFW, Ryan Kingsbury – McCormack Ranch (via Zoom)

QUORUM: ☒ Yes ☐ No

I. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. Meeting called to order at 3:00 PM by Chair Hunter Neuharth.

II. LOCAL UPDATE – ODFW (Aaron Bott)

- a. Approximately 140 wolves are currently in Oregon.
- b. Wolf OR183 dispersed from Pierson Creek Pack (tends to stay in a federally delisted zone, several littermates removed due to depredations) recently confirmed depredation in Crook County, she is the only actively collared wolf in the county.
- c. Estimated current local wolf presence: 6+.
- d. ODFW cannot authorize lethal removal in federally listed zones; may only document depredations per the state management plan (2+ depredations within 9 months = “chronic”).
- e. Q&A:
 - Q: Can I kill a wolf attacking my dog?
 - A: No, illegal unless in defense of human life.

III. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES (JULY 24TH, 2025)

- a. Motion to approve with correction to Linda’s name.
 - i. Motion: Seth Crawford | Second: Dave Condron | Vote: Unanimous approval

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

- a. Returning members: John Dehler, Seth Crawford
- b. New member: Linda Stelle
- c. Terms expiring June 1, 2026: Libby Rodgers (Coexist) & Elaina Huffman (Business Representative)

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Senate Bill 777 Discussion
 - i. Reviewed ODA Meeting (Aug 26) and updates to wolf depredation compensation under SB 777.
 - ii. Hunter suggests finding market value by using Central Oregon Livestock Auction (COLA) sale data – a three-week average (week before, of, and after depredation).
 - iii. Reminder at least 50% of grant funds must be used for non-lethal deterrents.
 - iv. Motion: Use COLA three-week market average for price setting.
 - v. Moved: Seth Crawford | Second: John Dehler | Vote: Unanimous

b. 2025 ODA Grant Fund Allocation Discussion

Ranch	Request Amount	Deschutes Awarded	Hunter Suggests
<i>McCormack Ranch</i>	\$80,000	\$30,000	\$31,500
<i>Hatfield Hyde</i>	\$17,300	\$10,000	\$11,500
<i>Desert Creek</i>	\$9,500	\$5,000	\$6,000

- i. Hunter also suggests sending \$1,000 to ODFW to reimburse for stolen cameras.
- ii. Motion: Approve allocations as listed.
 1. Moved: John Dehler | Second: Seth Crawford | Vote: Unanimous
- c. Upcoming Grant Cycle
 - i. Applications open for 2026 funding (to reimburse 2025 depredations and 2026 proactive measures). Hunter will share updates via Facebook and coordinate outreach.
 1. Discussion:
 - a. Funds split 50/50 between depredation compensation and non-lethal methods.
 - b. Producers should document purchases and implementation, though ODFW is aware through participation that funds are utilized well.
 - c. Inquiry raised whether producer compensation is taxable – we believe it is in most scenarios.
 2. Hunter: Sonny Summers w

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to adjourn: Seth Crawford | Second: Linda Stelle

Meeting adjourned 4:08 PM