

Morrow County Wolf Depredation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2018
Bartholomew Building Upper Conference Room
Heppner, Oregon

Present

Commissioner Jim Doherty

Dean Robinson, Chair

John Gould

Al Scott

Chris Lulay, Wildlife Specialist, U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services

Roberta Lutcher, Executive Assistant

Call to Order: 7:07 p.m.

Agency Updates

U.S.D.A. Wildlife Services

Mr. Lulay said there have not been confirmed sightings in Morrow County, adding the closest one was in the Poverty Flats area around Christmas time. He said he is currently working in the Johnson Creek area and hasn't seen any wolf signs, however, the lack of snow would make that difficult. He said there might have been a yearling elk killed by a wolf in the Three Mile area but he didn't hear about it until two months afterwards. He said everyone needs to be more assertive in notifying either his office, Steve Cherry with Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, or Oregon State Police.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

Mr. Cherry's email update was read:

"I have a meeting at Bonneville dam Wednesday morning so I will not be able to attend the meeting Tuesday night so I thought I would give everyone a brief update by email.

ODFW has continued to survey for wolves in Morrow County. We have cameras up along the forest boundary mainly in the Gurdane area and also on some of the adjacent private land. We received one sighting of four wolves in the Gurdane area in December but the video of the sighting was very poor (taken through a spotting scope over a mile away) and we were unable to confirm that sighting. ODFW has spent quite a bit of time in the National Forest looking for tracks and other signs of wolves and have not found any sign. The only sign we have found was in relation to a collared wolf that moved out of the Desolation area and moved through the Sugar bowl area. This wolf is with another wolf of unknown sex and they have been moving widely around the Ukiah, Starkey, and the Heppner units. They are currently not in the Heppner unit. They usually don't stay in any one spot for more than a day and are making very large movements. We will continue to track their movements and will let landowners know if the wolves stop in an area and stay there for any length of time. We had one other collared wolf that came through the District in December that came out of the Mt. Emily unit and passed through

Morrow County in about two days. The wolf is in central Oregon now and it still moving large distances. No other confirmed sightings have been received by the office since our last meeting.

The Area of Known Wolf Activity (AKWA) by the Gurdane area is still in place due to the fact that we had confirmed sightings in the area last winter (January 2017). As I said above we have not confirmed anything in that area this winter but we have kept the AKWA in place.

Statewide population counts are ongoing but have been hampered by the fact that several of our collared wolves have dispersed from their home areas and several of our collared wolves have been killed in the last year. Getting population counts without the collars in areas can be difficult.

Most of the recent depredations have been in Union, Jackson and Klamath counties.

Sorry for not being able to attend but I hope this helps out. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to discuss this further.”

Election of Officer

Postponed until more members in attendance.

Minutes

Mr. Gould moved to approve the minutes of April 18, 2017. Ms. Scott seconded. Unanimous approval.

Review 2018 Oregon Department of Agriculture Wolf Depredation Grant Application

The Committee discussed the application and determined the following:

Mr. Gould moved to apply for a total of \$25,000 – with the breakdown being \$22,500 for Category 3; \$2,500 for Category 4; and \$250 for Category 5 (County contribution). Mr. Scott seconded. Unanimous approval.

Miscellaneous Discussion Items

- Discussion of a letter written by Umatilla County Commissioner George Murdock to the State regarding wolf issues
- Discussion of a *Capital Press* article on efforts in the State of Washington to transfer wolves from the east side of the State to the west side.

Next Meeting: April 17th, 7:00 p.m.

Adjourned: 7:52 p.m.