

Governor's Recommended Budget – Wolf Plan Implementation (Policy Option Package 117)

REVENUE SOURCE

\$ 705,000 General Funds 3 Full-time NRS 2 Positions
\$ 470,000 Other Funds 2 Full-time NRS 2 Positions

\$1,175,000 Total

Position Descriptions

This policy option package in the Governor's Recommend Budget would fund positions to allow Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to directly manage Oregon's increasing wolf population by more fully implementing the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. The positions requested will be located in areas of Oregon with current and growing wolf populations. This approach will improve the implementation of the Wolf Plan by providing dedicated staff to manage wolves on the local level and allow existing field staff to focus on many other important wildlife species and issues. Specifically, these positions will improve implementation of the Wolf Plan by conducting the following tasks:

1. Perform additional wolf surveys, locate new wolves, and improve monitoring output. Effective wolf surveys and monitoring requires an enormous amount of staff time and specialized equipment. Effective surveying and monitoring of wolves is limited by the ever-widening distribution and increasing number of wolves, and the difficulty of locating and monitoring new wolves and pack areas. Providing additional wolf-specific personnel and equipment will improve monitoring, data collection, and information availability by increasing the agency's wolf-specific field presence in all parts of the state while maintaining other important wildlife management duties currently conducted by existing field staff.
2. Maintain and monitor adequate numbers of radio-collared wolves as their population grows. Radio-collaring wolves (especially wolves in new areas) requires significant dedicated staff time. Wolves must first be located and the pattern of their movements established (accomplished by the wolf surveys described above) before capture can be attempted. Wolf trapping is a time-intensive activity with strict protocols. Generally, staff time to pattern and trap wolves is the biggest limiting factor for successful collaring of wolves. Once collared, staff time and specialized computer equipment is required to monitor and analyze the data. This monitoring data is necessary for determining areas used by wolves and for communicating that to livestock producers. It is anticipated that additional wolf-specific personnel will result in substantially more wolves captured and radio-collared in Oregon.
3. Respond to reports of wolf-livestock conflict in an ever-widening distribution of wolves. These positions will directly implement the provisions of the Wolf Plan related to minimizing livestock depredation by wolves through assistance to livestock producers with implementation of non-lethal and preventative measures. Livestock are present in every known wolf use area in Oregon. Depredation events are erratic and additional wolf staff positions available to conduct wolf livestock depredation investigations should reduce response time, improve information quality, and service to livestock producers.