

West and East Zone Wolf Plan Non-Lethal Deterrence Plan Coordinators

FUNDING

\$560,000 for 2 Full-time (*NRS 3) Positions

*Natural Resource Specialist 3 is an ODFW classification; this level would be required to develop and implement programs, conduct educational trainings, and analyze issues and data to facilitate reporting of outcomes. However, this position does not have to be in ODFW.

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Participants in the 2018 Wolf Plan Stakeholder Representative discussions discussed a proposal to develop ranch and farm specific, non-lethal deterrence plans for wolves in Oregon. This would allow landowners to be proactive in their education and discussion of non-lethals, as well as implement best management practices specific to wolf deterrence for their livestock operations. To facilitate this, positions are required to enable the resources to consult with each landowner/producer, develop a non-lethal deterrence plan and to monitor its use when livestock depredation occurs. This is significant workload given that there are over 36,000 livestock producers in Oregon.

PROPOSED SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OR ISSUE:

Full-time dedicated staff are required to coordinate educational workshops at a regional level that allows discussion and training on non-lethal deterrence options. These workshops will jump-start the development of ranch and farm specific non-lethal deterrence plans. Workshops would considerably reduce the burden on ODFW biologists to meet with each operator individually, and promotes local communities to work together to best address wolf-livestock conflicts in their areas in a proactive, coordinated way. Last, these positions could more readily partner with organizations that already conduct significant outreach to livestock operators (Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Sheep Growers, Oregon 4-H, Oregon Cattleman's Association, OSU Extension office, etc.) and wolf advocacy groups, (Center for Biological Diversity, Oregon Wild, Defenders of Wildlife, Cascadia Wildlands, etc.) to provide information on best alternatives for non-lethal deployment. These partnerships would create well-developed workshops, attainment of local support and identify ways to enhance funding for outreach and non-lethal actions.

QUANTIFYING RESULTS

The primary result of these staff positions will be the creation of hundreds of non-lethal deterrence plans in Oregon. Additionally these positions would develop and host a workshop on non-lethal deterrence of wolves in every Oregon County for their respective wolf management zone (West = 23 counties, East = 13 counties). Annual reports will be developed on the number of counties served, number of deterrence plan drafted and monitored number of participants at each meeting, as well training and workshop materials provided.