

Agenda Item 8

WAC 220-440-170 and 220-440-180

Compensation for Livestock Damage by Wolves



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

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General Proposed Changes

- Aligning specific language in WAC 220-440-170 with RCW 77.36.110, so that a livestock producer must exhaust all available compensation from non-profit organizations before receiving payment from WDFW,
- Clarifying a livestock producer can use an independent assessor, or market sales receipts from their last sale or their next upcoming sale to estimate the value of their damaged livestock, and
- Aligning language in WAC 220-440-180 with the payment schedule in the wolf plan for confirmed/probable wolf depredations on grazing areas greater than/less than 100 acres.

RCW 77.36.210

Eligibility for compensation under this chapter— Adoption of rules

(1) No owner may receive compensation for wildlife interactions under this chapter unless the owner has, as determined by the department, first:

- (a) Utilized applicable legal and practicable self-help preventive measures available to prevent the damage, including the use of nonlethal methods and department-provided materials and services when available under RCW 77.36.100; and
- (b) Exhausted all available compensation options available from **nonprofit organizations** that provide compensation to private property owners due to financial losses caused by wildlife interactions.

Compensation Value

- Based on value at the time the animal would normally be sold at market or the cost to replace the animal, and on comparable types and/or weight of livestock or guard dogs.
- Determined by an independent certified appraiser, the sales receipts from the most recent sale of comparable animals by the owner, or the sales receipts from the next sale of comparable animals by the owner.

Payment Expansion Factor

From Wolf Conservation and Management Plan

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Depredation	Grazing sites of 100 or more acres where the agency determines it would be difficult to survey the entire acreage (*double payment would not apply if all other animals were accounted for)	Other sites
Confirmed	Full current market value for 2 animals	Full current market value for 1 animal
Probable	Half the current market value for 2 animals	Half the current market value for 1 animal

Recommended Adjustments

- WDFW received a recommendation to clarify in WAC 220-440-180(9)(b) when the salvage value is to be subtracted when determining the compensation value of a bull.
- Adding the term “if applicable” at the end of the sentence removes any perceived ambiguity.

Questions?