



GRANT COUNTY COURT
Jim Hamsher, County Judge
John Rowell, Commissioner
Mitch Wilson, Commissioner

March 3, 2026

To: odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov

Dear Commissioners,

Grant County is proud to introduce and stand in support of Wallowa County's Wolf Management Resolution.

Rural counties across eastern Oregon are seeing steady growth in wolf populations. While we recognize the importance of wildlife conservation, we must also acknowledge the very real impacts on livestock producers, local economies, public safety and ungulate populations.

We believe early intervention and proactive wolf management may be the best option we have to prevent the situation from escalating beyond our ability to manage it effectively. Idaho and Montana provide clear examples of what can happen when wolf populations expand rapidly without timely and consistent management. Once numbers reach that point, the tools available become more limited, conflict increases, and long-term solutions become more difficult to achieve.

Taking action now – before the population reaches crisis levels – allows for balanced, measured, and science-base management. Proactive management protects ranching operations, preserves hunting opportunity, and maintains public trust while still recognizing the presence of wolves on the landscape.

Grant County supports coordinated action between counties and the State of Oregon to ensure that local voices are heard and that management decisions reflect the realities on the ground.

We appreciate Wallowa County's leadership and encourage unified regional support for responsible wolf management moving forward.

Respectfully,

Grant County Court

Judge Jim Hamsher

Commissioner John Rowell

Commissioner Mitch Wilson

201 S. Humbolt Street, Suite 280, Canyon City, OR 97820

Telephone: 541-575-0059 Email: gccourtadmin@grantcounty-or.gov Web: grantcountyoregon.net



Commissioners

216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801
541-278-6204

Daniel N. Dorran
541-278-6201

John M. Shafer
541-278-6203

Celinda A. Timmons
541-278-6202

April 2, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to formally request the urgent reconsideration of the current wolf management strategy in Oregon.

I advocate for establishing a revised, responsible wolf management policy that ensures the sustained health of native wildlife populations for optimal hunting levels while concurrently minimizing wolf-livestock conflict in Wallowa County and surrounding areas.

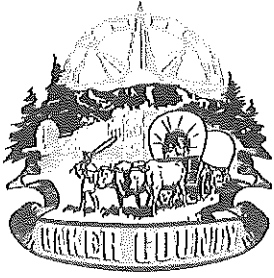
State law (ORS 496.012) and the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan direct the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to manage wildlife populations at optimum levels. Furthermore, state law (ORS 610.055) and the Management Plan mandate ODFW to take appropriate measures to assist farmers, ranchers, and others in resolving wildlife damage.

Wallowa County has exceeded a compatible population of wolves, resulting in economic losses for ranchers, contributing to the decline of wildlife herds, and forcing citizens to alter customary practices. Non-lethal measures have proven to be insufficient. Risk of wolf attacks on livestock, dogs, and pets has increased while native wildlife numbers have declined resulting in increased difficulty accessing common food sources like elk and deer.

I urge the adoption of Wallowa County's 2026 Wolf Policy Resolution. A proactive management plan centered on restoring the wolf population to a balanced, reduced number with smaller pack sizes to minimize the risk of depredations and maintain a healthy predator-prey balance. Wolf presence must be centered in areas where minimal human and livestock conflict as possible. This plan should include the immediate removal of Oregon wolves from all state and federal Endangered Species Act listings, as either threatened or endangered.

Sincerely,

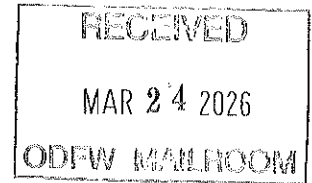
Celinda A. Timmons
Umatilla County Commissioner



1995 Third Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814

March 18, 2026

Dr. Debbie Colbert, Director
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302



To Director Colbert and the ODFW Commission,

Baker County supports Wallowa County's resolution regarding wolf management including experiential hunts.

We understand that Wallowa County is uniquely positioned to serve as a pilot area for implementing experiential hunts as part of a structured and carefully managed wildlife strategy. With established predator populations and extensive on-the-ground management experience, we believe Wallowa County can responsibly evaluate how experiential hunts function under proper oversight.

Based on final experiential data, this could potentially be a forward-looking wildlife management tool that could benefit multiple counties across Oregon. Baker County will be looking at any access issues related to general outdoor recreation, impacts to natural resource economics and impacts to the ag community.

Baker County agrees that if implemented successfully, experiential hunts in Wallowa County could provide a proven framework for other counties once species are delisted. Rather than beginning from scratch, Oregon would have a field-tested model demonstrating how experiential hunts can:

- Keep wolf numbers under control
- Support balanced and sustainable wildlife population
- Reduce localized conflicts with livestock and ungulate herds
- Provide structured, regulated management rather than reactive measures



1995 Third Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814

- Increase public understanding and participation in wildlife management
- Strengthen rural economies

We see that Wallowa County's resolution and supporting materials outline the biological, economic, and community-based rationale behind this request. We believe this represents a proactive and responsible approach that prepares Oregon for future post-delisting management scenarios.

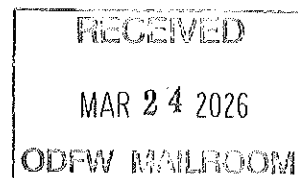
Respectfully,

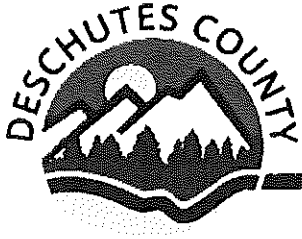
Baker County Board of Commissioners

Shane Alderson, Chair

Christina Witham, Commissioner

Michelle Kaseberg, Commissioner





COMMISSIONER TONY DEBONE

April 21, 2026

Commissioner John Hillock
Wallowa County Board of Commissioners
101 South River Street
Enterprise, OR 97828

Re: Letter of Support for Wallowa County Wolf Resolution

Dear Commissioner Hillock:

I am writing to express my support for the Wolf Resolution adopted by Wallowa County which calls for prudently managing the wolf population in Oregon with the goal of protecting the ranching community and hunting resources.

Livestock depredations by the growing wolf population have a significant detrimental impact on the bottom line of many area ranches. At the same time, wolves are also impacting the elk, deer, and moose populations.

I appreciate Wallowa County's continued advocacy for its local livestock industry and historical hunting culture—both of which must be protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Tony DeBone
Deschutes County Commissioner



HARNEY COUNTY COURT

Judge Bill Hart

450 North Buena Vista #5, Burns, Oregon 97720

Phone: 541-573-6356

Websites: www.harneycountyor.gov

March 4, 2026

Wallowa County Board of Commissioners

101 S. River Street

Enterprise, OR 97828

The Harney County Court stands in strong support of Wallowa County's proposed Wolf Management Resolution. We commend your leadership and thoughtful approach to addressing the growing challenges that wolf populations pose to ranching, wildlife, and rural communities.

Counties across eastern Oregon share similar circumstances—rising wolf numbers, increased livestock depredation, and declining big game herds—all of which have significant economic and cultural consequences. The resolution you have introduced reflects a balanced and proactive strategy, one that aligns with both state wildlife policies and the need to protect local industries and traditions.

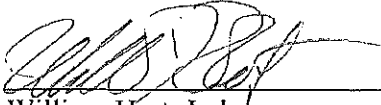
We agree that effective wolf management must include clear population objectives, active coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and timely responses to depredation events. Establishing a sustainable population threshold, supporting localized management, and maintaining hunting as a management tool are all essential steps to restoring balance between predator, prey, and people.

As neighboring counties, we recognize that what affects one community inevitably affects us all. Cooperative action between local governments, producers, and wildlife agencies is critical to ensuring that management decisions reflect on-the-ground realities and uphold Oregon's rural way of life.

We appreciate Wallowa County's commitment to practical, science-informed, and community-supported wildlife management, and we fully support your efforts to bring this policy forward.

Respectfully,

HARNEY COUNTY COURT



William Hart, Judge



Rob Frank, Commissioner



Patty Dorroh, Commissioner



Commissioners

216 S. E. 4th Street
Pendleton, OR 97801
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Sincerely,

Daniel N. Dorran
Umatilla County Commissioner

From: john@enterprise-electric.com
To: [ODFW Commission](#) * [ODFW](#)
Subject: Wallowa county wolves
Date: Saturday, March 28, 2026 1:06:48 PM

You don't often get email from john@enterprise-electric.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Debbie and commissioners

Some thoughts :

When Wildlife, Agriculture, and Reality Collide in Wallowa County

The growing tension between elk, wolves, cattle, and farmland isn't just a policy discussion—it's something people across Wallowa County are seeing firsthand. One of the most noticeable shifts has been the emergence of farmland as a new "habitat" for elk, and that should concern all of us.

For those who don't know me, I'm John Hillock, Wallowa County Commissioner. I've spent the last 50 years working as an electrician, traveling every corner of this county—from Minam Lodge high in the Wallowa's to the remote stretches of the Snake River and Hells Canyon. My work has given me a unique, ground-level view of how our landscape—and the wildlife within it—has changed.

This week, my job took me to the Leap area, a 145-square-mile region bordered by private, industrial, and U.S. Forest Service land. Before leaving Leap, I asked a local landowner about wolves, knowing he'd have an opinion.

He told me about a day when wolves entered his yard where his horses were grazing. The horses, accustomed to domestic dogs, showed no fear. In fact, one horse and a wolf approached each other, touching noses before the wolves eventually moved on. It's a striking image—but it's what came next that matters more.

The landowner, a third-generation farmer, explained how dramatically elk behavior has changed since wolves were reestablished. Elk used to stay primarily in the timber, occasionally coming out to graze for short periods. It was predictable. Manageable. In most years, he could even harvest an elk behind his home in the timber.

That's no longer the case.

Today, those elk have moved miles away from the timberline—driven out of their traditional habitat.

Later, I visited Tim, a farmer in every sense of the word. He was an early pioneer of no-till farming and now works roughly 5,000 acres with his sons. Not a rancher—he's never owned cattle—but a crop producer.

His message was direct: "John, you have to do something about the elk. They're eating my crops."

The elk that once stayed near the timber behind properties like Dave's are now feeding on farmland like Tim's. Areas that rarely, if ever, saw elk in the past are now dealing with consistent pressure. As stated by Tim, a place known as the Carmel Place—land he previously farmed—sits about 10 miles from forested ground and roughly five miles from Enterprise. Historically, it saw little to no elk activity until after wolves were reintroduced. Notably, it lies just a couple of miles from the first wolf den in Wallowa County.

After 50 years of troubleshooting electrical systems, I've learned to look closely at cause and effect. When something changes, there's usually a reason.

It's hard to ignore the timing: wolves move in, and elk move out—shifting directly into farmland.

That's not coincidence. That's cause and effect.

As a county, we need to acknowledge these changes and work together—farmers, ranchers, and the broader community—to find a collaborative, honest, and sensible way forward for managing wildlife and protecting our livelihoods.

I would like to blog more and hit some more topics, perhaps next Sat. but I have a rancher without stock water my duty has to switch from commissioner to business owner. I'll have Dan water for the cows in an hour.

Sincerely John Hillock Wallowa county commissioner

