

The Commission hereby expresses its intent to consider an amended version of the Wolf-Livestock Conflict Deterrence Rule Proposal introduced by the Department on February 22, 2022, and for that amended version to be covered by the range of alternatives considered by the Department's State Environmental Policy Act.

The Commission will consider more detailed language at its next meeting to provide Department staff with specific guidance in drafting amendments to the rule proposal, but expresses its general sense that the amended version should contain the following requirements:

- Producers must sign cooperative agreements before the Department may use taxpayer dollars to assist them with avoiding or mitigating wolf-livestock conflict, including cost-sharing for nonlethal deterrents, compensation for losses, or lethal control.
- A minimum threshold at least as stringent as the thresholds in the Protocol, must be met before lethal removal of wolves will be considered as a last resort in any area of the state, including a minimum number of confirmed livestock predations meeting certain criteria.
- Before the Department may consider lethal control, livestock producers experiencing predations must have exhausted reasonable nonlethal deterrents as contained in the cooperative agreement and as amended, and as determined by Department Conflict Specialists.
- The Department will use the best available science to develop and regularly update public guidance defining nonlethal deterrence measures and describing their proper deployment and monitoring.
- The Department will develop a public document outlining a structured decision-making process for making decisions on lethal removal, which will include process for gathering and analyzing information to allow for effective adaptive management.
- Provisions to enhance transparency and accountability, including the public posting of findings made through the structured decision-making process and related documents, before any lethal control action may go forward.