



Courtesy Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OR 28, the alpha female of the Silver Lake wolfpack in Southern Oregon, was found dead Oct. 6.

Silver Lake alpha female wolf found dead

By KATY NESBITT
For the Capital Press

The alpha female of the newly named Silver Lake wolf pack was found dead Oct. 6 on the Fremont-Winema National Forest near Summer Lake where wolves are federally protected.

The wolf, designated OR-28, is being examined to determine the cause of death. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering a \$5,000 reward for information on the wolf's death.

The Center for Biological Diversity, often critical of the way Oregon manages wolves, called the killing "heartbreaking" and said it would add \$10,000 to the reward fund.

"This was a cowardly crime," said Amaroq Weiss, the group's West Coast wolf organizer. "I hope the perpetrator is caught quickly."

The wolf has a mate and a pup, Weiss said in a prepared statement.

OR-28 was fitted with a GPS collar in 2014, and was originally from the Mt. Emily Pack in northeastern Oregon. An update released in July from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said that state biologists along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff confirmed that the three-year-old had paired with OR-3, an eight-year-old who dispersed from Wallowa County's Imna-

ha wolfpack in 2011.

Based on remote camera images, the two are believed to have produced at least one pup in 2016. According to ODFW the pair were primarily using the Silver Lake Wildlife Management Unit in western Lake County.

OR-3 was caught on a game camera near Fossil shortly after he left Wallowa County and was sighted in Crook County not long after that, but disappeared from the radar until a few months ago. Unlike his littermate OR-7 who traveled across the state to California and back, OR-3 had a VHS collar, not a GPS collar. VHF collars do not automatically transmit location information and wildlife managers lost track of him after the fall of 2011.

ODFW's update said in the summer of 2015 OR-3 made a brief reappearance on a trail camera in northern Klamath County. His radio-collar is no longer functional.

According to a recent ODFW depredation report, on Sept. 28 a cattle producer was gathering cattle off his Forest Service grazing allotment and noticed a live calf with severe injuries between its rear legs. An ODFW biologist examined the calf the following day with a follow-up examination on Oct. 1. It was estimated the calf had received the injuries 14-21 days before being found.

S. Oregon rancher frustrated by wolf attacks

By LEE JULLERAT
For the Capital Press



FORT KLAMATH, Ore. — A rancher who had two steers killed and a third seriously injured by wolves earlier this month is frustrated by the lack of protections and other impacts on raising cattle in the Wood River Valley.

"This valley, with so many cattle, is going to be like a smorgasbord for the wolves. They'll take the animals that put up the least resistance," said Bill Nicholson, third generation owner of the Nicholson Ranch, where the three wolf attacks took place. They have been verified by state Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists.

During the spring and summer, upwards of 35,000 head of cattle are trucked to the valley to graze on the nutrient-rich grasslands. Most have now been trucked out of the area to winter grazing areas, predominately in far Northern California.

Nicholson said 300 to 400 steers remain on his ranch and estimates about 5,000 cows, calves and yearlings are still in the enclosed valley.

While the focus has been on the killings, Nicholson said a potentially more serious problem is stress caused by wolf attacks.

"You're losing a lot of pounds with the stress," he said. "Cattlemen estimate the average steer will gain about 3 to 4 pounds a day feeding on irrigated pasture known for its nutritious blend of sedges, rushes, grasses, forbes and clover."

Because of the presence of wolves, Nicholson and Butch Wampler, who oversees the ranch's cattle, say the cattle have remained in groups, often standing through the night.

Recommended methods of avoiding wolf attacks, including fencing, lights and more frequent patrols, also increase costs, although the state pays some of them.

Wampler discovered the steers that had been attacked.

On Oct. 5, concerned about possible attacks, he was in his pickup truck using his head-

Courtesy of Bill Nicholson
One of the calves that was killed by wolves near Fort Klamath in Southern Oregon was eviscerated. Another calf was also killed and a third was seriously injured.

lights and spotlight when he heard a bawling calf. Although unable to find the calf, he found a large group of cattle.

"They were all standing in a big circle. They should have been bedded down," he said.

The next morning, he found the 450-pound calf.

"You could see the tooth marks," he said.

Biologists removed some of the hide, which Wampler said exposed deep wounds in its legs. The calf is still alive but doing poorly.

"He's pretty crippled," Nicholson said.

Wampler, who had seen three wolves on a neighbor's field in mid-September, said he was riding to his home Oct. 2 when he found a dead 800-pound steer, then "I saw this wolf take off toward the fence." He then spotted a second wolf.

A day later he saw three wolves feeding on the carcass.

On Oct. 4 he found a second dead 600-pound steer.

"His stomach was ripped open. ... His heart, lungs and liver, they were all gone." Wampler and Nicholson called the Oregon Department Fish and Wildlife's Klamath Falls office, which immediately sent out two biologists who confirmed both as wolf kills.

John Stephenson, wolf coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said it's believed the attacks were by the Rogue Pack, which is known to be in the area.

No verification could be made because no wolves in the pack wear radio monitoring collars.

Christmas tree promotions available to farmers

Online files available for banners, bumper stickers, websites

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Christmas tree growers have a host of promotional materials at their disposal this year through the national checkoff program.

The Christmas Tree Promotion Board is making available free downloads of banners, bumper stickers, digital logos and other online files that feature the signature slogan, "It's Christmas. Keep it real."

"We will have a whole lot of digital tools for the industry to pick up and use," said Tim O'Connor, the board's executive director.

Checkoff fees of 15 cents per tree were first collected from the 2015 crop, generating \$1.8 million, but this year marks the first time the board will run a full promotional campaign designed by



Courtesy of Christmas Tree Promotion Board
A promotional banner from the 2016 Christmas Tree Promotion Board catalog.

the Concept Farm advertising agency.

The goal of making promotional material available to farmers is to boost their advertising efforts while extending the campaign's overall reach, O'Connor said.

Growers can direct their local print shop to create banners from the files, or they can simply use the logos on their websites and social media sites, he said.

The campaign must find clever ways of increasing its exposure, since running national television commercials would prohibitively expensive, O'Connor said.

"That's not the way you do it today, particularly with a smaller budget," he said.

The campaign website will

adopt a similar strategy to an Advent calendar, with a new promotional video or other online promotional tool featured daily.

These items will be promoted through social media, while traditional consumer media organizations will receive real trees and press kits.

The campaign will also try to generate word of mouth among popular "mommy bloggers" — women who write online about family issues — by bringing them to farms and retail lots to pick real trees.

Such bloggers are effectively media personalities that have a lot of credibility among their audiences, O'Connor said. "It will garner us a lot of eyeballs."

Idaho ag groups protest Clif Bar foundation's 'Mr. Seed' video

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

While Idaho's agricultural community welcomes Clif Bar into its fold, Food Producers of Idaho wants the Clif Bar Family Foundation to know it is not happy with its "Mr. Seed" video that bashes conventional agriculture.

The video features a foul-mouthed animated character, the organic Mr. Seed, that depicts conventional agriculture as shady, producing "Pharm Food" and ruining the world with pesticides, performance-enhancing chemicals and GMO seed.

Mr. Seed wraps up the video saying "America, if you care about your food, the environment, your children or the future of all mankind ... you don't have to buy everything those big agri-chemical companies are selling."

Food Producers is sending a letter to the Clif Bar Family Foundation to register its dissatisfaction and ask that the video be removed from YouTube and other outlets. It also



This screen capture from the "Mr. Seed" video shows the main character criticizing conventional agriculture. The Food Producers of Idaho organization has sent a letter of protest to the Clif Bar Family Foundation, which produced the video.

invites foundation officials to join with the organization in a productive dialogue to understand the different facets of today's agriculture.

"As the group representing most of Idaho agriculture, we want to make sure Clif knows the harm in some of the mis-truths it's spreading in the video," said Wyatt Prescott, Food Producers president.

The video presents a false,

negative perception and is offensive to many in Idaho agriculture, he said. Food Producers wants to set the record straight with Clif Bar and let the foundation know it's watching, he said.

"The deceptive imagery throughout the video can only be seen as propaganda designed to manipulate consumers. Perpetuating myths about conventional farming, as seen

Christmas trees will also be unveiled at "Ronald McDonald Houses" for ill children and their families during events featuring musicians from Island Records.

The holiday season is the "loudest media part of the year," so the campaign must find ways of gaining attention from related events, such as the delivery of a Christmas tree to the White House and the annual airing of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," he said.

"We'll pick up their promotions and connect with those," he said.

As the various videos and other promotional items are released, the campaign will track what elicits the most response — humor or sentiment, he said.

"We can be very much in the moment of measuring views, and adapt as we go," O'Connor said.

The campaign will begin rolling out in mid-November and hit its full stride after Thanksgiving, so as not to annoy consumers with messages too early.

"We're trying to find the right timing," he said.

in the 'Mr. Seed' video, brings harm to hardworking farmers and ranchers around the country," the letter states.

When contacted by Capital Press, the Clif Bar Family Foundation responded with an emailed statement.

"We understand that the Food Producers of Idaho is in the process of sending us a letter," the email stated. "Once we have the letter, we'll have a much better sense of their specific concerns and will be better able to address the matter."

Clif Bar, which produces energy bars and is based in Emeryville, Calif., recently celebrated the opening of its \$90 million bakery in Twin Falls, Idaho.

"Mr. Seed" was produced by the foundation's Seed Matters initiative.

Food Producers pointed out in the letter that conventional farming practices and technology have resulted in reduced pesticide use and tillage, more food production on less land and better resistance to disease.

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