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Gray wolves delisted, remain protected in Oregon

By **KALEB LAY**
 The Observer

SALEM — Gray wolves no longer receive protection under the federal Endangered Species Act, but they do from the state of Oregon.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally removed the gray wolf species from the endangered species list effective Monday, Jan. 4, in the lower 48 United States. The change transfers wolf protections from the federal government to state governments. In Oregon, that job goes to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The known wolf population in the state has grown from 14 in 2009 to 158 at the end of 2019, with 141 of those found in ODFW's eastern management zone.

ODFW said in a press release the most significant change to the management of Oregon's wolves will be in the form of depredation. ODFW could allow the lethal removal of a wolf in situations where nonlethal measures have proven unsuccessful.

Nonlethal and preventative measures for resolving conflicts with wolves are a focus for ODFW.

"Wolves remain protected throughout the state. Hunting and trapping of wolves remains prohibited statewide," according to an ODFW press release.

Fish and Wildlife encouraged livestock producers to visit their website to review preventative measures to limit conflicts with wolves and to sign up for updates on wolf-livestock conflicts.

"We thank all landowners in areas with wolves for going the extra mile to implement nonlethal measures over the past few years," said ODFW Director Curt Melcher. "We know that regardless of whether or not you lose livestock to wolves, their presence requires changes to your business practices, and we thank you for taking these steps to reduce conflicts with wolves."

ODFW identifies "areas of known wolf activity," where packs have become established — such as the Clark Creek Pack in Union and Wallowa counties. The agency communicates with livestock producers in these areas about wolf conservation and nonlethal protection measures, such as fencing, protection dogs and alarms. They emphasize these measures in "areas of depredating

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Julio Cortez/AP Photo

President Donald Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington. As Congress prepared to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's victory, thousands of people gathered to show their support for Trump and his claims of election fraud.

Scenes of chaos

Capitol complex secure after violent occupation

By **LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK**
 Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Violent protesters loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House.

The National Guard and state and federal police were called in for control, and the mayor of Washington imposed a rare evening curfew. One person was reported to have been shot.

Officials declared the U.S. Capitol complex "secure" after heavily armed police moved to end the nearly four-hour violent occupation.

An announcement saying "the Capitol is secure" rang out Wednesday evening inside a secure location for officials of the House. Lawmakers applauded.

The occupation interrupted Congress' Electoral College count that will formalize President-elect Joe Biden's upcoming inauguration on Jan. 20.

Lawmakers were evacuated to secure locations around the Capitol complex and Washington, D.C. after thousands of Trump supporters breached the building and skirmished with police officers.

Lawmakers have signaled they would resume the constitutionally mandated count as soon as it was safe to do so.

The protesters were egged on by Trump and his false attacks on the integrity of the November presidential election. While rallying his supporters outside the White House, he urged them to march to the Capitol. But later — hours after they



Andrew Harnik/AP Photo

U.S. Capitol Police with guns drawn stand near a barricaded door as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

INSIDE

• Oregon's congressional delegation reacts to the turmoil and violence, **Page 5A**

fought police and breached the building — he told them that although they were "very special people" and he backed their cause, they should "go home in peace."

Biden, two weeks away from being inaugurated, declared in Wilmington, Delaware: "I call on President Trump to go on national television now to fulfill his oath and defend the Constitution and demand an end to this siege."

Biden said democracy was "under unprecedented assault," a sentiment

echoed by many in Congress, including some Republicans.

The chaotic protests halted Congress' constitutionally mandated counting of the Electoral College results, in which Biden defeated Trump, 306-232.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had tried to steer Congress away from Wednesday's formal protest of those results, and he said at the start

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Health care worker recovers after vaccine reaction

Adverse reaction to Moderna COVID-19 vaccine could be the first in Oregon

By **RONALD BOND**
 Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — A Wallowa Memorial Hospital health care worker has recovered and is out of the hospital after the Oregon Health Authority reported late Thursday, Dec. 31, the individual suffered an allergic reaction to the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The OHA, in its initial press release, said the hospital worker

was hospitalized after experiencing anaphylaxis following their first shot of the two-dose vaccine.

In a follow-up email with the Chieftain on Monday, Jan. 4, OHA's COVID-19 Health Information Center spokesperson Delia Hernandez said anaphylaxis was the only reaction the individual had to the vaccine.

Brooke Pace, Wallowa

Memorial Hospital's communications director, said late Tuesday morning the health care worker, who had received the first dose Dec. 30, recovered and had been released.

Pace also said nobody else in the county who has received a dose of the vaccine has had an adverse response.

"There have been no other severe reactions," she said.

According to Ruthie Mann, WMH's infection-control officer, the reaction to the vaccine happened within a couple of minutes of it being administered, well

within the observation window.

"All individuals are asked to stay for 15 minutes after the vaccination," Mann said, explaining the process. "Once a reaction is suspected, we assess for signs and symptoms of a reaction and the severity. We obtain vital signs, check airway and evaluate the person's reported symptoms. We have an anaphylaxis kit available with the necessary drugs and medical equipment needed to initiate treatment. We simultaneously start treatment

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WEATHER

Full forecast on the back of B section



Tonight
32 LOW
 Cloudy



Friday
38/27
 A bit of snow

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 3 sections, 22 pages
 La Grande, Oregon

Email story ideas to news@lagrandeobserver.com. More contact info on Page 4A.



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