# Brown says she's talking to feds about land issues

By HILLARY BORRUD Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown said that Oregon will focus on helping the community of Burns to recover, after the remaining four occupiers at a nearby national wildlife refuge surrendered to FBI agents on Feb. 11.

Brown said she continues to seek federal reimbursement of state and local government costs associated with the occupation, and she is also talking to federal officials about federal land



issues. "I'll certainly be having conversations with our Congressional dele-

gation, and will

continue the conversations that I've started with folks at the federal level, for example the Department of Interior, (Secretary of the Interior) Sally Jewell," Brown said. "So we're just beginning those conversations now, but we'll be working closely with

our federal delegation." management

In late January Brown said the federal government should do more to engage with people on how to manage federal lands. On Thursday, Brown declined to provide any specifics on what she hopes to achieve through discussions about federal land manage-

Brown said Oregon has work to do, now that the occupation has ended.

"For the Harney County residents, this has been very traumatic," Brown said. "The

level of harassment and intimidation by folks who were staying in the Burns community has been horrific and the healing will take a lot of time. And I think that our first mission is to support the Harney County community as they heal, and provide them with the resources and the tools they need to recover."

Brown also noted that the incident affected the Burns Paiute Tribe.

"This entire incident has been extremely devastating to them," Brown said. "We will be working with them to provide them with the support and assistance they need as

In January, Brown said Oregon's response to the occupation had cost roughly half a million dollars.

On Thursday, the governor did not have an updated cost figure but said she expects the state will pick up the tab in the short term.

"I think in total costs for Harney County, as well as the local sheriff's association, will run probably higher than that," Brown said. "But I'm confident there is bipartisan support in the building for reimbursing those costs.

Brown said her administration is working with the staffs of U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley to seek federal reimbursement for Oregon's

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group. Hillary Borrud can be reached at 503-364-4431 or hborrud@eomedia-

## Oregon's cougar plan is up for review this year

By ERIC MORTENSON Capital Press

In January, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife began carrying out a threeyear plan to kill 95 cougars annually in four wildlife management areas.

In three of the areas — Interstate, Warner and Steens cougars will be killed to rescue decimated mule deer or big horn sheep populations. In the Umpqua region, the intent is to "reduce conflict" with livestock, pets and humans.

Is that what the future holds for Oregon's wolves?

That is, will Oregon eventually manage them like cougars, with targeted killings of problem wolves, and a sport hunting season? Is that where the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission headed when it removed wolves from the state's endangered species list in No-

It's way too early to make a call on that, said Derek Broman, who coordinates ODFW's carnivore and fur bearer wildlife programs.

They are very different animals, he said, and the numbers aren't comparable. An annual ODFW survey due out in March is expected to show the state has perhaps 100 confirmed wolves, while Oregon's cougar population is estimated at more than 6,200.

Still, the question arises as Oregon wildlife officials review the state's cougar plan this year.

Some who follow Oregon's wolf recovery program believe sport hunting may be allowed eventually. Oregon's



Courtesy of Oregon State University

A cougar is treed and darted as part of a research project in Northeast Oregon. The state has more than 6,200 cats and is reviewing its cougar management plan this year.

"I would love for wolves to have a robust population, where they're not as fragile."

ODFW's coordinator of the carnivore and fur bearer wildlife programs

place even though they were taken off the state endangered species list, allows "controlled take" of wolves in cases of chronic livestock attacks or decreases in prey. ODFW hasn't ordered any wolves killed since two in 2011, how-

Wildlife biologists believe wolves' migration from Idaho, establishment in Northeast Oregon and now their dispersal to the further reaches of Oregon is a success story. Wolves rapidly increased in numbers and range, much to the ire of many cattlemen. Only 14 wolves were confirmed in 2009; there were 85 by summer 2015, and the final 2015 count is expected to be above 100.

Broman said cougars also wolf plan, which remains in are a conservation success. They were nearly wiped out in Oregon, dropping to an estimated 214 animals in 1961, but recovered as ODFW classified them as a game mammal in 1967 and took over jurisdiction. The population rose to 3,114 by 1994 and has doubled since then.

A healthy population allows more management options, Broman said.

"I would love for wolves to have a robust population, where they're not as fragile,' he said. "Cougars were kind of non-existent; now they're back and healthy but we're trying to find a balance. It would be great if we find the same with wolves.

Both species prey on elk and deer, however, and that becomes part of the management puzzle. If both reduce ungulate populations, they will seek other prey, including livestock. Wolf packs go after sheep and cattle, while cougars are solitary ambush hunters and less wary of venturing into developed areas to take pets. Tales abound of startled suburban residents seeing cougars on their decks or near outbuildings.

Cougars can swiftly devastate prey populations and disrupt wildlife recovery work. In 2000, three of 17 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep released in the Minam River area were killed by cougars within a week. The remaining sheep left the release area within 30 days, and ODFW's transplant work failed.

In 2004, five of 10 radio-collared bighorn ewes released on Steens Mountain were killed by cougars and the rest scattered. A seven-year study in Northeast Oregon tracked the fate of 460 radio-collared elk calves. Of those that died young, 70 percent were killed by cougars.

### Farmers urged to scout fields for stripe rust

#### Wheat fungus found in Willamette Valley, Eastern Oregon

By MATTHEW WEAVER Capital Press

Wheat farmers are advised to scout their fields for stripe rust after Oregon State University researchers have found the disease in several locations in Western and Eastern Oregon.

OSU Extension Cereals Specialist Mike Flowers recently reported finding the disease in the northern Willamette Valley on a commercial field planted to the variety Rosalyn and on an irrigated field of Mary winter wheat near Hermiston, Ore.

Flowers advised farmers check their fields and take care of any issues they see.

Western Oregon and Western Washington generally have more of the disease, more moisture in the environment and higher winter temperatures than Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington, so stripe rust has a better chance of surviving over the winter, creating more potential for an epidemic, Flowers said.

'We try to let people know when we see it so everybody can pay a little bit closer attention to things," Flowers said. "If you catch it early, earlier to control."

Finding the disease in Eastern Oregon indicates the disease may have overwintered.

"It's on a variety that's very susceptible and it's probably further along than a lot of dry-land fields," Flowers said. "I



Leaf rust appears on a leaf from the wheat variety Cara at Hyslop Research Farm north of Corvallis. Oregon State University Extension cereals specialist Mike Flowers is advising the industry to be aware of the fungus, which has been found in the Willamette Valley.

don't think anyone needs to be too concerned, it should be something that they're scouting for anyways. In some of the dryland areas, we're still growing some susceptible varieties. Those people just need to be more aware there's potential for an issue there.'

Susceptible varieties include Goetze, Tubbs 06, Mary, Kaseberg, SY Ovation, Rosalyn, WB 528, WB 1529 and LCS Artdeco. Flowers said in an email alert that these varieties may require an early fugicide spray. Varieties Bobtail, LCS Biancor and LCS Drive are resistant, but farmers should scout them to protect against new strains of rust appearing.

Flowers isn't certain whether stripe rust will be any worse this year than normal. Farmers have done a good job controlling it and planting more resistant varieties, he said.

Flowers recommends tarmers who spot stripe rust apply fungicide as they gear up for their spring herbicide applica-

### Pesticide maker reportedly will recall product found on medical marijuana

By ERIC MORTENSON Capital Press

The maker of a pesticide commonly used on cannabis crops has told Colorado agriculture officials it will recall the product, but has provided no details of how or when that will occur.

An Oregon testing lab de-

termined in mid-January that Guardian, a mite spray popular with pot growers, contained an active ingredient that wasn't listed on the label. That's illegal, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture issued a stop-sale order on the product Feb. 5.

Colorado and Washing-

ton, which like Oregon have legalized medical and recreational marijuana use, took the product off their lists of pesticides approved for use on pot plants.

Christi Lightcap, spokeswoman for the Colorado ag department, said the makers of Guardian indicated they

would recall the product. Guardian is made by All In Enterprises Inc. of Illinois. Lightcap did not have additional details about the supposed recall.

By all accounts, the spray was popular with growers because it was extremely effective. Its active ingredients were listed as cinnamon oil and citric acid — supposedly a "natural" defense against

But Oregon Growers Analytical, a Eugene, Ore., cannabis testing lab, found Guardian contained abamectin, a commonly used insecticide. It was not listed on the label as an active ingredient.

In Oregon, it's against the law to adulterate a pesticide product, mis-label it and make false or misleading claims about it. The marijuana tested in Eugene was intended for the medical marijuana market, lab director Rodger Voelker said. He began finding abamectin in samples beginning in October, and again

in November and December. Oregon's stop-sale order means people can't buy, sell or use Guardian. It's unclear whether its use on marijuana products has caused any health problems. The ag department, Oregon Health Authority and Oregon Liquor Control Commission are investigating. Bruce Pokarney, ODA spokesman, said the department has had no contact with All In Enterprises.

The Oregonian/Oregon-Live.com reported that company president Tommy Mc-Cathron said the company has pulled products from stores.



