

# WDFW: Bald eagles soar, can come off state list

Peregrine falcons doing well, too

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press



Courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife report has recommended removing the bald eagle from the state's endangered species list. The bald eagle would still be protected by federal law.

"The bald eagle population both in Washington and throughout most of its range has clearly recovered," states the report, released this month. "The Washington population is robust and all indications are that the species will continue to be an important and thriving part of our state's natural diversity for the foreseeable future."

WDFW is taking public comment on the status of the bald eagle and four other species.

WDFW officials also are recommending that peregrine falcons be removed from the state-protected list and that

American white pelicans be upgraded to threatened from endangered. Both species are protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Also, WDFW officials are recommending the statuses of the marbled murrelet and the lynx be changed to endangered from threatened. Both species already are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act.

The bald eagle was listed under the ESA in 1978 and delisted in 2007. It's still illegal to disturb bald eagles except under circumstances approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

As of 2015, bald eagles were known to have occupied 1,334 sites in Washington, according to WDFW. It's unknown how many of those sites have been recently occupied.

DDT also was blamed for a dramatic decline in the population of peregrine falcons nationally. The falcons were federally listed in 1970 and delisted in 1999.

Washington's population of peregrine falcons has been increasing since 1990, according to WDFW. In 2009, WDFW found peregrine falcons occupying 108 sites, up from 91 in 2006.

Washington's only colony of American white pelicans nest on Badger Island in the Columbia River, near the Snake River junction.

The population has increased substantially in the last 30 years, according to WDFW. Some 3,267 breeding adults were counted in 2015.

Marbled murrelets were federally listed in 1992 and listed by the state in 1993. Nevertheless, Washington's population has declined by about 44 percent over the past 15 years, according to WDFW.

The report cites the loss of

forest habitat, decline in fish prey and the bird's low reproductive rate for the decline.

WDFW estimates 54 lynx are in western Okanogan County, the only area in the state with a lynx population. The cat's population has not improved since it was listed as a state-protected species in 1993 or federally in 2000, according to WDFW.

Changing the status of lynx to endangered from threatened could focus more attention on conservation efforts, according to WDFW.

WDFW will take comments on the proposed changes until Oct. 10. Comments may be submitted by email to [TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov) or by mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission is tentatively scheduled to discuss the recommendations in November. Washington lists 45 species of fish and wildlife as sensitive, threatened or endangered.

"We care about maintaining these populations within our state," Anderson said.

# Vandals use fireworks to spook goats

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

Vandals recently set off fireworks and took down part of a fence in releasing about 240 goats near Issaquah, Wash.

Craig Madsen, of Edwall, Wash., contracts his goats for weed and brush control with the Issaquah Highlands Homeowner Association, a village of roughly 1,000 homes about 20 miles east of Seattle.

At about 10:45 p.m. July 17, Madsen was talking on the phone with his wife, Sue Lani Madsen, when he heard fireworks. He checked on the goats and found they had gotten outside the fence, so he got his dog and rounded them up. Several neighbors called the Issaquah police.

Luckily, Madsen said, most of the goats did not wander into a nearby area with landscaping and plants that are poisonous to goats, although one young goat appeared to be recovering from eating rhododendrons and azaleas.

Most of the goats had wandered into a wooded area and were herded back into the pen, Madsen said.

Someone had turned off the electric fence by disconnecting the energizer from the battery and used the fireworks to spook the animals, he said.

"They'd planned it," he said.

Madsen said a neighbor noticed several teenagers trying to steal a goat the next night. She called the police and the teenagers were spoken to. Madsen doesn't know if those teenagers also set off the fireworks the night before.

Madsen said it is rare for anyone to hassle his goats.

"It does happen — I mean, it's rare," he said.

Madsen blames most people's lack of a farming background in today's society.

# Wyden: Obama administration well aware of opposition to monument



By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

ONTARIO, Ore. — The Obama administration is well aware of the strong local opposition to a proposed national monument in Malheur County, U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden told Eastern Oregon residents on July 21.

Malheur County residents who asked Wyden during an annual town hall meeting whether he supports the proposed national monument said they didn't receive a definite answer.

But Wyden did say several times that the president knows of the local opposition to the

proposed national monument on 2.5 million acres in a part of the county known as the Owyhee Canyonlands.

"I have told the Obama administration repeatedly ... that there is very vigorous opposition at the local level to the monument," the Oregon Democrat said. "They would have had no confusion about what I'm telling them."

Supporters want Obama to use the Antiquities Act to declare a national monument in Malheur County.

Ranchers and others who asked Wyden whether he supports the national monument proposal being pushed by the Oregon Natural Desert Asso-

ciation told Capital Press later they didn't receive a clear answer.

Malheur County Farm Bureau President Jeana Hall asked Wyden for a commitment to "stand up for the people of Oregon, not just here in Malheur, and say that there should not be a monument designation."

Julie Mackenzie, a Jordan Valley rancher, asked Wyden, "Are you for the monument?"

Wyden said it's his duty to respect how Oregon residents vote on issues. Malheur County residents voted 9-1 against the monument in a special election in March. He

also said that while Malheur County residents have voted on the issue, the rest of Oregon has not.

"I didn't hear an answer," Hall told Capital Press later. "I think I heard a 'maybe' somewhere in there."

Mackenzie said she asked the senator "a yes or no question and he didn't answer it. It was just kind of a going around in circles type of thing."

Wyden Press Secretary Hank Stern said he would let the senator's words during the meeting speak for themselves but added, "I thought he expressed himself pretty clearly."

# MAPS ON THE GO

Maps are automatically generated within AgFiniti® for seamless viewing on any device— no desktop mapping software required.

## Ag Leader®

[www.agleader.com](http://www.agleader.com)

**Talk with us today.**

**Ag West Supply**  
Rickreall, OR  
541-915-7800

**ATI Solutions LLC**  
The Dalles, OR  
541-298-6277

**Basin Fertilizer & Chemical Co.**  
Merrill, OR  
541-798-5655

**Blue Mountain Agri Support Inc**  
Lewiston, ID  
208-746-6447

**Daryl Geddes**  
Preston, ID  
208-221-0971

**Grauer Repair Service Inc**  
Sheridan, OR  
503-843-3440

**The McGregor Company**  
Colfax, WA  
800-873-8666

Tablet-like Touchscreen

Innovative Dual Map View

Row by Row Mapping

On-The-Go Data Management

See it all at [AgLeader.com/InCommand](http://AgLeader.com/InCommand)

Download on the App Store  
Download the Free AgFiniti Mobile App