

Oregon

Federal wildlife agency says wolf was shot, offers reward

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

State and federal wildlife officials are investigating the death of a second wolf discovered in the Fremont-Wenema National Forest of Southern Oregon in the past year.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for shooting a gray wolf designated OR-33 by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The wolf's carcass was



Courtesy Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

An ODFW biologist in the process in 2015 of collaring OR-33, at the time a 2-year-old adult male from the Imnaha wolfpack.

discovered in April 2017 in Ashland, Ore., for a necropsy. The results were not

announced until Oct. 11. The animal had one or more gunshot wounds, according to USFWS. It's not clear when the wolf was shot.

A year earlier, on Oct. 6, 2016, an Oregon wolf designated OR-28 was found dead in the national forest. That carcass also was examined at the Ashland lab, but the cause of death hasn't been announced. Brent Lawrence, USFWS spokesman, said the case is still open. The federal agency and Oregon State Police are jointly investigating.

The wolf deaths are not

necessarily related. ODFW spokeswoman Michelle Dennehy said the sites where the wolves were found are "geographically far apart."

Still, conservation groups and wolf activists have long warned that wolf "poaching" is going on, and question whether the state is doing enough to protect them. The news about OR-33 also comes on the heels of ODFW's authorizing "lethal control" on the Harl Butte and Meacham wolf packs in Northeast Oregon for repeated livestock

attacks this summer. Four Harl Butte Pack wolves have been shot since August and ODFW recently authorized killing four more. One Meacham Pack wolf was shot before lethal authorization expired.

The two wolves found dead both dispersed from Northeast Oregon.

OR-33, a male estimated to be 4 years old, left the Imnaha Pack in November 2015 and was not known to be part of a pack. It wore a tracking collar, but it quit transmitting in August 2016, according to ODFW.

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42-1/102



Carl Sampson/Capital Press

Cattle graze in Eastern Oregon. REAL Oregon program participants from around the state will explore the diversity of the state's geography, economy and agriculture.

First REAL Oregon class selected for leadership training

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Thirty agriculture and natural resource professionals have been selected to take part in the first Resource Education and Agricultural Leadership (REAL) Oregon Program.

REAL Oregon is a collaboration of ag, forestry and fishing commodity and advocacy organizations, formed with the goal of developing leaders to represent their interests in legislation and policy discussions.

Greg Addington, REAL

Oregon director, used a sports analogy to describe the program's goals. "Are we developing a bench to go to?" he asked. "Who's going to be the next county Farm Bureau president? Who is going to be on the irrigation board? Who's the next commodity commission member?"

People selected for the program will go through five statewide training sessions, the first one beginning Nov. 14 in Ontario and concluding in March 2018.

The program will explore the diversity of Oregon's geography, economy and culture through training in board governance, communication skills, conflict resolution, government interaction, public policy work, critical thinking, media relations, professional presentations, public speaking and relationship building, according to a REAL Oregon news release.

Such leadership training programs aren't unique; 34 states have something similar. Oregon's program is modeled after Idaho's, which will host its 38th class.

The program costs \$5,000 per person, of which the trainees are expected to pick up half, either personally or through sponsorship by their organization or employer. The rest of the cost is paid for with "seed money" from the Oregon Farm Bureau, Wilco, Oregon State University, Land O'Lakes, Hazelnut Growers of Oregon, Oregon Aglink, Northwest Farm Credit Services and Valley Agromonics.

Of the first training group, 20 are from Northwest Oregon or the Willamette Valley, five are from Eastern Oregon or the high desert region, three are from Northeast Oregon and two are from Southwest Oregon.

Members of the first Oregon REAL class are: Dylan Branch, Riddell Farm, Monmouth; Kent Burkholder, Burkholder Farms, Albany; Doug Grott, Wilbur Ellis, Corvallis; Stuart Butsch, USDA Farm Service Agency, Salem; Rick Jones, Cascade Timber Consulting, Sweet Home; Lauren Lucht, Northwest Transplants, Molalla; Andrea Krahmer, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Salem; Erick Garman, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Portland; Nolan Sundberg, Northwest Farm Credit Services, Eugene; Macey Wessels, Barenbrug USA, Scio; Jeff Fox of Wilco Hazelnut, LLC, Aurora; Christina Higby, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Stayton;

Matt Mattiotta, Miller Timber Services, Albany; Lauren Smith, Oregon Water Resource Congress, Salem; Karl Dettwyler, Blue Line Farms, Silverton; Jenny Freeborn, Pacific Risk Management, Rickreall; Helle Ruddenklau, Ruddenklau Farms, Amity; Molly McCargar, Pearmine Farms, Gervais; Jacson Taylor, Oregon Farm Bureau, Eugene; Anne Marie Moss, Oregon Farm Bureau, Salem; Scott White, Klamath Water Users Association, Klamath Falls; Victoria Flowers, Flowers Farms, Midland/Klamath Falls; Susan Doverspike, Doverspike Ranch, Burns; Pete Schreder, OSU Extension, Lakeview; Megan Thompson, Sage Fruit Company, The Dalles; Sam Taylor, Pacific Ag, Hermiston;

Robert Waldher, Umatilla County, Athena; Tom Demianew, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Pendleton; Mark Kincaid, Lone Rock Resources, Roseburg; Kyle Kenagy, Kenagy Cattle Company, Oakland.

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