

Wolves attack five more calves in northeast Washington

Cattle chased, come back skinny

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

A wolfpack targeted by wildlife managers continues to attack calves in the Colville National Forest in northeast Washington and drive cattle from high-elevation grazing land into a canyon with little feed, a rancher suffering losses said Monday.

Five more attacks were identified by wildlife investigators Sept. 21, according to sources. The Department of Fish and Wildlife had shot one juvenile wolf in the pack five days earlier.

"They came over and killed one pup and acted like they achieved something," said Len McIrvine of the Diamond M ranch. "There are dead and wounded cattle all over the mountain. It's indescribable."

The wolves are attacking cattle in what Fish and Wildlife calls the Old Profanity Territory, a reference to a pack that once occupied the area in northern Ferry County. A Fish and Wildlife marksman in a helicopter shot the 50-pound wolf Sept. 16. The department said four wolves were seen and that it was difficult from the air to distinguish adults from juveniles.



Courtesy Ferry County Sheriff's Office

A thin cow stands in a pen Sept. 21 after being gathered from a grazing allotment in northeast Washington. A rancher says wolves are chasing cattle from high-quality grazing areas to lower elevations with less feed.

Fish and Wildlife has not announced whether it will target more wolves in the pack. Efforts to obtain comment from the department Monday were not successful.

McIrvine said Diamond M turned out about 700 cow-calf pairs on five grazing allotments. McIrvine said he expects to lose 70 to 80 head. "It's not just one allotment. That pack is moving all over the area," he said.

"There is no safe haven for these cattle," he said. "Yeah, we'll move the cattle, but it's

only an hour's jaunt for the wolves to get to them."

In addition, skinny cattle will be hard-pressed to survive the winter, he said.

"There is all the feed in the world at the high elevations, but the wolves are driving the cattle into a canyon with no food or water," he said.

Fish and Wildlife's protocol calls for the department to consider killing one or two wolves after three confirmed attacks on livestock within 30 days. The pack killed one calf and injured

five others between Sept. 4-7, according to Fish and Wildlife. The department also confirmed Sept. 17 that wolves killed an adult cow. Confirmed attacks do not include cases in which only bones remain or account for missing cattle.

Cattle Producers of Washington President Scott Nielsen said Monday that Fish and Wildlife should have acted sooner to keep the attacks on livestock from escalating.

"What they need to do now is complete pack removal," Nielsen said. "It's unfortunate, but it's the department's own making by its lack of action."

The department shot the young wolf two days after a Thurston County judge declined to block the operation. The Center for Biological Diversity and Cascadia Wildlands sought the restraining order. The groups are suing to overturn the department's lethal-removal protocol on wolves.

McIrvine said he feels like he's on the losing end of a popularity contest between wolves and cattle. Wolves are not a federally protected species in the eastern one-third of Washington, but are a state-protected species.

"The Legislature won't protect our private property rights," he said.

Defunct Oregon beef packer plans for auction

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press
Chris and Kandi Bartels, who own defunct beef processor Bartels Packing, have closed the business. A trustee is weighing how best to proceed.

A defunct Oregon beef packer is planning to auction its assets because a buyer hasn't yet committed to purchasing its facilities as a package.

Bartels Packing of Eugene, Ore., shut down in March with a debt of \$8.3 million, including \$4.6 million owed to cattle suppliers and feedlots.

Although the company estimated the \$14 million value of its assets would cover its debts, the closure nonetheless left livestock producers without an important local cattle buyer.

Earlier this summer, however, the possibility emerged of a new owner taking control of Bartels' slaughter-and-processing facilities as an ongoing enterprise.

A potential buyer had submitted a letter of intent to purchase the company's assets as a package deal, according to court documents filed by Richard Hooper of Pivotal Solutions, the receiver who's overseeing its dissolution.

That deal is now apparently being called into question.

Hooper is seeking a judge's permission to sell the company's assets at an auction because he "has not yet found a buyer that has committed to purchase substantially all of the assets" owned by Bartels in a "package transaction."

"We're still chatting with the prospective buyer but

we're also preparing for an auction if that's what we need to do," Hooper told Capital Press.

The assets would most likely be auctioned by the James G. Murphy Co. in early to mid-December, which would allow the winning bidders to collect the equipment and other items before a lease on the property expires in January 2019.

Any liens or other encumbrances on the assets would attach to the proceeds of the auction, which is intended to maximize the value of the assets as opposed to "selling the most desirable items piecemeal," according to the receiver's request.

Bartels has paid about \$624,000 to cattle sellers who had valid USDA trust claims, but other suppliers weren't eligible for such payments under the federal Packers & Stockyards Act, which generally doesn't cover livestock transactions based on credit.

Oregon winemakers worry about misleading labels from out-of-state producer

Copper Cane Wines & Provisions suspected of breaking law

By GEORGE PLAVERN
Capital Press

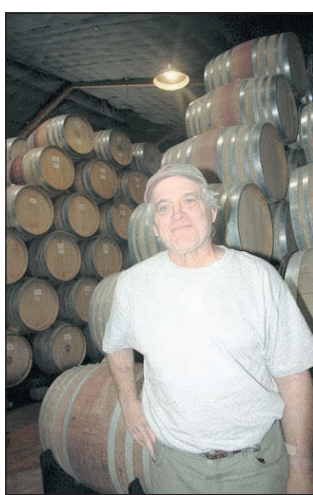
Willamette Valley winemaker Ken Wright made his first sales trip to China in 2017 thinking he had his work cut out for him to educate international consumers about the region and its reputation for high-quality Pinot noir.

Instead, it was Wright who learned a surprising lesson while overseas.

"I was stunned to find out that in fact almost everyone I met, not only did they know where the Willamette Valley was, they knew how to say it correctly," Wright said. "For them to have that connection in their minds of the Willamette Valley and Pinot noir, I came back from that trip so impressed with what decades of work for so many people had done to create this value."

That hard-earned recognition is now at the heart of a dispute between the Oregon wine industry and one Napa Valley producer, Copper Cane Wines & Provisions of Rutherford, Calif., over allegedly deceptive and misleading labeling practices.

Case in point: earlier this year, Copper Cane released a new brand of Oregon Pinot noir named "The Willametter Journal," which Oregon leaders worry may give the impression that the wine originates from the Willamette Valley American Viticultural Area, or AVA, a federally designated region noted for its distinctive wine-growing conditions.



George Plaven/Capital Press
Ken Wright, owner of Ken Wright Cellars in Carlton, Ore., is one of the Willamette Valley winemakers pursuing legislative proposals to protect the region's name and reputation.

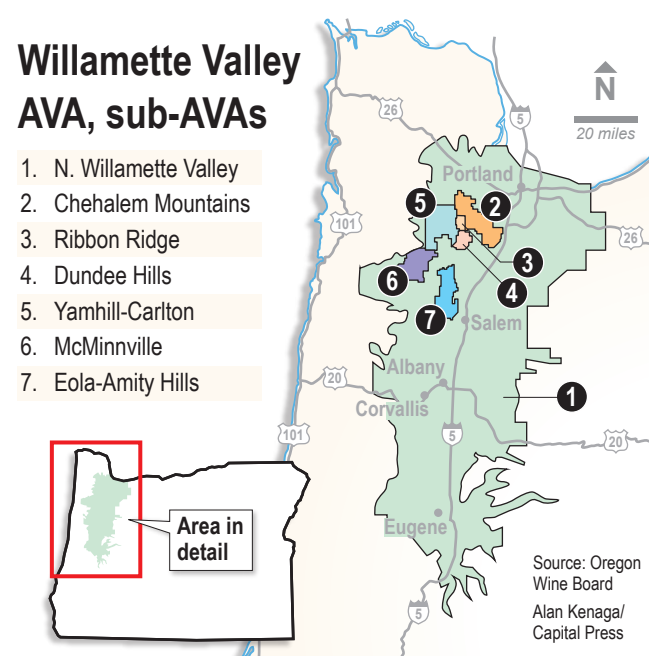
The issue recently landed on the radar of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission, which requested Copper Cane provide production, transfer and bottling records for seven wines, including the Willametter. The company has until Sept. 28 to turn over the information.

State Rep. David Gomberg, a Democrat representing the central Oregon coast, also testified about Copper Cane's labels during a hearing before the House Interim Committee on Economic Development and Trade on Sept. 24, alongside Tom Danowski, CEO of the Oregon Winegrowers Association, and OLCC Director Steve Marks. The concern is whether Copper Cane is breaking the law by inferring Oregon's distinguished AVAs on its labels to boost sales, without meeting the state's rigorous standards.

"Labeling is important. So is truth in advertising," Gomberg said. "We have seen our label-

Willamette Valley AVA, sub-AVAs

1. N. Willamette Valley
2. Chehalem Mountains
3. Ribbon Ridge
4. Dundee Hills
5. Yamhill-Carlton
6. McMinnville
7. Eola-Amity Hills



ing laws being tested."

Oregon adopted its wine labeling regulations in 1977, which are among the strictest in the country.

Under federal law, if a wine labels itself a particular variety — such as Pinot noir — then 75 percent of the grapes must be that variety. In Oregon, the rule is 90 percent. Likewise, federal law states that if a wine labels itself as being from a particular viticultural area — say, the Willamette Valley — then at least 85 percent of grapes must come from the AVA. Oregon requires 95 percent.

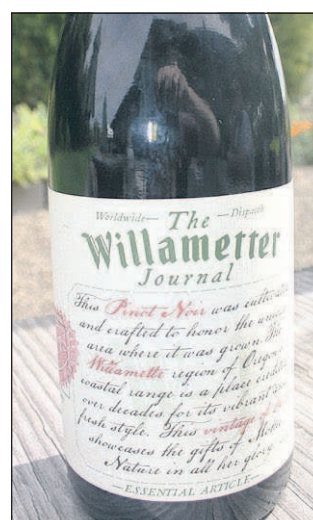
The law also prohibits making false, ambiguous or misleading statements on the label. That is where Danowski said the Oregon Winegrowers Association takes issue with a name like the Willametter, which may

wrongly be associated with the Willamette Valley AVA.

"It raises questions about product integrity," Danowski said. "When you are using Oregon AVAs, and commercializing Oregon products, you simply must follow the same rules that everyone else in Oregon is following."

Both the Oregon Winegrowers Association and Willamette Valley Wineries Association met with Copper Cane's owner, Joe Wagner, in August. Danowski said they had a productive conversation, and Copper Cane agreed to submit records to the OLCC.

Copper Cane denies any intentional wrongdoing. Jim Blumling, vice president of operations, said every wine it sells has received labeling approval from the federal Alcohol and



Oregon wine industry leaders are worried that "The Willametter Journal," a Pinot noir made by Copper Cane Wines & Provisions in the Napa Valley, may be violating state labeling laws.

Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.

"We're not bottling something that doesn't have TBB approval," Blumling said. "If they want us to tweak it because there is some new wisdom or there is some change of opinion, then we'll certainly work with TBB to do the right thing."

Blumling said Copper Cane buys wine grapes from roughly 50 growers in Oregon, including the Willamette, Rogue and Umpqua valleys, representing more than 90,000 cases worth of business. All Oregon wines are made with 100 percent Oregon grapes, he said, while the appellation of origin is listed as "Oregon," and not any specific AVA.

As for the Willametter Journal, Blumling said it is a "fun, fanciful" name that is not intended to be misleading or dis-

ingenuous.

"We don't think we're doing anything wrong," he said.

Jim Bernau, founder and winemaker at Willamette Valley Vineyards in Turner, Ore., disagrees. He said the labels and marketing used by Copper Cane are clear violations of the law, and exploit Oregon AVAs for profit.

"I'm astonished that any producer would misrepresent the origin of their wine," Bernau said.

Wright, who owns Ken Wright Cellars in Carlton, Ore., has spent the last year working with David Adelsheim, founder of Adelsheim Winery in Newberg, Ore., on a pair of legislative proposals to protect the Willamette Valley AVA and, specifically, their pinot noir.

The first initiative, known as conjunctive labeling, would require wineries that label a nested AVA in the Willamette Valley — such as Ribbon Ridge or Yamhill-Carlton — to also include Willamette Valley AVA somewhere on the bottle.

The second, known as "exclusive wine content," would require all Willamette Valley Pinot noir to contain 100 percent Pinot noir grapes with 100 percent coming from the valley, as opposed to the current standard of 90 percent variety and 95 percent AVA. Such a change would require OLCC rule-making to mitigate potential financial hardships on businesses. A work group would also be formed to consider other wine varieties for inclusion.

Adelsheim said they are working on two separate bills for the 2019 Legislature.

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Item/description	Ore.	Wash.	Idaho	Calif.
• Days suitable for fieldwork (As of Sept. 25)	6.9	6.7	6.8	7
• Topsoil moisture, surplus	0	0	0	0
• Topsoil moisture, percent short	89%	66%	77%	75%
• Subsoil moisture, surplus	0	0	0	0
• Subsoil moisture, percent short	87%	55%	70%	75%
• Precipitation probability (6-10 day outlook as of Sept. 25)	33-40% Above	Normal/ 33% Above	40% Above	40-60% Above

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