



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File

**Cattle graze in the Malheur National Forest. An environmental lawsuit has targeted a timber project partly aimed at improving grazing conditions.**

## Lawsuit targets 40,000-acre Oregon forest project

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

An environmental lawsuit seeks to halt a 40,000-acre forest treatment project in Oregon's Malheur National Forest for allegedly evading federal limits on harvesting large trees.

The complaint, filed by the Blue Mountains Biodiversity Project, claims the Camp Lick Project violates the National Forest Management Act by permitting the removal of trees over 21 inches in diameter contrary to the "Eastside Screens" limit.

"The logging of large trees in projects such as Camp Lick is primarily driven by economic interests rather than true forest restoration," the complaint said.

Within the project's boundaries, the U.S. Forest Service plans to commercially harvest about 12,000 acres, largely using tractor yarding "where toppled trees are dragged through the forest by heavy equipment, causing soil compaction and erosion," the plaintiff said.

The Eastside Screens standard, which prohibited logging trees over 21 inches in diameter in several Oregon national forests, was replaced by new guidelines earlier this year but was still effective when the project was approved in 2020.

The environmental plaintiff argues the Eastside Screens were established to rectify the dearth of large trees east of the Cascade Mountains but "this shortage has not been resolved and continues to this day."

The lawsuit alleges the Forest Service unlawfully made changes to the management plan for the Malheur National Forest to circumvent the Eastside Screens even though site-specific conditions did not justify the changes.

The broader changes to the Eastside Screens provide "compelling evidence" that exceptions to the size standard within the Camp Lick project weren't warranted, the complaint said. "If the alleged need to remove large trees was site specific, a region-wide amendment would not be necessary."

## Washington Ecology to fund drought relief

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

The Washington Department of Ecology will distribute about \$700,000 to three other state agencies for drought-relief projects, exhausting the amount available to cope with the emergency.

The Department of Health, Fish and Wildlife and Washington State Conservation Commission have submitted spending proposals for Ecology to assess.

Funding candidates include a proposal by the Benton Conservation District, via the state commission, to buy an aquatic-plant cutter to mow water stargrass, a riverbed weed that thrives in drought conditions.

Stargrass clogs irrigation gates on the Lower Yakima River, conservation district out-



Benton Conservation District

**Water stargrass grows in the Yakima River in Eastern Washington. The Benton Conservation District is seeking drought-relief funds to mow the aquatic weeds and keep them from choking irrigation systems.**

reach coordinator and biologist Rachel Little said.

"It's especially bad in drought years, for sure. It's terrible this year," she said. "This proposal is a way we can directly help irri-

gators in a drought."

During the 2015 drought, irrigation districts and other public entities could apply for grants to alleviate drought hardships. Lawmakers this year

didn't anticipate a drought and didn't budget for one.

Ecology had some money drought-relief funds leftover from prior budgets and scraped up more money saved by vacant positions in the department.

With the drought well along, Ecology will distribute what money it has to the three state agencies rather than take applications from other public agencies, Ecology drought coordinator Jeff Marti said.

Moses Lake Sen. Judy Warrnick, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate agriculture committee, said Tuesday she wants a joint Senate and House committee to talk about whether the state can do more.

The Legislature has a drought committee that includes Senate and House members. The committee has been dormant this year.

## ODFW kills 2 wolf pups from Lookout Mountain pack

By JAYSON JACOBY  
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY, Ore. — Employees from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, firing rifles from a helicopter, shot and killed two wolf pups from the Lookout Mountain pack on Aug. 1.

On July 29, the agency's director authorized either ODFW employees, or a Baker County ranching couple or their designated agents, to kill up to four sub-adult wolves from that pack, which has attacked their cattle at least four times since mid-July.

The Lookout Mountain wolves have killed two animals and injured two others, according to ODFW investigations.

The two wolves killed Aug. 1 are 3 1/2-month-old pups, according to Michelle Dennehy, an ODFW spokesperson.

The agency confirmed earlier this year that the pack's breeding female and male — neither of which can be killed under the permit — produced a litter of seven pups this year.

During the helicopter flight on Sunday, ODFW employees



ODFW/Baker City Herald

**A trail cam photo from May 30 of one of the two yearling wolves in the Lookout Mountain pack.**

saw at least five pups and the two adult, Dennehy said. They didn't see either of the two yearlings wolves, which were born in the spring of 2020.

ODFW employees and the ranchers, Deward and Kathy Thompson, also tried to find the wolves on July 30, but they saw only the two adult wolves, both of which have tracking collars.

The permit is valid through Aug. 21, or until up to four wolves have been killed, whichever happens first.

Dennehy said the permit is intended to stop chronic

attacks by wolves on livestock "by reducing the pack's food needs and disrupting the pack's behavior so they don't associate livestock with an easy meal."

Baker County Commissioner Mark Bennett requested the kill permit on July 27. Bennett, who is chairman of the county's wolf committee, included with his request to ODFW a letter from the Thompsons. They wrote that the attacks on their cattle started this spring after the Lookout Mountain pack's latest, and so far largest, litter of pups was born.

"Killing pups is not something we want to be doing," Dennehy wrote to the Baker City Herald. "But in this case, despite nonlethal measures, chronic depredation continues which we have a responsibility to address. We hope to avoid killing the breeding male and female, so that the pack persists and the remaining pups still have two experienced hunters to provision them. Killing the breeding male or female increases the chance that the pack will break up.

"Reducing the caloric needs

of the pack reduces the amount of killing they need to do in order to feed the pups. The Lookout Pack had at least seven pups this spring and late summer is a lean time for wolves. With two pups removed there is less need for meat for the pups."

The group Defenders of Wildlife decried ODFW's actions.

"We are enraged by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's aggressive action to kill vulnerable 14-week-old gray wolf pups in response to livestock conflict," said Sristi Kamal, senior representative for the Northwest Program at Defenders of Wildlife. "The use of lethal measures is never a long-term solution to depredations and killing pups is simply unacceptable. Defenders will continue to work with livestock producers to help implement proactive non-lethal practices and strategic grazing practices. It is possible for people and wolves to share the same land and ODFW must step up to their role to facilitate coexistence. They can, and they must."

Sponsored by BASF

## Winter Wheat Growers: Don't Snooze on Wireworms This Season

*Teraxxa™ F4 Seed Treatment Can Help Eliminate Wireworms and Protect Your Yields*

**Winter wheat growers: A silent assassin is lurking in your fields, stealthily eating away at roots and stems in your winter wheat crop and into your wallet.**

**We're sorry to say, you have a wireworm problem.**

"There's a misconception that wireworms are only a serious threat for spring cereal growers," said Curtis Rainbolt, BASF technical field representative. "While wireworm damage is more visible in spring cereals, they still feed on winter cereal crops, creating significant yield loss for winter wheat growers."

Not all wireworms in the field (the resident population) may feed in a given season, but their populations expand exponentially. Over the course of three years, two adult click beetles can grow to more than 200 adults and 1,000 wireworms.

Wireworm damage to a spring wheat crop can look more dramatic than it does to winter wheat. You can't always see the damage wireworms are doing to winter wheat, so controlling wireworms just isn't top of mind for growers. "Winter wheat growers are often focused on disease control, so if they don't visibly see a wireworm problem, they don't think to protect against it," Rainbolt adds.

So, are growers faced with choosing between protecting against the silent threat of wireworms or the many fungal pathogens present in the soil?

Nope. Growers can protect against both with the arrival of a powerful new seed treatment from BASF.

### A DEADLY WEAPON AGAINST WIREWORMS AND SUPERIOR DISEASE CONTROL

New this year for winter wheat growers, Teraxxa F4 Seed Treatment is the first **and** only product on the market that eliminates wireworms and provides long-term disease control.

Teraxxa F4 Seed Treatment's game-changing active ingredient delivers direct wireworm mortality, greatly reducing the population by up to **85%** in recent trials. This impacted the potential to cause feeding damage later in the season and provided a path for long-term wireworm control.

"When you treat your winter wheat seed with Teraxxa F4 Seed Treatment, you eliminate and prevent damage from wireworms that feed soon after planting and in the spring—and that's crucial for growers," said Rainbolt.

Its active wireworm-fighting ingredient is paired with the addition of four fungicides for broad-spectrum disease protection against diseases such as Fusarium root rot and seedling blight, Pythium damping off, Rhizoctonia root rot, and common root rot.

The fungicide package protects not only the seed, but also the seedling, and for growers who face brutal winters, that protection is necessary for healthy wheat.

"It's a worthwhile investment to put Teraxxa F4 Seed Treatment on that seed to help make the most out of the winter wheat crop," Rainbolt added.

Find out more at [TeraxxaF4.com](http://TeraxxaF4.com). ■



Untreated



Treated with Teraxxa F4 Seed Treatment

**Teraxxa™ F4**  
Seed Treatment

**BASF**  
We create chemistry

Always read and follow label directions. Teraxxa is not registered in all states. Teraxxa is a trademark of BASF.