

New leadership team wants to inspire Idaho FFA members

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

TWIN FALLS, Idaho — After a two-year hiatus caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Idaho FFA members were back on campus last week at the College of Southern Idaho for their annual State Leadership Conference.

Blue-jacket enthusiasm was palpable at the final ceremony to announce the new state officers as foot stomping rumbled through the college gymnasium like a drumroll and the newest leaders took their place on stage.

After droves of FFA members boarded buses for home on a four-day high of FFA exuberance, Capital Press sat down with the new officers to get their reaction.

Halee Bohman, the new state president, is a senior at Troy High School and president of the Troy FFA chapter. She plans to attend the University of Idaho to major in agricultural business and political science.

"I'm overwhelmed with emotion for sure and hum-

bled to be given this opportunity among some of my closest friends," she said.

The new officers formed a close bond as candidates, she said.

In the year ahead, her goal is to "create an inclusive environment for the FFA Association and push members to pursue their full potential," she said.

Liz Shaw, the new state vice president, is a senior at Parma High School, vice president of the Parma FFA chapter and president of the Western Idaho FFA District. She plans to attend the University of Idaho to major in elementary education and horticulture/urban agriculture.

"I'm still in shock. I just can't believe it actually came true," she said of her successful run for office.

She didn't always have the confidence to put herself out there, but her FFA adviser saw leadership qualities she didn't and pushed her to be the best version of herself, she said.

In her role as a state officer, she wants to "inspire and motivate and inform Idaho FFA of the importance of



Idaho FFA

Idaho's new FFA state officers April 9 at the conclusion of the 2022 state convention. Front row from left are Halee Bohman, president, and KaLisi Griggs, secretary. Back row from left are Korbey Lindsey, sentinel; Ember Mendoza, reporter; Mackenzie Malson, treasurer; and Liz Shaw, vice president.

agriculture," she said.

State Secretary KaLisi Griggs is a senior at Sugar-Salem High School and president of the Sugar-Salem FFA chapter. She plans to take a year off from school to focus on being a state officer and then enter a physician's assistant program at Weber State University.

"I'm excited. It kind of

seems surreal, really fun but a roller coaster of emotion," she said.

She said she loved everyone she met on the new officer team and is excited to serve with them.

Her goal is to "reach out to chapters that are not as successful and struggling with membership and just let them know they can make a differ-

ence in FFA, even in agriculture," she said.

State Treasurer Mackenzie Malson is a senior at Fruitland High School and vice president of the Fruitland FFA chapter. She plans to attend the University of Idaho to major in agricultural economics with the hope of pursuing a law degree.

"This week has been the most emotional week of my life. It's been so much fun, and it hasn't quite sunk in yet," she said.

Her goals include "helping members reach out and connect with our industry sponsors," she said.

She also wants to spend as much time as possible with FFA members sharing their stories, she said.

State Reporter Ember Mendoza is a senior at Rigby High School and is president of the Rigby FFA chapter. She plans to attend the College of Eastern Idaho to become a certified Emergency Medical Technician.

"I'm excited and (in a state of) emotional overload. It's going to be a great year," she said.

She had planned to run for state office as a senior but lost her drive in the pandemic until a fellow FFA chapter officer encouraged her to go for it, she said.

"It's been crazy and stressful, but I was at peace with it because I was OK with whatever happens," she said.

State Sentinel Korbey Lindsey is a senior and is a student adviser for the Rigby FFA chapter. He plans to take a year off from school to focus on being a state officer. After that, he plans to attend Utah State University to become an agriculture teacher.

"I wasn't expecting to make the first cut," he said of the candidate process.

He had planned on running for state office since freshmen year, and "it's good to know all my hard work paid off," he said.

The candidate process was an emotional roller coaster, and he was eager to get home and "take a nap," he said.

His goal is "to be that inspiration to kids like past officers. My main goal is to inspire the next generation of agriculture," he said.

Washington wolf population up 16%, tops 200

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Washington's wolf population grew in 2021 by 16% to at least 206 wolves, most of them grouped in packs in the northeast corner of the state, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife annual wolf report.

The population grew for the 13th straight year, though at least 30 wolves died. Tribal hunters harvested 22 wolves. Hunting outside tribal reservations is illegal.

The department was to present the report Saturday to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The department has been taking an annual census of wolves since counting five wolves in 2008.

The department says its count, done in coordination with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in northeast Washington, is a minimum number and that there are likely more wolves in Washington.

The Colville tribe reported harvesting 14 wolves, while the Spokane tribe harvested 8. The previous year, the Colville tribe harvested 8 wolves, while the Spokane tribe reported harvesting no wolves.

Fish and Wildlife killed two wolves in 2021 to stop chronic attacks on cattle. Four wolves were hit and killed by vehicles, while two other deaths are under investigation, according to the report.

Fish and Wildlife carves the state into three wolf recovery regions. Wolves have long surpassed recovery goals in Eastern Washington and are moving toward recovery in the North Cascades.

They have not, however, made progress in colonizing the South Cascades.

Fish and Wildlife reported that a lone collared wolf dispersed from a pack in the North Cascades and crossed Interstate 90 into the South Cascades. The



ODFW

The wolf population in Washington state continues to grow.

department, however, has not confirmed any pack in the region.

Under the state's wolf plan, wolves won't be recovered until there are at least four packs with pups for at least three straight years in all three regions, including the South Cascades.

The department counted 33 packs in 2021, four more than in 2020, with 22 of the packs in northeast Washington. Some 19 of those packs had at least two pups surviving to the end of the year, up from 16 packs the year before.

Eastern Washington had 15 of the successful breeding pairs, while the North Cascades, for the second straight year, had four.

Two of the four new packs were in Ferry and Stevens counties, the northeast counties with most of the wolves. Previously, even before the new packs, Fish and Wildlife described the counties as "saturated" with packs.

The new Dominion pack in Stevens County formed between the Smackout and Dirty Shirt packs, according to the report. The Keller Ridge pack formed in

Ferry County on Colville tribal land.

The other new packs were the Columbia pack in Columbia County and the Shady Pass pack in Chelan County.

The department confirmed 13 wolf attacks on livestock, the fewest since 2017. The department classified six other attacks as "probable" depredations.

Fish and Wildlife reported spending \$1.4 million on wolves in 2021. More than \$1 million of that was on management and research.

The department reported spending \$205,969 on range riders and \$111,649 to reimburse ranchers for expenses related to preventing attacks on livestock.

Fish and Wildlife paid \$20,866 to compensate producers for losses to wolves and spent \$19,957 to remove the two wolves.

Pack territories averaged 193 square miles, according to the report. Packs ranged in size from two to 10 wolves. Most packs had three to six wolves. The department counted 10 wolves in the Lookout pack in the North Cascades.

Another wolf killed in NE Oregon; officials seek public's help

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

RICHLAND, Ore. — For the third time this year, authorities are investigating a possible case of wolf poaching in rural northeast Oregon.

On March 25, state police were notified that a collared wolf — OR117 from the Cornucopia pack — was likely dead near Richland, Ore., about 40 miles east of Baker City.

Troopers estimate the 1-year-old male wolf died sometime March 12 or 13.

An agency spokesperson did not release the cause of death, citing the ongoing investigation. The Oregon Wildlife Coalition is offering an \$11,500 reward for information to help OSP catch whoever may be responsible.

"For us, this is definitely very appalling and frustrating to watch," said Sri-sti Kamal, senior Northwest representative for Defenders of Wildlife, one of the coalition's member groups. "It has serious implications for wolf recovery in our state."

It is the latest in a string of wolf poaching cases that have made headlines in the area.

On Feb. 15, OSP said a collared female wolf was shot and killed near Cove, about 15 miles east of La Grande.

Another collared female wolf from the Chesnimnus pack was also shot Jan. 8 about six miles south-east of Wallowa.

Between February and March 2021, eight wolves were poisoned near Mount Harris in Union County,

including all five members of the Catherine pack. Groups and individuals are offering nearly \$50,000 in reward money for tips leading to an arrest in that case.

Four wolves were illegally killed in 2020, according to the state Department of Fish and Wildlife's most recent annual wolf report. One incident resulted in no charges after investigators determined the shooter mistook the wolf for a coyote.

Most of Oregon's 173 known wolves are concentrated in the northeast corner of the state. ODFW removed gray wolves from the state endangered species list east of highways 395, 78 and 95, though the species is once again federally protected in Western Oregon following a court ruling in February.

Kamal said human-caused wolf mortality is "a pervasive problem that needs addressing in our state." In 2020, there were eight wolves poisoned and another eight that were killed legally for habitually preying on livestock, about 10% of the known population at the end of 2019.

Ranchers have long argued they need lethal control of wolves to protect their livestock from chronic attacks. Last year, ODFW confirmed 87 animals were killed or injured by wolves, including 51 cattle, 28 sheep, six goats and two guard dogs. That was more than double the number in 2020.

To help combat poaching statewide, the Oregon Department of Justice recently hired a special prosecutor, Jay D. Hall, who will focus exclusively on fish and wildlife crimes.

Lawmakers want strong action on dairy access to Canada

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Members of Congress are urging the Biden administration to be tough on Canada in its trade obligations to expand market access for U.S. dairy under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement.

In January, the U.S. Trade Representative's office announced it had won its first dispute settlement case under USMCA by prevailing against Canada that its dairy tariff-rate quota (TRQ) allocations violated the agreement.

A TRQ applies a preferential rate to a predetermined quantity of imports. Any imports above that quantity are subject to significantly higher tariffs.

U.S. dairy has argued that Canada reserves the bulk of TRQ access for Canadian dairy processors, who have little incentive to import competing U.S. product. Canada's allocation scheme leaves only a small amount of TRQ access for distributors and gives no TRQ access for retailers — two segments with the strongest incentive to purchase U.S. dairy product.

In early March, the Canadian government issued a proposal outlining changes



Carol Ryan Dumas/Capital Press File

Members of Congress have called on the U.S. Trade Representative and USDA to hold Canada to its USMCA commitments.

to its current allocation scheme. But the U.S. dairy industry rejected that proposal, saying it does nothing to improve market access and preserves the same problems in the current system.

In their letter to U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai and USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, the congressional members said Canada's proposal would continue to fall short of what USMCA requires.

"Accordingly, we urge you to insist on much deeper reforms to bring Canada's dairy TRQ allocation system into compliance with its USMCA commitments," they said.

Canada's proposal continues to block Canadian retailers and foodservice companies from TRQ access. It would continue to deliver the bulk of TRQ volumes to Canadian food man-

ufacturers, they said.

"In short, Canada's proposal amounts to little more than window dressing as it appears designed to effectively preserve the status quo ...," they said.

They also said this first USMCA dispute will set a powerful precedent and the U.S. government needs to send a clear message to trading partners regarding the degree of compliance that will be required.

"A deal is a deal; it's not too much to ask that our trading partners live up to their end of the bargain," they said.

National Milk Producers Federation and U.S. Dairy Export Council on Tuesday expressed their appreciation for the congressional support.

"The USMCA is not a list of optional suggestions and aspirational ambitions.

Yet Canada has treated its obligations to American dairy producers as a game, seeing what they can get away with," said Jim Mulhern, president and CEO of NMPF.

"Congress rightfully recognizes this must stop. If we do not require our allies meet their signed commitments, then our trade agreements are not worth the paper they are printed on," he said.

Krysta Harden, president and CEO of USDEC, said USDEC appreciates the strong bipartisan support focused on ensuring U.S. dairy exporters receive the benefits negotiated in USMCA.

"We are committed to continuing to work with the U.S. government to make sure that the dairy market access negotiated with Canada is provided in full to the benefit of both American dairy farmers and manufacturers and Canadian consumers alike," she said.

The letter was signed by Reps. Ron Kind, D-Wis.; Tom Reed, R-N.Y.; Antonio Delgado, D-N.Y.; Glenn Thompson, R-Pa.; Suzan DelBene, D-Wash.; Dusty Johnson, R-S.D.; Jim Costa, D-Calif.; and David Valadao, R-Calif.

BOISE PROJECT BOARD OF CONTROL

UPDATED Start of 2022 Irrigation Season for the Boise Project Board of Control

The Boise Project Board of Control serves nearly 167,000 acres. Starting on **April 15th, 2022**, the Project will activate over 460 canals and laterals in Ada and Canyon Counties. Irrigation delivery service to our patrons will begin no earlier than April 22nd, 2022, after the canals have risen to allowable elevations and the water is ready to be delivered. Southern Idaho is experiencing drought conditions for the second year in a row. As a result, the snowpack in the Boise River basin is substantially lower-than-normal and reservoir elevations are also lower than normal. Based on the current water availability projections, the Boise Project Board of Control has set the water allotment at this time at 1.20 acre-feet of water per acre. This allotment amount is subject to change due to unknown variables in the weather, future precipitation, and snowmelt runoff.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at: www.boiseproject.net

This press release is to further serve as notice to parents and children alike of the approaching hazards of water in the irrigation canals.

If you have any questions, please contact Bob Carter, Project Manager, at (208) 344-1141.