

Police search for potentially dangerous suspect

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Law enforcement continues to search for a Redmond man who evaded capture after a short pursuit.

The suspect is Braxton Michael Monson, 36. Monson is 6 feet tall and weighs approximately 200 pounds.

According to police, Monson was last seen wearing dark jeans and a hooded sweatshirt. He has a dark flower tattoo on his neck and various tattoos on his arms. His facial hair is

not currently as long as in the attached photos, according to police.

It is possible Monson is armed, so do not attempt to contact him. He is known to frequent Prineville and Madras.

According to the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office, at about 10:48 p.m. Wednesday a deputy tried to pull over Monson's 1994 Toyota Camry in the area of NE 5th



Monson

and NE Maple in Redmond.

The driver over the vehicle refused to pull over and the deputy pursued for a short distance before losing sight of the car. The officer then saw the vehicle again, in the area of NE 5th and Maple, where the driver exited the car and fled on foot.

The deputy on scene, as well as residents in the area, then heard what they believed were gunshots. As of 3 p.m. Thursday, police have not been able to confirm any such shots. A search of the area with K9 teams and

drones overnight on Wednesday into Thursday morning was not successful.

Alerts were sent out to residents in the neighborhood advising law enforcement was searching for a male suspect who may be armed and dangerous.

An updated alert was sent out Thursday morning, advising that law enforcement was no longer active in the area and the suspect is still at large.

If you see Monson or know his location, call 911 immediately.

Ruling requires revisions for Prineville solar project

BY MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

To pass legal muster, a Central Oregon solar facility expansion plan must provide more specifics about mitigating impacts on wildlife habitat, according to a state land use ruling.

However, the West Prineville Solar Farm's developer, NewSun Energy, is optimistic the project can now proceed with "only limited refinements to the plan criteria," said Jake Stephens, its CEO.

The state's Land Use Board of Appeals said Crook County approved doubling the solar facility's size, from 320 acres to 654 acres, without "substantial evidence" its wildlife plan will ensure quality habitat mitigation that's reliable and durable.

The developer's wildlife plan also "lacks a schedule of performance measures" required under state law to ensure it will cause "no net loss" of habitat, the ruling said.

Despite these issues, NewSun Energy said it welcomes LUBA's order because the ruling has confirmed the mitigation plan is "appropriate and acceptable in form, size, scale, substance and type" as well as in its definition of habitat, Stephens said.

For example, the plan can now move forward with



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File

A land use ruling requires revisions to a wildlife mitigation plan for a Central Oregon solar facility expansion.

"more tightly defined limits" on where mitigation occurs as well as "specific deed restriction language" that will shield the habitat mitigation site from future development, he said.

The company believes the plan already includes these elements and has exceeded the requirements of state wildlife officials, Stephens said. "Regardless, NewSun looks forward to continuing to invest in good faith in rural Ore-

gon communities, including performing mitigation as required by law."

Crook County will have to reconsider its authorization of the solar facility's expansion based on the the ruling's criteria and standards, most likely based on additional evidence from the project's developer, according to LUBA.

Last year, LUBA blocked the expansion project but the Oregon Court of Appeals said it incorrectly construed

state land use law. The appeals court faulted LUBA for requiring the county to fully meet wildlife criteria that's meant for larger solar projects.

LUBA has now issued a new ruling based on instructions from the appellate court but has still found that the wildlife mitigation plan needs to be improved.

The developer's plan to enhance an acre of wildlife habitat for every acre affected by the project, plus a "buffer" of

additional acreage, is sufficient to conclude "there will be no net loss of habitat quantity," LUBA said.

However, the plan "lacks the specificity and definiteness" required by state law, since it proposes two options without providing enough details about the location of replacement habitat, effectively preventing third parties from evaluating the quality of mitigation measures, the ruling said.

Likewise, the so-called "V2 Plan" contains treatment options that are "too vague" to be evaluated for reliability and durability, "especially in the absence of defined performance measures," the ruling said.

"In conclusion, the V2 Plan is not substantial evidence in the record as to the quality of mitigation, the reliability or durability of mitigation, and lacks a schedule of performance measures required to be included in a mitigation plan," LUBA said. "Accordingly, the V2 Plan is not evidence a reasonable person would rely on to conclude that the development action meets the no net loss standard."

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which had objected to the project's wildlife plan, can "absolutely" make the solar facility's expansion work under the ruling's requirements, said Greg Jackle, district biologist for the agency.

The new LUBA ruling is similar to the previous order and will assure a "very positive outcome for wildlife habitat," Jackle said. "This opinion will assure that wildlife impacts from the project will be offset, protected and enhanced on a specific wildlife mitigation site."

PET OF THE WEEK



Submitted Photo

Meet Angel! This big beautiful five year old girl was surrendered to BrightSide due to the health of the owner. Angel is a quiet cat who has so far spent time enjoying watching people come and go at BrightSide, but would love to see someone come and go with them, too.

Angel would love to meet you, if you'd like the same please come to BrightSide!

Redmond student earns Oklahoma State scholarship

BY TIM TRAINOR
Redmond Spokesman

A Deschutes County student recently was honored by the Oklahoma State University Ferguson College of Agriculture with academic scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year.

The scholarships are part of the more than \$1.8 million that students will receive from the

college and its academic departments.

Rhiannon Curley is an animal science student from Redmond. Curley received the Oklahoma Grain and Feed Industry Scholarship and the Joseph Fleming Memorial Continuing Scholarship.



Curley

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