

Oregon bills seek to ratify wolf delisting

Environmentalists challenging decision in court

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Two Oregon lawmakers plan to introduce bills that would ratify the decision by state wildlife officials to delist wolves as an endangered species.

The proposals, which will be considered during the upcoming legislative session in February, are planned by state Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athens, and Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, in reaction to a lawsuit filed by environmental groups.

In November, the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission voted to delist the wolves under the state's version of the Endangered Species Act after several criteria for their recovery had been met.

Under a management plan for wolves first created in 2005, the species could be delisted after having established four breeding pairs for three years and no longer facing a substantial risk of extinction in a significant portion of its range, among other criteria.

Wolves were delisted by the federal government in the easternmost portion of the state, but remain protected in the rest. Oregon wildlife



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
OR-3, a three-year-old male wolf from the Imnaha pack, is shown in this image captured from video taken by a Department of Fish and Wildlife employee on May 10, 2011, in Wallowa County. Two Oregon lawmakers plan to introduce bills that would ratify the decision by state wildlife officials to delist wolves as an endangered species.

officials have the jurisdiction over those wolves under the state Endangered Species Act.

However, Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands and the Center for Biological Diversity recently challenged the state's delisting decision in court, arguing the decision unlawfully ignored the best available science about wolf recovery.

The bills, which will be introduced in the House and Senate, will provide the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife — which is overseen by the commission — more ammunition in defending itself in court,

Barreto said.

"We're shoring up what the commission has already decided," he said during a hearing last week before the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Oregon has 81 documented wolves, but the actual population is likely in the range of 100 to 120 animals and a delisting is necessary for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to eventually manage the species, said Hansell.

Such management could involve hunting to keep populations in check.

Striking a balance

Ranchers in Oregon have abided by restrictions on wolf management for the past 10 years, so now that the criteria for delisting have been met, the state government should uphold the wolf plan's credibility, said Rocky Dallum, political advocate for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. "The goal was to strike a balance between reestablishing wolves in Oregon and meeting the needs of those producers," he said.

During the decade that the plan has been in place, ranchers have felt a great deal of "heartburn" as state wildlife officials have refused to remove wolves that repeatedly prey on livestock, said Todd Nash, a rancher and chairman of the association's wolf committee.

The wolf plan should be followed as planned rather than allowing the courts to take over the process, he said. "I want to bring some sanity to this and let the scientists and wildlife managers manage, instead of some conservation groups and a judge."

Environmental groups oppose the proposed legislation, claiming that it will unnecessarily interfere with the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Oregon has fewer than 90 wolves, but the state could sustain up to 1,400 of them, said Sean Stevens, executive director of Oregon Wild.

Currently, the species occupies only 12 percent of its potential habitat, he said. "The status of wolves in Oregon is still tenuous."

In the past year, wolves have only been confirmed to have killed four cows, while the state has more than 1.3 billion cattle, he said. The cattle industry generated more than \$1 billion in revenues, making it Oregon's top agricultural sector.

"The industry's growth has not been stymied by the arrival of wolves," Stevens said.

Dangerous precedent

The proposed bills would set a dangerous precedent of the Legislature inserting itself into delisting decisions on a species-by-species basis, said Quinn Read, Northwest representative of the Defenders of Wildlife environmental group.

"We're concerned by initiatives that would circumvent the (wolf) plan," she said.

Scott Beckstead, state director for the Humane Society of the United States, an animal rights group, said he's worried about the possibility of trophy hunting of wolves in Oregon.

Hunters in Idaho, where such hunting is allowed, have demonstrated a "cruelty and depravity" in killing wolves that wouldn't be tolerated by the public in Oregon, he said.

"It's certainly something I don't want to see in Oregon, and I worry about us heading down that path," Beckstead said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Tonight
Rain
48°

Shown is tomorrow's weather. Temperatures are tonight's lows and tomorrow's highs

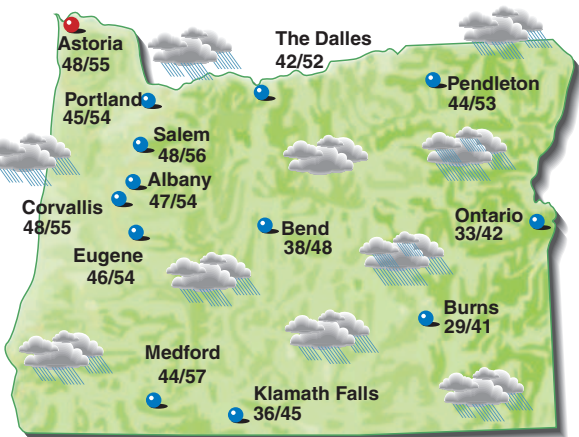
Friday
Cloudy with a couple of showers
55° 43°

Saturday
Mostly cloudy with a shower in spots
51° 41°

Sunday
Cloudy with a little rain in the afternoon
50° 41°

Monday
Cloudy with rain late in the afternoon
54° 44°

Oregon Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2016

Almanac

Astoria through Wednesday.

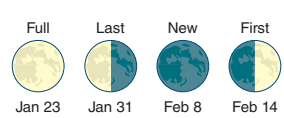
Temperatures	High	Low
High	49°	41°
Low	41°	38°
Normal high	50°	38°
Normal low	38°	35°

Precipitation

Yesterday	Month to date	Normal month to date	Year to date
0.55"	5.75"	6.89"	5.75"
0.55"	6.89"	6.89"	6.89"

Sun and Moon

Sunset tonight	5:03 p.m.
Sunrise Friday	7:49 a.m.
Moonrise today	3:16 p.m.
Moonset today	5:35 a.m.



Regional Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Baker City	38 31 c	39 31 r
Bend	48 38 c	48 30 c
Brookings	59 48 r	56 47 r
Eugene	56 46 r	54 42 c
Ilwaco	55 48 r	52 44 sh
Klamath Falls	45 36 c	45 35 r
Medford	59 44 c	57 41 c
Newport	56 48 r	54 43 c
North Bend	61 47 r	59 46 r

City	Today	Fri.
Olympia	55 45 r	54 37 c
Pendleton	50 44 c	53 39 c
Portland	53 45 r	54 42 sh
Roseburg	59 46 r	56 42 c
Salem	56 48 r	56 43 c
Seaside	56 49 r	53 44 sh
Spokane	41 38 c	43 35 r
Vancouver	53 47 r	52 42 sh
Yakima	41 38 sh	47 33 c

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Planet Jupiter will emerge above the eastern horizon after 9:30 p.m.

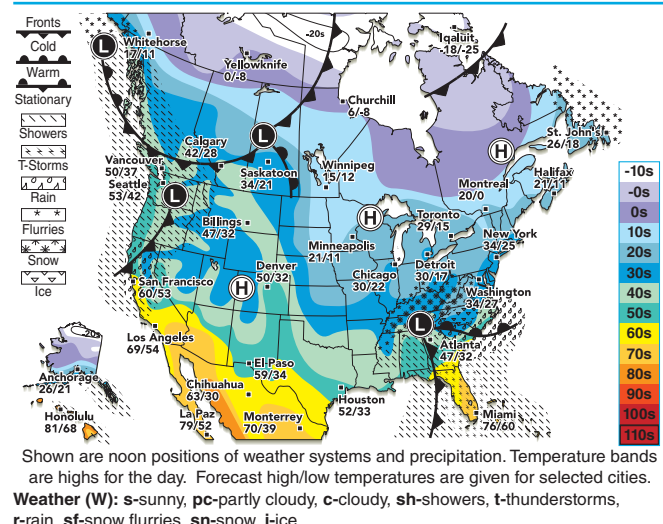
Tomorrow's Tides

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High	Time	Low
	12:13 a.m.	8.1 ft.	5:41 a.m.	2.9 ft.
	11:38 a.m.	9.8 ft.	6:42 p.m.	-0.7 ft.

National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
Atlanta	49 40 r	47 32 r
Boston	30 17 s	30 20 pc
Chicago	28 16 c	30 22 sf
Denver	40 21 pc	50 32 pc
Des Moines	28 18 c	26 13 pc
Detroit	28 16 sf	30 17 c
El Paso	57 30 s	59 34 c
Fairbanks	-6 -14 pc	-5 -12 c
Honolulu	79 67 pc	81 68 s
Indianapolis	28 17 c	28 18 c
Kansas City	29 17 sn	28 16 pc
Las Vegas	60 40 pc	61 44 c
Los Angeles	73 50 pc	69 54 c
Memphis	41 32 r	36 25 sn
Miami	73 67 pc	76 60 t
Nashville	42 36 r	38 26 r
New Orleans	72 45 t	50 36 s
New York	36 24 s	34 25 c
Oklahoma City	38 28 i	39 23 s
Philadelphia	38 23 s	36 27 c
St. Louis	33 21 c	32 22 c
Salt Lake City	38 24 pc	42 30 c
San Francisco	60 56 c	60 53 r
Seattle	55 48 r	53 42 sh
Washington, DC	36 23 s	34 27 sn

Tomorrow's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities. Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Astoria Yacht Club bus route closure announced

The Daily Astorian

The Sunset Empire Transportation District has announced that the last day for bus services to the senior center at the Yacht Club is Friday.

The Daily Astorian

This temporary bus service was being provided because the senior center had temporarily been located at the Yacht Club building during the re-

model of its building at 1111 Exchange St. The Astoria Senior Center is moving back to the Exchange Street location.

For information, contact Mary Parker at 503-861-5370.

Free parenting workshop planned

The Daily Astorian

A free workshop for parents and caregivers of children ages 5 to 10, "Positive Discipline Tips & Strategies," is being presented from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday at Astor Elementary School, 3550 Franklin Ave.

The workshop provides skills and tools to use to increase children's cooperation, ease hassles and reduce misbehavior without having to raise your voice, threaten or spank. Participants will learn how to use natural and logical consequences, encour-

age independence, build healthy self-esteem and use developmental and age appropriate techniques.

Free child care is being offered, and light refreshments will be served. Those who are using the child care service should arrive by 6:10 p.m. The program begins at 6:30 p.m.

This workshop is offered by Northwest Parenting in partnership with Astor Elementary School to enhance skills and tools for parents.

For information, contact Teresa Crouter at 503-325-8673, ext. 2.

Trollers Association holds annual meeting

The Daily Astorian

WESTPORT, Wash. — The Washington Trollers Association, an association of over 100 commercial fishing

family businesses that use the hook and line method of harvesting prime salmon off of the Washington coast, is holding its budget board meeting at 9 a.m., and annual meeting

at 12:30 p.m., Saturday at McCausland Hall, 1020 W. Ocean Ave., Westport, next to the Westport Maritime Museum.

A working lunch is being provided by WEfish.

Public meetings

THURSDAY

Seaside Tree Board, 4 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Cannon Beach Fire District Board, 5 p.m., executive session, to consult with legal counsel regarding possi-

ble litigation, Cannon Beach Fire Station, 188 Sunset Blvd.

Seaside Transportation Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Cannon Beach Design Review Board, 6 p.m., City

MONDAY

Jewell School Board, 6 p.m., Jewell School library, 83874 Oregon Highway 103.

Seaside City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

On the record

Pedestrian struck

• At 11:48 a.m. Jan. 11, Astoria Police responded to a vehicle versus pedestrian crash on Marine Drive and Eighth Street. A 20-year-old Astoria man was struck by a GMC SUV and transported by Medix to Columbia Memorial

Hospital for a tibia fracture on his left leg. The pedestrian was in the marked crosswalk when he was struck. The driver, Rosalio Garcia, 49, of Astoria, was cited for failure to stop for a pedestrian.

DUII arrest

• At 5:57 p.m. Tuesday,

Warrenton Police arrested Terry Lee Godden, 45, of Coos Bay, for driving under the influence of intoxicants at the intersection of U.S. Highway 101 and Alternate U.S. Highway 101. Godden's blood alcohol was measured at 0.18 percent, according to police.

Lotteries

OREGON

Wednesday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 9-3-8-2
4 p.m.: 9-8-3-7
7 p.m.: 5-1-2-3
10 p.m.: 7-1-3-1
Wednesday's Megabucks: 11-14-28-29-34-44
Estimated jackpot: \$6.1 million.
Wednesday's Powerball: 5-39-44-47-69, Powerball: 24

Estimated jackpot: \$60 million.

WASHINGTON

Wednesday's Daily Game: 7-7-8
Wednesday's Hit 5: 07-09-13-20-36
Estimated jackpot: \$100,000.
Wednesday's Keno: 07-12-14-17-18-21-22-24-25-33-35-37-44-48-49-64-70-72-75-80
Wednesday's Lotto: 01-11-15-17-34-42
Estimated jackpot: \$5.2 million.
Wednesday's Match 4: 02-11-15-19

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