

State approves wolf kills in Umatilla County

Oregon may allow ranchers to kill threats

By ANDREW THEEN
The Oregonian

For the third time this month, wildlife officials said they would kill wolves in northeast Oregon in response to attacks on livestock.

A rancher in Umatilla County had asked the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to eradicate the Meacham Pack, but state officials said Thursday they would allow no more than two animals to be killed. The pack had seven members as of December.

For the first time, Oregon is considering allowing ranchers to kill the wolves under a "limited duration wolf kill permit," rather than rely on state officials.

In a statement, agency director Curt Melcher said there's been an increase in the number of cattle and other livestock killed, "which is not surprising due to the increasing population (of wolves)."



Submitted Photo

Oregon has authorized wolf kills to deter attacks on livestock.

"While it's disheartening for some people to see ODFW killing wolves," Melcher said, "our agency is called to manage wildlife in a manner consistent with other land uses, and to protect the social and economic interests of all Oregonians while it conserves gray wolves."

"It's important that we address and limit wolf-live-

stock problems while also ensuring a healthy wolf population," he continued.

Advocates slammed the decision Thursday as the latest disappointment from the agency.

"It certainly looks like Oregon is trying to become Idaho when it comes to wolf management," said Sean Stevens, executive director of the

nonprofit Oregon Wild, "and that's a bad thing."

Idaho has a more robust wolf population than Oregon but also has legalized hunting. The animal was removed from Oregon's endangered species list relatively recently — in 2015 — in the northeast-ern areas of the state, like Walla-walla and Umatilla counties.

Stevens said the three wolf

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ODFW director Curt Melcher

kills in August occurred as the state's own annual report noted the population was stagnant — at roughly 112 animals — in 2016. Oregon also has an out-dated plan for managing the animal, Stevens said, and he believes Gov. Kate Brown has been "a little bit asleep at the wheel" in addressing issues at the fish and wildlife agency.

"I don't think that's a direction that the broad majority of Oregonians want the agency to be going in," Stevens said of the decision to kill wolves. "I think we can coexist."

The state said it approved the kill order after four livestock deaths were confirmed in August and after the private landowner in Umatilla County made consistent and "substantial" efforts to avoid conflict with the wolves.

The landowner moved cattle from the pasture, had a horseback rider surveying the land "five days per week" to track the wolves, and removed carcasses from the field immediately after they were discovered.

"Unfortunately, this year their increasing preventative efforts have not been successful in limiting wolf depredation," Roblyn Brown, the Department of Fish and Wildlife's acting wolf coordinator, said in a statement.

"We believe lethal control is warranted in this situation but this action will only be in place as long as cattle are still at risk. We will use incremental removal and lethal control activities will be stopped as soon as the cattle are removed from the pasture."

House Speaker Ryan touts lower taxes in Boeing visit

Associated Press

EVERETT, Wash. — U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan toured the Boeing plant in Everett, answered workers' questions on a variety of matters and pitched the Republican plan to cut taxes for corporations.

The Daily Herald reported Ryan on Thursday saw the 767, 777 and

787 production lines before sitting down with Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenberg for a 45-minute town hall attended by about 80 employees.

Ryan said reducing the tax rate for businesses and simplifying the tax code for individuals will spur economic growth.

State lawmakers agreed in 2003 to reduce the busi-

ness and occupation tax rate paid by Boeing and the company will save about \$8 billion by 2040. But Boeing cut 6,344 jobs in 2016 and is down roughly 4,000 in 2017. Democratic lawmakers and aerospace workers have tried, without success, to require that Boeing sustain a minimum number of jobs in the state if it wants to keep the lower tax rate.

Eclipse viewers did little damage to Oregon's public lands, say officials

By CASSANDRA PROFITA

Oregon Public Broadcasting

PRINEVILLE — Patrick Lair with the U.S. Forest Service drove into the Ochoco National Forest to see how things looked after hosting thousands of eclipse visitors.

He drove the same road on Wednesday that more than 30,000 people took to get into the massive Symbiosis Festival on Big Summit Prairie — a patch of private land in the middle of the national forest.

"At one point, we had bumper-to-bumper traffic from

the prairie out past Prineville," he said. "I'm kind of amazed not to see more trash on the sides of the road."

With all the festivalgoers — plus additional eclipse visitors looking to camp in the path of totality — officials worried about people trampling vegetation and driving off-road through the forest. With dry conditions and late-summer heat, they were especially worried about people accidentally starting wildfires.

Anticipating up to a million eclipse visitors statewide, public land managers prepared for the worst. Now, as they survey

the damage, they're finding many of their fears of environmental destruction never came to pass.

The road into the Ochocos is littered with some discarded bottles, the occasional strand of toilet paper and several abandoned vehicles. But considering how many people traveled through here, Lair said, it's looking really good.

"I think we all were expecting the worst, and when it didn't happen we all were pleasantly surprised," Lair said. "Not that there aren't impacts - there will certainly be trash to pick up."

Kujala hired by Chamber of Commerce

The Daily Astorian

Former Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala has been hired by the Astoria-Warrenton Area Chamber of Commerce as membership director.

A Warrenton resident, Kujala is the owner of Skipanon Brand Seafoods. He was a member of the Warrenton City Commission for



Mark Kujala

12 years, five of them as mayor. He is married to Alana Kujala, the chamber's former event coordinator.

Jim Servino, the former membership director, and his wife, Carol, are moving to

Texas to be closer to the couple's grandchildren.

"We thank Jim for his service to our community and wish them the best of luck in their relocation," a release from the chamber said.

The chamber will bid farewell to Servino at a chamber networking breakfast on Tuesday.

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA AccuWeather.com

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
51	74 54	74 56	74 55	68 55
Clear	Mostly sunny, pleasant, breezy in the p.m.	Sunny and pleasant	Pleasant with sunshine and some clouds	Clouds giving way to some sun

ALMANAC REGIONAL WEATHER

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

Temperatures	
High/Low	69°/51°
Normal high/low	69°/53°
Record high	86° in 1964
Record low	45° in 1992
Precipitation	
Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	0.38"
Normal month to date	0.79"
Year to date	50.05"
Normal year to date	37.73"

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: A giant stellar nursery known as M17 is above the lid of the "teapot" formed by the brightest stars of Sagittarius.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	Low
5:07 a.m.	7.2 ft.	11:11 a.m.
5:25 p.m.	7.9 ft.	11:53 p.m.

ON THE RECORD

Disorderly conduct
• At 4:13 p.m. Wednesday, Randall Shumaker, 59, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 700 block of S. Holladay Drive and charged with disorderly conduct, unlawful possession of a weapon with intent to use, menacing, harassment and reckless endangerment. He allegedly pulled out a shot-gun during an argument with a family member.

Assault
• At 7:55 p.m. Wednesday, Theresa Odette, 42, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department at Quatat Park and charged with assaulting a public safety officer, interfering with a police officer and resisting arrest. She allegedly caused a small injury to an officer as they attempted to take her to non-criminal detox.

• At 11:13 p.m. Wednesday, Imelda Cantu Bradshaw, 46, of Seaside, was arrested by the Seaside Police Department on the 1100 block of S. Downing Street and charged with second-degree assault and physical harassment. She allegedly bit her boyfriend and hit him with a flashlight.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

FRIDAY
Skipanon Water Control District, noon, Pacific Grange, 90475 U.S. Highway 101, Warrenton.

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

MEMORIAL

Sunday, Aug. 27
SANDERSON, Robert — Memorial service from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Warrenton Community Center, 170 S.W. Third St., in Warrenton. Memorial contributions may be made to the Clatsop County Animal Shelter. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

DEATH

Aug. 24, 2017
USTBY, Ellen Frances, 70, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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