

Oregon wolf population continues to grow

Annual report was released Thursday

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

Oregon wildlife officials counted at least 124 wolves at the end of 2017, an 11 percent increase over the year end total for 2016, according to the latest annual report released Thursday.

The survey, which is conducted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, is not a true population estimate but documents the minimum number of wolves across the state based on verified evidence such as visual sightings, tracks and photographs.

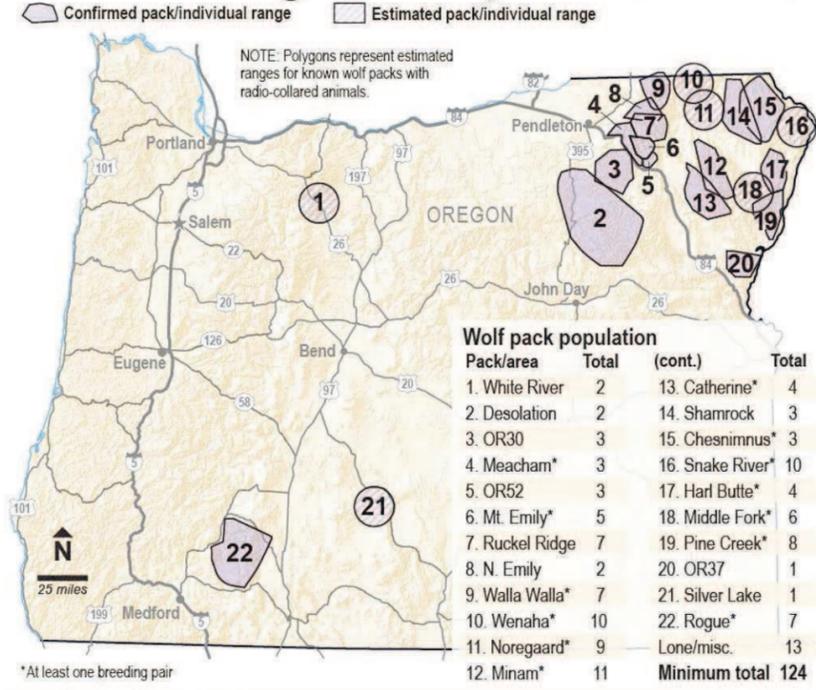
The department will present an overview of the findings at the next Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting April 20 in Astoria.

"The wolf population continues to grow and expand its range in Oregon," said Roblyn Brown, the state wolf program coordinator. "This year, we also documented resident wolves in the northern part of Oregon's Cascade Mountains for the first time."

Most wolves in Oregon remain clustered around the northeast corner of the state, though several packs and known wolf territory can also be found in Wasco, Klamath and Lake counties. Statewide, Oregon now has 12 wolf packs, 11 of which were successful breeding pairs, meaning that at least two adults and two pups survived to the end of the year.

Wolf reproduction was the highest recorded in 2017 since the species returned to Oregon, with pups being born in 18 groups — a 50 percent increase over 2016. Though they did not meet the definition of a breeding pair, reproduction was con-

Known Oregon wolf packs (As of Dec. 2017)



Source: Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Alan Kenaal/Capital Press

firming in the Chesnimnus, Harl Butte, Meacham, North Emily and Shamrock packs, as well as the OR-30 and OR-52 pairs.

Conflicts remain

Gov. Kate Brown said she is encouraged by the continued recovery of Oregon wolves, though ongoing conflicts with poachers and livestock remain troublesome.

"Despite this good news, ongoing issues of poaching and livestock depredation must be carefully considered as we explore more effective management and conservation practices," Brown said.

Though the Department of Fish and Wildlife removed wolves from the state endangered species list in 2015, it remains illegal to shoot a wolf except in limited circumstances, such as in defense of

human life or those caught in the act of chasing livestock. Wolves remain federally protected west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

The state reported four cases of wolves killed illegally in 2017. Three cases are still under investigation. The fourth, in Union County, involved a wildlife trapper who shot a wolf he found in one of his traps. David Sanders Jr., 58, pleaded guilty to one count of using unbranded traps, and was sentenced to 24 months bench probation, 100 hours of community service and a \$7,500 fine.

The Union County District Attorney's Office agreed to dismiss one count of illegally shooting a special status game mammal, though Sanders did have his hunting and trapping license suspended for 36 months and agreed to pay

an additional \$1,000 penalty to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

In all, 13 wolf deaths were recorded in 2017 — 12 of which were caused by humans. The state issued lethal take permits that resulted in four wolves being shot from the Harl Butte pack in Wallowa County, and one from the Meacham pack in Umatilla County, to try and curb livestock depredations. Lethal take is allowed under Phase III of the Wolf Management and Conservation Plan in Eastern Oregon.

Meanwhile, OR-48 from the Shamrock pack was unintentionally killed by an M-44 cyanide trap that had been set by USDA Wildlife Services on private land; a pup from the Ruckel Ridge pack was killed by a livestock protection dog; and OR-30 was shot by



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife **OR-26, a 100-pound adult male, after he was fitted with a GPS tracking collar outside La Grande.**

an elk hunter in Union County who claimed he was acting in self-defense. The hunter, 38-year-old Brian Scott, was not charged with a crime.

Sean Stevens, executive director of the Portland-based environmental group Oregon Wild, was sharply critical of poachers and the state killing wolves. Most recently, the agency approved killing two more animals from the Pine Creek pack in Baker County for preying on cattle.

"The wolf population is stagnant because poachers and ODFW agents are killing more wolves — this despite the fact that ODFW admits livestock depredations are down from last year," Stevens said. "It demands accountability from an agency that insists on killing more wolves every year."

Dead livestock

The annual wolf report shows confirmed livestock depredations decreased from 24 in 2016 to 17 in 2017. Those cases involved 11 calves, one llama, one alpaca and 23 domestic fowl.

Quinn Read, Northwest director for the group Defenders of Wildlife, said the evidence shows Oregonians can coexist with wolves.

"ODFW should be looking at how to support these successes,

rather than encouraging reckless lethal removal protocols," Read said.

Ranchers, however, say they will need more support from the state to ensure they can protect their businesses and their livelihood.

George Rollins, a Baker County rancher and co-chairman of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, said the latest depredations by the Pine Creek pack resulted in three dead calves, four wounded and another three missing.

"The people taking the economic loss and the emotional stresses are the producers," Rollins said. "It gets very tiresome. They feel like they're not being supported. Nobody's listening to them."

As the population of wolves increases and continues to move west, Rollins predicts there will be more wolf-livestock conflicts in the future. He said the Department of Fish and Wildlife needs to give more control to local authorities to handle so-called "chronic depredators."

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association is also seeking to tie state funding for compensating ranchers directly to the rising wolf population, Rollins said, to make sure they can afford non-lethal tools such as hiring range riders to haze wolves.

One such bill was proposed by state Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, but died in committee.

"If we want to manage the wolf, we need to make sure we can fund it properly," Rollins said.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is still working to pass an overdue five-year update of its wolf management and conservation plan. The Fish and Wildlife Commission decided in January to do more stakeholder outreach and try to reach a greater consensus. No date for adoption has been scheduled.

States approve Chinook, sturgeon seasons

The Daily Astorian

Oregon and Washington state fishery managers have approved Chinook and sturgeon seasons.

They added this Saturday to the Lower Columbia River spring Chinook season as well as a 10-day white sturgeon season on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Saturdays from May 14 through June 4. Boat and bank angling will be allowed from Buoy 10 to the Wauna power lines.

Two adult salmonids are allowed per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Anglers can only keep adipose fin-clipped fish.

Sturgeon angling is prohib-

ited after 2 p.m. Retained fish must be 44 to 50 inches in fork length. The bag limit is one legal-sized fish per day, while the annual sturgeon limit is two per year. Retention of green sturgeon will not be allowed.

More information, including regulation updates, can be found online at www.myodfw.com.

OBITUARIES

Amy Elizabeth Kittinger Bellingham, Washington Sept. 16, 1970 — April 3, 2018

Amy Elizabeth (Strange) Kittinger, age 47, of Bellingham, Washington, passed on Tuesday, April 3, surrounded by her family.

A celebration of Amy's life will be on Saturday, April 14, from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m., at the Squilicum Boathouse, 2600 North Harbor Loop Drive, Bellingham, WA 98225.

There will be another celebration



Amy Kittinger

in Naselle, Washington, this August; the specific date will be shared soon.

In lieu of flowers, please make memorial contributions in Amy's name to the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA), online at www.curefara.org

Please visit www.sigsfuneralservices.com to read the full obituary and share your thoughts and memories.

DEATHS

April 12, 2018

CLARK, Charles, 55, of Astoria, died in Astoria. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

April 11, 2018

KINDER, Cathryn L., 71, of Astoria, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortuary & Crematory in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

April 10, 2018

TAPP, Paul D., 71, of Seaside, died in Seaside. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

April 6, 2018

COLE, Barbara Rene, of Goldendale, Washington, died in the Columbia River near Westport. Ocean View Funeral & Cremation Service of Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

BIRTH

March 30, 2018

SUTTON, Terina, and ESTRELLA, Zeke, of Seaview, Washington, a girl,

Nevah Marie Estrella, born at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria. Grandparents are Terri Mallars of

Toledo, Steve Sutton of Seal Rock, and Charlotte Whispell and Ken Whispell of Springfield.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

MONDAY

Astoria Homelessness Solutions Task Force, 10 a.m., Clatsop Community College, Patriot Hall, Room 207.

Youngs River Lewis & Clark Water District Board, 6 p.m., 34583 U.S. Highway 101 Business. **Astoria City Council**, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

LOTTERIES

OREGON

Thursday's Pick 4:
1 p.m.: 8-6-5-1
4 p.m.: 2-5-1-1
7 p.m.: 7-9-1-7
10 p.m.: 4-3-0-4

Thursday's Lucky Lines: 03-06-09-14-20-24-27-31
Estimated jackpot: \$12,000

Thursday's Keno: 02-07-08-10-13-14-16-22-24-35-39-43-47-48-52-61-71-72-75-80

WASHINGTON
Thursday's Daily Game: 6-8-8

Thursday's Match 4: 04-05-12-20

FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
48	51 / 42	50 / 40	51 / 42	52 / 40
Periods of rain; breezy this evening	Periods of rain	Cloudy with a little rain	Cloudy and cool with occasional rain	Still cloudy with a little rain

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday.

Temperatures
High/low 52°/41°
Normal high/low 56°/41°
Record high 77° in 2008
Record low 30° in 1968

Precipitation
Thursday 0.35"
Month to date 4.65"
Normal month to date 2.34"
Year to date 27.88"
Normal year to date 27.18"

REGIONAL WEATHER

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

SUN AND MOON

Sunset tonight 8:00 p.m.
Sunrise Saturday 6:31 a.m.
Moonrise today 5:52 a.m.
Moonset today 5:31 p.m.

New Moon: Apr 15
First Quarter: Apr 22
Full Moon: Apr 29
Last Quarter: May 7

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Hydra, the snake, is low above the south and Draco, the dragon, is above the northeast horizon.

TOMORROW'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High	Time	Low
1:06 a.m.	8.3 ft.	7:20 a.m.	0.9 ft.
1:17 p.m.	8.0 ft.	7:28 p.m.	0.7 ft.

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Atlanta	78	61	s	81	62	pc	
Boston	64	49	pc	53	33	c	
Chicago	55	40	t	42	36	r	
Denver	44	25	c	53	28	pc	
Des Moines	68	39	t	44	27	r	
Detroit	56	39	r	42	35	r	
El Paso	67	44	s	70	46	s	
Fairbanks	41	20	pc	37	13	s	
Honolulu	83	72	sh	82	73	sh	
Indianapolis	74	61	c	70	51	t	
Kansas City	74	43	t	44	26	c	
Las Vegas	71	54	s	77	58	s	
Los Angeles	78	57	s	82	58	s	
Memphis	78	65	c	67	41	t	
Miami	81	65	pc	87	76	sh	
Nashville	82	72	pc	72	52	t	
New Orleans	82	71	pc	76	50	t	
New York	78	60	pc	80	47	pc	
Oklahoma City	83	36	pc	52	29	pc	
Philadelphia	80	62	s	82	55	s	
St. Louis	72	62	t	68	39	sh	
Salt Lake City	50	36	sf	59	45	s	
San Francisco	65	51	s	65	53	s	
Seattle	53	47	r	53	43	r	
Washington, DC	83	64	s	81	64	s	

TOMORROW'S NATIONAL WEATHER

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

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