

On the hunt for a rare Sierra Nevada red fox

Hikers and campers report sightings

By **KYLE SPURR**
The Bulletin

BEND — In a dense forest at the base of Mount Bachelor, two wildlife biologists slowly walked toward a small cage trap they hoped would contain a rare red fox species. Jamie Bowles, an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife technician in Bend, and Tim Hiller, founder of the Montana-based Wildlife Ecology Institute, stepped carefully as branches crunched under their feet.

For the past year, the state wildlife agency and Hiller's organization have worked together to trap and place radio collars on Sierra Nevada red foxes, a rarely seen subspecies recently discovered roaming in the Oregon Cascades. Officials have no idea how many live in Oregon, and fewer than 100 live in Northern California.

On the sunny Friday morning in June, the trap was empty, as were two other traps the biologists set near Mount Bachelor.

"This is a typical day for us," Bowles said. "Not having anything in the traps."

But the past year has been a success for their efforts to study the Sierra Nevada red fox, which they began researching in 2012.

When a fox was trapped and given a radio collar in May 2017, it was hailed as a first for Oregon wildlife biologists, who suspected the small mammals were here, but had little proof.

Since, six more have been captured and given collars. Last month, Bowles collared three in one week, two of them in one day.

In addition, hikers and campers have steadily reported Sierra Nevada red fox sightings in the last 12 months.

The collars, programed to stay on the foxes for one year, track the foxes as they move through the area. Data shows the collared foxes stay in an 8-mile radius near Mount Bachelor. The biologists believe the foxes have become comfortable around people and are relying on being fed or are rummaging for food in dumpsters at the Mount Bachelor ski area.

Their reliance is not safe for them or people and their pets,



A Sierra Nevada red fox wanders near Mount Bachelor, west of Bend.

Bowles said. The foxes can carry diseases, such as rabies.

"This is not ideal that they are foraging for food out of the trash cans or begging for food," Bowles said. "These foxes seem to be resort foxes."

Outside of the Mount Bachelor area, more people are reporting sightings of the Sierra Nevada red foxes. People are seeing them in the high elevations mountains, such as the Three Sisters Wilderness, but also in lower elevations areas in Tumalo and Terrebonne.

Citizen reports are helpful for the biologists. The foxes were thought to only live in high elevation above 4,500 feet. Bowles and Hiller have 16 traps set in various elevations across the region where the foxes have been seen.

"We are finding them in places we didn't expect to find them," Bowles said.

A huge component of the study is learning more about their range and dispersal, the biologists said.

"We want to know what habitat they are utilizing," Bowles said. "Both in the

high, mid and low elevation now that we know they have dispersed lower."

When the study began in 2012, it relied on trail cameras and fur and scat collection. The initial work found the foxes living in the Oregon Cascades including Mount Jefferson and Mount Washington. It gave the biologists an area to set traps and begin tracking the foxes. Each trap consists of bait, usually pieces of roadkill deer, to lure the foxes.

The study is funded through federal grants and support from various agencies. Hiller esti-



Joe Kline/The Bulletin
Jamie Bowles, a wildlife tech with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, uses an antenna to pick up signals from radio collared Sierra Nevada red foxes near Mount Bachelor.

mates the grants and in-kind support is valued at about \$100,000. The study has funding for another year, during which the biologist hope to collar and track 13 more foxes.

The High Desert Museum supports the study through its own carnivore-monitoring project in the Deschutes National Forest. The museum has 13 trail cameras set up to capture video of animals, including the Sierra Nevada red fox.

The museum hosts an educational program for local

children and their families that allows them to take home a trail camera for six weeks and capture images of passing animals.

Last year, one family in the program captured valuable footage of a Sierra Nevada red fox in the lower elevation of Dry Canyon in Redmond.

Jon Nelson, curator of wildlife at the museum, said he regularly gets tips from people about Sierra Nevada red fox sightings. Just this week, someone reported seeing a den. Nelson passed the tip on to the biologists.

"The museum's role has been to educate the public and increase awareness about the species," Nelson said. "As a result, there are a lot of people in the community who are looking for them or recognize them when they see them."

DNA samples collected off the collared foxes have been sent to a laboratory at the University of California, Davis. The results confirmed the foxes are Sierra Nevada red foxes and they are living in lower elevations than originally thought, Bowles said.

The DNA data could confirm if the Oregon foxes are able to breed with the California foxes. If so, that could boost each region's population.

WHEN THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS expect your ambulance costs to be covered. \$59 per year protects your family* from needless worry.

LifeCare ONLY \$5900*

***Full year, per household.**
Family includes you and household dependents.

MEDIX

2325 SE DOLPHIN AVENUE
WARRENTON
IN AN EMERGENCY CALL 9-1-1

BECOME A MEMBER. IT'S EASY.
Open enrollment through June 30, 2018
Credit cards accepted.
Call us today 503-861-5558 or stop by our office
www.ambulancemembership.com/medix

WANTED

Alder and Maple Saw Logs & Standing Timber

Northwest Hardwoods • Longview, WA
Contact: John Anderson • 360-269-2500

WANTED

In honor of July 4th, The Daily Astorian's offices in Astoria and Seaside will be

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

PAPER DELIVERY WILL PROCEED AS USUAL

Have a safe holiday!

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES:
Tuesday, July 3rd, 11am for Wednesday, July 4th
Tuesday, July 3rd, 1pm for Thursday, July 5th

DISPLAY AD DEADLINES:
Thursday, June 28th, 5pm for Wednesday, July 4th
Friday, June 29th, 5pm for Thursday, July 5th

Place classified ads or subscribe 24/7
www.dailyastorian.com

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

SCHEDULE

Evening listings

TUESDAY

TUESDAY EVENING												JUNE 26	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6 (N)		Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel of Fortune	The Middle	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish	The Last Defense (N)		KATU News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News (N)		Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Middle	The Middle	Black-ish	Black-ish	The Last Defense (N)		KOMO 4 News (N)	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC News (N)	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	America's Got Talent "Auditions 5" (N)				World of Dance "The Qualifiers 5" (N)		KING 5 News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Double Down"		Bull "The Illusion of Control"		48 Hours: NCIS (N)		KOIN 6 News (N)	(:35) Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News (N)	Evening News (N)	KIRO 7 News (N)	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "Double Down"		Bull "The Illusion of Control"		48 Hours: NCIS (N)		KIRO News (N)	(:35) Colbert
8	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent "Auditions 5" (N)				World of Dance "The Qualifiers 5" (N)		KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(9) Modern Family	Modern Family	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Flash "Girls Night Out"		The 100 "How We Get to Peace" (N)		News at 10 (N)	Friends	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
10	KOPB	(10) Ask-Old House	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Civilizations "The Cult of Progress" (N)		American Experience "The Boys of '36"		American Experience "The Great War"			
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Beat Shazam "Episode Five" (N)		Love Connection "Episode Five" (N)		10 O'Clock News (N)		News (N)	Page Six TV
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's News (N)		9 O'Clock News (N)		Family Guy	American Dad!	News (N)	The Game
13	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Beat Shazam "Episode Five" (N)		Love Connection "Episode Five" (N)		Q13 NEWS AT 10 (N)		News (N)	The Simpsons
20	TBS	(20) Family Guy	Family Guy	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan	
22	KZJQ	(22) Friends	Friends	Mom	Modern Family	Mom	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9 (N)		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Two and a Half	Two and a Half
29	ESPN	(29) (4:00) NCAA Baseball		MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Los Angeles Dodgers Site: Dodger Stadium -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)	
30	ESPN2	(30) Poker 2017 World Series		Poker 2017 World Series		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		NFL Live		First Take	
31	NICK	(31) The Loud House	The Loud House	The Loud House	Loud House (N)	Double Dare	Henry Danger	** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World		(11) Jeremy Piven, Jessica Alba.		Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Big City Greens	Stuck in Middle	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Andi Mack	Raven's Home 2/2	Stuck in Middle	Big City Greens	Bizaardvark	Raven's Home	Andi Mack	Bunk'd
34	FAM	(34) **** Pocahontas (95, Ani) Voices of Mel Gibson, David Ogden Stiers, Irene Bedard.		The Bold Type "OMG" (N)		The Bold Type "OMG" (N)		** She's All That ('99, Rom) Rachael Leigh Cook, Matthew Lillard, Freddie Prinze Jr.		(15) FXM Presents	*** This Is the End	(2013, Comedy) Jonah Hill, James Franco.	
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) The Fault in Our Stars ('14) Shailene Woodley.		(c40) The Fault in Our Stars (2014, Drama) Ansel Elgort, Willem Dafoe, Shailene Woodley.		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
36	LIFE	(36) To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		To Be Announced	
38	ROOT	(38) (4:00) MLB Baseball Sea/Bal. (L)		Post-game	MarinersPre-game	MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Baltimore Orioles Site: Camden Yards -- Baltimore, Md.		FIFA Soccer World Cup		** Rush Hour 3 (2007, Action) Jackie Chan, Roman Polanski, Chris Tucker.		Post-game	ARCA Auto Racing
39	FS1	(39) (4:00) MLB Baseball Arizona vs Miami (L)		MLB Whiparound (L)		FIFA World Cup Tonight (L)		Speak for Yourself					
43	SPIKE	(43) Mom	Mom	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	** Rush Hour 3 (2007, Action) Jackie Chan, Roman Polanski, Chris Tucker.			
44	COM	(44) The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Drunk History	Drunk History	Drunk History	Drunk History	Drunk History (N)	Jim Jefferies (N)	The Daily Show (N)	The Opposition (N)
45	HIST	(45) Forged in Fire "The Katzbalger"		Forged in Fire "The Zweihander"		Forged in Fire "Bagh Nakh Blades" (N)		Forged in Fire "The Glaive Guisarme" (N)		(:05) Hunting ISIS "In Our Sights" (N)		(:05) Forged in Fire "Viking Battle Axe"	
46	A&E	(46) The First 48		The First 48		The First 48		Intervention "Elann" (N)		Marcia Clark Investigates The First 48			
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Little Peo. "Grandkids' First Christmas"		Little People, Big World "Zach, Tori and Jackson: The First Year" (N)				Our Wild Life "Party Animals" (N)		Little People, Big World	
48	DISC	(48) Deadliest Catch "Purgatory" (P) (N)		Deadly Catch "Winter's Curse" (P) (N)		Deadliest Catch "Blackout" (P) (N)		Deadliest Catch (P) (N)		To Be Announced		Deadliest Catch	
49	NGEO	(49) Forbidden Tomb of Genghis Khan		Cradle of the Gods		America Before Columbus Millions of people lived in America before Columbus.				Secrets of Christ's		America Before Columbus	
50	TNT	(50) *** Avengers: Age of Ultron (2015, Action) Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Robert Downey Jr.		Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Robert Downey Jr.		Animal Kingdom "Prey" (N)				Animal Kingdom "Prey" (N)		Hawaii Five-0	
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) *** The Lincoln Lawyer ('11) Matthew McConaughey.		** Mr. and Mrs. Smith (2005, Action) Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn, Brad Pitt.		HUMANS				Mr. and Mrs. Smith ('05, Act) Brad Pitt.			
52	USA	(52) Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	Modern Family	WWE Super Smackdown				Chrisley Knows (N) The Cromarties (N)		Modern Family	Modern Family
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Three"		Chopped "Grill Masters: Episode Four"		Chopped "Grill Masters: Grand Finale"		Chopped "Think Small!" (N)		Chopped "Amped For Ramps"		Chopped "Whiskey and Wings"	
54	HGTV	(54) Fixer Upper Special		Fixer Upper Special		Fixer Upper "New Chapter, New House"		Good Bones (N)		Hidden Poten (N) House Hunters (N)		House Hunters	House Hunters
55	FX	(55) (5:00) *** Iron Man 3 ('13, Action) Gwyneth Paltrow, Guy Pearce, Robert Downey Jr.		*** Kingsman: The Secret Service (2014, Action) Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson, Taron Egerton.						Kingsman: The Secret Service			
57	CNN	(57) Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
58	FNC	(58) Hannity		The Ingraham Angle		Fox News @ Night		Tucker Carlson Tonight		Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		The Profit "Elision Eyewear" (N)		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		The Profit "Elision Eyewear"		Paid Program	
63	BRV	(63) Below Deck "Demand and Supply"		Below "Can I Get Fries with That?"		Below Deck: Mediterranean		Below Deck: Mediterranean (N)		Million Dollar Listing New York (N)		Watch What (N) Below Deck	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) *** My Fair Lady ('64, Mus) Stanley Holloway, Rex Harrison, Audrey Hepburn.		*** The Music Man (1962, Musical) Shirley Jones, Buddy Hackett, Robert Preston.						(:45) *** A Hard Day's Night ('64) Wilfrid Brambell.			
65	SYFY	(65) (4:30) Escape Plan Sylvester Stallone.		** Journey to the Center of the Earth ('08) Josh Hutcherson, Brendan Fraser.		Face Off "Haunted Hotel" (N)				Futurama	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
162	RFD	(162) (5:30) Cattlemen (N) Women's Rodeo		Horsemanship "Water for Life"		Chris Cox	Rural Eve. News	Ag PhD	Cattlemen to Cattlemen	Women's Rodeo	Women's Rodeo	Product Showcase	

SUZANNE ELISE

assisted living community

a part of the avamere family of companies | Your Life. Our Commitment.

Senior Day Trip to Spirit Mountain Casino

Join us Thursday July 12th for a fun day at Spirit Mountain Casino

Bus leaves at 8:30am and returns by 6:30pm

Call Heather at 503-738-0307 for more information and to reserve your spot today.