Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Gray wolves pose problems for ranchers.

Gray wolves removed from endangered list

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

It was a tough summer for rancher Jim Popson in southern Oregon, as wolves attacked his cattle with frustrating regularity.

Popson grazes yearling steers on 2,080 acres of grassy pasture in the Wood River Valley near Fort Klamath. The pasture borders the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, where the Rogue Pack of wolves has established its territory.

This year, Popson said, wolf problems have escalated dramatically. Between May and September, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed that wolves had killed or injured 12 steers in the area, seven of which were at Popson's ranch.

He suspects the total may be higher, but several carcasses were eaten down to the bones, meaning investigators could not determine a cause of death.

"We never had to worry about these problems (before)," Popson said. "Now you wake up in the middle of the night and you wonder what the hell is going on out there."

When it came to keeping wolves away from his livestock, Popson said his hands were tied, and so were those of state wildlife managers. Wolves were protected under the federal Endangered Species Act across the western two-thirds of Oregon and Washington state. That meant ranchers and managers could use only nonlethal deterrents such as flashing lights, guard dogs and range riders, none of which are foolproof.

That could soon change. The Trump administration has followed through on its controversial decision to take gray wolves off the list of endangered species in the Lower 48 states.

Interior Secretary David Bernhardt made the announcement during a ceremony at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington, Minnesota.

"After more than 45 years as a listed species, the gray wolf has exceeded all conservation goals for recovery," Bernhardt said.

The estimated minimum wolf population is 158 in Oregon, 145 in Washington and 14 in California.

Wolves were driven to near-extinction in the early 20th century by hunting, trapping and other government-funded extermination programs. Certain subspecies and regional populations were originally listed under the Endangered Species Preservation Act of 1966, then under the new Endangered Species Act in 1973.

In 1978, wolves were reclassified as endangered throughout the Lower 48 and Mexico. At the time, about 1,000 wolves lived south of Alaska and Canada.

See Gray wolves, Page A5

T.Paul's
Supper Club
lunch, dinner & in-between

WILL BE **CLOSED** NOV. 9TH - NOV. 30TH
FOR KITCHEN RENOVATIONS

During this time we will be Serving some of …
"Your Supper Club Favorites" at our Sister Restaurant

Call The Urban Cafe
503.388.5133
503.741.3411

Full Urban Cafe menu avaiable

SUPPER CLUB FAVORITES AVAILABLE AT THE URBAN DURING THIS TIME

Appetizer: Greek Crab Quesadilla
Salad: The Boom Boom Salad *(Astoria's favorite)*
Pasta: Dungeness Crab Ravioli
Seafood: The Fish O' Day *with crab or shrimp fettuccine*
Beef: Blackened Steak Marsala *over mashed*
Chicken: Chicken Siciliano
Appetizer: Bourbon St Prawns
Pasta: Scandi-hoovian Crab Mac
Sandwich: The Colorado Club
Beef: Tender Steak Medallions
Chicken: Chicken Madeira

Dine In • Take Out • Downtown Lunch Delivery

t.paul's URBAN cafe
1119 Commercial St., Astoria
Casual Eclectic NW Eats • comfort food + lite fare
11:30-8 Mon-Thurs • 11:30-9 Fri & Sat

NOV 5TH - 17TH
MAIN ST. Market
LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED
WHERE THE MEAT LOVER'S SHOP

Thanksgiving Meal Deal!
Only $26.99
PLU# 16596

Our Thanksgiving Meal Deal Includes:
Sunnyvalley Boneless Black Forest Ham, One 4 lb.
Turkey Breast, One 5 to 7 lb., Frozen
Russet Potatoes, One 5 lb. Bag
Essential Everyday Gravy Mix, One .75 to .87 oz.
Essential Everyday Stuffing Mix, One 6 oz.
Essential Everyday Pitted Ripe Olives, One 5.75 to 6 oz. Can
Essential Everyday Corn or Green Beans, Two 14.5 to 15.25 oz. Cans Mix or Match
Cyrus O'Leary's Pumpkin Pie, 8 inch
Meal Deal offer is good November 5 thru 17, 2020

CANNED FOODS STOCK UP SALE

ESSENTIAL EVERYDAY CANNED VEGGIES and CANNED BEANS (selected varieties) and HUNT'S DICED TOMATOES
$7.88 12 PACK CASE

YOU CAN VIEW OUR FULL AD SEVERAL WAYS
ONLINE AT www.MainStSelect.com
facebook.com/MainStSelectMarket
IN STORE find our printed ad

MAIN ST. MARKET
191 S. Main Ave., Warrenton
503-861-2271
ww.MainStSelect.com