

Gray wolves

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Today, more than 6,000 wolves roam the Lower 48. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued its latest delisting proposal in March 2019. It would hand over wolf management to state and tribal governments.

The agency’s final rule was published Nov. 3 and is scheduled to go into effect Jan. 4.

Environmental groups, however, have already vowed to fight the rule in court, arguing it is premature and will hinder wolf recovery in regions like the West Coast.

“Gray wolves occupy only a fraction of their former range and need continued federal protection to fully recover,” said Jamie Rappaport Clark, president and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife. “We will be taking the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to court to defend this iconic species.”

The final rule does not include the Mexican gray wolf, which will remain listed as endangered.

Gray wolves living in the northern Rocky Mountains — including Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and eastern Oregon and Washington — were previously delisted.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission removed wolves from the state endangered species list in 2015, though the federal designation remained in the western two-

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Jim Popson | rancher in southern Oregon

thirds of the state.

Popson said he and other ranchers tried everything to protect their cattle using non-lethal tools. He installed flashing lights and radio-activated alarm boxes to spook wolves. Both state and federal wildlife managers began driving nightly around the valley checking for wolf activity.

One rancher, Ted Birdseye, even used an inflatable waving “tube man” — like those often seen at used car lots — to guard his pasture.

Still, the Rogue Pack kept coming back. “It’s totally frustrating,” Popson said. “The guys I work with, they’re great people, but their hands were tied because of the listing.”

The Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan allows wildlife officials to consider killing wolves that habitually prey on livestock, a standard known as “chronic

depredation.”

If delisting stands in court, the Department of Fish and Wildlife can consider killing members of a pack if they attack livestock four times in six months under phase I of the state wolf plan.

Wolves enter phase II, or the transition phase, of the plan once the population reaches four breeding pairs in the region for three consecutive years.

They enter phase III, or the management phase, once seven breeding pairs have been established for three consecutive years.

In phases II and III, the definition of “chronic depredation” changes to two confirmed kills in a nine-month period.

“I just feel like we should be able to take care of the problem the way we see fit,” Popson said. “I think this will help, with the delisting.”

Tom Sharp, president of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, was the only nonlocal rancher invited to speak at the delisting ceremony in Minnesota.

Sharp, who ranches in southeast Oregon near Burns, said about 50 people attended the chilly outdoor event. The real task now, he said, is balancing conservation with efforts to mitigate livestock depredations and personal stress in places like the Rogue Valley.

“We think it makes sense that people at the state level should have a better understanding and knowledge of the situation regarding species management,” Sharp said.

Council: Very slim lead could trigger an automatic recount

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“A lot of that was machine rejects and stuff that’s still out of the first election night numbers,” Tracie Krevanko, the Clatsop County clerk, said of the updated results. “And this week, we’ll be processing the cross-county ballots, the ones we received in other counties on time and are being sent here, along with some cured challenges.”

The county has until Nov. 18 to count challenged ballots and until Nov. 23 to certify the final election results. A lead of less than 0.2% for Morley or Hilton would result in an automatic recount.

“I would certify the results as they stand, even if it was within recount range, and then just do a recount, then recertify that race if there’s a change,” Krevanko said.

City Councilor Tom Brownson defeated challenger Floyd Holcom, the owner of Pier 39, in Ward 2, which covers the South Slope, parts of Uniontown and most of the Port of Astoria’s central waterfront. In the most recent results, Brownson had 54% to Holcom’s 46%.

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YOUR SUPPORT AT WORK:

Tax levy funds critical upgrades to Clatsop Care Health District Facilities



In May of 2018, the voters of Clatsop County approved a 5-year operating tax levy to provide program enhancements, critical maintenance, and technology upgrades to the facilities of Clatsop Care Health District, which include Clatsop Care Health & Rehabilitation, Clatsop Care Memory Community, Clatsop Care In-Home Services, and Clatsop Care Retirement Village. Guided by the Tax Levy Oversight Committee comprised of board members, residents, and staff members, the tax levy funds have been used to fuel project that enhance safety, communication, and ensure the longevity of the Health District for years to come. We wanted to provide you with an update on the projects we've completed and what we are planning for the future:

TECHNOLOGY:

Phone systems and WiFi capabilities were upgraded at Clatsop Retirement Village and Clatsop Care Health & Rehabilitation. This provides residents and staff additional communication capabilities that have helped with the increase in telehealth visits and video visits.

INFUSTRATURE & EQUIPMENT:

Clatsop Care Memory Community made critical upgrades to their generator and fuel storage system to ensure the highest safety in the event of a storm or power outage.

Clatsop Care Health & Rehabilitation Center purchased new mechanical lifts for greater safety to residents and staff.

New siding and weather-proofing was installed at Clatsop Retirement Village.

FUTURE PROJECTS:

A new porte cochere will be built at Clatsop Retirement Village. This project will provide shelter from inclement weather to residents as they enter or exit the building.

Clatsop Care Health District, a not-for-profit organization, provides services to seniors and those who need specialized care. Our mission is to provide a continuum of highest quality service and care to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of our community. Learn more at **www.ClatsopCare.org**.

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