

EAST OREGONIAN

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OUR VIEW

How to reduce cost of killing wolves

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife spent \$119,577.92 to kill seven wolves from the Profanity Peak pack.

It seems like a lot of money, considering the job was left undone. But we have no expertise in such things.

Wolves in the eastern third of Washington aren't protected by the federal Endangered Species Act. The state's policy calls for shooting wolves when measures such as putting more people on horseback around herds fail to stop depredations.

Though the entire Profanity Peak pack was slated for elimination, the operation has been suspended with four wolves surviving. Wildlife officials say they didn't quit because of the mounting cost.

WDFW spent the money during an operation in northeastern Washington that began Aug. 4 and ended Oct. 19. Expenses included renting a helicopter, hiring a trapper, and paying the salaries and benefits of WDFW employees.

Tracking and killing wolves is an expensive proposition that seems to carry no real discount even when done in volume.

Dispatching 64 percent of the Profanity Peak pack cost \$17,082.56 per wolf killed. That's less than the \$26,000 it spent to kill just one wolf in 2014, but more

than the \$10,857.15 per wolf it spent in 2012 to kill seven.

Wildlife wolf policy coordinator Donny Martorello said the agency will look at culling wolfpacks in the future in "the most frugal way we can."

Cattle Producers of Washington President Scott Nielsen has an idea.

He says Washington wildlife officials could authorize ranchers to kill wolves that are attacking livestock.

"We would work collectively," Nielsen said. "It would cost the state nothing."

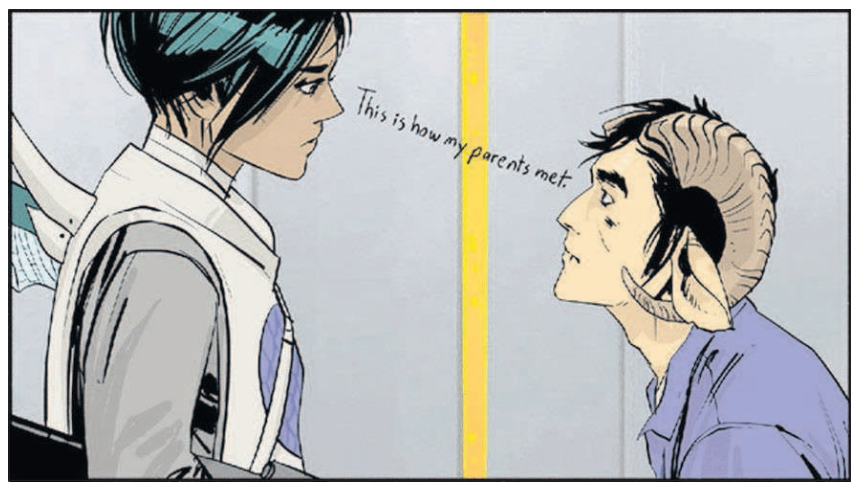
It's probably too simplistic to assume it would cost nothing, because government would still be involved, or that ranchers would necessarily have better luck. Still it's an idea worth studying.

Environmentalists would rather pay ranchers to move off allotments than to kill even one wolf. That's not going to work for cattlemen.

Allowing a cattleman to kill a wolf attacking his herd makes sense. Killing a problem wolf early enough may prevent the need to kill a whole pack later. That would be cheaper for the state, better for the cattlemen, and better for the wolves.

It's not often cattlemen catch wolves in the act, but they nonetheless should have the tool at their disposal.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of publisher Kathryn Brown, managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, and opinion page editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.



Fiona Staples/Image Comics

Culture Corner

Once the domain of a small set of hardcore fans, fantasy and science fiction are now in the mainstream. Whether it's "Game of Thrones," "Star Wars" or Marvel's ever-expanding web of movies and TV shows, America's most popular and profitable pop culture tends to contain magic, robots or some combination of both.

These franchises find staying power when they use their fantastic settings to tell human stories, and with due respect to everything that is finding success on film and television, the best series to inhabit that quality is found in the pages of a comic book.

"Saga" has all the sci-fi plot elements that make it difficult for fans to soberly argue its appeal — a group of android royalty with computer monitors for heads, a tree that can fly into outer space and a bounty hunter with a truth-detecting cat all figure prominently.

But the actual meat of the story hews much closer to plots as old as literature itself.

Marko and Alana are starcrossed lovers from warring planets who get married in secret and have a child. As soon as they're discovered, the family tries to keep itself intact as the cadre of soldiers, guns-for-hire and opportunists try to catch them.

Along the way, the story has time to reflect on the nature of marriage, family, war and identity.

If it sounds melodramatic or

overstuffed, "Saga" writer Brian K. Vaughan infuses each page with enough wisecracking dialogue, explosions and action set-pieces to prevent the story from getting too heavy-handed and keeps the plot hurdling forward.

"Saga" succeeds with the talents of artist Fiona Staples, who is as equally skilled at rendering the dozens of aliens that populate the story's universe as she is at conveying the subtle facial expressions of each character as they wrestle with complicated emotions.

Although Image, the independent company that prints "Saga," gives its creators ample leeway to frankly depict violence and sex, Vaughan and Staples always use them in the service in the story rather than exploitation.

Unlike other comic series, or the movie franchises that are inspired by them, there is no complicated mythology to learn before reading the first issue.

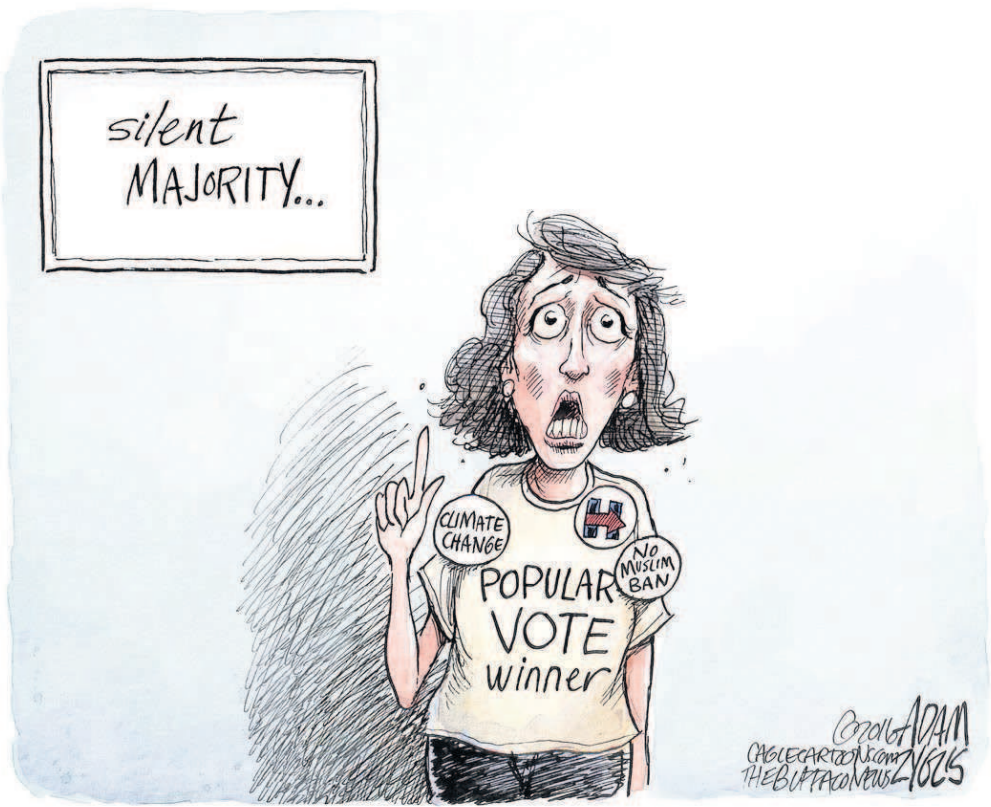
At a time when comics are mostly used as springboards for film or TV, both Vaughan and Staples have been adamant that "Saga" won't be adapted for the big or small screen, a fitting move for a series this expansive and unadulterated.

Putting aside "Saga's" superbly bizarre peripherals, the comic series' commitment to indelible characterization and universal plotlines will have readers identifying with a pacifist goat-man who can summon lightning without thinking twice.

— Antonio Sierra

LETTERS POLICY

The East Oregonian welcomes original letters of 400 words or less on public issues and public policies for publication in the newspaper and on our website. The newspaper reserves the right to withhold letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Submitted letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published. Send letters to managing editor Daniel Wattenburger, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801 or email editor@eastoregonian.com.



OTHER VIEWS

Region depends on Columbia-Snake River System

Once again, the value of the Snake River system is going to be reviewed, but this time with a twist.

In May, Judge Simon, in his ruling related to the Snake River Biological Opinion, has now brought the entire river system, including the dams on the Columbia, into the discussion.

This is new territory. The public is being given the opportunity by Jan. 17 to weigh in on the diverse value of the entire river system. Contact information can be found at the end of this column.

As the dialogue continues with regard to the damage done to salmon numbers, it should be noted that the true devastation was done in the late 1800s and early 1900s by fish wheels and canneries, which no longer exist. In fact, the numbers of fish are continuing to increase and in some cases are higher than in 1938 when Bonneville Dam was built.

Economic asset

The Columbia Snake River System is a vital economic asset for the entire Northwest. The eight dams and locks on the Columbia Snake River System provide transportation, energy and economic benefits to the region. They also provide flood safety, lest we forget the Vanport flood of 1948 which removed an entire city and killed over 50 people.

Thanks to the eight dams and locks on the Columbia and Snake rivers, farmers and businesses have access to the safest, most environmentally friendly way to move their product downriver to export. Farmers as far inland as the Midwest can take advantage of barges to move their crops down to the export terminals on the lower Columbia River.

Wheat gateway

The Columbia Snake River System is the nation's No. 1 wheat export gateway with 49 percent of U.S. wheat moving through the system, and our inland lock and dam system plays a big role in getting that wheat to market. Just rail or barging can't do it alone — we need both cargo modes to move all the product coming out of our area.

Keeping the river system open for business helps to protect lives, jobs, farmers, our regional and national economy and helps feed people around the world.

From an environmental perspective, the dams should be celebrated for providing the cleanest, greenest way of moving millions of tons of commodities. The last time barging was



TOM
KAMMERZELL
Comment

suspended for a period of time, the impact of the increased trucking raised emissions by a whopping 323.2 percent.

Clean power

The eight dams on the river system are also counted on by every person in the Pacific Northwest when they reach for a light switch. Close to 60 percent of the power used in the Northwest is generated by the clean, renewable, carbon-free hydropower generated by the dams on the river system.

Furthermore, the dams help to regulate the flow of energy to the grid from wind and solar, and provide a firm backup for when those other renewables are not generating. This is evident in the winter when cold weather requires more electricity and the dams are called upon to meet that demand.

Salmon gains

The modern benefits of the river system have allowed commerce and energy to flow while also dramatically improving salmon runs on the river. The eight dams on the Columbia/Snake mainstem have always had fish passage facilities. Over the past 20 years, we have seen tremendous investments made at the dams to make them world class facilities, plus important habitat work in our tributaries and the estuary.

The collaborative efforts of our federal agencies, tribes, states and nonprofits have led to record-breaking returns for some of our salmon populations and dramatic improvements in others.

Like every other river in the world, we'll always have challenges, such as the unusually high temperatures we saw last year. But as improvements continue and partnerships strengthen, we look forward to continued increases in our fish runs.

The year is 2016, not 1816. We require electricity all of the time, not just when the wind blows and the sun shines. With the ever-increasing world population more mouths need to be fed affordably. I encourage advocates of the current river system to weigh in to help protect these vital economic assets for our region.

Visit <http://www.crsio.info/> for the list of meetings, submit your comment letter at comment@crsio.info or mail a letter to CRSO EIS, P.O. Box 2870, Portland, OR 97208-2870 by Jan. 17.

Tom Kammerzell is a Port of Whitman County, Wash., commissioner and wheat producer.

YOUR VIEWS

Let the protesters march

A kick in the pants to the editorial writer in Friday's paper who railed against Americans "in Portland and elsewhere who were protesting the election of Donald Trump."

Don't make me come down to the East Oregonian office to teach you journalists the First Amendment. Right near freedom of the press is the right of the people to peaceably assemble.

What better way for disappointed voters to express their grief and frustration than to gather in protest? What better way to assure our friends of every color and creed that we are all Americans and we resent a president who would deny liberty to these people or incite others to do so?

Do I condone riot? Of course not. Do I condone disobedience? Probably not. Am I sorry commuters might have had a longer drive home? Well, democracy is not always easy or even convenient for all.

Let demonstrators have their say. Let them mourn collectively this dangerous path presented by our president-elect. Then, turn them to group action that will stop every attempt to take health care away from those who need it ... that will stop every word of hatred uttered by one school aged child to another of a different color ... that will refuse to undo the progress toward inclusion for all no matter whom they love.

The framers of our Constitution knew that it does no good to stifle the emotions of hurt and anger amongst the populace.

Peace marches in my day. Marches against hate in this day. We will all survive and the discussion will not be stifled.

Janet Groat
Pendleton

Media, protesters should accept election results

The negativity by the East Oregonian about President-elect Trump almost measures up to the stupidity of destructive hoodlums destroying property along Portland streets in the aftermath of the presidential election. That shameful display of law-breaking makes one wonder if the parenting of these young people lacked the basic principals such as "do unto others."

One of the fundamentals safeguarding our democracy is that we have open elections where all citizens choose their candidates and cast their votes. As patriots, following Election Day, we need to accept the results and move on regardless of whether the outcome reflects one's personal choice. The present loss of enthusiasm for elected officials stems from the past eight years of the current administration's inefficiency and the liberal movement that have influenced our culture.

My hope is that the pundits and newspapers that were so wrong about the presidential election outcome will in time again have to eat their words. On a positive note, those folks who stated they would move to Canada or elsewhere if Hillary Clinton was not elected could perhaps relieve the housing shortage in Portland and other cities. We are so blessed to be living in this great country and it's inconceivable that some people do not appreciate nor strive to protect all that this nation offers.

Merlyn Robinson
Heppner