

# Oregon cattlemen ask again to kill Pine Creek wolves

Predators notch third depredation in April

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
EO Media Group

HALFWAY — Northeast Oregon ranchers are again seeking to eradicate the entire Pine Creek wolf pack from Baker County after the apex predators attacked livestock for the third time in just over a week.

The most recent incident was confirmed Sunday, April 15 at Pine Creek Ranch in Halfway, Ore. A 125-pound calf was found dead with bite marks on its hind legs and fresh wolf tracks at the scene. GPS collar data also shows OR-50 and OR-57, members of the Pine Creek pack, were within a mile of the carcass earlier that morning.

The pack is now responsible for killing five calves and wounding four others at two different ranches since April 6, prompting the Oregon Cattlemen's Association

to ask the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to kill all Pine Creek wolves to prevent further losses.

"The wolves are being seen on the valley floor, and that's what's really disconcerting folks," said George Rollins, a Baker County rancher and co-chairman of the OCA wolf committee for Eastern Oregon. "So many people have seen them now, it's like daily sightings."

ODFW has already issued one lethal take permit for up to two wolves from the Pine Creek pack. Wildlife officials shot one yearling female from the pack on April 10. The permit expires May 4.

But incremental take has not proven effective in changing the pack's behavior, Rollins said.

"They just keep coming back," he said. "They are not following the herds of elk that are on the low hills area."

Michelle Dennehy, spokeswoman for ODFW, said the agency has not

decided yet whether to kill more Pine Creek wolves.

Earlier this year, University of Wisconsin researchers released a study suggesting that government killing of wolves may benefit one farmer or rancher, but by fracturing the pack it could actually increase the risk of predation at neighboring farms up to three miles away.

In this case, ODFW authorized killing two wolves from the Pine Creek pack after back-to-back attacks on private land leased by rancher Chad DelCurto. Nine days later, the pack notched its third depredation at Pine Creek Ranch roughly five to six miles away.

Environmental groups are staunchly opposed to killing any wolves in Oregon, arguing the population is still too small and fragile. ODFW reports there were at least 124 wolves statewide at the end of 2017, an 11 percent increase over 2016.

Conservationists also point to four cases of wolves

that were illegally killed in 2017. Out of 13 total wolf deaths throughout the year, 12 were human-caused.

Under Phase III of the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, ODFW can authorize killing wolves that make a habit of preying on livestock in Eastern Oregon. The species remains federally protected west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

Jerome Rosa, executive director for the OCA, said incremental take of wolves will not solve the problems ranchers face, and actually leads to packs becoming more aggressive.

"It's a no-win situation," Rosa said.

The Pine Creek pack includes seven known wolves — after one was shot earlier this month — occupying territory mostly south of the Imnaha River and east of Halfway to the Idaho state line. In 2017, the pack produced at least five pups that survived to the end of the year.

## BRIEFLY

### Granados heads to plea change in sex crimes case, Baker to trial

HEPPNER — Sex crimes defendant Maynor Alberto Granados of Irrigon is heading toward a plea deal.

Last week the Morrow County Circuit Court, Heppner, checked on the status of the case, which has been making its way forward since his arrest last July. Court records show instead of a three-day trial, Granados is on the schedule to change his plea April 26.

Granados, 38, who also uses the last name Gionados, according to court records, faces three counts of second-degree rape and eight more of first-degree sexual abuse. The state alleged he committed the crimes in 2017 against a girl younger than 14.

Until then, Granados remains in the Umatilla County Jail, Pendleton, in lieu of \$400,000 bail.

While Granados could settle, the sex crime case of Corey Scott Baker is tracking to trial.

Baker, 41, of Ione, faces charges of first-degree rape and sexual abuse. He remains out of jail on a conditional release.

Richard Tovey, Morrow County deputy district attorney, in a March 15 court filing asked for a delay after finding out forensic interviewer Katie Greathouse could not make it to trial May 14-18.

"Ms. Greathouse interviewed the victim in this matter and is a necessary witness for the state," Tovey wrote. "The state cannot proceed without this witness."

Circuit Judge Christopher Brauer, however, denied the request, noting the case has

had multiple continuances since entering the court system in March 2017.

### Night paving starts next week near Umatilla

UMATILLA — The paving project along Highway 730 is gearing up again next week between Old River Road in Umatilla and Willamette Street at McNary.

The Oregon Department of Transportation announced its contractor, Roy Houck Construction, Salem, begins paving operations Monday. The work will take place between 6 p.m. and 7 a.m. and result in the temporary closures of the Interstate 82 exit 1 interchange ramps.

The project involves closing two interchange ramps at a time with warning signs advising travelers to use alternate routes. The ramps will only be shut down at night, according to ODOT, which expects the project to finish by Friday, April 27. Travelers also can expect flaggers, reduced speeds, lane closures, rough surfaces and delays of up to 20 minutes.

The state road agency advised drivers to plan for extra time if traveling through the area and remember traffic fines are double the amount in highway work zones.

"All work on this paving project is scheduled to be completed by the end of May," according to the transportation department.

After the work is complete near I-81 exit 1, nighttime paving activities on Highway 730 will continue east toward McNary. During resurfacing work at the Highway 395 intersection, travelers should expect extra congestions and delays.

## IRS glitch gives Oregon tax filers an extra day to file

By **CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — You can submit your 2017 state and federal taxes without being penalized until midnight Wednesday, April 18.

Tax day 2018 dawned with a technical glitch at the Internal Revenue Service, and ended with the federal government pushing Tuesday's filing deadline back by 24 hours. The state has also pushed back its filing deadline by 24 hours.

Oregon's Department of Revenue says the problem, which prevented the IRS from accepting electronic returns from popular tax preparation services TurboTax and H&R Block, shouldn't translate into significant delays for the

department's tax season work. Those services submit both federal and state tax returns to the IRS, which in turn sends states their file submissions, according to Derrick Gasperini, a spokesman for the state revenue department.

While the system was down on Tuesday, April 17, the revenue department was encouraging taxpayers using TurboTax or H&R Block to file their tax returns anyway because the tax preparation companies held the information until the IRS could accept them.

It also shouldn't affect when you get your refund. "Since this was resolved in a day, it should not impact the schedule for taxpayers to get their refunds," Gasperini said in an email to the EO/Pamplin

Capital Bureau.

You can check the status of your refund at <http://www.oregon.gov/DOR>, by clicking the "Where's My Refund?" button.

### Appreciating everyone's patience

Nationwide, about 5 million people were expected to file their taxes on Tuesday. On Tax Day last year — April 18, 2017 — the state received about 68,000 2016 tax returns; the day before the due date, about 54,000.

Acting IRS Commissioner David J. Kautter apologized on behalf of the agency late Tuesday. "This is the busiest tax day of the year, and the IRS apologizes for the inconvenience this system issue caused for taxpayers,"

Kautter said in a statement. "The IRS appreciates everyone's patience during this period. The extra time will help taxpayers affected by this situation."

The agency said Tuesday that the cause was likely a hardware issue.

On Tuesday morning, Oregon's senior U.S. senator, Democrat Ron Wyden, criticized what he says is a lack of funding from Congress for the nation's tax collecting agency. "While we don't yet know what has caused this systems failure, the lack of Republican funding for the IRS to serve taxpayers will only compound the issue," Wyden said in a statement. "Americans should not be punished for being unable to file their tax returns or pay their tax bills today."

## Corrections

The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

# EAST OREGONIAN

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Marcy Rosenberg • 541-966-0828 • [mrosenberg@eastoregonian.com](mailto:mrosenberg@eastoregonian.com)

### ADVERTISING

Advertising Services: Grace Bubar  
541-276-2214 • [gbubar@eastoregonian.com](mailto:gbubar@eastoregonian.com)

### Multimedia Consultants:

- Kimberly Macias  
541-278-2683 • [kmacias@eastoregonian.com](mailto:kmacias@eastoregonian.com)
- Jeanne Jewett  
541-564-4531 • [jjewett@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jjewett@eastoregonian.com)
- Dayle Stinson  
541-278-2670 • [dstinson@eastoregonian.com](mailto:dstinson@eastoregonian.com)
- Angela Treadwell  
541-966-0827 • [atreadwell@eastoregonian.com](mailto:atreadwell@eastoregonian.com)
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### Business Office Manager:

Janna Heimgartner  
541-966-0822 • [jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com](mailto:jheimgartner@eastoregonian.com)

### COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen  
541-215-0824 • [mjensen@eastoregonian.com](mailto:mjensen@eastoregonian.com)

## AccuWeather Forecast

**TODAY**

A passing shower this afternoon

**THURSDAY**

Decreasing clouds

**FRIDAY**

Increasing cloudiness

**SATURDAY**

Clouds giving way to some sun

**SUNDAY**

Mainly cloudy

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	
58° 39°	62° 39°
66° 46°	60° 36°
58° 37°	

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST	
63° 40°	68° 41°
71° 50°	64° 37°
64° 37°	

## AccuWeather

DOWNLOAD THE APP

## ALMANAC

### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 55°	41°
Normals 62°	39°
Records 90° (1897)	23° (2013)

### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.09"
Month to date	1.37"
Normal month to date	0.69"
Year to date	5.08"
Last year to date	7.00"
Normal year to date	4.65"

### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

### TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
Yesterday 59°	44°
Normals 65°	40°
Records 87° (1936)	20° (2013)

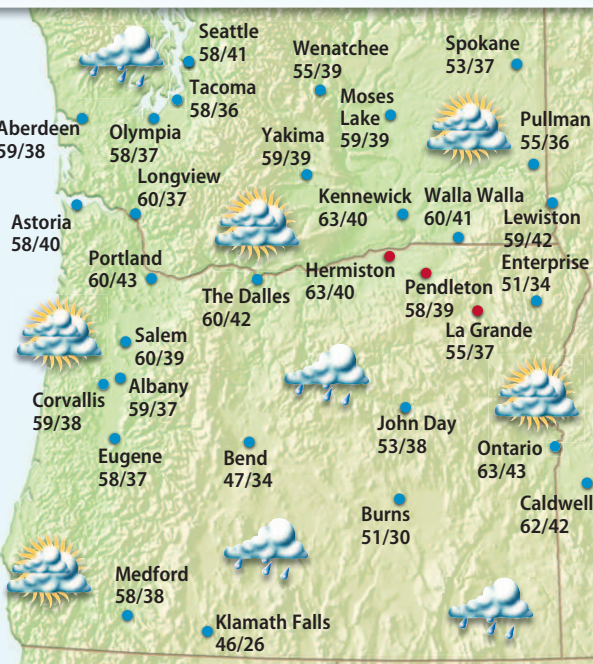
### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.55"
Normal month to date	0.44"
Year to date	3.93"
Last year to date	5.42"
Normal year to date	3.55"

### SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:04 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:45 p.m.
Moonrise today	8:05 a.m.
Moonset today	11:02 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Apr 22	Apr 29	May 7	May 15



## REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Clouds limiting sunshine today; a passing shower in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly cloudy today; a passing shower, but dry in the south and upper Treasure Valley.

Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Mostly cloudy today.

Cascades: Showers of rain and snow this morning, then a shower or two in central parts; a rain or snow shower across the north. A shower in the south.

Northern California: A passing shower today, except a snow shower in the interior mountains.

## REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	58	40	c	57	40	pc
Baker City	56	35	c	62	33	pc
Bend	47	34	c	55	31	pc
Brookings	55	42	c	61	44	pc
Burns	51	30	c	58	29	pc
Enterprise	51	34	c	55	31	pc
Eugene	58	37	c	62	38	pc
Heppner	53	37	c	60	38	pc
Hermiston	63	40	c	68	41	pc
John Day	53	38	c	57	32	pc
Klamath Falls	46	26	c	55	27	pc
La Grande	55	37	c	58	33	pc
Meacham	53	34	c	55	30	pc
Medford	58	38	c	62	39	pc
Newport	55	40	c	56	40	s
North Bend	57	40	c	58	41	s
Ontario	63	43	c	68	44	pc
Pasco	62	41	c	68	42	s
Pendleton	58	39	c	62	39	pc
Portland	60	43	c	66	44	s
Redmond	50	34	c	58	30	pc
Salem	60	39	c	66	41	pc
Spokane	53	37	c	61	39	s
Ukiah	50	33	c	53	29	pc
Vancouver	59	39	c	65	40	s
Walla Walla	60	41	c	64	44	s
Yakima	59	39	c	68	40	s

## WORLD CITIES

	Today			Thu.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	83	57	s	82	58	pc
Hong Kong	78	70	pc	80	74	pc
Jerusalem	84	59	s	77	55	s
London	72	54	s	78	54	s
Mexico City	81	54	pc	81	51	pc
Moscow	53	45	c	58	40	s
Paris	77	55	pc	79	54	s
Rome	71	55	pc	73	55	s
Seoul	64	43	c	66	45	s
Sydney	73	63	pc	79	64	pc
Tokyo	62	56	r	68	59	s

## WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Thursday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	NW 4-8
Pendleton	NE 6-12	NW 6-12

## UV INDEX TODAY

1	1	2	2	1	0
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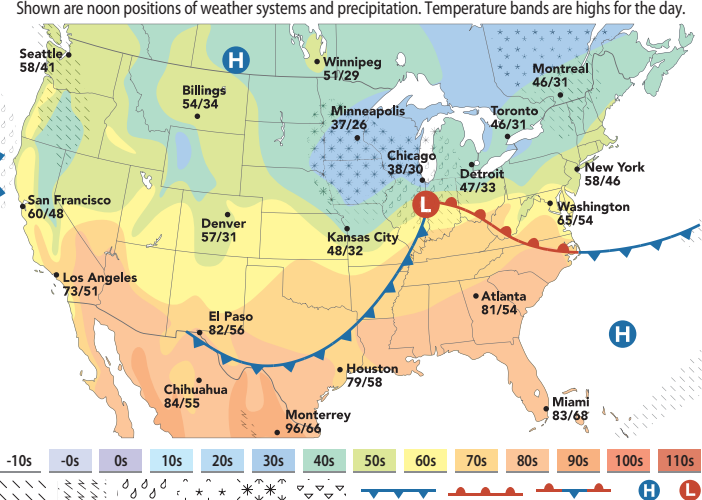
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2018

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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



National Summary: Rain and snow showers will linger in northern New England as a batch of steady rain and snow works eastward across the Midwest today. Rain and mountain snow showers will linger in the coastal Northwest.