

Protecting cattle from wolves in Southern Oregon

By JES BURNS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

ROSEBURG — A conservation group in Southern Oregon has launched a crowd-funding campaign to help build a tall fence around a local ranch. Eight cows and two dogs at Jackson County's Mill-Mar Ranch have been killed by the Rogue Wolf Pack.

"The federal guys and the state guys and the Wildlife Services, everybody has done everything in their power to help alleviate this situation," said ranch owner Ted Birdseye.

Birdseye said once he and his crew started figuring all the time they were spending trying to protect his property, "I think they finally just go, 'We need to put up a permanent fence around this place to keep those wolves out.'"

But building a 3-mile long, 6-foot high electric fence is not cheap — the estimate comes in at around \$45,000. The fence will mostly be paid for by state and federal wolf funds, but the conservation group K-S Wild has stepped in to raise the final \$6,000. They say the money will help make the case that ranches and wolves can co-exist.

"This isn't the type of thing that you can do at

every ranch, but it's an important thing to do at this ranch because it's so close to the Rogue Pack, a very important pack for wolf recovery in Western Oregon," said Joseph Vaile, executive director of Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, the group behind the GoFundMe campaign.

Gray wolves in Western Oregon are currently protected under endangered species law, and thus it's illegal to kill them. The Trump administration has recently announced its intention to delist the gray wolf. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has supported the federal delisting, although Gov. Kate Brown has said she doesn't support the move nationally. Oregon removed wolves from its endangered species list in 2015.

The Rogue Pack is well known in the region, in part because of its famous founding wolf OR-7. The wolf wandered 1,000 miles from the Imnaha pack in Northeast Oregon to the southwest part of the state and Northern California. In 2014, the Rogue Pack was the first pack to form and settle in Western Oregon in more than a half century. In the past couple years, the pack has started killing livestock. "Far and away the major-



The only known photograph of the wandering wolf, OR-7, was taken by a trail camera in Southern Oregon late last year. Eventually, this member of a Northeast Oregon pack crossed the state line into California.

ity of damage in Western Oregon has occurred at this one particular property," said Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Steve Niemela.

Part of the reason is that the property is near the epicenter of the Rogue

Pack's range.

"Its geographic position — it's in a place where there's been a lot of wolf activity," Niemela said.

This is especially true in the winter months when wolves have been more likely to go after cows. Bird-

seye says that unlike many of his ranching neighbors, he keeps his 200 head of cattle in Oregon year-round.

"So of course, I'm the primary supporter of the wolves in the wintertime for their meals, it seems like," Birdseye said with a

rueful laugh.

Birdseye has been ranching on the property near the town of Prospect for four years. Working with state and federal wildlife agencies, he was successful at keeping the Rogue Pack away for the first couple years. He used electrified wiring and flagging, called fladry, but the wolves eventually acclimated.

Then came a string of other deterrent strategies.

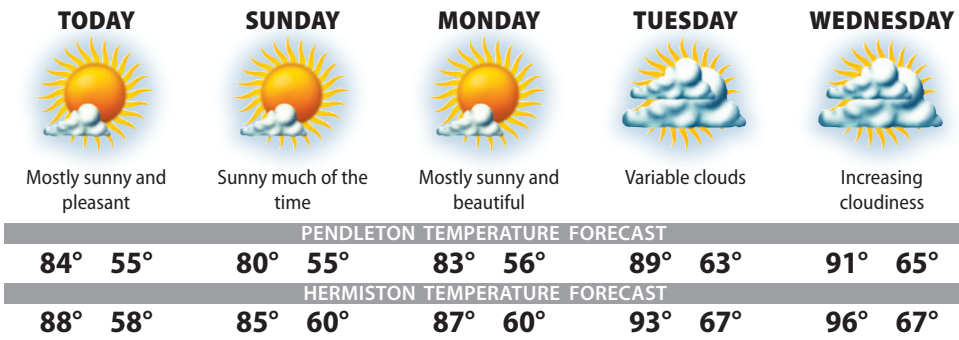
"The landowner has a number of guardian dogs. We had a volunteer bone pile collection party. The landowner has been removing carcasses. We've had night patrols, chasing wolves around in the middle of the night," said Niemela.

"The Defenders of Wildlife actually sent me a couple of dancing men — a couple of the used car lot advertising men that wriggle in the wind. ... Everyone was hoping that those were going to be the silver bullet," Birdseye said.

But none of these tactics worked — the inflatable dancing men failed in just a few months.

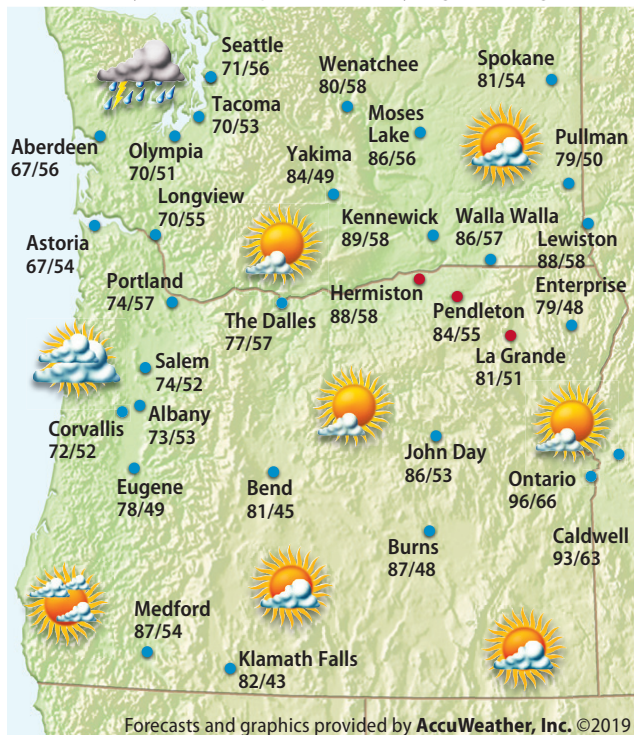
The fence is the next big push. Birdseye says the hope is that it will be constructed at the end of summer before the wolves move back into the neighborhood.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

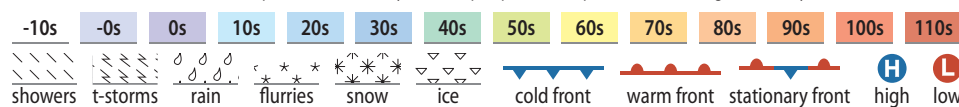
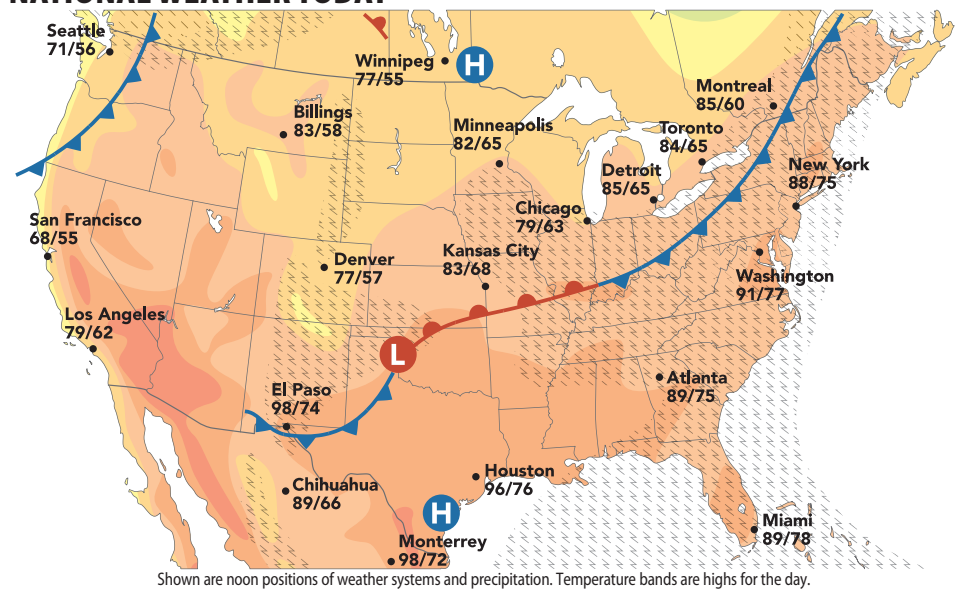
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	88°	55°
Normals	86°	57°
Records	107° (2007)	38° (1932)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	0.02"	
Normal month to date	0.05"	
Year to date	9.59"	
Last year to date	6.49"	
Normal year to date	7.62"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	90°	62°
Normals	86°	57°
Records	108° (1968)	42° (2012)
PRECIPITATION		
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"	
Month to date	Trace	
Normal month to date	0.04"	
Year to date	4.55"	
Last year to date	5.10"	
Normal year to date	5.74"	
WINDS (in mph)		
Today	WSW 8-16	Sun. WSW 7-14
Pendleton	W 7-14	W 8-16
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	5:13 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	8:47 p.m.	
Moonrise today	9:50 a.m.	
Moonset today	11:51 p.m.	

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 106° in Needles, Calif. Low 30° in Stanley, Idaho

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Audit: State cybersecurity needs a major update

By CLAIRE WITCOMBE
Oregon Capital Bureau

SALEM — Auditors say Oregon's central administrative agency lacks basic controls to protect its information and systems from a cyber attack.

That means the Department of Administrative Services' information and systems are at risk for "unauthorized use, disclosure, or modification," according to a report released July 3 by a Secretary of State Bev Clarno.

Auditors used six criteria from the Center for Internet Security to evaluate the agency's basic security controls.

"The security of Oregon's data is a serious issue," Clarno said in a statement. "DAS should take immediate action to address the findings outlined in this report."

Auditors said a fragmented organizational struc-

ture and approach to managing security concerns may be part of the problem. The agency's roughly 30 subdivisions "receive varying levels of support" from the agency's IT department, which supports only 16 of the 85 applications that workers use. The rest are supported by non-IT employees scattered throughout those divisions, and don't receive oversight or involvement from the agency's IT department, auditors said.

That has created inconsistency, and means the agency's subdivisions may not be aligning with best practices when it comes to security.

Auditors said cyber threats are a growing worry. "Cyberattacks, whether big or small, are a growing concern for both the private and public sector," auditors wrote. "Recent breaches at Oregon state agencies have only escalated this concern."

In January, the sensitive information of more than 600,000 people was compro-

mised after nine employees at the Department of Human Services opened a phishing email and clicked on a link "that gave the sender access to their email accounts," according to that agency.

Agency leaders said they agreed with auditors' recommendations, and plan to start implementing some of them by 2021.

"We are committed to improve our efforts in this area going forward," wrote the state's Chief Operating Officer Katy Coba, and Chief Information Officer Terrence Woods, in a letter responding to the audit.

DAS has its own IT department, in addition to housing the state chief information officer, which is a separate office that oversees IT and policy for all state agencies.

In 2016, Gov. Kate Brown ordered that state agency cybersecurity responsibilities be consolidated within the Chief Information Office.

Oregon pseudoephedrine bill fails

By KRISTIAN FODEN-VENCIL
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — Pseudoephedrine is an efficient way for someone with a cold to get decongested.

It's also an ingredient in methamphetamine. That's why, in 2006, Oregon was the first state in the nation to require a prescription to buy pseudoephedrine.

But drug manufacturers have since developed a computer system, NPLEx, to track purchases across 35 states, said Carlos Gutierrez with the Consumer Health Care

Products Association.

Pharmaceutical makers also pay for that system, so Oregon could use it for free, he said.

"It would limit sales to 3.6 grams in a day," Gutierrez said. "In exchange, people wouldn't have to go to the doctor and they'd be able to buy at their local pharmacy."

He said that meth is seldom cooked in residential homes anymore. Instead, production has moved to larger facilities across the border in Mexico.

But opponents to over-the-counter sales point out that requiring prescriptions stops what's known as

"Group Smurfing." That's when a meth cook uses a group of people to each buy up to their pseudoephedrine limit.

"You all sell that pseudoephedrine ... for maybe double what you bought it for. You may have a million reasons to do that, because you're addicted, you're homeless, you're a college kid, whatever," said Rob Bovett, legal counsel for the Association of Oregon Counties.

He said that gives meth cooks a local supply, and that's something they can't obtain if a prescription is required.

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.

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