

New fence aims to keep wolves out of Oregon ranch

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

PROSPECT — Ted Birdseye has tried seemingly everything to keep the wolves out of his ranch in Southwest Oregon.

Fladry, guard dogs and even inflatable dancing tube men — similar to those seen outside of used car lots — have all failed to keep the predators at bay, Birdseye said. Now, a \$46,000 wildlife fence might be the last hope for protecting his cattle in an area where gray wolves remain listed as a federally endangered species.

Crews finished installing the 5-foot-tall, 3-mile-long fence on Nov. 4, wrapping around 276 acres of pasture at the Mill-Mar Ranch about 35 miles north of Medford. The property borders the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, home of the Rogue Pack, which has at least six known wolves as of 2018.

Made from recycled steel posts spaced 90 feet apart, with eight strands of high-tensile electric wire running between 1-inch fiberglass rods, Birdseye said anything that touches the fence “is supposed to get the shock of its life.” It is powered by a 3 foot by 3



Crews finished installing a 5-foot-tall, 3-mile-long wildlife fence at Mill-Mar Ranch in southwest Oregon on Nov. 4 to keep wolves from preying on cattle.

foot solar panel and battery.

“My big concern is I just hope it works,” Birdseye said. “If it doesn’t work, I don’t know what the other options are.”

Birdseye bought the Mill-Mar Ranch near the small community of Prospect roughly four years ago. The sixth-generation rancher has been frustrated

by the Rogue Pack repeatedly attacking and killing his livestock and pets, including eight calves and two guard dogs.

Whereas the state can authorize shooting wolves that meet the definition of “chronic depredation” in Eastern Oregon, the animals are still listed as endangered and managed by the feds

west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has worked extensively with Birdseye to set up nonlethal deterrents, such as flashing lights, alarm boxes and fladry — lines of rope strung up along fences with red flags that flap in the wind, intended to scare away wolves.

Defenders of Wildlife, a nonprofit environmental group, also donated two neon green and yellow waving tubes to stand guard over Birdseye’s cattle in February. Yet the Rogue Pack keeps coming back, he said, with the latest incident in March where the wolves took down a 5-month-old, 400-pound calf.

In response, Birdseye decided to build a more sturdy wildlife fence around the entire pasture. The project received a \$25,000 grant from the USFWS, as well as \$15,000 from the Jackson County wolf depredation compensation committee.

Counties are awarded money from the Oregon Department of Agriculture’s Wolf Depredation Compensation Grant Program for nonlethal deterrents.

A second environmental advocacy group, the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, or KS Wild for short, also launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$6,000 for the fence, which it accomplished over three weeks in June.

Joseph Vaile, who until recently served as executive director of the Ashland-based group, said the Mill-Mar Ranch is at a

crossroads of wolf movement in the region.

“We felt it was a very important place to put some energy,” Vaile said.

What’s more, Vaile said he hopes the effort will show that ranchers and conservationists can put their differences aside and work to come up with solutions to protect wolves, while ensuring that producers can keep their operations profitable.

“It’s something that we need to do a lot more of, I think,” Vaile said.

The Rogue Pack has garnered much attention since it was established by Oregon’s famous wandering wolf, OR-7, traveling more than 1,000 miles from the Willa Watta Mountains to the southern Cascade Range. The pack was first recognized in 2014, and has produced pups every year since then, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The fence at Mill-Mar Ranch was built by Carpenter’s High Desert Fencing in Bonanza. It took about three weeks to finish the job, Birdseye said.

“I was impressed with that operation,” Birdseye said. “We’re just hoping (that it works). I guess we’re gonna find out here shortly.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Fog in the morning; mostly sunny

THURSDAY

Sunshine, but chilly

FRIDAY

Partly sunny and chilly

ACCUWEATHER

DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

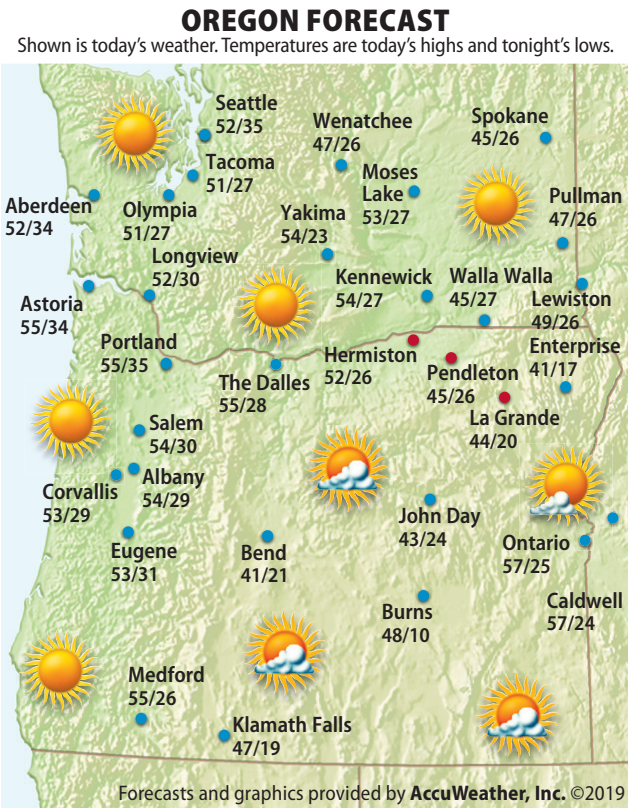
SATURDAY

Sun and areas of high clouds

SUNDAY

Mostly cloudy with a bit of rain

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST					
45°	26°	41°	24°	45°	25°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST					
52°	26°	44°	23°	44°	25°



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	53°	41°
Normals	47°	32°
Records	74° (1897)	7° (2014)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.12"
Month to date	0.22"
Normal month to date	0.87"
Year to date	11.53"
Last year to date	8.25"
Normal year to date	10.86"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	59°	42°
Normals	49°	32°
Records	67° (2012)	10° (1929)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	0.01"
Normal month to date	0.72"
Year to date	4.95"
Last year to date	6.46"
Normal year to date	8.00"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Thu.
Boardman	NNE 6-12	ENE 3-6
Pendleton	W 4-8	W 4-8

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:01 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:20 p.m.
Moonrise today	none
Moonset today	1:43 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Nov 26

Dec 3

Dec 11

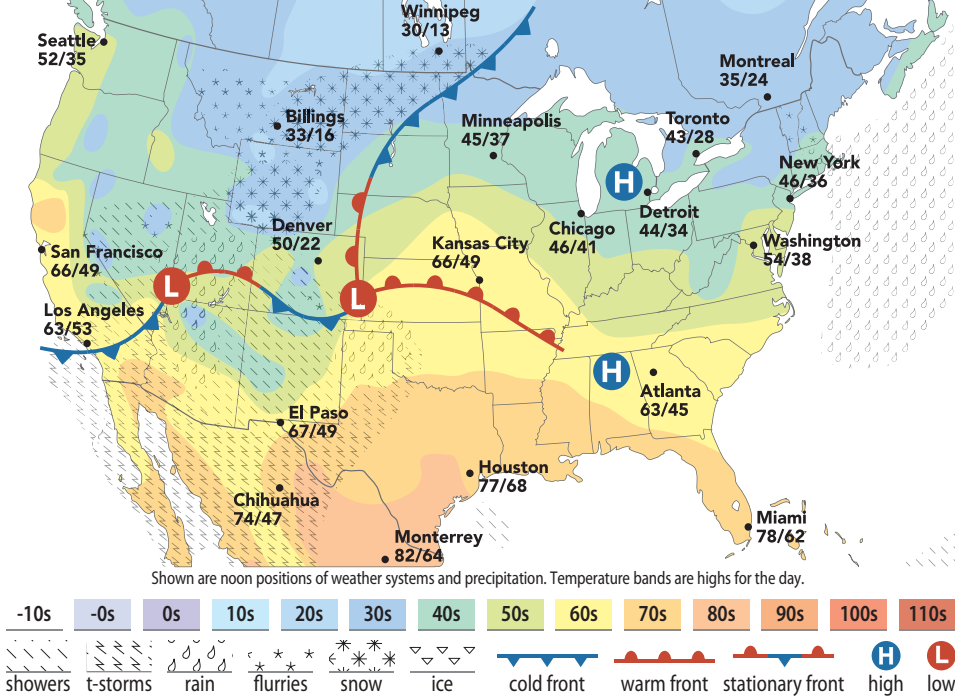
Dec 18

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 86° in Miramar MCAS, Calif. Low 9° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Oregon's population is growing, but not quite as fast as before

By **MEERAH POWELL**
Oregon Public Broadcasting

SALEM — Oregon's population increased by more than 40,000 people over the last year, or 1%, according to an estimate from Portland State University's Population Research Center.

Since 2010, the state has added more than 400,000 residents.

Still, this year has seen slower growth than in the recent past. Last year, Oregon's population increased by 54,200 people. The year before that, the population grew by 64,750.

PSU's research center said this slight slowdown in growth mirrors "the slowdown in employment growth."

Morrow County had the largest percentage of growth

with 6.7%. Boardman's population went from 3,690 in 2018 to 4,490.

The growth in Umatilla County was marginal. The county finished 2018 with 80,765 residents and preliminary 2019 figures show the county with 81,160, a rate of 0.4%.

Growth in the county's two largest cities was also on the upswing. Preliminary estimates show Pendleton with 16,985 residents, up from 16,810 in 2018. Hermiston's preliminary numbers show it with 18,370, up from 18,200 residents in 2018.

The state's aging population and a declining birth rate has also contributed to the slowdown. In its report, PSU said Oregon's births outnumbered deaths in the past year by less than 6,000.

A continuing trend is that the state's growth relies more on people moving to Oregon, rather than new residents being born here.

In this past year, the number of people moving to the state has been the main factor of population growth, accounting for 86% of new residents.

The Portland metro area accounted for nearly half of the state's growth from 2018 to 2019. Multnomah and Washington counties each added more than 7,000 new residents, PSU said, and Clackamas County added almost 4,000.

Other counties with a large number of new residents include Deschutes, with more than 4,000, and Lane and Marion, both with about 3,700 new residents.

Crook County also saw a large growth rate with 3.2%.

Medicare enrollment assistance available, deadline is Dec. 7

SALEM — The annual open enrollment for Medicare ends Dec. 7 and the Oregon Senior Health Insurance Benefits Assistance Program in the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace offers those eligible for Medicare assistance in securing the health insurance that best meets their needs.

SHIBA provides free health insurance counseling to explain how the Medicare program works, more insurance options that work with Medicare, and help with reducing out-of-pocket costs.

To enroll for the first time or to make changes to your coverage, contact SHIBA at 1-800-722-4134 or www.shiba.oregon.gov. To find local help, go to <https://healthcare.oregon.gov/shiba>. There is also a new Medicare plan finder tool this year, the first upgrade in a decade, available at www.medicare.gov/plan-compare/#/. The finder allows users to shop and compare Medicare Advantage and Part D plans.

BRIEFLY

Sumpter City Council votes to fire three employees

SUMPTER — The Sumpter City Council voted Friday afternoon to fire three city employees who had been on paid administrative leave since this spring.

Mayor Greg Lucas said after deliberating in executive session, the council moved to an open session and approved motions to fire City Recorder Julie McKinney, assistant city recorder LeAnne Woolf, and Jeff McKinney, the city's public works director. The McKinneys are married.

Lucas, in an email to the *Baker City Herald*, wrote that Councilor Linda Wise voted against each of the three motions.

Lucas wrote that he "voted reluctantly aye on Jeff McKinney. Just aye on the other 2."

Woolf had been on paid leave since May 14, and the McKinneys since June 14.

The city council met with each of the three employees separately Friday to allow them to respond to complaints about their job performance.

— EO Media Group

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

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.E. Byers Ave., Pendleton 541-276-2211
333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

EastOregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to EastOregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday,
Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers
Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR.
Postmaster: send address changes to
East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.
Copyright © 2019, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:

For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops
or delivery concerns call 1-800-522-0255 ext. 1

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$13/month	60 percent
52 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
26 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
13 weeks	\$47.77	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit
or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

Circulation Dept.
800-781-3214

ADVERTISING

Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:

• Christopher Rush
541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Manager:

• Angela Treadwell
541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:

• Lora Jenkins
541-276-2214 • ljenkins@eastoregonian.com

• Jeanne Jewett
541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com

• Audra Workman
541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Coordinator

• Dayle Stinson
541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising

1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

• To submit news tips and press releases:
call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com

• To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News:
email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini
at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.

• To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries:
email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements

• To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:
541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Manager:

541-966-0824

COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com