

ODFW confirms wolves killed rancher’s bull near Sparta

Numerous wolf tracks found near steer’s carcass

By JAYSON JACOBY
EO Media Group

BAKER CITY — A state wildlife biologist concluded that wolves killed a Baker County rancher’s 2-year-old bull and probably also killed a yearling steer last week in the snowbound Wallowa Mountains northeast of Baker City.

Mib Dailey, who lives near Sparta, about 25 miles northeast of Baker City, said the bull and steer, along with two other bulls and one cow from his herd, had been stranded in the Eagle Creek area over the winter.

The animals didn’t turn up last fall when he was gathering his herd from summer pasture in the mountains, where he runs 250 cow-calf pairs.

Dailey said he has been looking for the missing animals, and about a week ago he found them on the west side of Eagle Creek near Puzzle Creek. That’s between Eagle Forks and Martin Bridge, about 2 miles north of Sparta.

Dailey said a friend had been hauling hay to the cattle using a side-by-side ATV, as the 30 or so inches of snow made it impossible to reach



Contributed photo

A state wildlife biologist concluded that wolves killed a Baker County rancher’s 2-year-old bull and probably also killed a yearling steer last week in the snowbound Wallowa Mountains northeast of Baker City.

the area in a truck and trailer.

Dailey said he also brought in a bulldozer to plow some of the snow from a road, with the goal of leading the cattle back to a main road where he could load them in a trailer and drive them back to his ranch.

Dailey said his friend delivered hay to the cattle late in the afternoon of Feb. 12. All five animals were together at that time, Dailey said.

When his friend returned with more hay on Saturday, Feb. 15, he found the carcass of the steer and the 2-year-old

bull with severe wounds.

Dailey went to the site the next morning, Sunday, Feb. 16. His son, Shondo, put down the bull due to the animal’s severe wounds.

Dailey said the bull was worth about \$2,500.

He put the 600-pound steer’s value at around \$1,000.

Justin Primus, assistant district biologist at ODFW’s Baker City office, investigated the case and examined the bull’s carcass on Sunday.

In his report confirming that wolves killed the bull, Primus wrote that “fresh wolf tracks were found at

the scene.”

He estimated that the bull had been attacked three to four days earlier, which would put the attack one or two days after Dailey’s friend had last brought hay to the cattle.

Primus, in examining the bull’s carcass, found numerous “bite scrapes” and muscle tissue trauma up to 9 by 6 inches across and 3 inches in depth. The number, location and direction of the bites and the associated depth of injuries on the bull are consistent with other confirmed wolf attack injuries on cows.

era images of wolves, tracks found by biologists, as well as reports from residents.

The Keating pack wolves have roamed this winter over an area from roughly Eagle Forks north into the Eagle Cap Wilderness and west to near Medical Springs, Ratliff said.

Ratliff said the pack had at least two pups last year.

None of the wolves has been captured and fitted with a tracking collar, however, so ODFW can’t monitor the animals’ movements in detail.

One of the wolves appears to have an injured left hind leg.

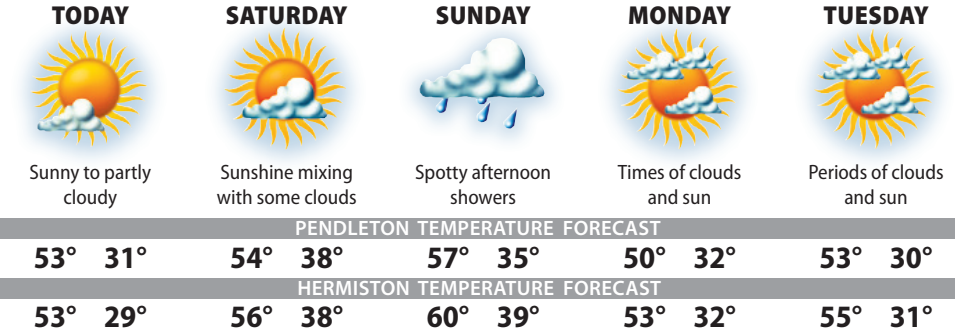
Ratliff said biologists have found wolf tracks this winter that were likely made by an animal with an injured leg.

Kylee Simonis of Baker City, who said he had four trail cams set up earlier this winter about 6 to 8 miles from where Dailey’s cattle were attacked, captured a video of two wolves, one of which trots past the camera with a gait clearly affected by its left hind leg.

Simonis said he shared that video and other images of wolves in the area with ODFW.

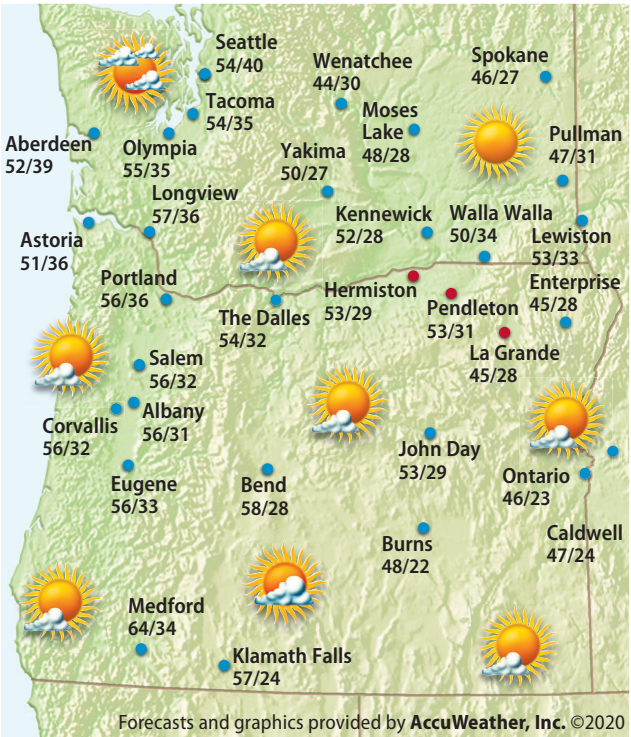
Dailey’s two other bulls and the cow were not injured, and he said Wednesday morning he hoped to bring that trio back to his ranch later in the day.

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

51°

23°

Normals

48°

30°

Records

69° (1982)

7° (1957)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"

Month to date

2.01"

Normal month to date

0.82"

Year to date

4.03"

Last year to date

3.79"

Normal year to date

2.20"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.

HIGH

LOW

Yesterday

50°

17°

Normals

50°

29°

Records

67° (1982)

15° (2018)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.

0.00"

Month to date

0.12"

Normal month to date

0.69"

Year to date

0.36"

Last year to date

3.00"

Normal year to date

1.97"

WINDS (in mph)

Today

Sat.

Boardman

E 3-6

WNW 3-6

Pendleton

NNE 4-8

WNW 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today

6:49 a.m.

Sunset tonight

5:30 p.m.

Moonrise today

6:13 a.m.

Moonset today

3:35 p.m.

New

First

Full

Last

Feb 23

Mar 2

Mar 9

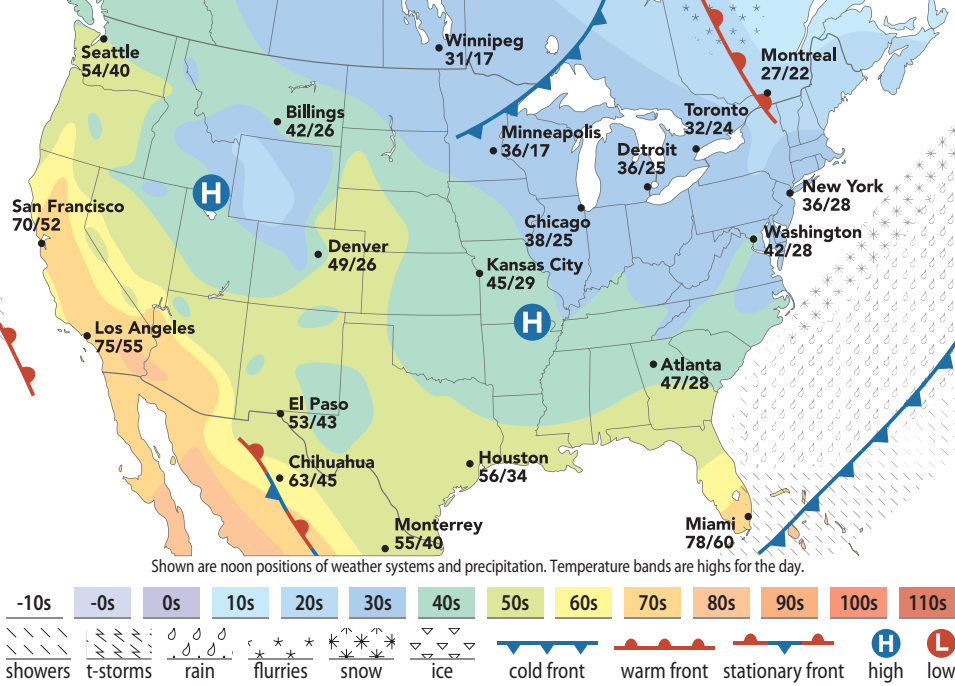
Mar 16

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 90° in Immokalee, Fla. Low -38° in Cotton, Minn.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Oregon growing at 4 times national rate

By MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — People keep moving into Oregon — and relatively few are leaving.

Newly released census data shows Oregon had the nation’s 10th-fastest rate of net migration from 2018 to 2019, growing at a rate of 6.9 per 1,000 residents. That’s nearly four times faster than the national rate.

Nearly all the new arrivals came from another part of the U.S.; immigrants accounted for less than 12% of Oregon’s net migration.

The influx likely reflects Oregon’s robust economy and relatively low housing costs, compared to Seattle

and the Bay Area.

The migration may also reflect Oregon’s proximity to California, the largest state by population in the nation and also one of the places people are leaving. Oregon’s southern neighbor had a net outmigration rate of 3.3 last year.

Migrants have been key to Oregon’s economic growth, bringing educated workers with skills the state hasn’t developed on its own.

Population growth brings challenges, too, of course, chief among them more competition for housing and more vehicles on the state’s roads.

Oregon’s population grew by just over 10% from 2010 through 2019, accord-

ing to census data, 11th-fastest in the nation during that stretch. Migration accounted for three-quarters of that growth.

Still, Oregon economists worry migration may actually be slowing, with potentially serious consequences for the state.

“Oregon’s stronger long-run economic growth historically is tied to migration and faster working-age population gains,” state economists wrote in the quarterly revenue forecast released Wednesday. “The primary risk to the local outlook is the available labor supply, particularly as recent population estimates indicate migration is slowing more than expected.”

BRIEFLY

Oregon denies pipeline permit before federal decision

PORTLAND — Oregon’s Department of Land Conservation and Development says a proposed liquefied natural gas export terminal in Coos Bay would have significant adverse effects on the state’s coastal scenic and aesthetic resources, endangered species and critical habitat.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported that in a letter Wednesday to backers of the Jordan Cove Energy Project, agency director Jim Rue said neither the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission nor the Army Corps of Engineers “can grant a license or permit for this project unless the U.S. Secretary of Commerce overrides this objection on appeal.”

The decision on one of the key state permits for the project is a rebuke that comes just before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is scheduled to issue a final environmental analysis on the project, approving or denying its primary federal license. The Trump administration is a supporter of energy export projects in general, and Jordan Cove in particular.

The proposed natural gas terminal and a 230-mile feeder pipeline would permit shipment of natural gas from the United States and Canada to Asia and would be the West Coast’s first liquefied natural gas export terminal.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has already denied a water quality certification for the Jordan Cove natural gas export project proposed by Pembina, the Canadian energy company. Pembina withdrew its application for a different state per-

mit and said that it awaits a final determination by the federal commission. Its three current members were all appointed by Trump.

Eight arrested in police search of College Place home

COLLEGE PLACE, Wash. — Eight people are in custody after police spotted a theft suspect’s vehicle Wednesday afternoon at a home in the 200 block of West Whitman Drive.

Walla Walla police were investigating a suspect who stole from Sportsman’s Warehouse, College Place Police Chief Troy Tomaras said.

A College Place officer saw the suspect’s alleged vehicle at the 220 W. Whitman Drive home just before 2:20 p.m. and notified Walla Walla police and Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office deputies, as they knew several people were inside, Tomaras said.

One man came out after police surrounded the home and was taken into custody after resisting arrest, but two tried escaping out the back. They were arrested, too, the chief said.

“We had to surround the home because people wouldn’t come out,” Tomaras said.

Tomaras said police used a loudspeaker to call the remaining occupants, who came out after a time, he said, and were arrested without incident.

Tomaras said arrests were for investigation of various crimes, including warrants, but he didn’t have details yet. He also didn’t know yet who those arrested were, but would know more when officers completed their search, as the investigation was underway.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin and wire services

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