



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo, File

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, authorized the lethal removal of one wolf from the OR30 wolves in the Mount Emily Unit, according to a press release.

# ODFW authorizes lethal removal of wolf from Mount Emily area

East Oregonian

MEACHAM — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on Tuesday, Aug. 3, authorized the lethal removal of one wolf from the OR30 wolves in the Mount Emily Unit, according to a press release.

The decision comes after ODFW confirmed three depredations in a two-month period in the wolves' known area of activity, the release said. The state authorized lethal action and will provide a kill permit to a livestock producer who requested the option after the depredations were confirmed.

The permit allows the producer or their agent to kill one wolf on 4,000 acres of private land they own or lawfully occupy in the Mount Emily Unit within the wolves' known area of activity. The permit expires Aug. 31 when the one wolf is killed, or when the producer's

livestock are removed from the area, whichever comes first.

The depredations were confirmed on private land pastures on June 2, July 21 and July 23, resulting in the death or injury of five sheep and two calves. Lethal take can be authorized by ODFW in chronic depredation situations when there is significant risk to livestock present in the area.

The method of take under the permit is restricted to shooting the wolf from the ground. Foothold trapping could also occur but requires the landowner or agent to undergo training and final approval from ODFW on required trapping protocols and demonstrated abilities.

According to the state's wolf management plan, ODFW can issue a kill permit only if the affected ranchers have used, and documented, nonlethal methods to try to avoid wolf attacks.

Also, there can be no identified circumstances on the property, such as bone piles or carcasses, that could be attracting wolves. Fish and wildlife found no attractants, the release said adding that during each livestock investigation and visits to the investigation sites, the ODFW searched the immediate area for any bone piles, carcasses or other attractants and found none.

Wolves have made Mount Emily their home for almost a decade, but, according to Roblyn Brown, Fish and Wildlife state wolf biologist, OR30 and his companions are the only wolves known to be in the Meacham area right now.

OR30 was first observed with another wolf in the Mount Emily Unit within the present known area of activity in spring 2020. The new pair bred but only one pup survived through the end of the year. The group was not

designated as a pack during the 2020-21 winter count because there were only three wolves. A pack is four or more wolves.

OR30's radio collar failed in early 2020 so there are no functional radio collars and lack of access to private land has made monitoring this group a challenge this year. It is unknown if the pair bred this year or the number of wolves in the group.

This is just the second lethal take permit ODFW has issued since June 2018, for a wolf pack in Wallowa County, but the second issue ordered in less than a week. Employees from ODFW, firing rifles from a helicopter, shot and killed two wolf pups from the Lookout Mountain Pack in Baker County on Aug. 1, after a removal order was authorized late last week.

The two wolves killed Aug. 1 are 3-1/2-month-old pups, according to an ODFW spokesperson.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### One cited, one injured in Highway 11 crash

MILTON-FREEWATER — One man from Walla Walla was injured and another was cited for his reported involvement in an Oregon crash last week, police reported.

According to Oregon State Police, the crash happened at around 12:15 p.m. Friday, July 30, on Highway 11 at its intersection with Highway 332, north of Milton-Freewater.

Conner Girardin, 41, of Walla Walla, was traveling south on the highway and slowed to make a left turn onto Highway 332, according to the OSP report.

Traveling behind him was Carlos N. Luciano, 26, of Walla Walla.

Luciano rear-ended Girardin's vehicle as Girardin attempted the turn, the report stated.

Girardin was taken to a local hospital for treatment of neck pain.

Luciano was cited for allegedly driving without a license and following too closely.

Both vehicles received minor damage and neither needed to be towed.

the bank machine outside the Weston Branch, on the HAPO website or in person, either by scheduling an appointment in Weston or visiting locations in College Place or Walla Walla.

"We want to thank the Weston team for their flexibility and commitment to serve our membership over the phone and as needed," she wrote. "We commend them for their resilience and dedication to provide the best service. We also thank our membership and the entire Weston community for their trust, loyalty and patience through the pandemic. We are thrilled to reopen our doors to the community and look forward to continuing to offer relevant and convenient financial solutions."

HAPO is one of the only banks in the Athena-Weston area. Athena went without an in-person banking option for several months after its U.S. Bank branch closed in 2016. The Bank of Eastern Oregon soon filled the gap in Athena the following year.

### Rep. Bentz announces town hall in Pendleton

PENDLETON — Rep. Cliff Bentz announced he is holding an in-person, indoor town hall Monday, Aug. 9, in Pendleton.

Bentz is going to provide an update on his work in Washington, D.C., according to the press release from his office.

After brief remarks, Bentz will hold a Q&A with constituents.

The town hall starts at 9 a.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate.

"At the time of this advisory," according to the press release, "the state of Oregon recommends mask wearing in public, indoor settings regardless of vaccination status."

Nick Clemens, spokesperson for Bentz, said the congressman "takes seriously his duty to hear directly from his constituents" and "continues to advocate for folks to get vaccinated if they can."

—EO Media Group



Bentz

# Commissioners to require masks on county grounds

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — The Umatilla County Board of Commissioners announced it is reinstating mask requirements for county employees and residents visiting county buildings.

The commissioners announced the directive Monday, Aug. 2, citing concerns over the growing number of COVID-19 infections in the county.

The county will require all its employees to don face-masks anywhere outside their private work space and when someone visits their desk, according to a county document describing emergency guidelines.

In addition, security will deny access to people attempting to enter county courthouses without masks on. Anybody receiving services from the county must wear their mask, according to the county.

The county also is encouraging its employees to socially distance themselves as much as possible. Employees who feel ill or have COVID-19-like symptoms are directed to not come to work. The county will continue conducting daily symptoms and temperature checks until further notice.



Ben Lonergan/East Oregonian

A sign Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, on the door of the Umatilla County Courthouse, Pendleton, advises courthouse visitors of the mask requirement for county buildings.

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**Stillwater (R)**  
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**Jungle Cruise (PG13)**  
1:10p 4:30p 7:50p

**Old (PG13)**  
1:40p 5:10p 8:20p

**Escape Room: Tournament of Champions (PG13)**  
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