

# Wolves kill calf in Baker County

ODFW green lights killing of additional Lookout Mountain Pack wolves

By JAYSON JACOBY  
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — Wolves from the Lookout Mountain Pack in eastern Baker County killed a 3-month-old calf on a private grazing pasture last week. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in response extended for three weeks the permit allowing the killing of two more wolves from the pack.

ODFW confirmed the wolf attack on a calf after an investigation Aug. 19.

Lookout Mountain wolves have killed three head of cattle and injured two others over the past month northeast of Durkee, according to Fish and Wildlife reports.

Attacks during the second half of July, in which wolves killed two animals and injured two others, prompted Mark Bennett, Baker County commissioner and chair of the county's wolf committee, to send a letter to ODFW Director Curt Melcher seeking a permit allowing the rancher who owns or manages the

cattle herds that have been attacked to kill some of the wolves.

Oregon's wolf management plan allows ranchers to kill wolves that are in the act of attacking livestock or working dogs, but a lethal take permit gives ranchers, or their designated agents or ODFW employees, authority to kill wolves that are in a certain area, even if they're not directly threatening livestock.

Melcher approved the lethal take permit on July 29, the first issued in Oregon since 2018.

The permit allowed ranchers Deward and Kathy Thompson, their agents or Fish and Wildlife employees, to kill up to four subadult wolves from the Lookout Mountain Pack.

On Aug. 1, ODFW employees, firing rifles from a helicopter, killed two 3½-month-old pups from the pack, part of the litter of seven pups born to the pack's breeding female this spring.

No other wolves were killed before the lethal take permit expired Saturday, Aug. 21, according to Fish and Wildlife.

But in response to the most recent wolf attack on cattle — the first since the state work-



A trail cam photo from May 30, 2021, of one of the two yearling wolves in the Lookout Mountain pack. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has extended the permit allowing the killing of two more wolves from the pack.

ers killed the two wolf pups Aug. 1 — ODFW extended the lethal take permit through Sept. 14.

The new permit allows the Thompsons, two other local ranchers whose animals have been attacked by wolves, their agents or ODFW employees to kill up to two subadult

wolves from the pack.

The extended permit does not increase the number of wolves that can be killed — the maximum is four, the same as with the original permit.

The extended permit, as was the case with the original, does not allow the killing of the Lookout Mountain pack's

breeding female and male.

Michelle Dennehy, a spokesperson for ODFW, said earlier this month that the agency's goal was not to eliminate the pack — which could happen if the breeding pair was killed — but to stop chronic attacks on livestock "by reducing the pack's

food needs and disrupting the pack's behavior so they don't associate livestock with an easy meal."

## Wolf attack confirmed

According to the investigation report from Aug. 19, an adjacent landowner found the dead calf, which weighed about 150 pounds, on the morning of Aug. 19 on a 1,000-acre private pasture.

The landowner notified the calf's owner.

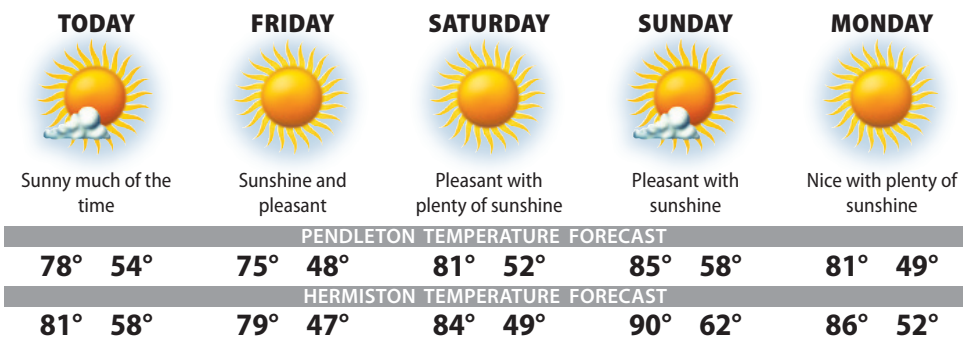
An ODFW biologist examined the carcass, which according to a report "had been heavily scavenged and was missing the majority of muscle tissues posterior of the lower neck, pelvis, hind left leg, and all external organs."

The biologist estimated the calf was killed late Aug. 18 or early Aug. 19.

The biologist found a 30-yard-long "attack scene," that included blood on blades of standing grass, along with wolf tracks.

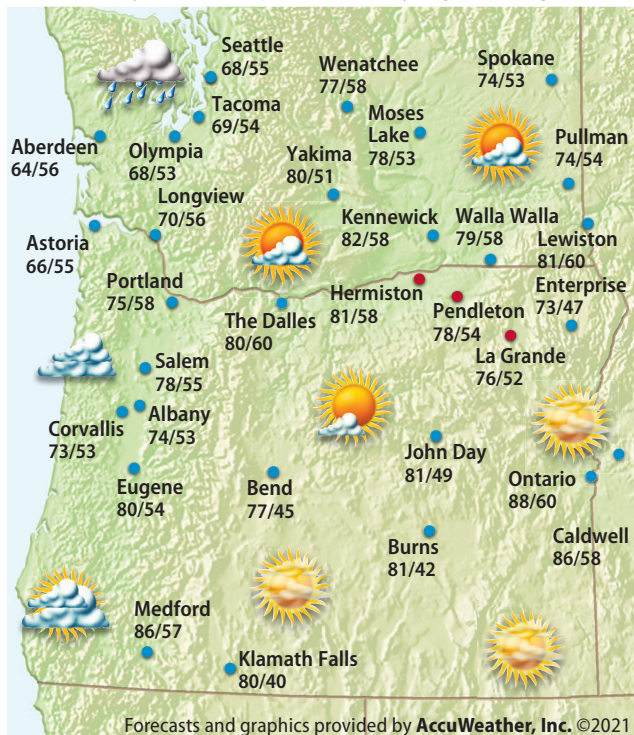
The calf was alive when it suffered bite injuries on its hind right leg above the hock, on its back, front right elbow, head and upper neck. The tooth marks were up to 3/16 of an inch wide and 2 inches long, consistent with wolf attacks.

## Forecast for Pendleton Area



## OREGON FORECAST

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



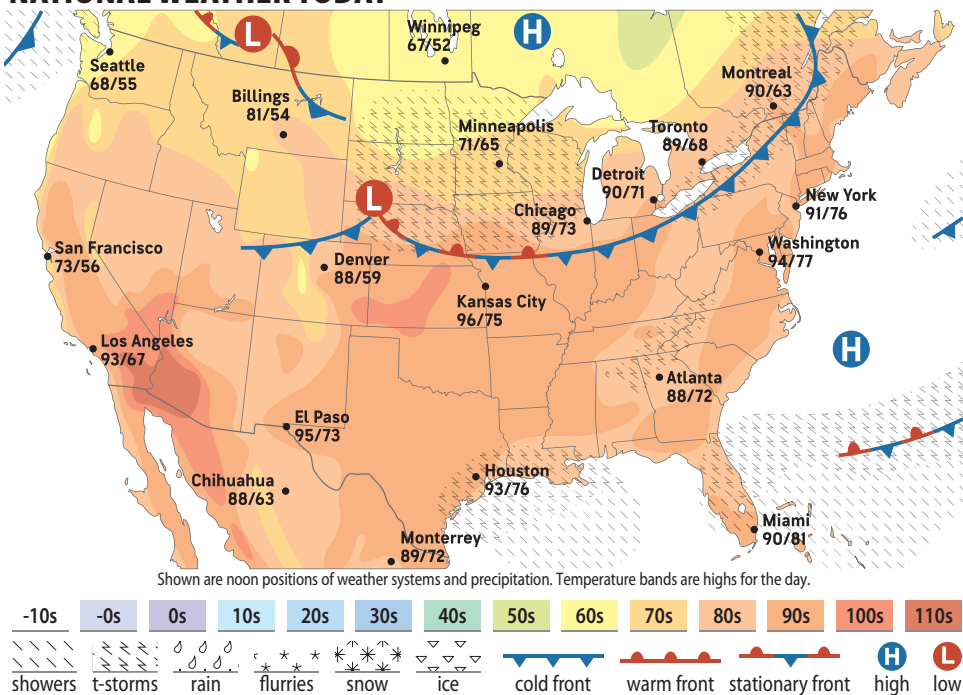
## ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	82°	52°
Normals	87°	56°
Records	104° (1996)	34° (1910)
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.	
Month to date	0.01"	
Normal month to date	0.26"	
Year to date	4.37"	
Last year to date	8.68"	
Normal year to date	8.57"	
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.		
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	84°	50°
Normals	89°	54°
Records	103° (1958)	38° (2012)
PRECIPITATION	24 hours ending 3 p.m.	
Month to date	Trace	
Normal month to date	0.14"	
Year to date	1.93"	
Last year to date	1.66"	
Normal year to date	5.28"	
WINDS (in mph)		
	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 8-16	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	W 8-16	W 7-14
SUN AND MOON		
Sunrise today	6:09 a.m.	
Sunset tonight	7:44 p.m.	
Moonrise today	9:53 p.m.	
Moonset today	10:35 a.m.	
	Last	New
	First	Full
	Aug 29	Sep 6
	Sep 13	Sep 20

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 113° in Thermal, Calif. Low 24° in Bodie State Park, Calif.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# Oregon's Alpenfest, Juniper Jam canceled due to COVID-19 worries

JOSEPH — For the second year in a row, Oregon's Alpenfest has been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Directors of Oregon's Alpenfest, a Swiss-Bavarian variation on the typical Oktoberfest, have canceled the festival for 2021 because of the dramatic increase in COVID-19 case counts in Wallowa County and statewide. The county, as of Monday, Aug. 23, has reported 348 cases of coronavirus, but more than 100 of those have been reported in the month of August.

The festival was to have featured Mollie B & SqueezeBox, one of the most in-demand bands in the polka industry, Sept. 23-26 at the Harley Tucker Rodeo Grounds in Joseph. Since 1975, Alpenfest has been the last major Wallowa County event of the tourist season.

Advance ticket holders will receive refunds, according to Chuck Anderson, alpenmeister of the festival and president of its nonprofit organization, Alpenfest.

"We regret having to do this, but we were anticipating record attendance because of Mollie B and that would have meant hundreds of guests gathered in an enclosed space," Anderson said. "Even with face masks, we couldn't risk the health any of our loyal fans, volunteers or performers."

The festival has endured ups and downs during its 46-year history. In its first incarnation, as just "Alpenfest," ran from 1975 to 2008, when it was discontinued due to declining attendance.

A new organization revived it as Oregon's Alpenfest in 2012. Then it was threatened

financially in 2019 when it lost its longtime home at the Wallowa Lake Tramway and a giant rented tent proved to be burdensome due to weather, logistical problems and the tent's rental cost. The setback was averted thanks to assistance from Community Bank.

The 2020 festival had been canceled because Oregon banned large gatherings during an earlier stage of the pandemic. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown hadn't yet taken that step during the current surge in cases, but Anderson said the Alpenfest's board of directors concluded the risk to attendees was too great.

"There's no question that we will survive," Anderson said. "In the early 20th century, despite tough odds, Swiss and German immigrants helped settle Oregon. We aren't any different."

The 2022 festival is scheduled for Sept. 22-25.

The recent coronavirus spike also claimed another event, as Juniper Jam was canceled, organizers announced Aug. 18.

"The recent spike in COVID-19 cases in our region has led us to this heartbreaking decision, and we urge folks to get vaccinated and help stop the spread of this awful virus," the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance said.

Online ticket sales will be refunded, and those who purchased tickets from local outlets are encouraged to return to those locations for their refund.

Next year's event is scheduled for Sept. 3, 2022.

— EO Media Group

## IN BRIEF

### Hancock Forest Management Lands open for day use

LA GRANDE — Hancock Forest Management lands in Northeastern Oregon are reopened to day use only as of Tuesday, Aug. 24, as fire restrictions have eased slightly in the region.

Motorized vehicles are only allowed on main rocky roads without vegetation — outside of travel management areas.

Hancock lands in Northeastern Oregon closed in July due to extreme fire danger. The change applies to Hancock properties in the Shamrock, Whiskey Creek, Noregaard, Little

Catherine Creek and Meacham travel management areas and any other Hancock properties enrolled in the Access and Habitat state program in Northeast Oregon.

With this year's extreme fire danger, hunters, anglers and others heading outdoors are reminded to "know before you go" and check for access restrictions due to fire danger. Usually, smoking and off-road driving is prohibited. Vehicles are required to carry a gallon of water or fully charged 2½-pound fire extinguisher and shovel when off state highway or county roads, and campfires are prohibited or restricted.

— 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.

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