

# Future of Lookout wolves unsure

By JAYSON JACOBY  
Baker City Herald

BAKER CITY — The Lookout Mountain Pack, which has killed at least nine cattle and injured three others in eastern Baker County since July, has been pared from an estimated 11 wolves to three.

But how the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's killing of eight wolves from the pack over the past two and a half months will affect its behavior in the future can't be forecast with confidence, according to the agency's state wolf coordinator.

"When wolves hunt they are looking for vulnerable prey and relying upon instinct and experience," said Roblyn Brown, who works at ODFW's La Grande office. "We cannot predict what a wild animal will do in every different situation, so I will not predict whether or not the breeding female will depredate in the future."

After ODFW biologists confirmed that Lookout Mountain wolves had attacked cattle five times during July, killing three and injuring three others, agency employees on Aug. 1 killed two pups, born during the spring.

Following additional attacks in August and September that killed five head of cattle, ODFW employees on Sept. 17 shot and killed three more wolves, including the pack's breeding male.

There were no attacks on cattle for almost a month, until Oct. 16, when biologists determined wolves had killed a 400-pound calf, likely on Oct. 14.

ODFW employees on Oct. 20 then shot and killed three more wolves, two juveniles born this year and one wolf born in 2020.

ODFW officials reported they believe the Lookout Mountain pack, which roams in the area between Highway 86 on the north and Interstate 84 to the south, now consists of up to three wolves — the breeding female and two juveniles born this spring that are about six months old.

The breeding female has a GPS tracking collar that allows biologists to monitor her movements.

Brown wrote that one possibility is the breeding female will remain in the area.

"When there is a loss of a breeder, the remaining wolf will often stay in the familiar territory, while waiting



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo  
**A trail cam photo from May 30, 2021, of one of the two yearling wolves in the Lookout Mountain Pack.**

for a new mate to disperse into the area," according to Brown.

It's also possible the breeding female will leave to search for a new mate.

But Brown said she doesn't think that will happen so long as the two juvenile wolves are traveling with their mother.

Because the breeding female would not mate with one of her offspring — ODFW doesn't know the gender of the two remaining

juveniles — the only circumstance in which the breeding female would have a new mate is if a dispersing male wolf moves into the Lookout Mountain area, Brown wrote.

"Dispersing wolves commonly travel throughout the Lookout Mountain unit," she wrote.

Brown wrote there are no nearby wolf packs that are likely to "take over" the territory of the Lookout Mountain pack.

The juvenile wolves are

old enough to travel full time with the breeding female, but they "are unlikely to contribute any when killing larger prey due to their lack of experience," Brown wrote.

The juvenile wolves can kill smaller prey on their own, she wrote.

ODFW officials have said previously they decided to kill wolves from the pack because the evidence showed the wolves were targeting cattle despite healthy populations of elk and deer, the

usual main food source for wolf packs, in the Lookout Mountain area.

Officials also said ranchers in the area had frequently patrolled the area, tried to haze the wolves, and ensured there were no bone piles or other attractants.

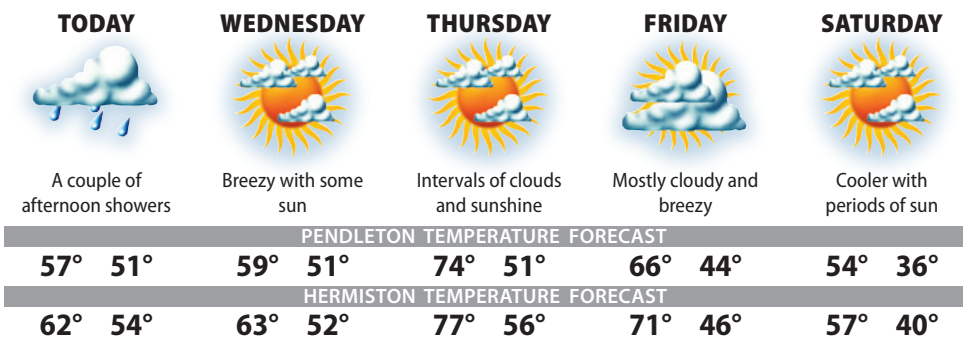
The agency initially focused on juveniles and yearlings rather than the pack's breeding pair. But ODFW officials decided to kill the breeding male on Sept. 17 when depredations continued.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, who has talked with ranchers who have lost cattle to the wolves and been present at some ODFW investigations at attack scenes, wrote a letter on Sept. 12 to ODFW Director Curt Melcher asking for the state to eliminate the entire Lookout Mountain pack.

Ash said on Friday, Oct. 22, that although he hopes the killing of the three wolves on Oct. 20 will change the pack's behavior and end attacks on cattle, he's not confident that will happen.

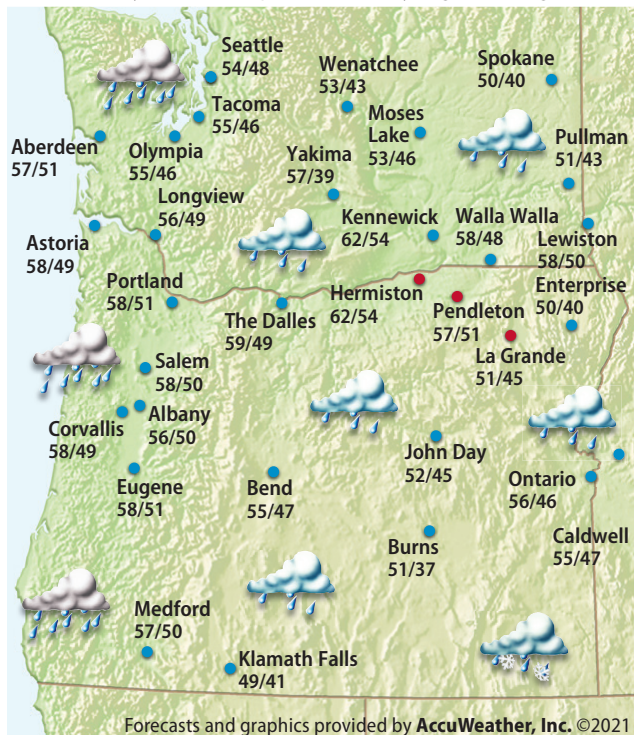
He said ranchers are frustrated and want to be able to run their cattle on private land — where several of the attacks have happened — without having to deal with losses from wolves.

## 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	60°	39°
Month to date	0.83"	
Normals	60°	38°
Records	86° (1924)	19° (2020)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.15"
Month to date	0.83"
Normal month to date	0.87"
Year to date	5.83"
Last year to date	9.83"
Normal year to date	10.08"

**HERMISTON** through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	65°	40°
Normals	62°	36°
Records	80° (1959)	20° (2002)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.25"
Month to date	0.92"
Normal month to date	0.62"
Year to date	3.59"
Last year to date	2.29"
Normal year to date	6.29"

**WINDS** (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	SSW 7-14	WSW 8-16
Pendleton	S 8-16	W 10-20

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	7:27 a.m.
Sunset tonight	5:51 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:41 p.m.
Moonset today	1:25 p.m.

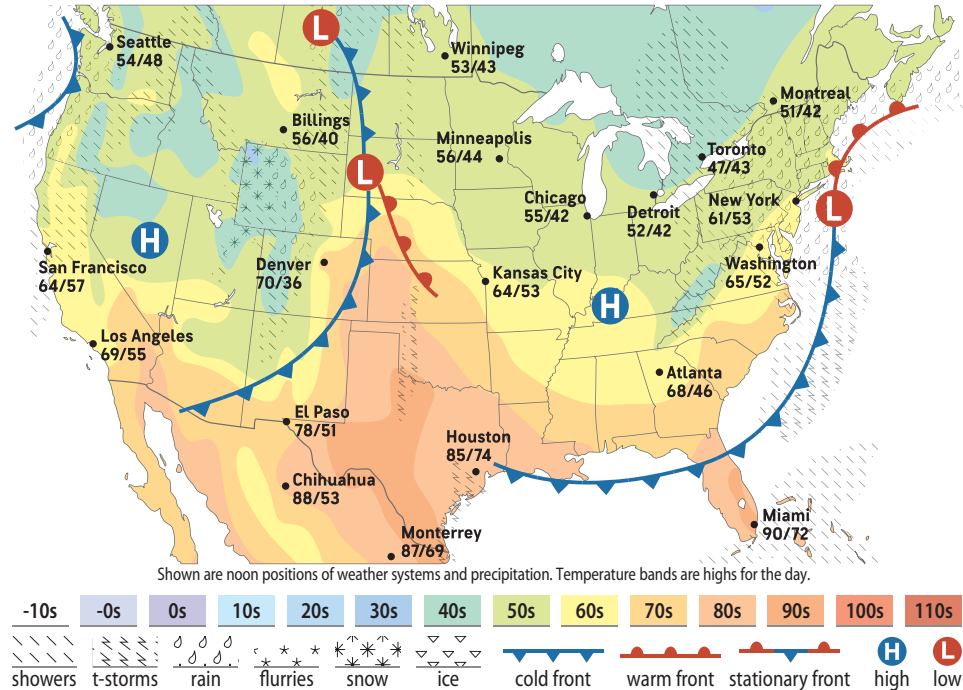
**MOON PHASES**

Phase	Date
Last	Oct 28
New	Nov 4
First	Nov 11
Full	Nov 19

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 98° in Zapata, Texas Low 18° in Brimson, Minn.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



## Columbia River is unsafe again, say officials

By ANNETTE CARY  
Tri-City Herald

KENNEWICK — A toxic algae bloom along the Columbia River in Richland is back. The Benton Franklin Health District closed part of the shoreline to recreation in mid-September after reports of three dogs dying and others being sickened after playing in the water.

Testing showed a high level of neurotoxin in the water linked to a blue algae bloom.

Weeks of testing followed, with the health district finally finding the water safe as of Oct. 18 and reopening the shoreline. But that did not last long.

Followup testing found toxic levels of cyanobacteria in the river once again. By the end of the week the health district again closed the shoreline in Richland from the Leslie Groves Park

boat launch at Snyder Street to the dike at the south end of the park.

The toxin linked to the algae blooms is particularly dangerous to small children and animals that ingest the water. It can be fatal. Dogs can be exposed not only by drinking the water but also by licking contaminated water off their fur or paws. Symptoms can appear within 15 minutes, depending on the size of the dog or person and the amount of the neurotoxin consumed, according to the Benton Franklin Health District.

Symptoms in dogs can include weakness, staggering, difficulty breathing and convulsions. Symptoms in people can include numb lips, tingling fingers and toes and dizziness. Toxins also can accumulate in fish tissues, especially in the liver, kidneys and other

organs. The health district advises caution in eating fish, particularly their organs, that are caught in areas with a major cyanobacteria bloom. The health district will be conducting weekly testing until levels are again determined to be safe.

Toxic algae blooms vary in appearance, but commonly look like pea soup or are blue-green or turquoise in color. Harmful algae blooms can be green, blue, red or brown, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

They can be scummy or look like paint on the surface of the water. However, the level of toxicity can vary day to day and the only way to determine whether the water is safe is by testing. Toxic algae blooms were reported across Washington state in areas not seen before in late summer and fall.

## IN BRIEF

### Angler smashes Idaho fishing record for grass carp

BOISE — An Idaho angler's recent catch blew state records out of the water, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game said in a news release.

Cris Endicott of Meridian, Idaho, landed a 46.7-pound grass carp, a large freshwater fish species from Asia, while fishing the Snake River on Oct. 10 with a twin-tail bass jig.

Endicott's catch took the state weight record for rod-and-reel grass carp, but it also dwarfed the record for archery-caught and catch-and-release fish of the same species.

Endicott's carp measured 50 inches long — 10 inches longer than the catch-and-release record of 40 inches.

The archery record was 39.5 pounds and 40.63 inches long.

According to Fish and Game, grass carp aren't as prevalent in the area as common carp, which are numerous in Southwest Idaho.

Another Treasure Valley angler, Boisean Henry Charlier, set the common carp weight record earlier this year with a 34-pound fish — also pulled from the Snake River.

Though several species of carp are consid-

ered invasive in Idaho, common and grass carp are not.

### Walla Walla area parks close, residents lose power in storm

WALLA WALLA — All parks in the city of Walla Walla and Lions Park in College Place were closed due to extreme wind speeds, city and county officials announced Sunday, Oct. 24.

"We ask that you stay out of the parks due to the possibility of limbs coming down and causing injury or damage," Gunner Fulmer, administrative sergeant with the Walla Walla Police Department, wrote in a release.

The National Weather Service had issued a high wind warning, and area dispatchers received reports of life-threatening hazards, according to Walla Walla County Emergency Management.

County officials urged residents to shelter indoors and avoid nonessential travel through the duration of the windstorm.

Hundreds of residents in Walla Walla lost power Oct. 24 due to the high winds and falling tree branches.

— Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

**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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