

O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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OUR VIEW

States can best manage wolves

For all of the gnashing of teeth and worries about the impending decline of Idaho's wolves, any predictions of their demise are greatly exaggerated.

Last year, the Idaho Legislature modified the law related to hunting and trapping wolves. Since it's the state's job to manage them, such laws were well within the purview of lawmakers.

Wolf advocates said the legislators were threatening the state's 1,500 wolves and any efforts to reduce that number would mark the beginning of the end for the predators.

In the year since the law was passed, not much has happened. The state's wildlife managers keep tabs on the wolves that have taken up residence in Idaho. What they found is — drum roll, please — the wolf population is about the same as before.

The wolf population peaks in the summer, after the pups are born. After that, any deaths are counted. The population's annual low point is about 900 in the early spring, before the next batch of pups is born.

State wildlife managers say if for some reason the population began to decrease too far, they could make mid-course adjustments.

That's the sort of thing wildlife managers do.

Montana's Legislature passed similar legislation. For the vast majority of the state the new hunting and trapping rules had little impact on the overall population. However, they found that some wolves from Yellowstone National Park had a tendency to drift outside the park and were killed by hunters and trappers.

When wildlife managers saw this, the hunts in that area were called off. The Yellowstone wolf packs will no doubt rebuild.

There is a concept that continues to be circulated about wolves: They are timid creatures that need the help of man to survive in the wild. Environmental groups use that concept to build a case for protecting wolves and raising money.

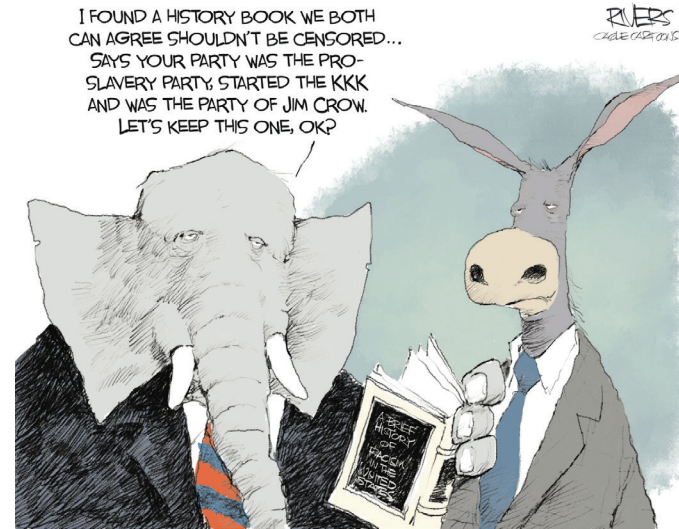
Unfortunately for them, wolves are robust, smart and reproduce rapidly. Idaho started with 35 wolves imported from Canada in the mid-1990s. Now the population peaks at 1,500 each year, even with hunting, trapping and culling wolves that attack livestock.

Similarly, the wolf populations in Washington state and Oregon are healthy, yet the way they are managed has frustrated many ranchers.

Idaho and Montana have shouldered the responsibility of managing wolves in those states. They are held accountable and able to make changes as needed to maintain the health of the wolf populations without sacrificing the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers.

Our hope is that, some day, political leaders in the nation's capital, Washington state and Oregon will allow wildlife managers to do the same statewide.

The last thing any of those states need is for the federal government to take over all management of wolves. Idaho and Montana have demonstrated that it's not needed, or wanted.



YOUR VIEWS

Did Zuck Bucks influence the 2020 election?

There have been both articles and letters about the election being bought, but no information that would ever point in that direction, or disprove it that I have seen in the East Oregonian. I would like to point out that Mark Zuckerberg has provided what is known as Zuck Bucks to the tune of more than \$400 million to nonprofit groups that were in positions to influence the election. Most was funneled through the Center for Tech and Civic Life, a group led by three Democrats with a long history of activism, and the Center for Election Innovation and Research with connections to People for the American Way, that group funneled Zuck Bucks to governmental entities, according to influencewatch.org/non-profit/center-for-election-innovation-research.

According to the Foundation for Government Accountability, Georgia received more than \$31 million in Zuck Bucks for the general election alone. The money went to salaries, laptops, vehicle rentals, attorney's fees for public records requests and mail-in balloting. Trump leaning counties received \$1.91 per registered voter, Biden leaning counties received on average \$7.13 per voter. The money flowed into the run-off election as well.

Democratic counties in Pennsylvania also were targeted for Zuck Bucks infusion. Wisconsin received Zuck Bucks, which outsourced much of their election operation to private liberal groups.

A statement that the election was bought has to be backed up, and a statement saying it ain't so needs proof, too. Check out the Foundation for Govern-

ment Accountability, Feb. 25, 2021, NPR on Zuck Bucks, or the Capital Research Center May 20, 2021, Broad and Liberty April 13, 2021, NPR Dec. 8, 2020, to name just a few sources. These sources certainly give pause to think about the undue influence bought and paid for, and certainly concern about the consequences of such expenditures from a moral/integrity perspective. One man's influence in elections to this level is cause for concern. There are other financial influences, not just this one.

I don't know that goes as far as saying it was bought, but it certainly has an odor of impropriety and outright corruption to it. It is one area of many that I would like to see cleaned up for future election integrity.

Granelia Thompson
Weston

City shouldn't play favorites

The summary of the Pendleton City Council discussion regarding Uber posed two instances of mis-thinking regarding allowing Uber and the like in Pendleton.

First is Councilor Dale Primmer's question about a guarantee that Uber would, or would not, be successful. I pose this question back to Primmer: Where is there a guarantee that any city effort is guaranteed to be a success? Or stated another way, the city should provide the opportunity for Uber and then let entrepreneurship take its course. After all, Mr. Primmer, you have the same hope for the new South Hill road.

As to a compromise on splitting service hours, really? The city's role is to support a diverse economic base that encourages entrepreneurship and then let success be at the hands of the owners.

Or did I miss something when the city decided that four legalized marijuana stores was equal to one liquor store?

Neither taxi and Uber are so select that they should be given an elite position in the city, rather selection is up to the user and Uber and the like should be given the opportunity in Pendleton. It is that easy.

Carl Culham
Athena

Oregon needs to invest in cloud seeding

Oregon legislators are harming Oregon. For Oregon legislators to ignore the benefits of working with Idaho on drought relief measures comes at the expense of all Oregon species and environments.

I'm a rancher in Powell Butte and the drought has become critically damaging to everything and everyone. This Idaho project has been being developed by Idaho for more than 20 years, and in the last five years it has advanced technology to the point of being able to deliver a extra 1 million acre-feet of water a year. That's five Wickiup Reservoirs a year of extra water in my irrigation district.

Seems to me all the leaders in irrigation districts and the state Legislature should have had this on their radar if they were looking out for the people like they all campaign saying they will do.

Idaho and Utah have unambiguous data to use as proof, as cited in this Washington Post article, www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2021/11/21/cloud-seeding-drought-west/. Oregon needs to do what Idaho and other states are doing with this.

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