

# ODFW approves killing more Chesnimnus Pack wolves

State authorizes lethal take for four wolves

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
Capital Press

JOSEPH — The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved killing more wolves from the Chesnimnus Pack in Wallowa County to curb attacks on livestock.

ODFW issued its second kill permit for Chesnimnus wolves on Friday, June 17, after two yearling males were removed from the pack under a separate permit earlier this spring.

Since April 25, ODFW biologists have attributed five confirmed and two “probable” depredations of cattle to the pack in grazing pastures north of Joseph. The two most recent incidents were investigated June 4.

The agency issued its first permit April 29 to cull two wolves from the pack. One yearling male was shot May 3 and the second on June 10.

Days later, ODFW again authorized lethal take — this time for four Chesnimnus wolves, citing an ongoing threat to livestock in the area. The permit runs through July 17.

The decision has again



The breeding male of the new Chesnimnus Pack walks into camera view in December 2018 during the winter survey on U.S. Forest Service land in northern Wallowa County. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife officials on Friday, June 17, 2022, issued a second kill permit for Chesnimnus wolves.

inflamed emotions among both ranchers and wildlife advocates who disagree sharply about how wolves should be managed. Oregon has at least 175 wolves statewide, though that is a minimum estimate based on verified evidence.

Sristi Kamal, senior Northwest representative for

Defenders of Wildlife, said that if the latest permit is fully executed, it will jeopardize the survival of the Chesnimnus Pack. The pack had at least nine members by the end of 2021, according to ODFW’s annual population survey.

“We are hoping that ODFW will not target help-

less pups again but that means the permit will essentially wipe out most of the adult and yearling members,” Kamal said in a statement. “Depending on which two (or) three wolves are left, the survival chances of the pups decreases significantly.”

Kamal said the timing of the permit was also concern-

ing, since there were no further documented depredations after the June 10 take of the second wolf from the pack.

“This permit feels unjustified,” she said.

Ranchers, meanwhile, have argued for killing the entire Chesnimnus Pack, claiming that nonlethal

deterrents such as patrolling cattle and adjusting grazing schedules are not working to prevent losses.

John Williams, wolf committee co-chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said one heavily affected producer on Crow Creek has done everything humanly possible to keep wolves away from his herd.

“He’s still getting harassed, cattle chased and run through fences,” Williams said. “It’s ongoing and it’s continuing. The wolves that are there have decided to turn to livestock.”

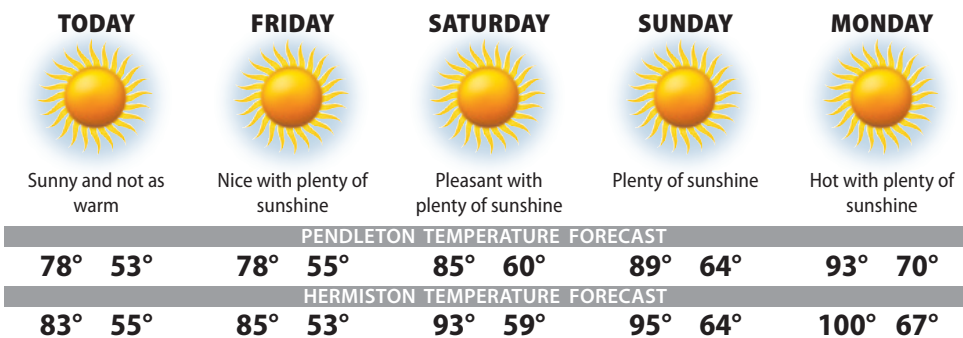
ODFW agreed, stating that while the rancher has increased human presence to scare off wolves and removed potential attractants such as bone piles and carcasses, attacks on cattle have continued.

“Based upon all evidence available, ODFW believes that cattle continue to be at high risk of wolf depredation in this area,” the agency wrote.

Under Phase III of Oregon’s Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, ODFW can consider killing wolves to protect livestock east of highways 395, 78 and 95 after two confirmed depredations in nine months.

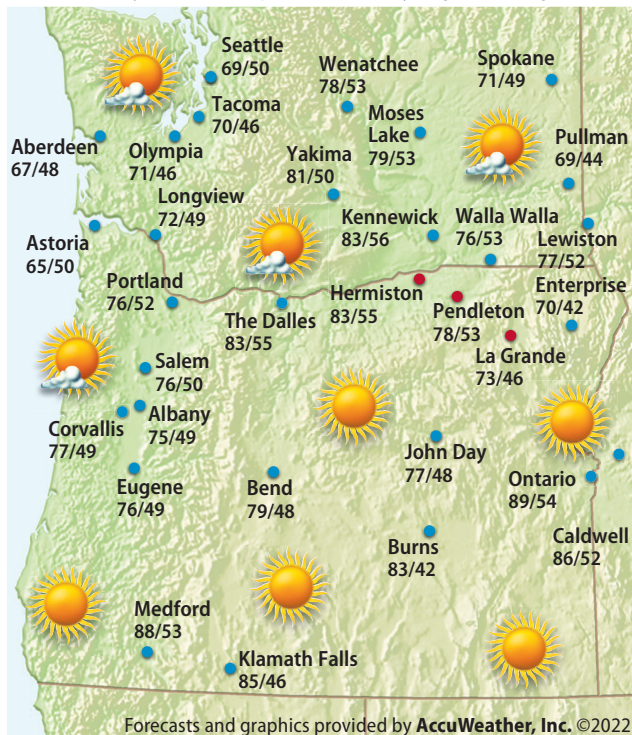
Wolves in the western two-thirds of Oregon remain a federally protected species.

## 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	87°	56°
Normals	81°	53°
Records	103° (1973)	37° (1916)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	2.16"
Normal month to date	0.95"
Year to date	10.82"
Last year to date	4.29"
Normal year to date	7.79"

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

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	91°	53°
Normals	84°	54°
Records	105° (1936)	41° (2014)

**PRECIPITATION**

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.66"
Normal month to date	0.56"
Year to date	7.45"
Last year to date	2.46"
Normal year to date	4.94"

**WINDS** (in mph)

Today	Fri.
Boardman	NE 4-8
Pendleton	NW 7-14
	NNE 6-12
	N 7-14

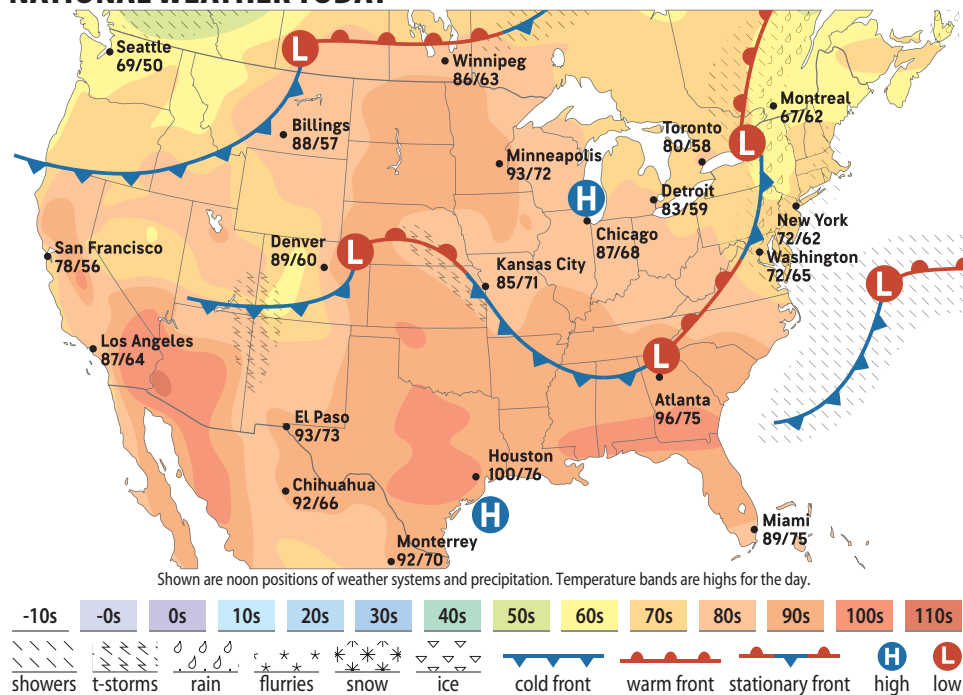
**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today	5:06 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:49 p.m.
Moonrise today	2:01 a.m.
Moonset today	3:52 p.m.

## NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 106° in Blythe, Calif. Low 25° in Dillon, Colo.

## NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



# La Grande blood donations on pace to top 1,000 units

Two more blood drives remain before year's end

By **DICK MASON**  
The Observer

LA GRANDE — The community of La Grande is on pace to have its best year for blood donations in at least two decades.

A total of 232 units of blood were collected earlier this month during a two-day American Red Cross blood drive in La Grande, boosting the total number of units donated during 2022 in three two-day blood drives to 678. The strong results mean La Grande, with a pair of two-day blood drives remaining in 2022, is on track to collect 1,130 units for the year, 165 units more than the 965 units collected in 2021 and 487 more than the total of 643 donated in 2020.

La Grande is part of the

American Red Cross' Idaho District, which encompasses all of Idaho and a portion of Eastern Oregon.

“La Grande has the most productive two-day blood drives in the district,” according to Stephen Dalmas, manager of the Idaho District.

Dalmas gives much of the credit for La Grande’s successful blood drives to the work of its managers, the husband and wife team of Linda and Sheldon Strand. He said their work is the reason the blood drives are well run.

The total 232 units donated during the June drive exceeded the Strands’ goal of 220 units. It also was the highest total donated during an American Red Cross blood drive this year.

A total 202 people donated during the June blood draw, which was conducted at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The total

included Phil Gillette, of La Grande, who said he felt compelled to donate because of the unpredictable times the United States is experiencing.

“With all the stuff going on in the country, I know my blood is needed,” Gillette said at the blood drive.

Everyone at the blood drive was required to wear masks because Oregon rules addressing COVID-19 protocol in medical facilities make them mandatory. Sheldon Strand explained that the site of a blood drive is considered to be a temporary medical facility in the eyes of the state.

The two remaining 2022 American Red Cross blood drives in La Grande will be conducted Sept. 13-14 and Nov. 8-9. Each will run from noon to 6 p.m. the first day and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. the second day at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1802 Gekeler Lane.

## IN BRIEF

### Summerville man injured in paragliding accident

LA GRANDE — A 25-year-old Summerville man was injured in a late-afternoon paragliding accident Monday, June 20, on a steep hillside close to a half mile north of the west Interstate 84 La Grande exit.

The accident was reported at about 3:45 p.m., according to Union County Emergency Manager Nick Vora.

Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen arrived at the accident site first and directed first responder traffic to it, Vora said.

Rescuers had to hike up a steep hill to reach the injured man. First responders packed the patient into a wheeled Stokes basket and brought him down the hill to a waiting emergency helicopter, which had landed at a gravel pit about 500 yards from the base of the slope. The man had potentially

life-threatening injuries, and the helicopter flew him at about 5 p.m. to a trauma center in Richland, Washington, Vora said.

The patient, who was alone, called 911 with his cellphone. The Union County Dispatch Center was able to find him by using Global Positioning System equipment, which determines a cellphone’s coordinates.

The city of La Grande Fire Department, Union County Sheriff’s Office, Union County Search and Rescue, La Grande Rural Fire Department, Oregon State Police and Life Flight Network all responded to the accident.

Vora said teamwork among the first responders allowed them to get the injured man off the hillside and to the trauma center quickly.

“This really exemplifies how well the people from all these agencies work well together as a team,” he said.

—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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