

# BILL: Groups say HB 3515 bypasses delisting process

Continued from Page A1

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission was slated to begin considering the question at an April 24 hearing in Bend.

The ANRC held HB 3515's public hearing and work session on April 16.

Todd Nash, local rancher and chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association Wolf Task Force, addressed the committee, expressing ranchers' concerns that should the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission move to delist the wolf, that action could trigger years of lawsuits from conservation groups.

HB 3515, viewed by some of delisting's advocates as a way around that potential litigation

quagmire, would not only have delisted the wolf, but as well would have precluded ever placing it on the state's endangered species list again. The bill met stiff opposition from conservation groups, including Oregon Wild and the Sierra Club, who said it bypasses the delisting process agreed upon by all parties under the state's Wolf Management Plan, and circumvents public participation in the delisting process. Upon questioning by committee members, conservation groups did not deny the possibility of filing lawsuits in the event of wolf delisting by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission.

ANRC set the bill for an April 21 hearing. Nash was optimistic about its prospects for

passage, saying early that day, "I was very happy about how it went (in the ANRC's April 16 session). We were very well received and I have full confidence that it's going to pass."

April 21 saw HB 3515 go down in flames in the opening minute of the meeting, however. Committee Chair, Rep. Brad Witt, said that 3515 and another bill (one not related to wolves) did not have enough bi-partisan support to pass through the House. "Those bills are going to die today," Witt said.

In response, Nash later sent a blistering email to Witt: "Can you explain what happened between Thursday evening and Tuesday morning? For now you and Representative Fredrick look to be very disingen-

uous. I was the one who talked to you about wolves in Cove Or. in 2013, but see no reason to ever visit with you again. I have lost a substantial amount of cattle, and been directly affected by Environmental law suits. I have traveled all over a three state area visiting those who will listen. I've made Numerous trips to Salem and ODFW meetings, most of the time returning to Enterprise the same day. You had a chance to bridge the East-West division, but chose to sweep us under the rug one more time. In the words of Representative Fredrick on Thursday night 'I am very disappointed with your answer, it's a matter of trust and the Cattlemen don't feel like they can trust you.'"

In reply to Nash's email,

Witt said that the bill's prohibition against ever re-listing wolves on the ESL spelled its doom. He added, "Had the bill merely delisted the wolf, I think it would still be alive today and on its way to the House Floor. This is by no means an insurmountable problem. Unfortunately, it is not one that you and I will be able to fix given your decision to never visit with me again. Todd, if that is your final decision, I am sorry it had to end this way."

Rob Klavins, Northeastern Oregon coordinator for Oregon Wild, said: "The Wolf Management Plan states that if we had four breeding pairs for three consecutive years, that the state would consider delisting the wolves through a public process, and we stood by that

agreement. In the 11th hour of deadline in Salem, a bill was introduced to circumvent that public process and have politicians substitute their judgment for the rigorous, transparent, science-based public process the agency has been charged with. It was not appropriate. Given just a few days to respond, there was significant backlash. Once the public had an opportunity to weigh in, support for the bill eroded."

Rep. Barreto's response was relayed through Derry Breeden, his chief of staff: "Rep. Barreto is disappointed. He had high hopes to get this bill passed because this is extremely important to our constituency. We need to allow farmers to take care of their cattle."

# WATER: PRESERVATION: Work continues

## Bids due May 25

Continued from Page A1

The group plans to use the building to provide affordable housing for the local work force.

Pulsifer said they first replaced the roof as it leaked enough to cause severe water damage. The Bowly Group had procured a low-interest economic development loan to build a garage unit for the condos, but the loaning group granted a Swinehart petition to use the money for a new roof.

Pulsifer said construction crews removed 90 tons of material from the roof. The building no longer suffers leaking issues after the installation of a membrane roof.

Swinehart said the building contains 24 apartments, and due mainly to water damage, only two were occupied at the time of its purchase. After the roof installation, Swinehart's group refurbished the apartments. Pulsifer added that all the apartments are now in rentable condition.

The group is currently concentrating on refurbishing the building's exterior, including restoring the windows to the specifications called for as a historic registry building. Two sides of the building, the sides

facing streets, underwent window upgrades in the last three years. The next project is upgrading the remaining windows.

Along with the 24 apartments, the building has seven commercial spaces with six currently occupied. Although they sometimes experience 100 percent occupancy, Pulsifer said, that's currently in a dip. In fact, one of the current business spaces is in use as a living space. Swinehart said with slight renovations, several second floor business spaces can be made available.

Both Pulsifer and Swinehart said the group reinvests all the money it receives from rents and leases back into the building restoration. Grants from the state and city of Enterprise also help fund the restoration.

Older pictures show the building had a beautiful second floor mezzanine area looking out onto the main floor. This area is now mostly walled and floored in. Pulsifer compared the work being done to restore the building through photograph-guided repair to an archaeological dig.

The basement of the building, used mainly for storage, was originally a farm machinery room in the 1920s. Ramps

are still evident which were used for horses to pull farm equipment in and out of the basement.

The apartment areas are nicely finished and still bear some resemblance to antiquity with the electrical conduit running along the walls along with the 1920s Art Deco flair of the stair rails and balustrades. Original to the building is the gear works from an ancient mechanical elevator standing beneath one of the building's three skylights. It looks nearly brand-new and resembles artwork.

One of the open third-floor apartments features not only window seats, but a claw-foot tub and hardwood floors. Standing across Main Street from the building one can still see the shadows of the letters that proclaimed the building's name, as well as the 1916 that signifies the start of the building's construction. "We'll be reinstalling those letters and numbers. It'll be the cherry on top of our exterior restoration project," Pulsifer said.



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Hailie Hillock, Director of First Impressions at Bennett Insurance since April of 2014. This lovely, intelligent young woman greets you in person when you stop by our office or takes care of your insurance needs and questions when you call. Hailie's sense of humor and empathy make her perfect for this position.

Born and raised in Wallowa County, she graduated from Enterprise High and earned a degree in Business Administration from BMCC. Hailie is capable, people savvy and willing to do whatever is necessary to keep Bennett Insurance running smoothly. She and Jared Hillock were married in an amazingly beautiful and original wedding on 12/13/14 at the OK Theatre. Hailie enjoys biking, extreme hiking in the Wallowa Mountains and working out at the local fitness center.

Not only does Hailie act as Director of First Impressions, she is proficient in all computer programs that keep our office organized. She handles our social media and is currently working on updating the web site. Hailie is a woman of many talents, funny and a joy to work with. We are fortunate to have her on our team.



**HAILIE HILLOCK**  
Bennett Insurance Agency LLC

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New logo created by Bird Dog Signs of Enterprise


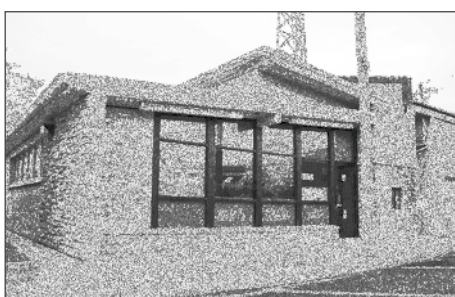


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