

Ranchers can't wait for 'thousands' of wolves

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission has begun, at least tentatively, the process to remove the gray wolf from the state's endangered species list.

The state's wolf plan calls for beginning the delisting process when the state has at least four breeding pairs for three consecutive years. Oregon reached that standard at the end of 2014, when eight breeding pairs were counted. Four breeding pairs were confirmed in 2013 and six in 2012.

EDITORIAL
The voice of the Chieftain

But ranchers who thought reaching that goal was an automatic trigger for delisting are disappointed. While the commission last month voted unanimously to start the process, it has also asked the Department of Fish and Wildlife to present it with information about delisting wolves throughout the state, delisting wolves in only the eastern part of the state, or leaving them on the endangered species list.

Ranchers, who bear much of the expense of literally holding the wolves at bay and receive only partial compensation when they are unsuccessful, feel betrayed. While there has been coffee shop talk about taking care of predatory wolves on the sly — “shoot, shovel, shut up” — illegal takings appear to have been few and far between.

No wolves have been killed while attacking or chasing livestock in Oregon. ODFW killed four for chronic depredation on livestock. Five were illegally shot since 2000; one died when hit by a vehicle.

Officially, ranchers lost to wolves 76 sheep, 36 cattle and two goats from 2009 through 2014. Ranchers say the total is higher than confirmed because many animals just disappear. Delisting would give ranchers more latitude in protecting their animals.

“We lived up to our promise,” said rancher Todd Nash, wolf committee chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. “We wholly expect the agency and this committee to live up to theirs.”

But environmentalists have different ideas, and are pushing the state to keep wolves on the endangered species list.

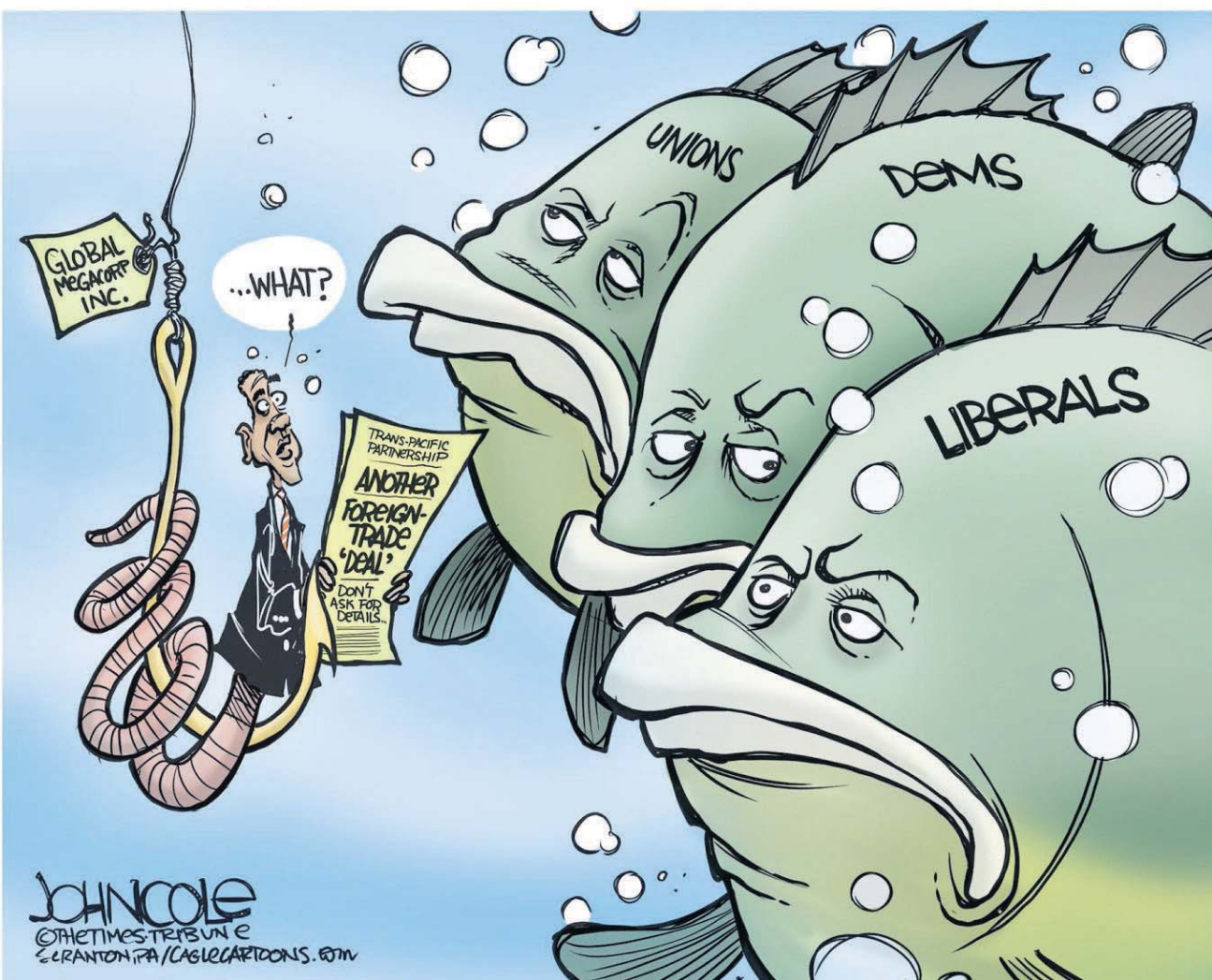
Most believe there are about 100 wolves in Oregon. Conservationists say there needs to be many more to protect the population from being wiped out by disease or other calamity.

Amaroq Weiss, West Coast wolf organizer with the Center for Biological Diversity, needs “on the magnitude of thousands” of wolves before they are delisted.

Really? A hundred may not be enough, but a thousand is too many.

All of God's creatures have the right to thrive, and wolves have a place in the wilds of the West.

But that doesn't mean that wolves should be allowed to make a free meal of cattle and sheep on the range, whether grazing on public or private land. And we don't think ranchers should have to wait until there are thousands of wolves lining up for dinner before the rules of engagement change.



Myopia made '50s a good time

The Josephy Center is celebrating the '50s this month. The gallery space is filled with reel-to-reel recorders, hula hoops, ashtrays, and posters from the time. There is a small display on the Korean War — oops, the “police action” or whatever the day's euphemism was. We had a Brown Bag lunch with Tom Butterfield, Melvin Brink, and Dallas McCrae talking about farming, and Craig Lesley came to read about growing up in eastern Oregon at the time — Boy Scouts watching for enemy planes from rooftops; poor, white migrant laborers; the hand-work and dangers involved in harvesting mint; and the flooding of Celilo Falls.

I graduated from high school in 1960, which means that my growing up was pretty much smack-dab '50s. We got stories of the '30s and '40s — of The Depression, WWII, and the tough times of the past from parents and teachers. It dawned on me later that our male high school teachers were all vets who went to school on the GI Bill. Later still I learned that the GI Bill was largely responsible for the biggest expansion of the U.S. middle class (or that it made it out of Congressional committee by one vote!).

We — the class of 1960 — were the 50s! We were Fan Tan gum and surfer shorts, cars with fins (ours were lowered and sometimes tucked and rolled), 45 records and flattops, sweater girls, LSM-FT, doo-wop and the beginnings of rock 'n' roll.

The Internet is full of nostalgia about these good old days, and every once in a while a classmate digs something up and urges us all to pass it around. I sometimes chuckle, but don't send them on.

Last year, the Josephy Center commemorated WWII. We interviewed vets



MAIN STREET
Rich Wandschneider

and displayed their pictures, uniforms, medals, and flags. Women in their 80s remembered their Civil Defense observation posts. In the Chieftain archives, the front pages from 1941 to 1945 were always about the war — pictures of 10 or 12 or 25 young Wallowa County men on their way to induction, notices of local efforts to save gas and rubber and buy war bonds. Occasionally, especially in '44 and '45, stories of men who were missing — or had been killed in action. The entire community was wrapped up in that war, and it bled through the newspaper's pages and the stories and artifacts that we collected and displayed.

The Chieftain archives tell a different story about the 1950s. The headlines trumpeted an upcoming hunting season, a high school team's success at state, the new hospital and coming harvest. The Korean conflict — and the men who served there — got scant attention. Sometimes, in the lower left corner of the front page, there was a “men in the military” notice, with a photo of local boys. Gwen Coffin, the longtime editor of the paper, who had praised local war efforts while damning fascists and Nazis, and courageously spoken out against “war profiteers” and the Japanese internment camps, was mum on Korea. The first Korean editorial mention I found was about the conflict between Truman and MacArthur — Gwen stood with Truman.

A talk with local Korean War vet

Dwayne Wiggins captured the same mood. The men who went did their duty, slogged their way through some tough times, and came home to join in the good times.

Korea, of course, was no easier than Europe and the Pacific Islands. It was cold and grim and sometimes deadly. Dwayne's infantry fought from bunkers, and he showed us pictures of mountainous terrain and pointed to a far ridge, from which the Chinese exchanged artillery. In other parts of the country, Marines fought desperate, cold battles. Many died or were captured.

But the country did not want to hear about that. The '50s were about feeling good and doing good. There were PTAs and Boy Scouts, and new radios, TVs, refrigerators, and mangles to make life easier. Willie Mays, Mickey Mantle, and Ted Williams were heroes — Ted the odd one who took years off from baseball to pilot fighter planes in WWII, and then, again, in Korea. We read about that and welcomed him home.

But other things were going on: Jackie Robinson was followed into the Majors by Mays and Doby, Truman had integrated the military, and court cases were beginning to push at school segregation. The 1960s unrest was lurking in the welcome that black veterans didn't get, in Indian “termination” and the flooding of Celilo Falls, in government spending that went to new suburbs and ignored cities, and in Rosy the Riveter, who had been chased back to the kitchen in '45 and given tranquilizers in the '50s.

Good times? Great times if you were white, male, and suburban, on the escalator to the middle class.

Columnist Rich Wandschneider lives in Joseph.

Correction

A photo caption in last week's issue incorrectly identified sculptor Terri Malec's work in progress as a wolf. The figure is instead that of a red fox. The Chieftain regrets the error.



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Program helps protect the elderly

GUEST COLUMN

Greg Musgrove

Imagine if you will: Priscilla, an 82-year-old woman, has given financial power of attorney to her granddaughter Connie. Connie has Priscilla's checkbook and is out paying Priscilla's bills. While paying Priscilla's water bill Connie realizes that her water bill is also due so she uses Priscilla's check to cover both hers and Priscilla's bill. Connie doesn't ask Priscilla before paying her bill but figures Priscilla wouldn't mind.

Or Betty, a 93-year-old woman, employs a caregiver in her home. Betty complains that her caregiver yells in her face and calls her names.

Or Jim, a 76-year-old man with dementia, resides at a local facility. In visiting with Jim he tells you that he has been in a lot of pain and the facility hasn't given him any of his pain medication and ignores his requests for them.

These are examples of Financial Exploitation, Verbal Abuse, and Neglect. These are examples of the types of situations to which Adult Protective Services respond. These are examples of the persons that are provided assistance because Title VII of the Older Americans Act of 1965 created state grants for “vulnerable elder rights protection” programs.

The Oregon Department of Human Services, Aging and People with Disabilities program has the responsibility to

provide Adult Protective Services (APS) to older adults and to adults with physical disabilities whose situation is within APD's jurisdiction to investigate.

The intent of the APS Program is to provide protection and intervention for older adults and adults with physical disabilities who are unable to protect themselves from harm and neglect.

Adult Protective Services are available from the Department to any adult resident of a licensed care facility, to nursing facility residents regardless of age, and to any adult residing in the community who meets the eligibility criteria.

Most seniors and adults with disabilities live independently without assistance, however, some face abuse or neglect by others and need trained professionals to advocate on their behalf. When necessary the scope of services provided by APS includes receiving reports of abuse, neglect, or self-neglect; providing and documenting risk assessment of reported victims; conducting and documenting investigations of reported wrongdoing; and providing appropriate resources for victim safety.

As a human services agency, the Department embraces a social model of intervention with a primary focus on offering safety and protection to the reported victim. The over-arching ethical value in adult protective services is the obligation to balance the duty to protect older adults and adults with physical disabilities with the duty to protect their rights to self-determination.

The Department relies upon other key sources, such as law enforcement, legal, medical, and regulatory professionals, to assist in responding to the overall problems associated with abuse and neglect.

When a concerned citizen contacts APS to report concerns about the welfare of a senior or adult with disabilities, the details provided in the report will be screened by a trained professional to evaluate if it meets the statutory requirements for APS services. If the situation meets criteria for abuse, neglect or exploitation, an APS worker will initiate face-to-face contact with the adult needing assistance. The APS worker will assess the adult's safety.

Greg Musgrove, the Adult Protective Services supervisor for six eastern Oregon counties, has worked in APS for 14 years and is stationed out of the La Grande DHS office.

Letters policy

Letters to the Editor are subject to editing and should be limited to 275 words. Writers should also include a phone number with their signature so we can call to verify identity. The Chieftain does not run anonymous letters.

In terms of content, writers should refrain from personal attacks. It's acceptable, however, to attack (or support) another party's ideas.

We do not routinely run thank-you letters, a policy we'll consider waiving only in unusual situations where reason compels the exception.

You can submit a letter to the Wal-

lowa County Chieftain in person; by mail to P.O. Box 338, Enterprise, OR 97828; by email to editor@wallowa.com; or via the submission form at the newspaper's website, located at wallowa.com.

(Drop down the “Opinion” menu on the navigation bar to see the relevant link).