

# WOLF

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Earlier this year, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 4040 which ratified ODFW's decision. Gov. Kate Brown signed the bill on March 14, and the Appellate Commissioner dismissed any further judicial review as moot.

But in a new twist, the court reinstated the challenge on Tuesday, with Chief Judge Erika Hadlock describing the issues as "complex matters of public importance."

"Without deciding what, if any, effect HB 4040 has on this judicial review, the court determines that the issues of possible mootness and the validity of HB 4040 are more appropriately decided by a department of the court following a full briefing," Hadlock wrote in the court's ruling.

The announcement was met with cheers from environmentalists and exasperation by Eastern Oregon ranchers. Nick Cady, legal director for Cascadia Wildlands, said they are confident in their case, with wolves currently occupying just 12 percent of their suitable habitat statewide.

"In no way should management of Oregon's small population of recovering wolves be dictated by the livestock industry and its anti-wolf allies in Salem," Cady said in a statement. "This ruling is a hopeful first step to ensure politics do not trump science when it comes to managing our treasured wildlife."

Steve Pedery, conservation director for Oregon Wild, said the passage of HB 4040 has only helped to turn the focus away from science and on to politics.

"Now this gets us into a constitutional issue in Oregon," Pedery said. "It's really just a mess."

The groups will have until Aug. 23 to file their opening brief with the court.

Ranchers, meanwhile, have long argued they need to be able to kill wolves that make a habit of preying on livestock in order to protect their operations. Since wolves were delisted under Phase II of the state's management and conservation plan, ODFW did follow through with shooting four wolves from the Imnaha

Pack in Wallowa County.

Enterprise rancher Todd Nash serves as chairman of the wolf committee for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. He said ranchers breathed a sigh of relief over the spring, feeling like the wolf plan was finally working. Now facing another lawsuit, he said they're becoming exhausted.

"It just goes on and on," Nash said. "At some point, I hope everyone can see what these groups are doing, in that they're litigating because they can."

HB 4040 was championed by local Rep. Greg Barreto, R-Cove, in the House, and Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, in the Senate. Cady, with Cascadia Wildlands, had also filed an ethics complaint in May against Barreto, claiming he knowingly misled the Legislature about the bill before it was passed.

In particular, the complaint alleged Barreto made false claims that the bill would not block a legal review of the wolf delisting in court. The Oregon Government Ethics Commission dismissed the complaint on July 1.

Barreto said he was never really concerned about the complaint leading to an ethics investigation. He did not comment further on the newly reinstated legal challenge against HB 4040.

Hansell said the bill's primary purpose was never to dodge a lawsuit, but rather to go on record stating ODFW had followed the letter of the wolf plan. He said the department presented evidence showing the wolf population is on the rise, and met the recovery thresholds that were approved by all parties under Phase I of the plan.

"Everybody was at the table when we worked out the plan," Hansell said. "The plan is working. I just wanted to get on record that the Legislature, in fact, supports the decision."

Gov. Brown signed the bill and, in a letter to Secretary of State Jeanne Atkins, said, "The trajectory of wolf populations in Oregon remains strong, with available habitat and prey to support continued growth."

A representative of Brown's office said they would not comment on pending litigation.

# Oregon Humanities nature discussion coming to Josephy

## 'What We Want from the Wild' talk July 14

Wallowa County Chieftain

Oregonians across the political spectrum place a high value on the diverse natural resources of our state, but we are divided about how these resources should be used and talked

about. What do we want from nature? What do we understand nature to be, and how do we see ourselves fitting in?

This is the focus of "What We Want from the Wild," a free conversation with Adam Davis at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 14 at the Josephy Center for Arts and Culture. This program is hosted by Wallowa Land Trust and sponsored by Oregon Humanities. The event is part of Oregon Humanities' statewide

Conversation Project.

Davis is the executive director of Oregon Humanities. His previous roles include directing the Center for Civic Reflection, where he helped the Aldo Leopold Foundation develop their Land Ethic Leader training, and the United States Forest Service, where he led backcountry trail crews and occasionally fought wildland fire. He has taught courses and led workshops on the human rela-

tionship to nature.

Through the Conversation Project, Oregon Humanities offers free programs that engage community members in thoughtful, challenging conversations about ideas critical to their daily lives and Oregon state's future. For more information about this community discussion, please contact Wallowa Land Trust at 541-426-2052 or info@wallowaland-trust.org.

# ARBOR

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Swinehart said the CJD committee always wanted a covered arbor, but the previous structures weren't designed to take the stress.

Plans for the steel beams that support the structure include wrapping them with either logs or timbers to give them a more natural look. For the same reason, the structure also has a shake roof rather than metal. Semi vertical logs fanned out over the west end will be covered with a tarp or canvas to resemble a half-teepee that the Native American drummers will sit under. Swinehart said he's pleased with the looks of the building as well as the progress toward its completion.

Hillock tried to minimize his part in the building's construction.

"Wellens-Farwell is doing the construction," Hill-



Steve Tool/Chieftain

The arbor prior to the placing of shingles on the roof.

ock said. "They and Stangel Industries are working on the metal fabrication; Terry Jones is doing the excavating; Casper is doing the roof and Ralph (Swinehart) did the design - I've just been coordinating it."

Even though the arbor is a project of the CJD board, they remain respectful of the structure's purpose and encourage input from Native American tribes, including the naming of the area as well as the structure. Members of the Nez Perce tribe and the CTU are planning a future christening event, Hillock said.

In addition to serving as an arbor for the Friendship

Feast, Hillock also envisions the structure as a community gathering place for other occasions, especially picnics.

"We'll get some picnic benches and a barbecue in here so people can pull in here and have a picnic. It'll be like another city park, but it'll be owned by the rodeo committee."

The area also is a possible site for the farmers market, wedding banquets and could serve as a campsite for wildland firefighters during fire season.

Hillock said the volunteer spirit in Joseph has helped the project immensely.

"I've got a lot people who just show up and offer to weed eat," he said.

Despite the construction progress and community support, money to complete

the project still needs to be raised.

"(Grant writer) Lynn Craig has raised about \$32,000 in grant money," he said. "We still have the outstanding offer of \$10,000 in a matching grant. The city of Joseph also helped by partnering with the committee to obtain grants as well as facilitating rezoning for the structure. We're working extensively with the city of Joseph and we really appreciate their cooperation."

Hillock said he expects the arbor should be usable and about 90 percent completed before the end of this year.

A volunteer work day at the arbor site is slated for 9-11 a.m., Saturday, July 16. Volunteers are asked to bring work gloves, rakes, wheelbarrows, weed eaters and clippers.

## Youth Art Workshops

Painting & Clay \*Art of Nature.



Two multi media days for Mary, and four clay days with Mellica.

Josephy Center will have two youth workshops geared towards your 5-8 year old children, as well as 7-12 year olds.

The first workshop is June 20-23rd (Art of the Sea), and the second is July 11-14th (Art of Nature). Clay are for four days with the morning focusing on the younger artists with Mary, and mixed media. The afternoon is spent hand building with Mellica for 7-12 year olds.



Cost \$35 for Mary and \$40 for Mellica. Visit [www.josephy.org](http://www.josephy.org) to pre-register. Small class size to ensure optimum fun.

When: July 11-14, 2016 (July 12 & 13 Mary) Where: 403 N. Main St. Joseph, OR 97846 Time: 10am-11:30 am 5-8 year olds. 12-2pm 7-12 year olds. Other: Please visit our website to pre-register to reserve your child's spot. Class size is limited to 3-8 children at either group.

M. C R O W & C O.

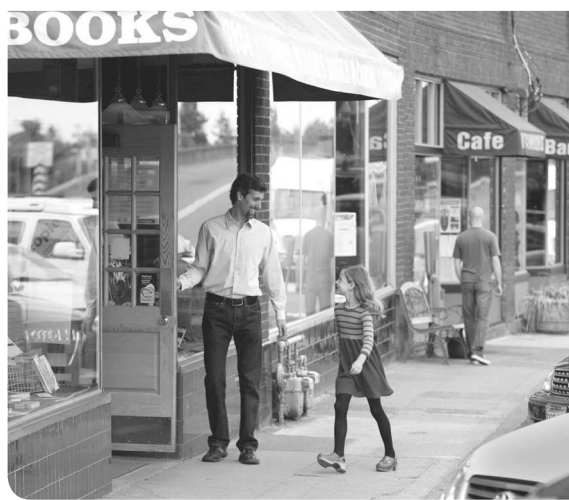


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