

Harl Butte pack strikes again

It is the 11th kill since July 2016

By Steve Tool
Wallowa County Chieftain

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed another Harl Butte Pack depredation in the Marr Flat area on public land Oct. 13. An ODFW employee found the carcass of an estimated 550-pound calf on the morning of Oct. 11 in a large pasture. A depredation was suspected, and an examination was performed that morning.

The ODFW estimated that the calf had died earlier that morning. The carcass was half-eaten with both hindquarters missing as well as the entrails and nearly all of the right front shoulder flesh.

The examination indicated premortem bites in several carcass areas with accompanying severe hemorrhaging and tissue trauma. Bite marks up to eight inches long, six inches wide into the tissue and the associated tis-

sue trauma behind the ribs, between the shoulders and under the jaw were similar to observed wolf attack points.

The radio collar of OR-50, a member of the Harl Butte Pack, indicated the wolf was in the area earlier that morning. The 10 previous depredations in the area occurred within nine miles of the site.

In response to the depredation, local rancher and Oregon Cattleman's Association member Todd Nash emailed ODFW East Region Manager Bruce Eddy with another request to lethally remove the entire pack and extend the period of the authorized legal take of four of the wolves past Oct. 31.

Nash also noted that the wolves can only be taken on 1,500 acres of private property, and the areas in which the ODFW and Marr Flatt Grazing Association can take wolves is also limited by the agency.

Eddy said he appreciated the nonlethal efforts of the ranchers to deal with the problem but also said the agency had no plans to remove the entire pack.

County receives additional wolf management money

Wallowa County has received \$29,195 from the Oregon Department of Agriculture to be used for implementing livestock management techniques or nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques designed to discourage interactions between wolves and livestock.

Half of the funding comes from two federal prevention grants with the state providing the other 50 percent through the Supplemental Prevention Grant process.

Umatilla, Jackson, and Morrow also received funds under the program. Wallowa, Umatilla, and Jackson have a recent history of wolf depredation.

The supplemental funds are in addition to \$184,039 awarded in May to 10 counties, including the four receiving the new funds, through the state's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program. Most of the state funds — 70 percent — are directed towards nonlethal efforts to reduce conflicts between wolves and livestock.

Among those are barriers, human presence, livestock protection dogs and other guarding animals, alarm or scare devices, hazing or harassment and experimental practices such as bio-fencing and bellling cattle.

LIBRARY

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the district plan to the public. Numerous meetings, possible direct mailings and other plans are being considered.

"I'm not asking you to support the library district, I'm not asking you to oppose it, I'm just asking you to uphold the basic tenet of democracy and allow your citizens to have the right to vote," said Wilburn. "Approval of the resolution to be in the boundaries of the proposed district will allow the process to go forward and give us six months to educate people, to allow them to hear the pros and cons, to allow for public meetings and public discussions."

Enterprise had sent out nearly 1,200 surveys in its recent water bills asking for public input on the library dis-

trict. Respondents weighed in 77 for and 130 against moving forward, but council member Micah Agnew argued that given that the council had not even received the feasibility study when the survey was distributed, and given what the council was learning Wednesday night, it was probable that the respondents to the survey did not fully understand the consequences of losing the county library.

"What really is our goal?" Agnew asked. "We are being asked to be included in the zoning. I'm concerned that our intention wasn't met (with the survey) because the public doesn't have the information we have. Our intention met with flaw. I wouldn't be comfortable making a decision based on our survey results ... the bullet points as I read it were ... 'pay more taxes or not.'"

Council member Larry Christman agreed that lack of information was a serious problem.

"I think that is one of the problems now ... that the people have not been educated as to the pros and cons of this program," he said.

Council member Ashley Sullivan agreed that the information thus far provided to the public was simply not enough.

"If we could have just had the entire citizenship of Enterprise in this room tonight, I think we would have a different answer on these surveys," she said.

City Administrator Michele Young also said questions she received from the public indicated that they had no idea how interwoven the city and county libraries were.

Council members and the public did not seem to understand that without the county

library, even Enterprise City Library services would be dramatically curtailed.

Without the financing of a district, library hours would most likely not be expanded in Enterprise. As it stands now, the Enterprise library is closed Fridays and through the weekend.

In the final vote, council members Chris Pritchard, Dave Elliott and Mayor Stacey Karvoski voted "no" and Micah Agnew, Larry Christman, Jenni Word and Ashley Sullivan voted "yes."

Included with his vote, Christman lectured the library foundation representatives, telling them to address an issue that he found astonishing and offensive: the proposal that the city library be turned over to the district while the city continued to pay for maintenance and wages.

BASE

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"Regardless of whether the special district passes, the libraries will need assistance for extra needs over the course of time," Byrd said.

The committee has met numerous times to "brainstorm" ideas. Anyone willing to help is welcome.

"We encourage people to buy locally when possible, but for those who purchase items on Amazon, we are requesting that they use Amazon Smile and select Wallowa Valley Library Foundation as their char-

ity," Byrd said. "Amazon will donate a percentage of every purchase amount to our foundation; it does not cost the buyer any extra. We call this a 'painless' way to donate."

Byrd said the importance of libraries cannot be overestimated.

"Whether you use the libraries personally or not, every single life in Wallowa County is impacted and enhanced by them in ways you may not be aware of," she said. "Libraries are not just about books; they are about literacy, community, communication, outreach and service."

She said county residents have become complacent

about literacy because Wallowa County has such a high literacy rate.

"The amount of work done by the libraries has a direct relationship to these literacy rates," she said. "They are doing a tremendous service to the overall community. The librarians are also amazing. They are not just doing a job. They are invested in the communities and work many extra hours to make a difference."

"If you want to help the library foundation, there is much that can be done now," Byrd added. "Please do not think that you are not wanted or needed."

Info: 541-437-8001..

OK

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fundraiser," said theatre owner Darrell Brann.

The list of upgrades includes such things as main floor bathrooms, structural improvements and a new heating and ventilation system.

Brann plans to close the theater in December to begin work on electrical wiring, heating and ventilation system, sealing air leaks in the "envelope" of the building and structural improvements to the stage.

After the theater reopens, work will continue through June to build ADA accessible bathrooms on the theater's

main floor.

Brann and his family have operated the theater primarily as a music venue for the last four years but have also hosted many free movie nights and fundraisers for nonprofits.

The Lostine Tavern event runs 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at eventbrite.com.

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