

# Delisting gray wolf long overdue

Capital Press

Let's take stock of the progress of the gray wolf's recovery in the Lower 48 states, shall we?

As it currently stands, upwards of 6,000 gray wolves have taken up residence in states ranging from California, Oregon and Washington state on the West Coast across the northern continental U.S. to Michigan. That's in addition to about 55,000 wolves that live across the border in Canada.

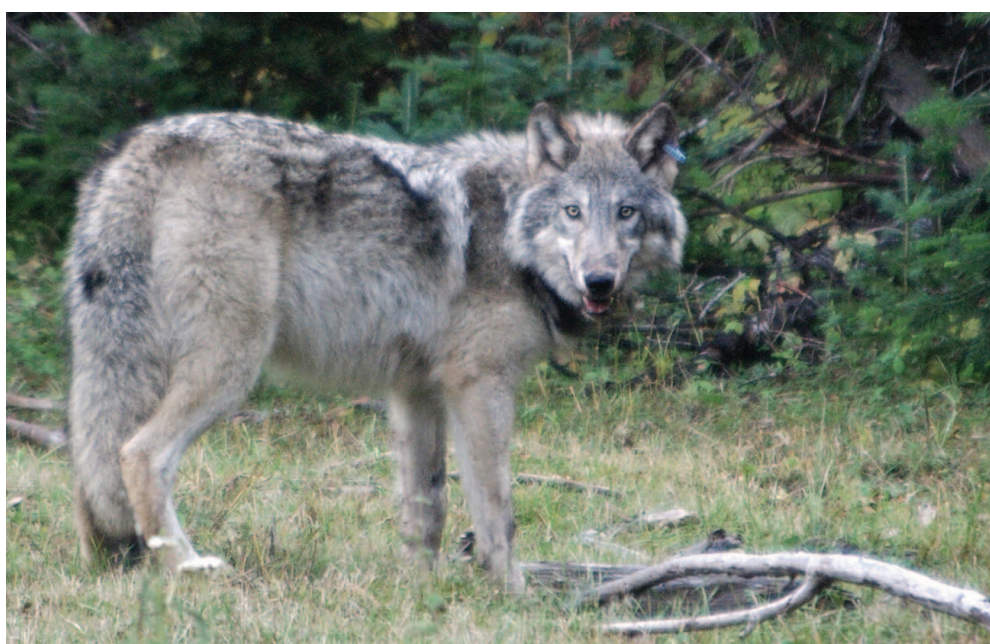
In every state, the population estimates are just that: wildlife managers offer only a minimum population estimate because they don't really know where all of the wolves are. They are popping up all over the place.

In Oregon and Washington, they are now in the Cascade Range and heading farther west and south.

OR-7, the wolf that took off from north-eastern Oregon and headed down to California before returning to southern Oregon, found a female mate that wildlife managers didn't even know about and formed a new pack.

Many of those wolves are descendants of 66 from Canada that were reintroduced in Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho in the 1990s. Others followed their noses into the U.S. from Canada.

The wolves have caused massive prob-



Contributed photo

The gray wolf population is thriving in the U.S.

lems for ranchers, who have lost sheep, cattle and working dogs to the predators while wildlife managers were forced to stand by. Because the wolves are protected, only after livestock was repeatedly attacked were managers able to do anything other than tell ranchers about non-lethal tactics such

as fencing with flags on it and hiring range riders.

If anyone has needed protection, it's been ranchers.

One thing is clear: The wolf population is thriving in the U.S. — and it will continue to thrive.

For years we have urged Congress, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — and anyone who would listen — to take the gray wolf off the list of endangered species. Under the federal Endangered Species Act, wolves are treated as though they are frail little creatures that cannot survive without protection.

In point of fact, the wolves are multiplying and spreading across the countryside in all directions. At this point, they need no protection from anyone.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has now proposed taking the gray wolf off the endangered species list.

All we can say is it's about time. Wolves should be managed the way any other game animal is managed.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting your comments on taking wolves off the endangered species list. This is your opportunity to make sure your voice is heard. The deadline is May 14. A website link that you can use to comment is published with this editorial.

The reintroduction of gray wolves can be described as many things, but it has accomplished its goals. Wolves are back. They are thriving. They need no special protections.

Those are the facts. It's long past time to take them off the endangered species list.

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Appreciation for Joseph City Council

I want to thank Belinda Buswell and Marty Hamilton for their efforts at the most recent Joseph City Council meeting to find documentation and build community. They are so appreciated.

As one of the three people who took some time and trouble to write the letters to the council that were read out, I wasn't too surprised that there was no comment on the letters.

That said, I do remain surprised that one citizen complaint at the last minute weighs so greatly against dozens of comments in favor. I acknowledge that the *Chieftain* article cites a statement about "lots of complaints that aren't documented" so I went to the city web page to double check in the council notes that what I read was what was said, but council notes aren't posted. So I couldn't check it out. But is that the standard? "Lists of undocumented complaints?" and most oddly, allegations of "falsities on both sides?" What does that even mean?

The article also reports a discussion of imposing a transient tax on the displaced market, "if not this year, to be revisited next year."

That didn't sound like a reasoned rev-

enue decision, so I looked up multiple "transient tax" documents in our county, all of which refers to lodging, not events. I also looked up event taxes for our county, finding none. Will all our vendors and yard sales in the city be paying the nonexistent transient event tax next year? Or was that just a gotcha?

Kathy Bowman  
Joseph

### Successful salmon recovery starts at the ocean

One rule that must apply to salmon, regardless of the area and river system, is that the adults must return from the ocean for the run to be successful.

Logic suggests dams are not the problem as is commonly suggested. Coastal rivers with no dams showed such strong declines in those rivers that ODFW closed some hatcheries because of low adult runs. This indicates that the adults were not returning from the ocean while ODFW continued to release sustained numbers of salmon smolts.

Also some of these rivers had very little logging since the runs began to decline. Surely some streams must have had suitable spawning habitat for these adult returns. There is no evidence that

the adult returns were normal in Oregon and Washington during this time, even in coastal rivers in wilderness condition and with normal releases of smolts. Also this would indicate no streams with spawning or rearing habitat existed!

I have worked on salmon spawning ground surveys and have observed natural spawning many other years. I have fished in streams and rivers in N.E. Oregon for 70 years. I do not recall a time during the declining salmon runs when there were more adult salmon than available spawning area. Additional riparian habitat was not needed for the low adult runs to spawn or for rearing areas for the limited numbers of smolts which were not produced because of low adult returns. It is also interesting that the Grande Ronde/Wallowa River steelhead program went from almost 0 adults to excess adults returning to the Wallowa Hatchery and adults to the whole system during this same time of "few suitable places to hold and spawn."

And I can tell you that "if you build it, they will come" does not work IF the adult salmon do not return from the ocean! That is like building a winter shelter to improve livestock production when the mortality occurs during the summer when the livestock are grazing away from the barn.

Also if you want budget support then you should publish the before and after results so your organization can prove the investment is actually producing more fish and not because of some other cause such as ocean, estuary survival or improved snow packs or....

John Isley  
Enterprise

### Proud of dad's stand

To the Editor:

Thank you very much for reprinting my dad's — Gwen Coffin's — editorial concerning the cruel internment of the Japanese during World War II. As you can well imagine, it "ruffled" many feathers at the time. The Coffin household would experience years of "ruffled feathers."

I am very proud of my dad. I know that with all his heart he strived to produce an excellent newspaper: one full of timely news, one with a thought-provoking editorial page, one with interesting, fact-filled articles. I feel he more than met his goals. He didn't expect everyone to agree with him, but he did always hope people would read what he wrote and think about it.

So, again, thank you!

Gail Coffin Swart  
Joseph

## FIRST DRAFT

### Writing about home

Students: Imnaha

Subject: Home

Prompt: Close your eyes and imagine home, or write when you are home. What do you see? How does home make you feel? What does it remind you of? Here are some thoughts from students in Mrs. Warnock's class in Imnaha, Oregon. Hope you enjoy!

Aaron Lopez, 1st grade: Home makes me feel happy.

I see a piggy.

This is Shrek.

I like my bike.

I like my Sponge Bob.

I see my house, here is the sink.

This is my mask.

I see a sprinkler,

the stove inside.

Katharina E.R. Hoffman, 8th grade:

Horse books make me

happy,

horse crafts make me

smile.

Both can be time

consuming

but can also be very

worthwhile.

Cows are a way of life.

Button makes days very

nice.

Pan is a friend in times

of need,

Someday Button will be

a mighty steed.

Mika is beautiful and

loving.

When I'm in the saddle

I'm hard to beat.



I have a memory without

defeat.

Beautiful wildflowers are

always near.

Souvenirs bering me

happy memories for years.

Kourtney Hoffman, 1st grade:

It makes me like But-

ton. These are big horses.

These are Reata, Zoey and

Jasper. We are at the beach

and these are seashells.

This me me on the swings.

This is my sister's duck and

these are my sister's flow-

ers. These are my flowers

in our yard. These are our

sheep, too.

Gabe Neveau, 4th grade:

This is my cat, Isaiah.

This is dad's bull elk and

it is very big.

This is the household

angel, Moses.

These are the ducks.

This is long fluffer.

This is dark fluffer.

This is Roxy and the

Zombie calf.

This is stretched Moses,

she is very fluffy.

This is the alien puppy.

Ruthy Neveau, K:

The chicks are in their

pen and they are happy and

they are nice. My brother is

good at baseball. My mom

loves Gabe. My brother is

being weird on the hill. Our

cat is nice. This chicken is

in the horse's pen and our

chick's tree is growing. We

have animals on our farm.

Our horses are nice, too. I

Painted a skull. This is my

farm, and I love my home.

Bella Cervantes, 3rd grade:

When I see my kitties

they look like fluffballs with

eyes. When I hold them I

feel warm and fluffy inside

and outside. I love them.

Sometimes they lay down,

sometimes they stare. I love

my kitties very much. Hav-

ing kitties is very fun.

### The Earth is But One Country and Mankind its Citizens

The body of the human world is sick. Its remedy and healing will be the oneness of the kingdom of humanity

So Powerful is the Light of Unity that it can Illuminate the Whole Earth

~from the Sacred Writings of the Baha'i Faith~

[www.bahaisofwallowa.org](http://www.bahaisofwallowa.org)

## OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY • 5-26-2019 • 10 TO 2PM

84142 Alpine Ln - Joseph • \$575,000. MLS 19157586

This comfortable, custom built, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, single level home sits on a beautiful 5 acre mountain view lot outside of Joeph. Fenced for horses, cattle or hay. 4 irrigated pastures and many out buildings including: large barn, loafing barn, pump house, 4 wheeler and garden sheds and the "Wilson Saddle Shop." The business can be purchased separately with equipment plus owner training for \$50,000



103 N. Main St.,  
Joseph, OR 97846  
Call Karen Raminha  
541-398-0308

## Introducing Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Adam Heisinger

- Doctor of Osteopathy, Des Moines University, Iowa
- Internship and Residency completed in orthopedic surgery at Affinity Medical Center, Ohio; Fellowship in sports medicine completed at Orthopedic Research of Virginia, Richmond
- Served four years as flight surgeon, Langley Air Force Base, Virginia and Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina

Dr. Heisinger will be seeing patients at Wallowa Memorial Hospital regularly for clinic visits and surgery. Ask your physician for a referral today.



Wallowa Memorial Hospital  
We treat you like family

601 Medical Parkway, Enterprise, OR 97828 • 541-426-3111 • [www.wchcd.org](http://www.wchcd.org)  
Wallowa Memorial Hospital is an equal opportunity employer and provider.