

# ODFW:

Continued from Page A1

He emphasized that he doesn't mean elimination of wolves as a species.

"We're not talking about total eradication of wolves," he said. "When wolves get to be chronic depredators of livestock, then you have to be effective managers."

But the kill permit issued to Birkmaier allows what is already legal in Oregon's eastside cattle country, where wolves were removed from the state's endangered species list in 2015. State law allows a rancher to eliminate wolves after two confirmed kills of cattle.

"We already have permitless take in that anybody on this side of the state where wolves are chasing, biting, killing their livestock, they have the authority to go ahead and kill the wolves," he said. "So the permit they gave was not much different than what we already have available to us."

Nash said the ODFW issuance of a kill permit wasn't effective wolf management.

"Their response was to give two kill permits for a given area. In that area, it's restrictive," Nash said. "I'm going to use the example of if (serial killer) Ted Bundy moved out of one apartment and into another, you'd just say, 'Oh, he's moved now. You can't arrest him.' ... Instead of the whole pack, they've restricted the area down."

Nash showed photographs of sheep that were killed April 29 in the Elk Mountain area of Wallowa County. Three lambs and two ewes were killed and the report blamed the depredation on coyotes, officially calling the responsibility "other."

He showed photos of fresh wolf tracks nearby and a dog track to compare for size. He also decried what ODFW said was a coyote attack.

"Those (wolf) tracks were right next to where the sheep we're killed," he said. "And they're calling it



**Left: The elongated nature of a wolf track makes it distinctly different from a dog or coyote track, said Todd Nash, a Wallowa County rancher, county commissioner and president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. Right: The footprint of a dog, in contrast to that of a wolf, is generally rounder. Both were found at the scene of a sheep kill April 29 in the Elk Mountain area. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife said the kill was by coyotes.**

Todd Nash/Contributed Photos

a coyote? But there wasn't a fresh coyote track out there. There were some old ones."

Williams also was on the scene of the attack on the sheep. He agreed it was a wolf attack and not coyotes.

Nash said he went right to the top of the agency.

"They're absolutely wrong on this one," he said. "I did ask for a review, I talked to the director and asked for a review ... that they take a keen look at this because they're just wrong."

Like Birkmaier about his agent who shot a wolf, the owner of the sheep wanted to remain anonymous. Both hope to keep a good relationship with ODFW.

Birkmaier said the local ODFW agents have offered to help tend his cattle.

Nash mentioned another case where he believed ODFW had fallen short. Last year the Lookout Mountain pack killed cattle and ODFW hunters killed two wolf cubs. Later, the hunters killed two more.

"But why kill the pups when it's the adults who do the hunting?" Nash asked. "It was like punishing the kids for their parents' misbehavior."

Michelle Dennehy, ODFW spokeswoman, said the Lookout Mountain pack was a difficult case.

"This was an attempt to keep the pack intact," she said. "The breeding male and female were collared and with all those mouths to feed can lead to depredation."

She said the "cubs" were

partially grown and already hunters.

"These were 40-pound wolves that were no longer in the den," Dennehy said. "Lookout Mountain was a tough one. ... It worked for a while, but started up again."

### Agency report

The most recent livestock kills in Wallowa County reported on ODFW's wolf depredation report were on April 30. Three more attacks were listed in Baker County on May 5.

Birkmaier said he's lost a couple more calves this month and he's spending time treating one of the calves that he's unsure if it will survive.

"I'm spending an hour a day doctoring the other one," he said. "I can't get ahead of the infection."

He said he understands it takes a while for the agency to complete investigations and list the depredations, but wolves don't wait around for agency paperwork.

"Generally, they take great deal of time when time is of the essence," Williams said.

Dennehy said determinations of reported wolf kills are generally reported within 48 hours of a producer's report. When the agency's determination is considered unsatisfactory to the producer, a review process is available.

"If requested by the owner of the livestock, we have a process to review disputed determinations

and that is happening now," said Dennehy about the April 29 sheep kill.

As of May 9, the report still said "bite wounds were consistent with coyote attacks on sheep" and listed the determination as "other."

### Nonlethal efforts not enough

Birkmaier has been known for his efforts to use nonlethal deterrents to keep wolves at bay.

"He's doing every nonlethal (action) everybody can dream up," Williams said. "What was more effective was he had a lot of people out there helping with nonlethal presence of humans."

"I'm still continuing the relentless nonlethal measures, including two AM-FM radios, two fox lights that come on at night and motion-triggered noise-making devices that have a siren and flashing lights," Birkmaier said. "I've been putting those in saddles on ridges or any natural crossing area where wolves may enter pasture."

But there are only so many hours in the day and a rancher has other jobs besides tending cattle.

"I'm still averaging 16-20 hours a day with the cows," he said. "You know how far behind I am and how my family's suffering from not having a dad and husband around?"

But late April and early May are a critical time for ranchers, who normally spend time maintaining fences, harrowing,

doing fieldwork and preparing canals for the irrigation season.

"When there's a time to kill wolves, they're the ones who should be doing it," Williams said of ODFW. "That's the type of management we need to see out of the ODFW."

He stressed that the state isn't doing its part.

"They haven't done their job of managing wolves and let Tom do his ranching," he said "It's ODFW who should've been doing the killing."

Nash doesn't see any end in sight, at least this year.

"Wolves are by nature scavengers or hunters," he said. "I fully expect that they'll do it all summer long and I fully expect that ODFW will follow suit and make up excuses for not confirming and not investigating and for not taking effective lethal management practices when it's completely in their purview to do that."

## Pet of the Week

### MEET DOMINO!

Domino is a white and black long haired neutered male tabby born April 18, 2017. He is up-to-date on vaccines, dewormed and is litter box trained. Domino has never been outside. He's a very laid back cat who loves his cubby to sleep in. He is dreaming of a quiet, indoor only home.

Available for Adoption

\$45 adoption fee

Call Carol at 541-432-1630

<http://www.wallowacountyhumaneociety.org/>

Brought to you by,

# McCloud:

Continued from Page A1

McCloud also takes issue with not being invited to the Dorchester Conference at Mount Hood Oregon Resort on April 22-24 where a gubernatorial debate and straw poll was held.

"The Dorchester brands itself as the oldest Republican conference west of the Mississippi, and they also say all Oregon Republican governors come through Dorchester," he said. "For them not to have reached out to me or invited me says one thing."

Thielman did attend the conference and won the straw poll, something McCloud's name was left off of. McCloud sees a connection between the events at the Linn County forum and

the results of the Dorchester Conference contributing to him being excluded from other gubernatorial events. He said there are a number of Oregon counties he has reached out to multiple times since beginning his campaign that he has heard no response from. McCloud said Oregon Republican National Committeewoman Tracy Honl told him any changes to party bylaws would occur after this year's election.

He believes there is strong evidence that his race plays a part in all these events.

"All I am asking, as a legally qualified candidate, is to be treated equally among other legally-qualified candidates, but that is the exact opposite of what I have seen in my experience as a Republican running for office," he said. "Marc Thielman has made several comments with me in the

room (involving race)."

Despite the unfair treatment he perceives, McCloud said he is as "driven as ever" to continue fighting for justice and election integrity.

"I believe these actions are in direct violation of Oregon voter integrity because it doesn't give equal opportunity to legally qualified candidates within the party to speak to their party members," he said.

McCloud, a Linn County resident, is a former Eastern Oregon University student from 2012-16 who works for an aerospace and defense manufacturer as a business analyst. During his time at EOU, he was homeless and supporting his family, which includes his wife and three daughters. He is four credits from graduating with a degree in public administration and a minor in business administration.

## NRA-PVF

POLITICAL VICTORY FUND

### NRA-PVF ENDORSEMENTS FOR OREGON

The NRA-PVF is the grading/endorsement arm for the NRA-ILA

Grades are A thru F +/- for those with a legislative record and have completed the NRA-PVF survey. Those with an AQ rating have no legislative record but requested and answered the NRA-PVF candidate questionnaire. Those candidates who never asked for a questionnaire and have no legislative record received an (?) Rating.

IN OREGON THE NRA-PVF HAVE ENDORSED ONLY 6 CANDIDATES FOR RE-ELECTION THEY ARE:

Congressman Cliff Bentz 2nd Congressional District..... A Rating

State Senator Kim Thatcher Senate District 11..... A+ Rating

State Senator Bill Kennemer Senate District 20 ..... A Rating

State Senator Daniel Bonham Senate District 26 ..... A Rating

State Representative Jami Cate House District 11 ..... A Rating

State Representative Bobby Levy House District 58 ..... A Rating

To look for the Grade for your candidate go to:  
[www.NRAPVF.org/grades/Oregon](http://www.NRAPVF.org/grades/Oregon)

There may be more endorsements after the 17 May 2022 Primary  
Rick Coufal Colonel, US Army (Ret), Frontlines Activist Leader (FAL) Oregon

paid by Rick Coufal

# JOIN OUR TEAM IN WALLOWA

HIRING ALL MANUFACTURING POSITIONS

We are looking for enthusiastic, fast learners to join our team. At Heartwood's facility in Wallowa, jobs range from entry level wood products manufacturing to equipment operating and mill maintenance. If you have existing skills, or a desire to learn new ones, contact us to learn more. We offer competitive pay, benefits, and a hiring bonus!

Call/text 541-263-2890 or email us at [hr@heartwoodbiomass.com](mailto:hr@heartwoodbiomass.com)

We make a diverse set of wood products out of small logs from forest restoration projects. Every employee has an opportunity to learn, grow, and be part of a strong team.

## YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO IT ALONE.

THERE IS STRENGTH IN REACHING OUT.

call 541-426-4524

or 541-398-1175 (24/7 crisis line)

Confidential support is available today.

WALLOWA VALLEY CENTER FOR WELLNESS  
[wvcenterforwellness.org](http://wvcenterforwellness.org)  
in partnership with