

Local & State

Governor, other critics upset about Fish and Wildlife Commission's approval of updated wolf plan

By **Kale Williams**
The Oregonian

On Friday, the commissioners for Oregon's Department of Fish and Wildlife voted to adopt the latest iteration of the state's wolf plan. Within hours, numerous environmental groups issued statements rebuking the plan.

And so did Gov. Kate Brown, who oversees the commission.

"Governor Brown was clear in her expectations to the agency and the commission: ODFW has a conservation-focused mission," Kate Kondayen, a spokeswoman for the governor, wrote in an email. "Efforts in the wolf plan to evaluate depredations and prevent them fail to meet the Governor's expectations for ensuring the health of the wolf population while also meeting the needs of the ranching community."

Friday's vote on the plan was the product of years of tense negotiations. On one side, ranchers, hunters and

farmers, who argued for looser regulations on when wolves can be killed for attacking livestock. On the other, wolf advocates and environmentalists, who railed against the plan at Friday's commission meeting, arguing it failed to take a science-based approach to wolf attacks on cattle and sheep.

During hours of frequently-combative testimony, members of the ranching community testified in favor of the plan, though they often told the seven-member commission they weren't happy with parts of it.

Environmental groups, conversely, pushed the commission to reconsider or completely scrap some of the plan's more controversial provisions.

Under the old plan, a wolf that attacked livestock twice or more over any period of time was deemed a "chronic depredator" and could be killed in the eastern third of the state, where wolves

are managed by the state. The new plan will allow the state to kill wolves after two confirmed attacks during a nine-month period.

Killing wolves will not always be done by state officials, though. The plan allows for permits to kill wolves to be issued to members of the public. Language in the plan explicitly forbids an open hunting season on wolves, but wolf advocates said any option that gives the public an option to kill the predatory canids could lead to more widespread public hunting of wolves.

"The decision to make it easier to kill wolves and open the door to wolf hunting and trapping marks a sad new low for wildlife conservation in Oregon," Amaroq Weiss, senior West Coast wolf advocate for the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement.

"The state's wolf plan is now disturbingly and destructively at odds with the best available science."

During her testimony Friday,

Weiss pointed to studies from other western states that showed killing wolves can often exacerbate the problem, destroying the social hierarchy of a pack and pushing younger wolves to look for easier prey, like livestock.

Hunters and ranchers, despite some misgivings about certain aspects of the plan, welcomed its adoption.

"Today's decision represents a major step forward for Oregon's wolf management," the Oregon Hunter's Association said.

Sean Stevens, executive director of Oregon Wild, called the plan a "spectacular failure of leadership" on the part of the governor, who appoints wildlife commissioners and oversees the regulatory body.

"Every wolf allowed to be hunted by the public, snared in a leghold trap, or killed for eating its native prey from this point forward will be the direct consequence of Governor Kate Brown and majority of her wildlife Commission," he said.

LOCAL BRIEFING

County Fair practice show set for June 11

All members of the Good Shepherds, Poco Wing and other 4-H members, and North Powder FFA, are invited to a practice show, judging contest and barbecue June 11 at 4 p.m. at the Baker County Fairgrounds.

Participants can bring their animals, but they must be halter-broke. Swine and small animals will not be judged but members can bring them to help get them used to the fair environment.

Check-in starts at 4 p.m., with the judging contest at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and practice show from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The main meal will be tri-tip. People with last names A-M should bring a dessert and last names N-Z should bring a side dish.

People planning to attend are asked to RSVP by calling Mark Coomer at 541-519-3246.

'Harry & the Hendersons' airing June 14

As a precursor to the Bigfoot Fest scheduled June 15 in Baker City, the Baker City Nazarene Church will be hosting a showing of the movie "Harry & the Hendersons" on Friday, June 14, at 6 p.m. in the Family Life Center, 1250 Hughes Lane.

Each child is invited to bring a decorated box car to sit in during the "drive-in" movie.

Concessions will be available with proceeds going to the Children's Ministry Programs of Baker City Nazarene.

More information is available by calling the church office at 541-523-3533.

Livestock Foundation offers scholarship

Applications are available for the Baker County Livestock Producers Foundation scholarship for the 2019-20 school year. Applicants must be residents of Baker County who are attending or have been accepted for a second year or higher at an accredited college or vocational school. Applicants also must be pursuing an agricultural-related course of study. Applications are available at the Extension Office, 2600 East St., and are due by July 15. More information is available by calling the Extension Office at 541-523-6418 or Kay Markgraf at 541-523-6019.

Learn about meteorites at the library

Meteorite scientist Dick Pugh will visit the Baker County Library Thursday to display meteorites and talk about how they end up on Earth. The presentation will start at 6 p.m. at in the Riverside Meeting Room at the library, 2400 Resort St. Pugh will have samples of meteorites to display, and he will also examine any rocks that people bring to see if they're of extraterrestrial origin.

Daylight Saving Time bill advances

By **Sarah Zimmerman**
Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon moved toward making daylight saving time permanent after the House voted 37-20 Thursday to ditch the twice-yearly time change if other West Coast states follow suit and Congress signs off.

The measure would establish year-round daylight saving time across the state — with the exception of Malheur County in eastern Oregon, which is on Mountain Time and will continue changing the clocks.

It now goes to Gov. Kate Brown, who said she will sign. But the bill would only take effect if other West Coast states follow suit and Congress signs off. While states can opt into

standard time permanently — which Hawaii and Arizona have done — the reverse is prohibited and requires congressional action.

Oregon lawmakers endorsed the move, saying they've heard passionate support from their constituents.

"It's what the people of Oregon want," said Rep. Bill Post, the Republican from Keizer who carried the measure on the floor. "It's what we've heard over and over and over again."

The idea's been picking up steam in state legislatures across the country and boasts broad bipartisan support. The governor of Washington state already signed a bill approving permanent daylight saving time, and the California Legislature is considering the change

after voters signaled their support last year at the ballot box.

More than 30 states are considering legislation related to the practice of changing clocks twice a year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Florida became the first state to vote for the switch and is still waiting on Congressional approval.

There's support on the federal level, too. Florida Sen.

Marco Rubio introduced legislation making daylight saving time permanent nationwide.

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