

# Oregon News

## Man stranded in high desert for 4 days rescued by mountain biker

■ Gregory Randolph, 73, of Portland, got his Jeep stuck in remote Lake County

By Gillian Flaccus  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — A 73-year-old man who was stranded in the remote Oregon high desert for four days with his two dogs was rescued when a long-distance mountain biker discovered him near death on a dirt road, authorities said Thursday.

Gregory Randolph had hiked about 14 miles with one of his dogs after his Jeep got stuck in a narrow, dry creek bed. He was barely conscious when biker Tomas Quinones found him on July 18.

Quinones, of Portland, hadn't seen anyone all day as he biked across the so-called Oregon Outback, a sparsely populated expanse of scrub brush and cattle lands in south-central Oregon. At first, he thought the strange lump was a dead cow.

"As I got closer, I thought, 'That's a funny looking cow' and then I realized that this was a man," he recalled Thursday in a phone interview.

"I started noticing that he sometimes would look at me but his eyes were all over the place, almost rolling into the back of his head. Once I got a better look at him, I could tell that he was in deep trouble."

Randolph was horribly sunburned, couldn't talk or sit up, and could barely drink the water Quinones offered him.

Quinones hadn't had a cellphone signal for two days, so he pressed the "SOS" button on a GPS tracking device he travels with in case of emergency.

He sat with Randolph, unfolding his tent to provide shade as they waited. A dog — a tiny Shih Tzu — emerged



Oregon State Police photo

This undated photo provided by the Oregon State Police shows a jeep and dog belonging to a 73-year-old man who was found by a mountain biker on July 18. The 73-year-old man who was stranded in the remote Oregon High Desert for four days with his two dogs was rescued when the long-distance mountain biker discovered him near death on a dirt road, authorities said Thursday.

from the brush and Quinones fed it peanut butter.

An ambulance showed up more than an hour later and whisked Randolph away, leaving the dog.

A sheriff's deputy showed up minutes later and, after giving a report, Quinones continued his trip. The deputy took the dog.

But Quinones soon noticed what appeared to be Randolph's footsteps in the dust and followed them back for four miles until the foot tracks left the road, he said.

When the deputy passed while leaving the area, Quinones pointed out the tracks then continued on.

Oregon State Police said they used an airplane to spot

Randolph's Jeep two days later, on July 20. His second dog had stayed at the site and was also alive.

The dog may have gotten some water from mud puddles in the creek bed, Lake County Deputy Buck Maganzini said.

The Jeep was miles from the nearest paved road, he added. Lake County is nearly 400 miles southeast of Portland.

"It's still there. It very well could stay there forever. I don't know how he got the Jeep in as far as he did," Maganzini said.

Randolph spent several nights in a hospital but is now home and recovering, as are his dogs. A home phone listing for him was discon-

nected.

"He was just out driving the roads — that's kind of common out here," Maganzini said. "There's not a heck of a lot else to do. You see a lot of pretty country."

Quinones has finished his back-country bike trip and said he feels lucky that he found Randolph when he did — and that he had a way to summon help.

He later discovered it would have been a six-hour ride to the next campsite with cellphone service had he not had his GPS tracking "SOS" device.

"There's no way to tell how long he'd been collapsed on that road," he said. "It's kind of mind-blowing."

## OLCC raises liquor license fee for first time in 70 years

SALEM (AP) — The cost of a liquor license in Oregon is going up for the first time in 70 years after newly passed legislation doubled the amount the agency will charge bars, restaurants, breweries and wineries for the right to sell alcohol to customers.

The law moves Oregon's liquor fees from among the cheapest in the nation to just below the national average for such fees, but the agency says getting on a par with other states was not the motivation.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission wants to use the new revenue to move its license renewal process online, deal with the increase in applications statewide as the population grows and create a more efficient, two-year renewal option.

"Our fees were set in 1949, as far as we know, back when bread was 10 cents a loaf," said OLCC spokesman Matthew Van Sickle.

Starting Oct. 1, a full liquor license will be \$800, up from \$400, and winery or brewery license fees will increase from \$250 to \$500. All other fees will also double on and after that date.

OLCC's revenues from distilled spirit sales and beer and wine privilege taxes, forecast at more than \$1.5 billion for 2019-21, are the third-largest source of revenue for the state of Oregon.

The increase in licensing fees is projected to raise an additional \$9 million for the 2019-21 biennium.

The agency processes an average of 454 new licenses a year, adding to a load of more than 18,000 active licenses.

While there is no timeline for a two-year liquor license renewal option or the transition to an online system, bar owners say they are looking forward to not having to complete cumbersome paperwork every year.

## Law shortens wait time for some assisted suicides

SALEM — Legislation allowing certain terminally ill patients to have quicker access to life-ending medications under the state's assisted suicide law has been signed into law, Gov. Kate Brown's office announced Wednesday.

The law allows those with 15 days left to live to bypass a 15-day waiting period required under the Death with Dignity Act, something proponents say will reduce bureaucracy and bring relief to gravely ill people.

"This improvement will result in fewer Oregonians suffering needlessly at the end of their lives," said Democratic Sen. Floyd Prozanski, who helped sponsor the legislation.

Some opponents argued the move amounted to an unnecessary expansion of the state's physician-assisted suicide law, saying the law removes critical safeguards meant to ensure people are confident in their decision to end their own life.

Since Oregon enacted the nation's first assisted suicide law in 1997, over 1,500 people died from taking life-ending medications prescribed to them by a physician. The practice is now legal in several other states.

## Proposal to sterilize Oregon wild horses raises hackles

By Emily Cureton  
Oregon Public Broadcasting

HINES — Wild horses walk a fine line between icon and unwanted. The Bureau of Land Management is eyeing an Oregon experiment to spay wild mares as a potential model for the West.

Among the many horses, fence panels and mounds of manure at a Bureau of Land Management wild horse corral, a nursing colt ducked between his mother's legs.

The mare swung around him to watch a tractor lift hay bales the size of cars. Like more than 11,000 wild horses last year, she was removed from public rangeland. She gave birth at this BLM corral in Eastern Oregon, and the collar around her neck means it could be her last foal — she'd been tagged to undergo surgical sterilization.

The procedure hasn't been widely performed on wild horses before, but after years of opposition, the BLM hopes to operate on test mares as soon as next month.

The National Academy of Sciences looked at the practice and issued a report in 2013, saying it didn't recommend spay surgery due to risks of infection and the difficulty of providing follow-up care. When the BLM published its plan to move ahead with ovariectomy via colpotomy, animal rights groups sued. Again it triggered a strong reaction, with more than 11,300 public comments pouring into the agency, according to a BLM spokeswoman.

The BLM has long been under pressure to bring down horse herd numbers across 10

Western states without resorting to slaughter. Relatively few of the horses it rounds up are adopted or sold — just a few thousand last year, compared to the 48,000 wild horses kept in corrals or private facilities and leased pastures. The agency spends \$50 million a year to run that holding system. The horses left on public rangeland share it with millions of privately owned cattle, which are authorized to graze under BLM permits.

"It's a balancing act between multiple uses, in terms of identifying how many horses can this area sustain, without negatively impacting wildlife habitat, recreation and livestock grazing opportunities," BLM wild horse specialist Rob Sharp said.

The BLM claims that wild horse herds double every four years without intervention. Federal law calls the horses "living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West," but it limits where they can roam to areas identified 50 years ago. Water sources in those areas have run dry before. Sharp said, in Eastern Oregon, the BLM has trucked thousands of gallons a day to keep wild horses from dying or trespassing onto private land in search of water.

"The general public does not stand to see starving and dying horses on the range," Sharp said. "Unfortunately, I think that will be the impetus for major change in this program."

The BLM's wild horse and burro program is eyeing the Oregon spay experiment as a model for the West. Stallions have been castrated before, but

Sharp said that's not effective for long-term population control, since one stud can get many mares pregnant.

The spay procedure is increasingly outdated among domestic horse veterinarians, said Dr. Regina Turner, head of the Equine Reproduction & Behavior Service at the University of Pennsylvania. She's not affiliated with the BLM or any advocacy groups commenting on the spay study. She last performed ovariectomy via colpotomy — the kind of procedure the BLM is planning — in the 1990s.

"It can be done humanely, with minimal stress to the mare, if it's done with proper pain control, and done efficiently and quickly by someone who's experienced at the procedure," Turner said. "But, I'll be honest, it would not be my first choice," she added.

The procedure involves a surgeon making an incision and using a chain to crush a mare's ovaries internally by feel, without help from the tiny cameras Turner deploys in her practice. Spaying isn't used as a birth control method for domestic horses, and is more often performed to alter behavior "usually if there is an animal the owners don't put a lot of value on," Turner said.

At her clinic, several spayed mares are used as "stimulus animals" to collect semen from stallions.

"If you have a mare that has no ovaries, she never has high progesterone, so she's always receptive to the stallion, pretty much 24/7, 365," Turner said.

Mares typically won't breed most of the year. One of the

concerns raised by opponents of spaying wild horses is how a major change to their reproductive organs could alter how the horses interact with each other.

"They're not livestock. They're a specially protected species. They're the only other animal protected under federal law besides the bald eagle," said Suzanne Roy of the American Wild Horse Campaign, a group that has sued to block the spay study.

She called the surgery "a completely inappropriate procedure" and "invasive and inhumane," but she agrees the herds need to be managed. Roy supports a birth control vaccine called PZP — a shot that costs more than permanent surgery. It also requires getting close enough to dart mares with annual boosters. Because of that, the BLM has said PZP is not a viable fertility-control option for most wild horse herds.

Supporting the spay study is a group called Protect the Harvest, which spokesman David Duquette said was formed to oppose animal rights groups.

"(Wild horses) are not indigenous. They're wild only because they were turned loose mainly when the mechanical era arrived, when tractors started coming into play," Duquette said.

Through its political action committee, Protect the Harvest spends money to oppose farm regulations across the country and legislation to prevent cruelty to dogs in puppy mills. Founder Forrest Lucas is an oil executive and hobby rancher with ties to the Trump

administration.

Duquette said the organization is "all about property rights" and that it played a "big role" in persuading President Trump to pardon Dwight and Steven Hammond, two Eastern Oregon ranchers convicted of arson. In 2016, their names were rallying cries for organizers of an armed occupation at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, a protected area not

far from the BLM's wild horse corral in Hines.

Lately, Protect the Harvest has bought wild mares from the BLM in order to spay them. The horses were trained and sold at publicity events to promote the BLM's spay study. If that study moves ahead, the wild mares already tagged for surgery will be turned back out and monitored from afar.

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