

## WOLVES

Continued from Page A1

ODFW biologists have confirmed the four attacks by wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack, which consists of an estimated nine wolves, but potentially as many as 11.

The attacks all happened northeast of Durkee, generally in the Manning Creek area east of Lookout Mountain.

The Lookout Mountain pack consists of the breeding pair (an adult male and female), two yearlings born in the spring of 2020 — the first pups born to the pair that ODFW has confirmed — and a second litter of pups born in the spring of 2021.

Brian Ratliff, district wildlife biologist at ODFW's Baker City office, said a video from May showed seven pups, but since then he could confirm only five pups from this year's litter. He said all seven of the pups might have survived, though, and are still part of the pack.

Bennett included with his request a letter from Deward and Kathy Thompson, the ranchers who own property in the area and also own some of the cattle that were attacked. They also manage cattle for other ranchers, including animals that have been attacked this month.

The Thompsons wrote in their letter to Melcher, the ODFW director, that they believe the attacks are the result of the growing pack's need for more food.

"It has gone rampant the last two weeks with this years and last year's pups added to the bunch," the couple wrote. "We are asking for your urgent assistance in reducing the packs need for so much meat to exist."

Bennett said in an interview Thursday morning, July 29, that the Thompsons

# Groups petition to restore federal protection for wolves

By Keith Ridler  
Associated Press

BOISE — Wildlife advocates on Thursday, July 29 petitioned federal officials to restore federal protections for gray wolves throughout the U.S. West after Idaho and Montana passed laws intended to drastically cut their numbers.

Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians and others sent the petition

to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The agency is supposed to respond within 90 days on whether there is enough information for a potential listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The groups cite unregulated hunting, poaching and genetic problems involving small wolf populations.

See **Protection** / Page A6

have taken multiple steps to protect their cattle, including nonlethal tactics to drive away wolves.

According to the state's wolf management plan, ODFW can issue a kill permit only if the affected ranchers have used, and documented, non-lethal methods to try to avoid wolf attacks.

In his letter to Melcher, Bennett lists some of the steps the Thompsons have taken, including:

- Frequently checking their cattle starting in early January, continuing through calving season in February, and into the spring and summer when their cattle were moved to upland pastures.

- Installing wire fencing around their calving pen.

- Firing gunshots in the air to try to frighten wolves.

- Installing a device that emits noise and lights when a wolf fitted with a radio-tracking collar approaches (the male breeding wolf in the Lookout Mountain pack has such a collar).

Bennett also wrote that the Thompsons decided not to use one of their higher grazing pastures due to the wolves.

"While local producers are most appreciative of local ODFW staff efforts to assist

with tools, collaring, and other non-lethal intervention, this has not prevented the ongoing losses," Bennett wrote.

A press release from ODFW notes those tactics, as well as the Thompsons' burying dead calves and cows to avoid attracting wolves.

The Thompsons' letter to Melcher includes a six-page handwritten diary of their activities since January 2021, many of them intended to thwart wolves and protect their cattle. The couple say they have put 16,000 miles on their ATV the past two years checking cattle.

The diary includes multiple entries where the Thompsons saw or heard wolves, or found their tracks in areas where their cattle graze.

Bennett's request also includes a letter written by Greg M. Baxter, Baker County district attorney.

Baxter said Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash invited him to watch an ODFW investigation of a possible wolf depredation on July 23. An ODFW biologist concluded that wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack had killed an 850-pound, 1 1/2-year-old heifer either late July 22 or early on July 23. The biologist found a blood trail leading from a struggle scene to the carcass, as well as tooth scrapes on the carcass of a size and location consistent with wolf attacks, according to an ODFW report.

Baxter said the experience helped him understand the situation that ranchers face.

As district attorney, he could potentially have to decide whether or not the shooting of a wolf was legally justified.

That happened in the spring of 2019, when Baxter's predecessor, Matt Shirtcliff (now Baker County Circuit Court judge) decided that a Pine Valley rancher was justified in shooting and killing one of four wolves that were attacking his cow dog near his home.

Oregon law allows property owners, or their designated agents, to use lethal force on a wolf that is biting, wounding, killing or chasing the owner's

livestock or working dogs.

The lethal take permit, by contrast, allows the Thompsons, or their designated agents, to kill wolves from the Lookout Mountain pack in any situation, regardless of whether the wolves are threatening or attacking livestock.

Baxter saw more than he expected on July 23 in the hills and gorges northeast of Durkee.

After watching the biologist examine the heifer's carcass, Baxter wrote that he and another local rancher, Levi Bunch, walked up a nearby gulch after an ODFW official said the signal from a radio-tracking collar showed the pack's breeding male was within a few hundred yards.

About 300 yards from the carcass, Baxter said he and Bunch saw at least two wolf pups. Soon after, he said an ODFW employee made a call mimicking an elk, which almost immediately prompted multiple wolves to howl or bark.

Baxter said he and Bunch climbed a hill and saw, about 200 yards away, two wolf pups approach two larger wolves. They also saw four head of cattle nearby.

Baxter said the cattle walked away, "at a brisk pace," and they were almost immediately followed by a "large, adult wolf" that was about 20 feet from where the cattle had been standing.

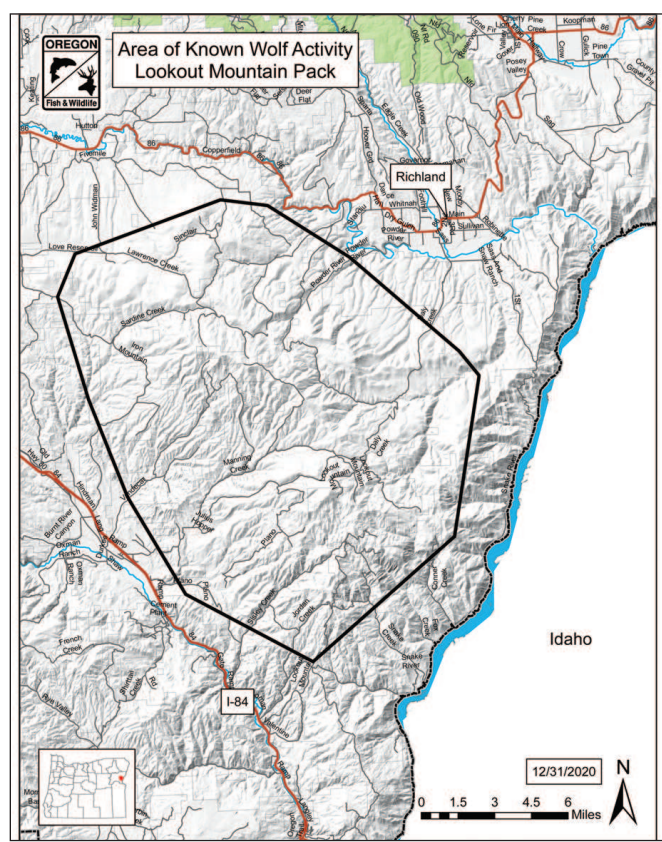
Baxter said that had someone shot the wolf at that point, he would have considered it a justified killing because he believed the wolf was threatening the cattle.

"I wouldn't have prosecuted it," he said.

Baxter said he was impressed, after talking to ranchers in the area, with their efforts to protect their cattle without seeking to kill any wolves.

"They really are trying to do the right thing," he said.

Baxter said he wrote a letter outlining his experience on July 23 because he endorsed Bennett's request for the kill permit.



# Survey: Conservatives far more likely to decline vaccine in Oregon

By Suzanne Roig  
EO Media Group

COVID-19 vaccination rates drop significantly outside of the Portland metro area, according to results of an Oregon Values and Beliefs Center survey.

The online survey of Oregon residents showed the three counties making up the Portland area had a 77% vaccination rate. In the survey, 42% of those surveyed said they had not received a COVID-19 vaccine.

The survey results mirror those from December 2020 that gauged how likely someone would be to get the vaccine when it became available. The results were published at the same time Oregon Gov. Kate Brown announced the state would follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indoor masking guidelines.

People who identified as socially conservative were four times as likely to say they would not receive the vaccine than those who said they

*"This is not a vaccine. It is an experimental gene therapy drug. I chose not to be a guinea pig."*

— **Response to recent survey of Oregonians about whether they have had a COVID-19 vaccination**

were liberal. Nearly all those surveyed who said they were college educated reported having received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"In Oregon, as in most other states, vaccination has become a politically polarized issue," said Amaury Vogel, Oregon Values and Beliefs Center associate executive director. "Political ideology when it comes to social issues, is a strong predictor of whether or not a person has received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine."

Some of the responses to the survey of why people would not become vaccinated included:

## About Oregon Values and Beliefs Center

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center, a nonpartisan charitable organization, has partnered with Pamplin Media Group and EO Media Group to report how Oregonians think and feel about various subjects.

The Oregon Values and Beliefs Center is committed to the highest level of public opinion research. To obtain that, the non-profit is building the largest online research panel of Oregonians in history to ensure that all voices are represented in discussions of public policy in a valid and statistically reliable way.

Selected panelists earn points for their participation, which can be redeemed for cash or donated to a charity. To learn more, visit [oregonvbc.org](http://oregonvbc.org).

- "The jab is a psychotic global attempt to fulfill a depopulation agenda."

- "This is not a vaccine. It is an experimental gene therapy drug. I chose not to be a guinea pig."

- One resident said he had survived severe acute respiratory syndrome in 2003.

"Oregonians who remain unvaccinated share the same reasons as being the

most influential in their decision not to get vaccinated: Long- and short-term side effects and the concerns that the vaccine was developed too quickly," Vogel said.

The survey conducted July 9-14 of 1,464 residents has a margin of error for the full sample ranging from plus or minus 1.5% to plus or minus 2.6%, depending on the response category for any given question.

## LOCAL BRIEFING

### Keller Williams Four Rivers welcomes its three Baker City real estate agents

Keller Williams Four Rivers real estate has welcomed its three Baker City agents: Shannon Downing, Kristen McAdams and Jeff Anderson.

Keller Williams Realty Boise expanded to Baker City this past winter and serves Baker, Union, Wallowa, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler counties.

All are veteran real estate professionals in Baker County.

Downing, who is a member of Soroptimist International of Baker County, enjoys spending her spare time with her family exploring the county's outdoor areas.

McAdams, who was born and raised in Baker City, has more than six years of experience in real estate. She's an avid traveler who loves to go camping and boating with her husband, son and fur babies.

Anderson was born and raised in Northeastern Oregon and moved to Baker City at age two in 1980. He worked as a lineman for the Bonneville Power Administration and as manager of loss control at Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative before moving into real estate.



McAdams



Anderson



Downing

# Governor might require vaccine for state workers

By Sara Cline

Associated Press/Report for America

PORTLAND — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is "examining" whether to require that state workers get vaccinated, as the highly transmissible delta variant continues to spread across the state and COVID-19 cases spike.

Elsewhere, in California and New York, officials announced state employees will be required to be vaccinated or undergo weekly tests for COVID-19. In addition, the Department of Veterans Affairs on Monday became the first federal agency to require vaccinations, for its health workers.

"We are examining the actions taken this week by California, New York City and the VA, and determining what further actions can be taken in Oregon," Brown's deputy communications director Charles Boyle wrote in an email on Wednesday.

As cases continue to increase across the country, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced updated masking guidelines on Tuesday, recommending that people — vaccinated or not — return to wearing masks indoors in parts of the U.S. where the delta variant is rampant.

See **Vaccine** / Page A5

## New at the library

In the last two weeks, Baker County Library has added 54 new bestsellers, 17 movies, 21 audiobooks, 64 children's books, and 231 other books, including 190 that are available online.

The library, at 2400 Resort St., is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

### NON FICTION

- "5 Types of People Who Can Ruin Your Life: Identifying and Dealing with Narcissists, Sociopaths, and Other High-Conflict Personalities," Bill Eddy.
- "The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life," Katy Butler
- "Outer Order, Inner Calm: Declutter & Organize to Make Room For More Happiness," Gretchen Rubin
- Spirit in the Rock: The Fierce Battle for the Modoc Homelands," Jim Compton
- "Toppun: An American Story," Dan Pedersen

### FICTION

- "Bad Axe County," John Galligan
- "Bookshop by the Sea," Denise Hunters
- "How Much of These Hills is Gold," C Pam Zhang
- "It's Better This Way," Debbie Macomber
- "Night of the Mannequins," Stephen Graham Jones

### MOVIES

- "Mortal Kombat" (Sci-Fi/Fantasy)
- "Percy vs Goliath" (Drama)
- "Phyllida Lloyd's All Female Shakespeare Trilogy" (Non-Fiction)
- "The SpongeBob Movie" (Family)
- "Wrath of Man" (Action)

Providing quality and compassion to all his patients.

Dr Sanders specializes in all aspects of the foot and ankle. Anything from foot & ankle pain to diabetic foot care & limb salvage, injuries, surgery, skin or toe nail conditions, sports medicine, he covers it all!



**SANDERS PODIATRY**  
Brian Sanders, DPM  
Accepting most insurances

2830 10th St Baker City, Oregon  
Baker City office hours:  
Mon-Thurs 8am-5am  
Clinic hours: Tuesday 8am-5pm  
Thursday 8am-12pm

Clinic offices in Ontario (every other Monday)  
John Day (every other Monday)  
La Grande (every Wednesday)

541-524-0122