



Type 2 fire crews typically carry a sequence of tools, pulaskis, shovels and rakes, to construct fire lines. Trainees worked on the technique on June 9, 2022, outside Burnt River School in Unity.

Firefighters

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“Today we’re using hand tools and hand line, pumps and hose,” Cuellar said. “They’ll set up a Mark 3 pump and get instructions on what type of hose to string out.”

BLM firefighters, along with volunteers from many rural protection districts and associations, cover some of the vast rangelands between the Snake River and extending as far south as Reno, Nevada.

Trainees, clad in fire-resistant Nomex clothing — green pants, bright yellow shirts — hard hats, sunglasses and gloves, learn to use an array of hand tools to dig fire lines designed to prevent flames from spreading.

They also learn to carry out “gridding,” where crew members are separated to slightly wider than arm’s length apart and systematically cover ground in order to ensure no single ember remains.



A BLM 800 gallon all-terrain fire truck fills a portable tank, known as a “pumpkin,” on June 9, 2022, at Burnt River School in Unity.

Fire is normally obvious, but heat can also hide, Cuellar said.

He mentioned fires in Western Oregon in 2017 that, even after they were extinguished above ground, still produced smoke from heat in underground root systems half a decade later.

Besides training firefighters, the camp at Burnt River School trained younger workers, as young as 16, to serve as support crews at fire camps. They can do all sorts of tasks, from serving food,

to setting up and tearing down camps, often in barren, rocky areas.

Pay for Type 2 firefighters can range up to \$19.80 an hour. They’re often sent to high-risk locations for shifts up to 14 days long. They dispatch not just as individuals, but as an entire unit, vehicles and equipment included — everything but the water.

Cuellar said his crews have been sent as far as Alaska, and have made visits to the Carolinas, Florida, Kentucky and Georgia over

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the years. Fire crews were on call and responded to situations as unique as the Challenger space shuttle disaster and Hurricane Katrina.

If the situation merits, they can sometimes spend as much as two weeks on call without seeing fire, but standing by in locations such as California and New Mexico, where any open flame can expand into disaster.

If you’re able bodied and interested in a career in firefighting, visit www.blm.gov/programs/public-safety-and-fire/fire/careers or call the Oregon BLM at 503-808-6001.



Bicyclists race a course around downtown on June 26, 2021, during the Baker City Cycling Classic. This year’s three-stage race is June 17-19.

Cycling

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Race director Brian Cimmiyotti said there will be a detour from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. of northbound traffic on Highway 30 at Hughes Lane and Pocahontas Road, as well as where Chico Road joins the highway.

The race action then moves downtown with kids races sponsored by the Baker County YMCA and the Tour d’Town Criterium.

The race for kids ages 4 to 15 is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is free and starts at 10:50 a.m. at the corner of Main and Washington streets. Or register in advance at www.bakerymca.org/projects-3.

Helmets are required. There are three age categories: ages 5 and younger (short course on Main Street); ages 6-9 (two laps of the race course); ages 10-15 (three laps of the race course).

The Criterium follows the kids races, and this is the most spectator-friendly event of the stage race when groups of bicyclists race a tight course around downtown from about 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There will be parking restrictions on Main Street, Valley Avenue, First Street, Second Street, Broadway Street, Court Avenue and Washington Avenue.

Sunday: Dooley Mountain

Sunday’s stage begins at 7:30 a.m. from Baker High School. The route heads south on Highway 7 to Austin Junction, then left on Highway 26 to follow a rolling course to the Highway 245 intersection outside of Unity.

From there it’s all uphill to the finish at the summit of Dooley Mountain. There will be traffic delays along these highways throughout the course of the day.

Cimmiyotti said those who would like to see the finish should carpool if possible because parking is limited, and arrive at the finish line by noon.

Support for the race

In addition to Scott’s Cycle and Sports, the race is supported by BELLA Main Street Market, Churchill School and Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort.

“The event is entering its 20th edition here in Baker County and is proud to sup-

port our local Baker High School sports and education programs,” Cimmiyotti said.

Each year, groups who help with race support receive a donation from the Baker City Cycling Classic. Cimmiyotti said each year the race donates more than \$5,000 to BHS programs and volunteer groups including Best Friends of Baker and the Northeast Oregon Com-

passion Center.

“We at Scott’s Cycle and Sports and all the riders that take part in this great race truly appreciate your support and encouragement and we look forward to seeing you out at the races cheering and ringing your cow bells,” Cimmiyotti said.

For more information, visit www.bakercitycyclingclassic.com.

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Council

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His email is cityrecorder@bakercity.gov. To be eligible, prospective candidates must be registered voters who have lived within the city for at least 12 months prior to the election.

Positions up for election this November are those held by Joanna Dixon, Johnny Waggoner Sr., Dean Guyer and Kenyon Damschen.

The three other councilors — Kerry McQuisten, Shane Alderson and Jason Spriet — are serving terms that continue through the end of 2024. All three were elected to four-year terms in November 2020.

Dixon and Waggoner, along with Heather Sells, were elected to two-year terms in that election, and their terms expire at the end of 2022.

Guyer was appointed to the Council in December 2021 to replace Lynette Perry, who resigned in August 2021 due to health issues. Guyer is serving the remainder of Perry’s term, which ends Dec. 31, 2022.

Damschen was appointed in March 2022 to replace Sells, who resigned because she moved outside the city and was no longer eligible to serve.

The City Council generally meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at 7 p.m. at City Hall.

Councilors earn \$10 per meeting, with an annual cap of \$150.



Damschen



Dixon



Guyer



Waggoner

Wolves

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During the summer and fall of that year, Lookout Mountain wolves killed at least nine head of cattle and injured three others, according to ODFW investigations. Most of those happened in the central and southern parts of the area, near the Durkee Valley.

The repeated attacks prompted agency employees to kill eight wolves from the pack, which initially included an estimated 11 wolves.

After ODFW biologists confirmed that Lookout Mountain wolves had attacked cattle five times during July 2021, killing three and injuring three others, agency employees killed two wolf pups, born during the spring of 2021, on Aug. 1.

Following additional attacks in August and September that killed five head of cattle, ODFW employees shot and killed three more wolves, including the pack’s breeding male, on Sept. 17, 2021.

There were no attacks on cattle for almost a month, until Oct. 16, when biologists determined that wolves had killed a 400-pound calf, likely on Oct. 14.

ODFW employees then shot and killed three more wolves, two juveniles born this year and one wolf born in 2020, on Oct. 20, 2021.

At that point, ODFW officials believed the pack, which roams the area between Highway 86 on the north and Interstate 84 to the south, consisted of just two wolves — the breeding female and one juvenile (now a yearling) born in the spring of 2021.

The breeding female has a GPS tracking collar that allows state biologists to monitor her movements.

Ratliff said an adult male wolf joined the breeding female at the end of January 2022. ODFW officials captured the male on Jan. 31 and fitted the animal with a radio tracking collar. Ratliff said radio collars, although they don’t automatically send location data daily as GPS collars do, tend to last much longer and are less prone to malfunctioning.

The adult wolves apparently mated, Ratliff said.

He bases that on a series of GPS locations for the alpha female this spring that indicates she found a den site where she gave birth to pups.

Ratliff said a female wolf

that has a litter leaves a distinctive record of movements, continually returning to the same site after short forays in what biologists call a “wagon wheel pattern,” with the den site as the hub and the trips away as the spokes of the wheel.

Ratliff said ODFW has not set up any remote cameras near the den site, so biologists don’t know how many pups were in the litter.

He said the alpha female has continued to return to the site, however, so at least one pup is still alive.

Ratliff said there are no cattle grazing near the den location now, although cattle use most of the Lookout Mountain unit at some point during the summer.

Latest investigation

On the morning of June 6, a rancher found three injured calves while gathering cattle in a 3,000-pasture in the Daly Creek area north of the Snake River Road near Richland. The pasture includes both public and private land, according to an ODFW report.

Ratliff estimated the calves had been attacked two to three weeks earlier.

One calf had multiple bite scrapes and tooth punctures on the inside of the right hind leg, with infection and tissue damage, according to the report.

A second calf had a tooth puncture on the inside of the right hind leg and an open wound on the outside of the leg, as well as multiple tooth scrapes on the inside and outside of the leg.

The third calf had a ¾-inch open wound at the base of its tail and multiple tooth scrapes around the tail.

“The locations of the injuries on all three calves are consistent with wolf attacks on calves,” the report concludes. “These attacks appear to be from the same event and are attributed to the Lookout Mountain pack.”

Ratliff said that although there were no GPS location data from the alpha female that put the pack in the area when the calves were attacked, there are no other wolves known to roam that area, so the attack was attributed to the Lookout Mountain pack.

Ratliff said he has been in touch with ranchers who have cattle in the area and will continue to give them updates about the alpha female’s location.

Annual Youth Trail Ride started in 1964 is sponsored by the Baker County Mounted Posse

This is an outdoor camp with horseback riding and outdoor adventure for boys and girls ages 12-15 years old.

Cost is \$2.00
(that's right only \$2.00 dollars)

June 25-26, 2022

For more information, questions or an application please call Jodie Radabaugh at 541-524-9358 or 541-403-4933
All state and county regulations will be followed.