

Oregon ranchers grapple with increasing number of wolf attacks

BY GEORGE PLAVEN

Capital Press

It has been another challenging summer for Oregon ranchers working to protect their livestock from wolves.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife has confirmed 50 wolf attacks so far in 2022, killing or injuring 39 cattle, eight sheep, four goats and three guard dogs. Of those incidents, 38 have been reported since July 6, primarily in north-east and south-central Oregon.

That is already one more confirmed depredation than was tallied by ODFW for all of last year, though with fewer animals harmed — 95 in 2021, versus 54 as of Oct. 20.

But for every carcass found in rugged, mountainous terrain, there could be as many as six or seven more that aren't found, said John Williams, a retired Oregon State University Extension agent in Wallowa County who is wolf committee co-chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Many producers also opt not to report their livestock losses to ODFW, Williams said, having long been frustrated with the agency's management of wolves.

"We need to get much more aggressive," he said. "We should be acting on the management of these wolves without having to wait for disaster to strike."

'Lethal take' permits

ODFW recently issued "lethal take" permits for two wolf packs that continue to prey on livestock in neighboring Union and Umatilla counties.

One of those permits allows the affected rancher to kill up to two wolves from the Horseshoe pack. It was approved Sept. 6 after wolves attacked cattle twice in three weeks on a 4,000-acre private pasture in the Blue Mountains east of Pendleton.

The permit was due to expire Oct. 7, but was extended until Oct. 28 after the pack killed another calf on Sept. 26.

Since then, two more depredations were confirmed and attributed to the Horseshoe pack on Oct. 17.

Michelle Dennehy, ODFW spokeswoman, said trapping has been added as a tool to catch wolves in the pasture, with USDA Wildlife Services now acting as the producer's agent.



ODFW

Permits have been issued allowing two wolves to be culled in response to continued attacks on livestock.

A second kill permit was also granted Oct. 6 for up to two wolves from the Balloon Tree pack after ODFW confirmed four attacks on sheep Sept. 8-26 near Elgin. That permit expired Oct. 15, with no wolves killed.

Ranchers face difficulties

Williams said it is difficult for ranchers to catch and shoot wolves under restrictions written into ODFW's permits.

First, they can only be killed on pastures where livestock depredations have already occurred. Williams said a wolf can easily traverse a 1,000-acre pasture in just minutes.

Second, the agency may specify only a certain type of

wolf may be shot to preserve certain members of a pack, such as the alpha male, female or any wolf fitted with a tracking collar. Not to mention, ranchers are already working full-time jobs, Williams said.

"It really limits the success of going ahead and getting those wolves killed," he said.

"Once a wolf pack gets into a 'chronic depredation' issue like these packs are, really the only out is to reduce that pack's size."

Oregon's wolf plan currently defines "chronic depredation" as two attacks in nine months for wolves east of highways 395, 78 and 95, after which ODFW may consider lethal control. Wolves in Western Or-

egon remain protected under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Amaroq Weiss, senior wolf advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity, said evidence shows that in places such as Eastern Oregon, where government agencies can readily kill wolves, illegal poaching also increases.

Four wolves have been poached in the region this year, most recently OR88, a radio-collared adult female member of the Lookout Mountain pack in Baker County.

"It's a sad cycle that keeps repeating itself in Oregon," Weiss said. None of the poachers have been caught.

However, Williams said that

while OCA doesn't condone poaching, he believes there would be greater tolerance of the predators locally if the state were more proactive in managing populations, and not simply reacting to livestock depredations.

Cattle ranchers want ODFW to adopt management zones for wolves, with population targets to prevent what Williams described as "saturation" of the animals in some areas.

"Here, you can expect to see a wolf on any ridge in Wallowa County, at any time," he said. "You can't really run them off. You're just moving them to another batch of livestock. You aren't really solving the problem."

Couple is arrested after child shows up at school with fentanyl in backpack

BY ISABELLA CROWLEY

The Observer

LA GRANDE — The parents of a 7-year-old student at Central Elementary School in La Grande were arrested on Tuesday, Oct. 25, after school staff found fentanyl pills in the student's belongings, according to a press release from Union County Sheriff Cody Bowen.

A deputy from the Union County Sheriff's Office arrested Attorney Davis, 28, and Troi O'Quinn, 25, both of La Grande.

Davis has been charged with endangering the welfare of a minor, recklessly endangering another person, frequenting a place where controlled substances are used and possession of a controlled substance. O'Quinn was charged with frequenting a place where controlled substances are used.

Deputy Justin Hernandez responded to the school after the pills were discovered in the first grade student's backpack, according to the probable cause declaration. The pills were marked with an "M" and "30," which the school resource officer recognized as fentanyl pills due to his training.

In separate interviews with law enforcement, O'Quinn and Davis shared that Davis hid the bottle of fentanyl in the backpack because a friend going through opiate withdrawal was visiting.

Davis told police he didn't want his friend to see how many pills he had since he believed his friend would ask for more.

Both Davis and O'Quinn told law enforcement that they smoked a pill with the friend while their children were in the other room at home, according to the probable cause declaration. The couple fell asleep after the friend left and forgot about the pills in the backpack the next morning.

Davis told law enforcement that he was aware of the dangers of fentanyl and how it could be potentially lethal if it was distributed in a school environment, according to the probable cause declaration.

The case is currently ongoing and under investigation by the Union County Sheriff's Office.

Davis is represented by court-appointed counsel, La Grande attorney James Schaefer. He is set to appear in court on Nov. 22.

Celebration

Continued from A1

Another foot or more could fall at the ski area, which has the highest base elevation of any resort in the Northwest, at 7,100 feet.

Although it's too early to know whether there will be enough snow for Anthony Lakes to open on Thanksgiving weekend, which is always the goal, Judy said the ski area will be ready if the weather continues to cooperate.

For most years in the past decade, opening day was delayed until December, so an early start would be an exciting kickoff to Anthony Lakes' 60th birthday, Judy said.

The ski area officially opened on Jan. 12, 1963.

Anthony Lakes will commemorate the birthday with Throwback Thursday on Jan. 12, 2023, when lift tickets will be \$2 for ages 13 to 69, and \$1 for ages 7 to 12.

From Jan. 12-22, visitors are invited to bring their most memorable photo from Anthony Lakes and pin it to the "Through the Years" wall display.

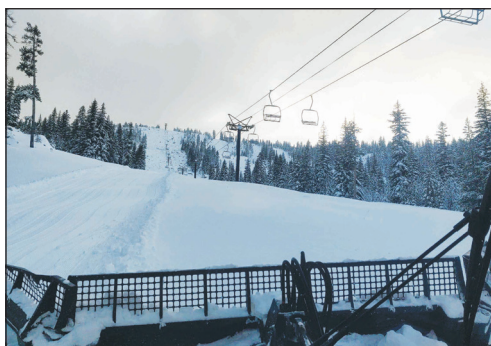
The resort's main birthday celebration will take place Saturday, Jan. 21.

Events include the Anthony Lakes Cup, a dual slalom race presented by the Anthony Lakes Ski Racing Association, live music by the Greenneck Daredevils from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and other events.

Skiers and boarders are invited to wear 1960s-style gear and attire.

Other than the 60th birthday festivities, this winter should be "business as usual" at Anthony Lakes, Judy said.

Overnight options include two yurts and the Anthony Lake



A snowcat on the slope below the Rock Garden chairlift at Anthony Lakes Mountain Resort in late October 2022.

Ian Warner/
Contributed Photo

Guard Station, both available for rent, as well as parking spaces, with electric hook-ups, for RVs in the lower parking area. The RV spaces are first-come, first-served.

Anthony Lakes history

Local residents started skiing in the area in the 1930s, with the formal opening of the Evergreen Ski Club and North Powder Sportsmens Booster Club happening on March 27, 1938.

The Anthony Lakes Playground Association was formed on April 21, 1938, Stan Ingram wrote in his detailed history, "Anthony, A Tale of Two Skis," published in 1971.

After a hiatus during World War II, interest was revived in 1947 in making Anthony Lakes a skiing center for Northeastern Oregon. Two rope tows operated during the 1947-48 season.

But after two winters the momentum was lost — in part, Ingram writes, because someone stole the snowplow used to keep the steep road to the resort open, then drove it over an embankment, destroying the machine.

Although some skiers continued to hike to the slopes, the main skiing destination during the 1950s was at Little Alps, about three miles east of Anthony Lakes.

The focus returned, however, to the higher elevation site

just west of Anthony Lake in 1962. The effort, led in part by the Baker County Chamber of Commerce, was aided by a visit, in January 1962, of Oregon Gov. Mark Hatfield (later a longtime U.S. senator).

During a dinner hosted by the Chamber of Commerce, Hatfield announced that the state had allocated \$35,000 to pave 2.7 miles of the Anthony Lakes Highway.

That summer the Anthony Lakes Corporation was formed, and with proceeds from a stock sale, the corporation installed a Pomalift. It carried its first skiers on Jan. 12, 1963, with tickets \$2 for adults and \$1 for children — hence the Throwback Thursday prices set for Jan. 12, 2023.

The current day lodge opened in 1967.

WATCH OUT FOR THE WILDLIFE ON THE ROADS

Premier Auto Body, Inc.
2390 Broadway, Baker City
541-523-5223

Kerri Deardorff

July 28, 1959 - October 5, 2022

Kerri Lynn (Grove) Deardorff, age 63, passed away surrounded by her loved ones on October 5th, 2022, at St. Luke's Hospital, Boise, Idaho. A celebration of life will be planned at a later date for Kerri's close friends and family.

Kerri was born in Ontario, Oregon, on July 28th 1959, to Thomas Mackey and Laura Willene Grove. Kerri was the fifth of seven children. During her school years, Kerri was very active in equine 4-H, cheerleading and lettering in track. Kerri graduated from Ontario High School in 1977, enlisting in the United States Navy in September 1978. She served as a Communication and Intelligence Specialist/Radioman, entering her two-year Naval Reserve obligation in 1984. Kerri honorably discharged from the Navy in 1986.

Kerri began her career as the Chief Deputy City Clerk for the City of Fruitland in 1989. She was a dedicated public servant who enjoyed her duties and responsibilities, and, more importantly, her co-workers, supervisors and citizens of the community, until 2019, when she reluctantly retired. Kerri was very loyal and conscientious, and due to her impressive work ethic, would have continued working forever. However, retirement meant more time for traveling with her husband, as well as spending precious time with her children and grandchildren. Kerri enjoyed gardening, camping and was very active in her fantasy football league. Though unaffiliated with a local church, Kerri's deep, personal faith in Jesus Christ was greatly represented by her collection of frog sculptures and molds, which stood for "Fully Relying On God", a tenant which gave her courage, particularly as she persevered with an undaunted joy for living during many trials in her life, as well as, throughout her illness. Her reliance on the love and support of her beloved husband,

Doug, who cared for her constantly, also gave her strength.

Kerri was married to Doug Deardorff in 2006. Kerri and Doug happily raised their blended family in Fruitland.

Their children, Kristi, Kortney and Brandon, were the light of their lives. Kristi brought three grandchildren into the picture followed by Brandon's two children, a wonderful highlight for Kerri and Doug. They resided in Fruitland for the duration of their marriage, happily opening their home to anyone who wanted or needed a friend, and often a cold beer and warm conversation.

Kerri and Doug were together for 29 years. There was never a dull moment with Kerri around, she was always up for a lively time and a good laugh. Kerri was known to her friends and family by the nickname "Toot," given to her by her father when she was a child. She was given this beloved nickname because she was the mischievous one of the seven children, always causing some sort of issue with her harmless, yet frequent, antics.

Kerri was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas Mackey and Laura Willene Grove. She is survived by the love of her life, Doug Deardorff; her children: Kristi (Justin) Fish, Kortney (Vanessa) Broecker and Brandon (Sarah) Deardorff; seven grandchildren: Alexis Conde, Ashlyn and Aubree Fish, Makiya and Milliani Quezada, and Austyn and Dane Deardorff; her four brothers: Thomas (Ranelle) Grove Jr., Phillip (Cindy) Grove, Jon (Cindy) Grove, Frank (Dea) Grove; and sisters: Laura (Eddie) Corliss and Mary (Russ) Grove-Armstrong; 17 nieces and nephews; 24 great-nieces and nephews, one uncle and two aunts, cousins. ... and her dog, Chewy. Kerri's energy and enthusiasm for living were contagious and she will be greatly missed.