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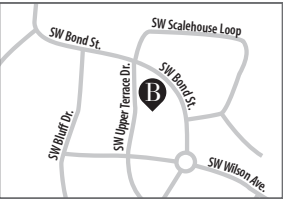
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LOCAL, STATE & REGION

Judge throws out Trump-era rollbacks on endangered species

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

A federal judge on Tuesday threw out a host of actions by the Trump administration to roll back protections for endangered or threatened species, a year after the Biden administration said it was moving to strengthen such species protections.

U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar in Northern California eliminated the Trump-era rules even as two wildlife agencies under President Joe Biden are reviewing or rescinding the regulations. The decision restores a range of protections under the Endangered Species Act — including some that date to the 1970s — while the reviews are completed. Environmental groups hailed the decision, which they said sped up needed protections and critical habitat designations for threatened species, including salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

Tigar's ruling "spoke for species desperately in need of comprehensive federal protections without compromise," said Kristen Boyles, an attorney for the environmental group Earthjustice. "Threatened and endangered species do not have the luxury of waiting under rules that do not protect them."

The court ruling comes as two federal agencies — the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service — review five Endangered Species Act regulations finalized by President Donald Trump's administration, including critical habitat designations and rules requiring



California Department of Fish and Wildlife/file

▲ A February 2021 photo by California Department of Fish and Wildlife shows a gray wolf (OR93), seen near Yosemite, California. On Tuesday, a federal judge threw out a host of actions by the Trump administration to roll back protections for endangered or threatened species, a year after the Biden administration said it was moving to strengthen those species protections.

federal agencies to consult with the wildlife or fisheries services before taking actions that could affect threatened or endangered species.

Fish and Wildlife also said it will reinstate the decades-old "blanket rule," which mandates additional protections for species that are newly classified as threatened. Those protections were removed under Trump.

Critical habitat designations for threatened or endangered species can result in limitations on energy development such as mining or oil drilling that could disturb a vulnerable species, while



« A gopher frog is pictured at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans on Sept. 27, 2011. Gerald Herbert/AP file

the consultation rule and a separate rule on the scope of proposed federal actions help determine how far the government may go to protect imperiled species.

Under Trump, officials



Tom Gallagher/AP file

▲ In this June 1995 file photo a northern spotted owl sits on a branch in Point Reyes, California. A federal judge on Tuesday threw out a host of actions by the Trump administration to roll back protections for endangered or threatened species.

cision to weaken enforcement of the century-old Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which made it harder to prosecute bird deaths caused by the energy industry.

The bird law reversal was among more than 150 business-friendly actions on the environment that Trump took and Biden wants to reconsider, revise or scrap, including withdrawal last month of a 2020 rule that limited which lands and waters could be designated as places where imperiled animals and plants could receive federal protection.

Industry groups and Republicans in Congress have long viewed the Endangered Species Act as an impediment to economic development, and under Trump they successfully lobbied to weaken the law's regulations. Environmental groups and Democratic-controlled states battled the moves in court, but many of those cases remained unresolved.

OREGON GOVERNOR'S RACE

Candidate Tina Kotek tests positive for COVID-19

Former House speaker says she's 'taking it easy for a few days'

From Bulletin wire reports

Democratic candidate for Oregon governor Tina Kotek said Tuesday that she tested positive for COVID-19.

Kotek said on Twitter she was resting and taking it easy for a few days and that she's grateful to be vaccinated and boosted, KOIN-TV reported.

Over the holiday weekend, Kotek

posted photos to Twitter showing her campaigning, hiking in Silver Falls State Park and enjoying Portland Pickles baseball.

Kotek won the Democratic primary election in May. She previously served as speaker of the Oregon House.

Oregon lifted many of its COVID-19 restrictions in the spring. According to June 30 data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 24 Oregon counties — including Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson counties —



Kotek

have moved into the high-risk level for COVID-19. More than a dozen Washington counties have also reached the high-risk level.

At that level, experts urge people to wear high-quality masks while indoors in public spaces, get tested if experiencing symptoms and make sure vaccinations and boosters are up to date.

Peter Graven, lead forecaster for Oregon Health and Science University, told KGW-TV he expects

COVID-19 to keep spreading through July.

He said omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 have come on strong in Oregon recently. Health officials said the two newer subvariants are now responsible for more than half of the new cases in the state.

Anyone at risk for severe illness in high-risk areas should consider taking additional precautions such as staying 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated spaces, and washing hands often, according to the CDC.

LOCAL BRIEFING

land-urban interface and restoration of forest health. The Forest Service said this work will help create a forest that is more resilient to fire, insect infestations, and disease.

Questions about the work can be directed to the Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District at 541-383-5300.

Environmentalists lose Oregon grazing lawsuit

U.S. District Judge Michael McShane has dismissed a lawsuit filed by environmental advocates who said the U.S. Forest Service unlawfully authorized grazing in the 165,000-acre Antelope Allotment of the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

"The Forest Service made a rational decision when it decided on a course of action that included continued grazing in the Antelope Allotment," McShane said.

The most recent plans for the allotment opened up more land for grazing to encourage cattle to disperse instead of congregating in areas inhabited by the threatened Oregon spotted frog.

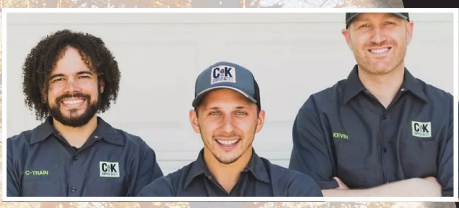
The Concerned Friends of the Winema and four other environmental nonprofits filed a federal lawsuit in 2019 alleging

the agency's grazing plans were "unsupported and irrational" in violation of the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act and National

Forest Management Act. The judge has now rejected all those arguments, ruling that the government adequately analyzed livestock

impacts on the threatened Oregon spotted frog in light of climate change and other stressors.

— Bulletin staff reports



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“★★★★★

I have been working with The Bulletin for over 3 months and they continue to impress me with their hard work, innovative ads, and amazing reels.

I look forward to continuing work with The Bulletin and Makenna Cervelli in particular.

In my opinion every company that's wanting to grow and take their marketing to the next level should use their amazing services.

”

— Sean McDonell
Owner, C4K Coffee Roasters
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