

# PLAN

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killing livestock. The change means ranchers can shoot a wolf caught chasing after herds on the producer's own property or allotment.

Non-lethal deterrents are still emphasized first by ODFW. Ranchers are not allowed to bait wolves, and must report any lethal take within 24 hours while making all reasonable attempts to preserve the scene for investigation.

Todd Nash, a Wallowa County rancher and chairman of the Oregon Cat-

tlemen's Association wolf committee, said it is highly unlikely for producers to actually catch a wolf causing trouble in the pasture. The rule does, however, make them feel a little more empowered than they were before.

"We didn't want wolves to begin with," Nash said. "We're trying to get along as best we can in the political climate we live in."

Another change in Phase II lowers the requirement for ODFW to consider lethal control of problem packs. Previously, the department needed to confirm four attacks on livestock within a six-month period, and each

of those incidents had to satisfy an additional set of criteria in order to qualify. No pack ever reached the threshold, though the Umatilla River wolves came close last year.

Instead, Phase II allows ODFW to consider killing wolves after just two livestock predations without a set time limit. Nash said lethal control is critical for livestock producers as the wolf population continues to grow.

"Dealing with problem wolves is an absolute must moving forward," he said.

Ranchers are currently compensated by the state

for livestock losses caused by wolves. The Oregon Department of Agriculture awarded \$150,830 in 2014 – along with \$63,125 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – as part of the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance County Block Grant Program.

But ranchers like Nash see compensation as a Band-Aid, not a solution, for the problem. The Cattlemen's Association passed a resolution at its annual meeting in December that supports lethal control of wolves in three cases: livestock losses, human health or safety, and when game

populations dip below management levels.

Rob Klavins, northeast Oregon field coordinator for the conservation group Oregon Wild, said moving into Phase II of the wolf plan is a positive sign of the species' recovery, although the population remains "relatively small."

Oregon had 64 wolves at the end of 2013. The 2014 population will be updated in ODFW's annual wolf report, slated for March.

And, despite reaching the conservation benchmark for breeding pairs in Eastern Oregon, Klavins said that does not mean their work is done.

"We should look at these numbers in context, and realize wolf recovery is moving in the right direction," he said. "I think, at this point, killing wolves should still be an option of last resort."

The transition into Phase II also marks the initiation of de-listing wolves in the eastern third of Oregon. Wolves remain federally protected in western Oregon.

ODFW will begin conducting a full status review and present its findings to the Fish and Wildlife Commission in April. The commission could make its decision as early as June.

# PORTER

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"He's the only one there hurting his family, attacking them, and all of a sudden he's protecting them?" Carpenter said.

In his testimony, Carpenter presented photographs and documents including autopsy material.

He said the evidence clearly showed that Ward died from being struck in the head with a chunk of firewood.

Carpenter said Por-



**Jim Carpenter**

ter's memories of the night, and his memory lapses, are convenient for him.

"He remembers those facts that are beneficial to him in stark detail, but when it doesn't benefit him, all of a sudden, he can't recall," Carpenter said.

He said that strategy was noted in Porter's previous hearing, and also in his psychological review.

The parole panel also heard testimony from the victim's brother, Ben Ward,

and widow, Debra Ward, who talked about the stark loss felt by the family.

Debra Ward also recalled feeling some comfort when she thought Porter would be in prison for life. Now, she said the release hearings are taking a painful toll, and she urged the board not only to keep Porter in prison, but to schedule any new hearings farther apart than two years.

In the original case, Porter faced a possible death sentence for aggravated murder.

However, he entered an Alford guilty plea – where the defendant ac-

knowledges likely conviction without admitting to the crime – and he was sentenced instead to life without opportunity for parole for at least 30 years.

A ruling in an unrelated case subsequently changed

the rules and shortened the period for a parole review in certain cases, including Porter's.

Supporters of Porter attended the hearing. If released, Porter plans to move to the family ranch near Monument.

Carpenter said it's unlikely that the parole board will order Porter back to prison for 10 years, but he hopes it is longer than two years. He also lauded his staff for the work they did in preparation for the hearing.

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SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00  
MON - THURS 7:00

\***THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER PG**  
SpongeBob goes on a quest to discover a stolen recipe that takes him to our dimension, where he tangles with a pirate.  
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:35  
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10  
MON - THURS 7:10

**AMERICAN SNIPER R**  
The story of Navy SEAL sniper, Chris Kyle. Directed by Clint Eastwood.  
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