

# WOLVES

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"There's no other species we would delist when it's absent from almost 90 percent of its habitat," Weiss said.

Oregon's ranchers, who had urged the ODFW commission to follow the guidelines of the wolf plan and the recommendations of the department's biologists, cheered the decision.

"I'm relieved," said Todd Nash, wolf committee chairman for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. "This sends a message to cattle producers that the ODFW Commission will stand by its commitment."

Nash said ranchers would not have supported a partial delisting.

"When we were paying the price (of livestock attacks) in Eastern Or-

egon, we fully believed we were doing it for the whole state," Nash said. "And we were proud to do it."

The decision does not bring major changes to the way Oregon manages wolves, which migrated to the northeast corner of the state 15 years ago following their reintroduction in Idaho and Wyoming by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Oregon's first pack was confirmed in Willowa County in 2008; the state now has at least nine packs, defined as four or more wolves traveling together.

The state wolf management plan remains in force with the commission's decision. It allows ODFW-approved "controlled take," or killing, of wolves in cases of chronic livestock attacks or if wolves cause a decline in prey populations, chiefly elk and deer. Ranchers, as they can now, are able to shoot wolves caught in the act of attacking livestock or herd dogs. None have been killed in that manner.

Oregon's wolf plan does not allow sport hunting of wolves.

More than 150 people packed the ODFW hearing room and 106 signed up to testify. Activists opposed to delisting wolves, many of them wearing matching orange T-shirts, made up a majority of the audience. A sprinkling of men in cowboy hats — Eastern Oregon cattle ranchers who have borne the stress and cost of wolf attacks on livestock — clustered on one side of the hearing room.

The testimony echoed the arguments that have been made since Oregon's wolf population reached the number of breeding pairs that trigger consideration of delisting under the management plan.

Conservation groups and their allied argue that the state's biological status report on wolves was flawed and should have been peer-reviewed by other scientists. ODFW staff belatedly circulated the report to biologists they knew,

but conservationists said that was insufficient.

"If this commission chooses to delist it will make a very sad and powerful statement about who and what it serves," said Jonathan Jelen, development director for the conservation group Oregon Wild.

Livestock producers, however, argued they'd followed the wolf plan in good faith and expected the ODFW Commission to do the same.

"Oregon ranchers honored their obligation to follow the plan," said Jerome Rosa, executive director of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association. "This is one of the reasons wolves multiplied in our state."

Paul Henson, state supervisor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Portland, was invited by the commission to testify. Henson said he's "very confident" wolves will continue to recover, calling it "one of the easier scientific questions" he's considered.

"As long the management plan is followed, wolves will expand into their historical range and be successful," he said.

To take wolves off the endangered list, ODFW commissioners had to make five findings:

Wolves aren't in danger of extinction in any portion of their range; their natural reproductive potential is not in danger of failing; there's no imminent or active deterioration of their range or primary habitat; the species or its habitat won't be "over-utilized" for scientific, recreational, commercial or educational reasons; and existing state or federal regulations are adequate to protect them.

Commissioner Chair Michael Finley and commissioners Holly Akenson, Bruce Buckmaster and Bob Webber favored delisting. Commissioners Gregory Wolley and Laura Anderson voted against it. Commissioner Jason Atkinson was unable to attend.

**the corner's HOT SHOT OF THE WEEK**

**SARAH ENNIS**

**School:** Prairie City  
**Grade:** 11  
**Parents:** Glen and Andrea Ennis  
**Sport:** Volleyball

**What I like best about my sport:** "I like how it's a team sport, and you get to work with everyone. I like everything about it — it's fun."

**Coach's Comment:** "Sarah is a team player with a positive attitude who is a pleasure to work with. She makes the team better when she leads by example, taking advice and working hard on improving every day."

— Coach Louanne Zwegardt

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## SENECA YOUTH BAGS BIG ONES



Seneca resident Rylee Browning, 13, shot this 4x4 bull elk, left, while hunting with her mom and dad, Winnie and Brad Browning, earlier this month. She took down the elk with her Ruger 7mm-08 Remington with a Murderers Creek tag on private land. She also brought home a 4x4 deer during hunting season.

## Girls 1A volleyball players honored

Blue Mountain Eagle

GRANT COUNTY — Prairie City and Dayville/Monument girls volleyball All-League honors for the 1A-8 High Desert League have been announced.

For the Prairie City Panthers, coached by Louanne Zwegardt:

- Brianna Zwegardt, sophomore, Setter of the Year.
- Amaya Zwegardt, senior, first team.
- Cassie Hire, sophomore, second team.
- Sarah Ennis, junior, honorable mention.

For the Dayville/Monument Tiger, coached by Tiffnie Schmadeka:

- Emma Hettinga, senior, second team.
- Kendall Hettinga, junior, honorable mention.

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## Seventh Street facelift progressing

Seventh Street will soon sport mile-long trail

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — New up-

grades are taking shape at Seventh Street Complex in John Day.

The John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation Department was awarded \$347,000 from the Oregon Parks and Recreation, with a \$90,000 match, for the improvement projects.

Office manager Kimberly Ward said workers should finish the Jimmy Allen Memorial Trail this week.

The path, which was partially paved, will be extended to create a full loop and a full mile. Rough spots on the existing trail are also being repaired.

A concrete slab was poured for a picnic shelter under construction near the tennis and basketball courts and skate park.

Ward said new restrooms for that area will be delivered in early December.

Iron Triangle is the contractor, with Tidewater paving the trail, Mike Voigt building the picnic area, and other help includes Andy's Plumbing and electrician Ty Parsons — all local businesses.

BOOK YOUR CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH US!

We still have a few openings.

Call the John Day Golf Course Clubhouse at 541-575-0170 and ask for Jessy or Ronda

BREAKING NEWS ALERTS

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## Nominate A Local Veteran

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."  
— President Harry S. Truman

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