

The science of good science

Wolves have recovered dramatically in Oregon, their numbers growing into the triple digits and their populations expanding west and south across a large swath of the state.

The Oregon Wolf Plan shepherded the success of that re-introduction. And because the next step in the plan called for taking gray wolves off the state's endangered species list, that's exactly what happened.

In a staff report released in October 2015, scientists from ODFW recommended the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission delist gray wolves. In November, OFWC agreed with that assessment. And just last month both houses of the state legislature voted to affirm the OFWC's decision.

Despite pressure from environmentalists to veto the bill, Gov. Kate Brown signed the bill into law Tuesday. She made the right decision.

It's disappointing that environmental groups have indicated they do not plan to drop a lawsuit challenging the delisting.

Out here in wolf country, we've lived by the rules of the Oregon Wolf Plan since the wily animals swam across the Snake River and made this country their home. And many of us are happy about that. Wolves belong in Oregon, and their existence must be protected.

But with existence now reasonably secured, species management is needed. And we should make those management decisions using unbiased science, not science paid for by special interests. And we should definitely not make those decisions by discarding science altogether and substituting emotion, or the highest paid lawyer.

But that's what environmental groups such

as Oregon Wild, Cascadia Wildlands and the Center for Biological Diversity are trying to do. These litigants are undercutting the work that ODFW has done to revive wolf numbers and the science that has fueled it.

"The place where (the delisting decision) needs to be determined is in a court of law," Amaroq Weiss, Center for Biological Diversity, told Oregon Public Broadcasting.

But a courtroom is not where science happens, and it is the wrong place for management decisions to be made.

The place where wolf management decisions should be made is in the field. It's in the laboratory. It's in the reams of data in the hands of a wolf biologist. It's by the decisions of an apolitical, informed commission who studies the science.

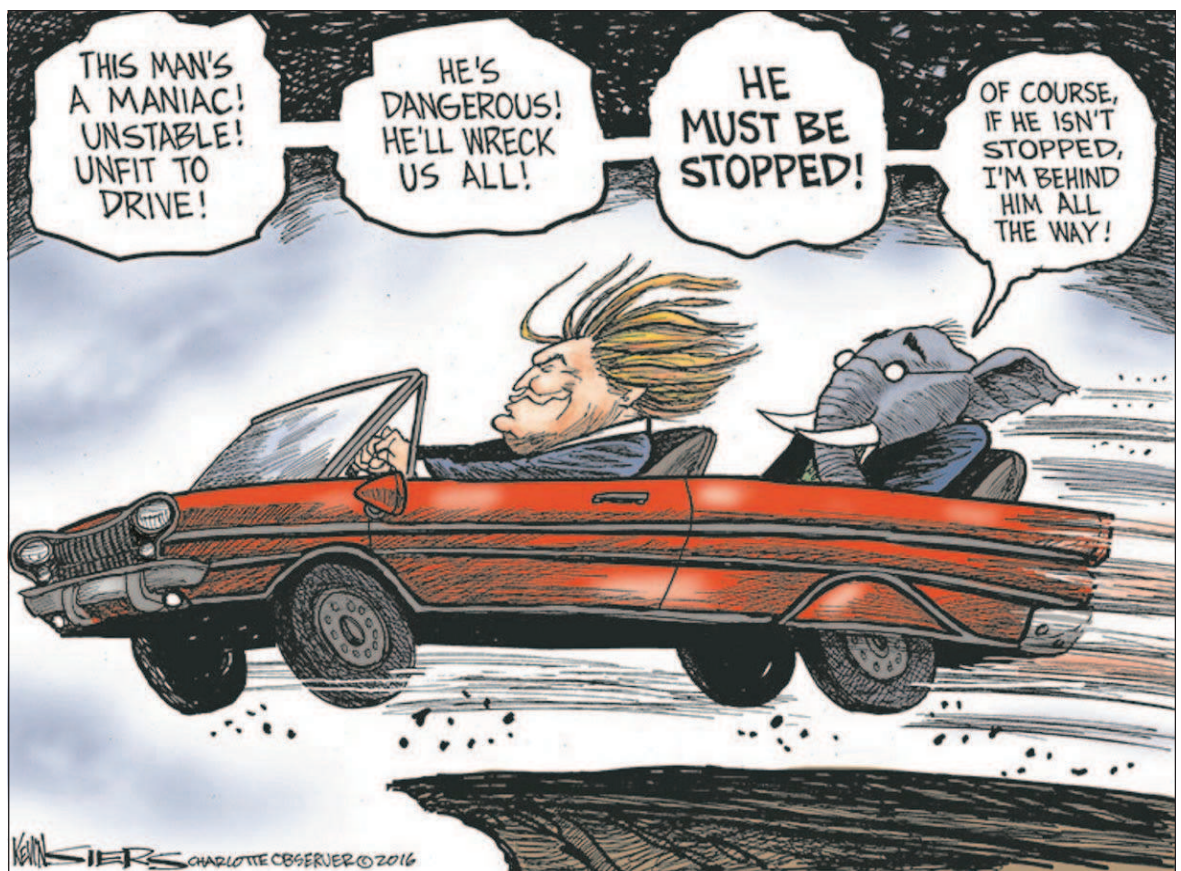
That work has been done, yet it has been disregarded by environmental groups who don't agree with the conclusion.

That's not the way science works. It's a shame that some of the state's most well-funded and powerful environmental groups don't believe in science that is not their own.

Those groups tried to put pressure on the governor to veto a bill that passed, somewhat miraculously, through a Democratically controlled Legislature to land on her desk.

It's not a one-sided trick, either. There are many who point to the scientist they paid for who has found the climate isn't changing, smoking doesn't cause cancer, that coal is clean and Arctic drilling is good for the polar bear.

It's a disreputable group to be part of, and one that hurts your credibility in the eyes of people who just want what is best for our state and its wildlife. You cry wolf too many times, and there might not be any wolves left to hear you.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

So much for what people want

To the Editor:

Well, the hope that we would have some answers forthcoming, or at least a satisfactory effort to understand why the Canyon Creek fire was allowed to grow to the monster that it did, was short lived at best. It appears that from the city councils or county commissioners to Washington, D.C., there is no guarantee that those we elect to represent us will, in fact, do that. I am sure that the many people who attended the meeting to voice their opinion about the investigation were only a few who could attend, but perhaps many others simply could not attend. Mr. Christensen made a good point about how simple it would be to at least start asking the relevant questions, but for some reason, even simple didn't impress the commissioners.

They just didn't seem to want to have an investigation. Why? We may never really know, but we all have a vote, and I, for one, will make certain that I make an effort to help replace this majority voting board of county commissioners with someone else, anyone else, until they show the same disregard for the will of the people.

When we had to decide about the pot issue here in Prairie City, I don't know if anyone really knew how the mayor stood, personally, but we all knew that he represented the majority of voters. Isn't that how those we elect to represent us are supposed to look at things? I guess from the city councils to Washington, D.C., we are all tired of the cover-ups, the insults to our intelligence, the garbage!

Mary Brown
Prairie City

cal response failure situation here?

I understand that the situation is very fluid and subject to Murphy's Law, but they did pre-analysis and game-planned this. The tactical failures are at the basic level of decision making and skills taught (or supposed to be taught and administered).

Again, the shooting was legally justified; Mr. Finicum's actions almost guaranteed that. But the shooting does not pass the test of public expectation and acceptance, and law enforcement personnel across the board suffer from the result.

Maybe Gov. Brown and the Legislature can continue to defund OSP to the level where they can't possibly respond and place citizens and officers in jeopardy. Just a thought.

Doug Hoffman
Retired OSP tactics instructor
Roseburg

Diversify or die

To the Editor:

It looks like Grant County is the first Eastern Oregon county to push the issue of marijuana production and sales to a vote on the May 17, 2016, ballot. In just a few short weeks 346 signatures were gathered, 198 of which were validated by the county clerk. This was enough to put the measure on the May ballot. It seems with the early enthusiasm the measure has a very good chance of passing and maybe opening doors for some economic relief in Grant County.

Voters will decide whether to bring in revenue from the state and provide jobs to the people of grant county. Approval would open doors for more than just marijuana production, processing and sales. Land could also be used for hemp production, which is a billion dollar industry in Canada. Hemp grown outdoors matures in as short as four months and is used in a variety of products including, but not limited to, clothing, rope, biomass, paper pulp and more.

So as you can see this is not a one issue subject — there could be more opportunity here than we think. It is not just marijuana dispensaries that could be banned; we could lose the chance for agricultural production facilities, possibly a processing facility and, yes, I'm sure somewhere in Grant County a dispensary will open. A place where adults over 21 with ID would purchase marijuana that has been lab tested for mold and is pesticide free, making it safe for human consumption. After buying it, people would go home and smoke it — it is illegal to smoke or consume marijuana in or around a dispensary so they wouldn't be driving off under the influence.

People who work here know you diversify or die in Grant County. We build houses, we fix fence, cut firewood — anything it takes to make ends meet. If Grant County doesn't find a way to diversify beyond timber and ranching, two essential parts of our economy, I don't know what the future is for our community.

Cindy Kidd
Mt. Vernon

Constitutional cowardice

To the Editor:

If some of those who revere the Constitution do not think that the Constitution's Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 and the Constitution's Article 4, Section 3, Clause 2 do not give the federal government the right [1] to own land, [2] to enact laws to regulate land it owns and [3] to arrest people who violate those laws, then they certainly should exercise their constitutional right to file a class action complaint in the United States District Court in Pendleton against the United States for its alleged unconstitutional actions. It is that simple.

Since such people revere the Constitution, they also must revere its requirement that all legally binding interpretation of the Constitution can only be performed by the Court of the United States. Therefore, they would also have to [1] revere the United States District Court's ruling on such a complaint by them, [2] revere the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling on an appeal, should they file one after having lost in District Court and [3] revere the United States Supreme Court's ruling on their Writ of Certiorari, should they file one after having lost their appeal.

They shall never do this, because they know that they shall lose on their Article 10, Section 8, Clause 17 argument and their other arguments, which is why none of them ever has filed and none of them ever will file such a complaint.

Their utter absence of integrity, honesty and even patriotism, by not submitting their constitutional arguments to that entity, which the Constitution requires to be the only arbiter of constitutional questions, is constitutional cowardice.

Brian McDonough
Bennington, New Hampshire

Previous writer wrong about special deputies

To the Editor:

Last week's letter to the editor from Sam Walker of John Day belittled the "special deputies" appointed by the sheriff as unelected and untrained with the power to arrest and detain him. Members of the Grant County Search and Rescue are special deputies. Many special deputies are yearly undergoing training in first aid, emergency management for fire, flood, etc. These special deputies often have military or law enforcement experience. To use the term "secret police" in conjunction with the reasoning for special deputies only reveals one's ignorance.

Mark Pengelly
Canyon City

See LETTERS, Page A5

SWAT actions failed to meet public expectations

To the Editor:

I would agree with the stated opinion that law enforcement did not want the situation to end in a death, and that Mr. Finicum's desire to be a martyr for the cause was the primary reason it did.

That said, police SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) is a unit meant to bring extreme situations to a reasonable conclusion. Based on (my personal opinion here, folks) video and investigative review of this situation, Oregon State Police SWAT actions failed to meet the public and law enforcement professionals expectations.

The secondary stop attempt is riddled with tactical error. Spike strips 20 yards before the vehicle roadblock? Shooting at a human controlled speeding missile results in an uncontrolled speeding missile with poor tactical results, leaving positions of cover to engage is a basic officer safety and tactics no-no, failure to position nonlethal response weapons (gas), poor tactical position to box in and respond to a barrier breach — are you beginning to understand the tacti-

WHERE TO WRITE

GRANT COUNTY

- **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
- **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.
- **Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- **John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.
- **Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
- **Seneca** — P.O. Box 208, Seneca 97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: senecaoregon@gmail.com.

SALEM

- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: www.governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: www.leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).

- **State Rep. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** (District: 60), Room H-475, State Capitol, 900 Court St. N.E., Salem OR 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Email: rep.cliffbentz@state.or.us. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/bentz/home.htm.
- **State Sen. Ted Ferrioli, R** — (District 30) Room S-223, State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-986-1950. Email: sen.tedferrioli@state.or.us. Email: TFER2@aol.com. Phone: 541-490-6528. Website: www.leg.state.or.us/ferrioli.
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.
- **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D** — 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Email: wayne_kinney@wyden.senate.gov Website: http://wyden.senate.gov Fax: 202-228-2717.
- **U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, D** — 313 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510? Phone: 202-224-3753. Email: senator@merkley.senate.gov. Fax: 202-228-3997. Oregon offices include One World Trade Center, 121 S.W. Salmon St., Suite 1250, Portland, OR 97204; and 310 S.E. Second St., Suite 105, Pendleton, OR 97801. Phone: 503-326-3386; 541-278-1129. Fax: 503-326-2990.
- **U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, R** — (Second District) 1404 Longworth Building, Washington D.C. 20515. Phone: 202-225-6730. No direct email because of spam. Website: www.walden.house.gov Fax: 202-225-5774. Medford office: 14 North Central, Suite 112, Medford, OR 97501. Phone: 541-776-4646. Fax: 541-779-0204.



Grant County's Weekly Newspaper

- PUBLISHER..... MARISSA WILLIAMS, MARISSA@BMEAGLE.COM
- EDITOR..... SEAN HART, EDITOR@BMEAGLE.COM
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT..... KRISTINA KREGER, KRISTINA@BMEAGLE.COM
- EDITORIAL ASSISTANT..... CHERYL HOEFLE, CHERYL@BMEAGLE.COM
- COMMUNITY NEWS..... ANGEL CARPENTER, ANGEL@BMEAGLE.COM
- SPORTS..... ANGEL CARPENTER, ANGEL@BMEAGLE.COM
- MARKETING REP..... KIM KELL, ADS@BMEAGLE.COM
- OFFICE MANAGER..... LINDSAY BULLOCK, OFFICE@BMEAGLE.COM

- 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION RATES (including online access)
- Grant County\$40
- Everywhere else in U.S.....\$51
- Outside Continental U.S.....\$60
- Subscriptions must be paid prior to delivery

Periodicals Postage Paid at John Day and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
send address changes to:
Blue Mountain Eagle
195 N. Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845-1187

USPS 226-340

Copyright © 2016 Blue Mountain Eagle
All rights reserved. No part of this publication covered by the copyright hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means — graphic, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, taping or information storage and retrieval systems — without written permission of the publisher.