



# PAINTING THE TOWN

Dayville students create mural for the park

By Cheryl Hoefler  
Blue Mountain Eagle

DAYVILLE — Visitors to Dayville will soon see what students at the school have been up to.

With assistance of visiting artist-in-residence Carol Poppenga, students in all grades have been creating a “Welcome to Dayville” mural — a 30x10-foot Dayville-style depiction of the four seasons — to be mounted at Dayville City Park. The mural will replace one with handprints that has graced a wall at the tennis courts since 2001.

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From left, Dayville students Kendall Hettinga, Faith Brown and Destiny Brown work on the section of the mural.

The Eagle/Cheryl Hoefler



The Grant County's newspaper since 1868

# The Blue Mountain EAGLE

# RESTORING

Eagle file photo

A view of the Strawberry Mountains from Keeney Fork Road on the Malheur National Forest in Grant County. An additional \$1.5 million — for a total of \$4 million this year — has been awarded by the federal government for Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration projects on the Malheur forest.

# THE FOREST

## Collaborative awarded \$4M in federal funding to treat thousands of acres

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Efforts by diverse stakeholders to reach consensus on contentious forest management issues has paid off — again.

Instead of the \$2.5 million in annual funding it has received for several years, the collaborative coalition working to implement restoration projects on the Malheur National Forest recently learned it will be awarded \$4 million this year, the maximum allowed in the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration program.

As long as Congress continues to fund the CFLR program, the collaborative could continue to receive the full \$4 million each year for the remainder of its 10-year project, which began in 2012. The funding, intended to encourage ecological and economic sustainability and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires, will provide up to half the funding for a variety of restoration projects.

Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin said

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The Eagle/Sean Hart

Trent Seager, a Ph.D. candidate at Oregon State University and a Blue Mountains Forest Partners science adviser, speaks at the Forest Partners meeting March 17 in John Day.

## Alternatives proposed for Forest Plan

By George Plaven  
EO Media Group

The U.S. Forest Service is crafting two new alternatives for its revised Blue Mountains Forest Plan, based on a year's worth of feedback from the public.

Details are sketchy, but supervisors on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur national forests say these alternatives will emphasize restoration in order to keep the woods healthy and lower the risk of potentially devastating wildfires.

Each alternative will be fully analyzed in the agency's final Environmental Impact Statement, due out later this fall. A draft EIS for the Forest Plan was released in 2014, which was so thoroughly criticized that the feds spent all of 2015 re-engaging with local communities on how to improve the documents.

Tom Montoya, Wallowa-Whitman forest supervisor, said a recurring theme in those

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# Four Imnaha Pack wolves killed

By Eric Mortenson  
Capital Bureau

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife shot and killed four Imnaha Pack wolves involved in five confirmed livestock attacks in the past month.

The “lethal take” order, adamantly opposed by a key conservation group, involves a Wallowa County pack with a long history of attacks on cattle and sheep and an equally significant influence on the growth of other wolf packs in the state.

ODFW wolf coordinator Russ Morgan said the four wolves included an aging alpha male, OR-4, and an alpha female, OR-39, that has limped with a back leg injury for the past couple years. The male is nearly 10 years old, which Morgan said is “very old for a wolf in the wild.”



Courtesy photo/ODFW

This May 2011 photo of Imnaha pack alpha male OR-4 was taken moments after wildlife agency personnel refitted him with a new GPS collar.

Morgan said it's possible the male's age and the female's disability caused the wolves to turn on livestock instead

of deer and elk. Two younger wolves, possibly yearlings, were believed to be traveling with them. The four appeared to have split off from the rest of the Imnaha Pack, which numbered at least eight at the end of 2015.

According to a press release from ODFW, the animals were killed on private property.

In March alone, the group led by OR-4 has struck multiple times on private pastures in the Upper Swamp Creek area of Wallowa County. A calf was killed March 9; a sheep on March 25; two calves were attacked on March 26, with one dead and the other euthanized due to bite injuries; another calf was found dead March 28; and a sheep was found injured March 30, according to ODFW depredation reports.

Morgan said Imnaha Pack members commonly visit the area of the attacks but it's unusual for them to

remain there, as the four have this time. That suggests there's been some change in the pack dynamics, he said.

Morgan said the agency is following guidelines of the state's wolf management plan, which is up for review this year.

He called the decision unfortunate, but said it is a necessary response to the pack's chronic livestock attacks.

“The (wolf) plan is about conservation, but it's also about management,” Morgan said.

ODFW had not killed any wolves since May 2011, when two Imnaha Pack members were dispatched for livestock attacks. The agency sought to kill two more pack members in September 2011, but conservation groups won a stay of the order from the Oregon Court of Appeals.

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