

WOLVES

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The Oregon Cattlemen's Association said the order didn't go far enough.

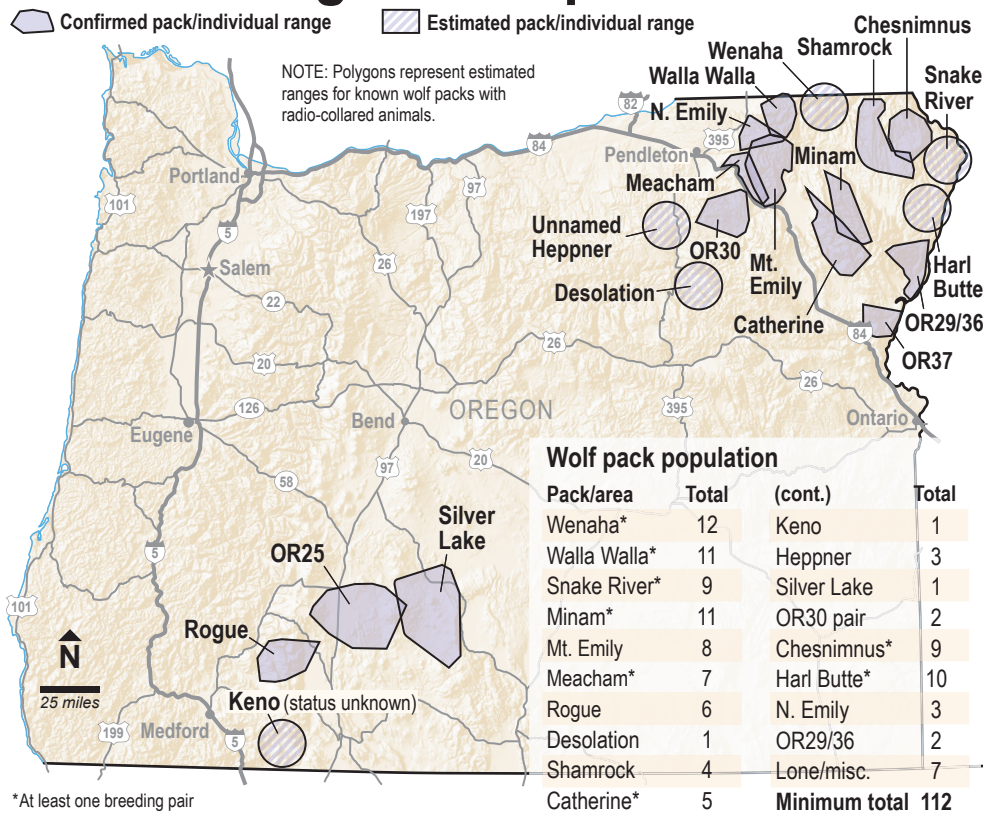
"As an organization, we are extremely disappointed that they are not taking out the entire pack with all the depredations that have occurred and all the work that has been done on the Oregon wolf plan," Executive Director Jerome Rosa said in a prepared statement. "To not take the entire pack? This is code for our ranchers that cattle will continue to be killed."

The association said dry summer weather caused the pack's natural food source — deer and elk — to move higher into the mountains and made rancher's cattle "easy targets."

Cascadia Wildlands, a Eugene-based group, said it is "disgusted" the department will kill wolves. In March 2016, the department shot four wolves from the Imnaha Pack; the Harl Butte pack may include remnants of that pack and other wolves from the Imnaha and Snake River wildlife management units.

"It is becoming pain-

Known Oregon wolf packs (As of Dec. 31, 2016)



fully obvious from every experience in Oregon and Washington that killing wolves leads to more conflict down the line and does not address the problem," Cascadia legal director Nick Cady said in a

prepared statement. "We are setting ourselves up for a perpetual cycle where we are throwing away public dollars and needlessly killing a still-recovering species."

The Portland group Ore-

gon Wild also criticized the kill order.

"If ODFW kills these wolves, it will demonstrate that Oregon has a failed wildlife agency and a broken wolf management plan," Executive Director Sean Ste-

vens said in a prepared statement. "It's clear now that Gov. (Kate) Brown needs to step in and reform this failing agency so that the public can trust that its wildlife is being protected."

In deciding to kill two wolves, the department determined livestock producers had taken proper non-lethal measures to deter attacks and hadn't done anything to attract wolves to the livestock, such as leaving bone piles or carcasses.

Ranchers, their employees, a county range rider and a volunteer provided "daily human presence" in the area, ODFW said. One rancher in the area said the pack frequented an area that put them in the middle of several herds grazing by permit on public land.

On seven occasions in June and July, ranchers or the range rider hazed wolves that were chasing or were close to livestock.

They chased wolves away by yelling, firing a pistol, shooting at them and riding a horse toward them, according to ODFW.

Ranch hands also spent the night with herds and kept stock dogs in horse trailers at night, as wolves

are territorial and might be drawn to attack dogs. Some producers changed grazing practices, such as bunching cow-calf pairs in a herd so they could protect themselves.

They also delayed pasture rotations to avoid moving into areas where wolves had recently been, according to ODFW.

Producers removed potential wolf "attractants" such as injured or sick cattle, taking them back to home ranches for treatment.

A dead bull's carcass was removed from an area near a pond where cattle were concentrated, according to ODFW.

The department first received a lethal control request from producers in October 2016 after a fourth confirmed depredation. ODFW turned it down at the time because cattle were being moved out of the grazing allotments.

This time, cattle are expected to be grazing on public land until October and on private land until November. Brown, the ODFW acting coordinator, said there is a "substantial risk" livestock attacks would continue or escalate.

HYDROPONIC

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of our dollars right back into the community, the city wins — just everyone wins," Wyllie said.

Local markets, restaurants, schools and the hospital are all potential customers, Lieuallen said.

He speculated the greenhouse could yield more produce than could be consumed locally.

Produce grown locally could have a longer shelf life and potentially reduced cost, encouraging residents to eat healthier, Green said.

Two to three jobs could be created by the facility, and volunteer labor could be compensated with produce.

The facility would initially use fresh water, but could be switched to using reclaimed water from a possible wastewater treatment plant proposed for the Innovation Gateway.

Potential partners for the venture include Oregon Regional Solutions, the county and academic institutions.

FIRE

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southeast of Elgin on private forestland.

Jamie Knight, spokeswoman with the Oregon Department of Forestry, said the Indian Lake Fire is 65 percent contained and burning on a mix of lands protected by ODF, the Forest Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is not certain whether any structures were damaged, Knight said Monday afternoon. No closures have been issued for the area.

The Clarks Creek Fire, meanwhile, is now 80 percent contained. Crews on both fires are working to strengthen lines and mop up hot spots, Knight said.

"All in all, things are looking pretty good," she said.

Smoky skies, however, may linger for another week, affecting local air quality. The National Weather Service in Pendleton has issued another air quality alert through noon Saturday for Grant, Umatilla, Morrow, Union, Wallowa, Wheeler, Gilliam and Sherman counties.

Meteorologist Mike Murphy said a low pressure system is expected to move into the area Saturday, bringing winds out of the west, which will help to clear out the haze. Thunderstorms and lightning may also be in the forecast, which would likely mean more fires given how hot and dry the forests have been.

Matt Howard, unit forest-

er for ODF in Wallowa, said the formula they use to determine how ripe conditions are for burning — known as the energy release component — is at extreme levels around the Northeast Oregon District, thanks to months of below-average precipitation and record heat.

"We have transitioned quickly, and we are now in a critical period in our summer for fire danger," Howard said.

Coming off a wet winter with above-average snowpack, Howard said grasses were growing taller and thicker than in previous years heading into spring. Now, those same grasses are dry, cured and ready to burn.

With lightning potentially on the horizon, Howard urged

people to take care when recreating in the forest to avoid causing more unnecessary human fires and straining firefighting resources.

"We really don't want to be messing with human-caused fire when we've got lightning like that coming in," he said.

Out of 74 total fires reported this year by the Blue Mountain Interagency Dispatch Center, 30 have been human-caused, burning 1,298 acres.

"They're taking quite a few resources to gain the upper hand on some of these incidents," Howard said.

ODF lands are in a regulated use closure, prohibiting all open fires except at designated locations. Property owners also cannot use a

chainsaw, weld metal or mow dried grass with power-driven equipment between the hours of 10 a.m. and 8 p.m.

On the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests, chainsaw use is prohibited at all hours. Under Phase C public use restrictions on the Malheur, campfires are banned.

On Forest Service and ODF lands, off-road vehicle travel is not allowed, and smoking is prohibited in the woods except in vehicles, boats or cleared areas.

Howard said it is the public's responsibility to know what restrictions are in place within each jurisdiction before heading out.

For more information, visit fs.usda.gov/malheur or bmdid.org.

Rep. Knute Buehler seeks governorship

By Paris Achen
 Capital Bureau

State Rep. Knute Buehler, R-Bend, has officially announced his plan to run for governor.

Buehler, an orthopedic surgeon who had been rumored to

seek the post in 2018, was first elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 2014.

The Bulletin on Thursday reported Buehler announced his candidacy during a meeting with the newspaper's editorial board Wednesday.

In an official announce-

ment Thursday, Buehler said that Oregon "needs change — and I'm ready to lead it."

He said he intended to pursue public pension reform, "restore fiscal sanity to Oregon's budget," and work to boost the state's economy by emphasizing job training and holding back on "excessive, job-killing" regulations.

Buehler's political action committee has collected more than \$97,000 in campaign donations this year and spent about \$106,890, as of Thurs-

day morning, according to state campaign finance records.

Buehler grew up in Roseburg and attended Oregon State University. He was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford and earned a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University.

More than a year before the November 2018 election, Buehler is the first official contender in the race. The timing of his announcement in early August is unusual for a gubernatorial campaign. Buehler has hired political strategist Rebecca

Tweed to run his campaign.

Tweed was statewide campaign coordinator for the "No on Measure 97" coalition. The coalition's campaign helped to defeat the \$6.1 billion corporate sales tax measure in 2016.

In the bid for the GOP nomination, Buehler could face off with Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer. The Republican mayor opened a Lori Chavez-DeRemer for Governor PAC in June to raise money for a potential run but has not officially declared.

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