

ODFW kills two wolves for repeated attacks on cattle

By Eric Mortenson
EO Media Group

Staff with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife shot and killed two adult wolves in response to multiple attacks on cattle grazing in Wallowa County.

Department spokeswoman Michelle Dennehey said one uncollared wolf was killed Sunday night and a second was shot Tuesday morning. One was shot from the ground and one from the air, she said.

ODFW will monitor the situation and could take additional action if remaining members of the Harl Butte pack continue to attack livestock, she said.

Ranchers in the area have complained about the pack for some time and asked ODFW to kill the entire pack, which included 10 wolves at the end of 2016 and at least seven this past spring. They said the pack operated in an area that put

them within striking range of several herds grazing on public or private land. The Oregon Cattlemen's Association said the dry summer caused deer and elk to retreat higher into the mountains, making cattle "easy targets" for wolves.

Todd Nash, an area rancher and county commissioner who is the OCA's wolf committee chair, said he was disappointed by ODFW's decision to kill only two wolves.

"We have seen this happen before and we fully expect more cattle to be killed. It's a very unfortunate way to do business," he said in a prepared statement.

ODFW confirmed the Harl Butte pack attacked cattle seven times since July 2016. Ranchers or a hired range rider interrupted attacks seven other times by shooting at wolves, charging them on horseback or otherwise chasing them away.

Conservation groups

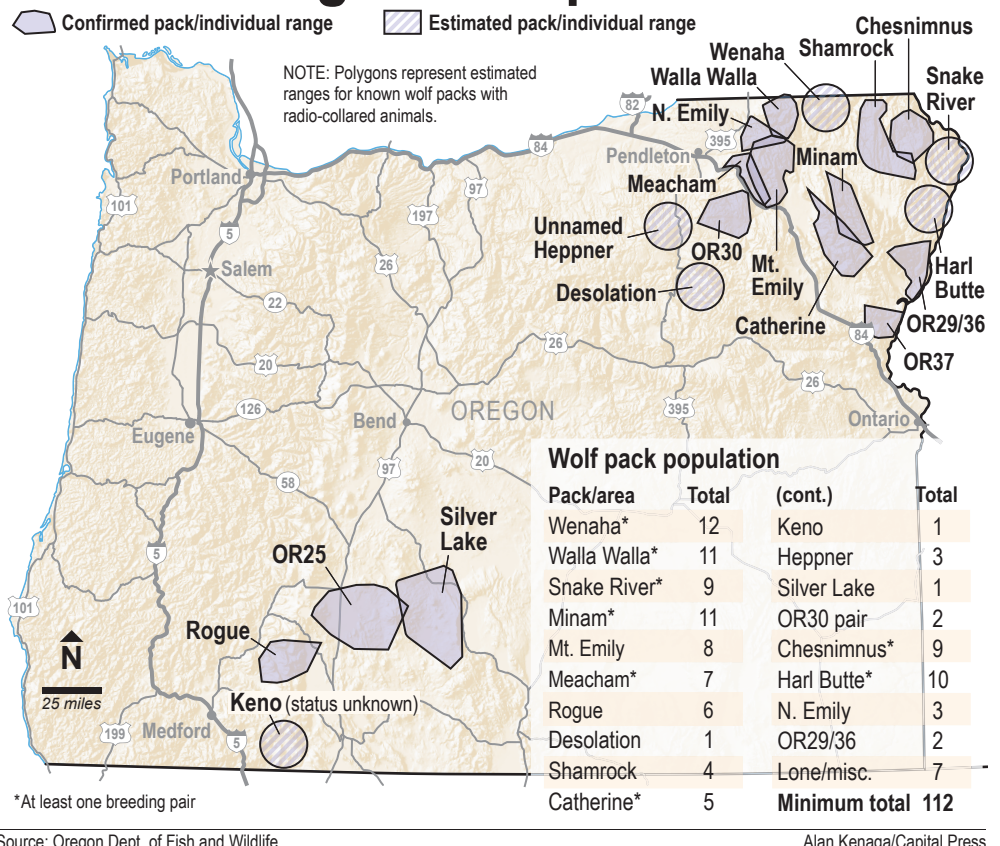
opposed ODFW using lethal control against the wolves.

Ranchers believe the Harl Butte Pack is made up of remnants from the Imnaha Pack, which was notorious for attacking livestock. ODFW killed four members of that group in March 2016 after multiple attacks. However, ODFW said DNA analyzed from OR-50, a Harl Butte wolf that was captured and collared, "showed no familial relationship to wolves of the Imnaha pack."

The department issued a lethal control order last week, announcing its intention to kill two adults. Dennehey, the spokeswoman, said ODFW hopes the remaining pack members will change their behavior. She said ODFW will monitor the situation and share information with producers and the range rider.

The collar worn by OR-50 provides notice of the pack's location.

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



Governor signs bill to raise smoking age to 21

By Paris Achen
Capital Bureau

Oregon has become the third state to raise the legal age to buy tobacco from 18 to 21.

Gov. Kate Brown signed the legislation into law Wednesday, Aug. 9.

The new requirements take effect immediately.

The law, co-sponsored by a Republican and Democrat, aligns the legal age to purchase tobacco and nicotine products with that already established for alcohol and marijuana.

Raising the legal age to buy tobacco products "significantly reduces the number of youth who begin using these products and become addicted to them, saving Oregonians billions of tax dollars, and the lives of thousands of loved ones, each year," said co-sponsor Rep. Rich Vial, R-Scholls, last month.

The law enacts fines ranging from \$50 to \$1,000 for individuals or businesses that distribute or sell such products to buyers younger than 21. The new regulations also ban a 21-year-old from possessing tobacco or nicotine when on a postsecondary education campus, effective Jan. 1.

Vial and Sen. Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, D-Beaverton, sponsored the legislation to help prevent youth from becoming addicted to tobacco.

About 1,800 Oregon kids become smokers every year and an alarming 24 percent of Oregon's 11th-graders report using tobacco products.

The increase in sales age will keep tobacco products out of high schools, where young teens often access



Oregon state capitol in Salem.

them from older classmates, according to advocates with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network.

About 95 percent of adult smokers started smoking before age 21, according to the Cancer Action Network.

Health advocates hope a reduction in young smokers will translate into fewer tobacco-related diseases, the state's leading cause of preventable death.

The statewide law would follow a similar law enacted in Lane County in March.

Oregon follows Hawaii and California in raising the legal age to buy tobacco.

Hawaii adopted an age 21 threshold in 2015, followed by California last year. More than 200 cities and counties, including New York City and Boston, have similar laws.

Despite endorsements from public health advocates and an easy passage in the Senate, the bill faced a setback when tobacco company Altria hired former state Sen. Margaret Carter, D-Portland, to lobby against the measure, according to a story by Willamette Week.

Carter, the first black woman elected to the Oregon Legislature, argued to lawmakers that raising the legal age could prompt racial profiling of minority youth, according to the alternative-weekly article.

The House Rules Committee amended the bill Monday, July 3, to eliminate the potential for that problem and ensure individuals younger than 21 are not penalized for possessing tobacco.

Prairie City residents encouraged not to use water outside

Blue Mountain Eagle

Prairie City officials continue to ask residents not to use city water outside of their homes.

After lightning damaged the electronics controlling the city's water system June 26, the city has experienced a water shortage. Officials have requested water be reserved for emergency services if a fire occurs. Residents are encouraged not to use water on lawns, to fill pools or to wash cars.

The Prairie City City Council Aug. 9 authorized Mayor Jim Hamsher to declare a state of emergency regarding the water supply, if and when it is needed and the councilors are unavailable for a meeting.



Contributed photo

Prairie City City Councilor Carole Garrison waters city planters with a 30-gallon drum of ditch water and the city's Arctic Cat. Because of a water shortage caused by lightning damage, city officials continue to ask residents not to use city water outside of their homes for uses such as watering lawns, filling pools and washing cars.

With the help of the community's preservation efforts, officials hope to lift the water restrictions soon, according to City Recorder Taci Philbrook.

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