

**WOLF**

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become overpopulated with the predators, said Todd Nash, wolf committee chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

"Nowhere does it address a maximum number," Nash said.

Ranchers would like to see the agency create management units with caps on wolf numbers, but these suggestions have been largely disregarded, he said.

Currently, Oregon is estimated to have more than 100 wolves.

Based on trends seen in Idaho and Montana, however, that number can be expected to climb steeply in the coming years, for which the current draft plan fails to account, said Jim Akenson, conservation director for the Oregon Hunters Association.

"I don't know why in the world we would not look to

our neighbors to see what will happen here," Akenson said.

The Oregon Farm Bureau would like to see the plan provide a greater allowance for lethal wolf control when they're near homes or if they threaten livestock, pets and people, said Kevin Johnson, the organization's representative.

The agency should also increase its focus on collaring wolves as their population increases, so their movements and potential livestock interactions would continue to be monitored, he said.

Ranchers feel the plan is overly prescriptive in its wolf management policies despite expectations of a surging population, Johnson said. "They don't feel like their positions are being heard."

Environmental groups, on the other hand, claim the plan is overly reliant on lethal wolf control, which they say is often ineffective.

"Lethal control has often

not stopped depredations," said Nick Cady, legal director for Cascadia Wildlands.

The loss of a top pack member can cause the remaining wolves to become increasingly desperate and more likely to attack domesticated livestock, said Greenwald of the Center for Biological Diversity.

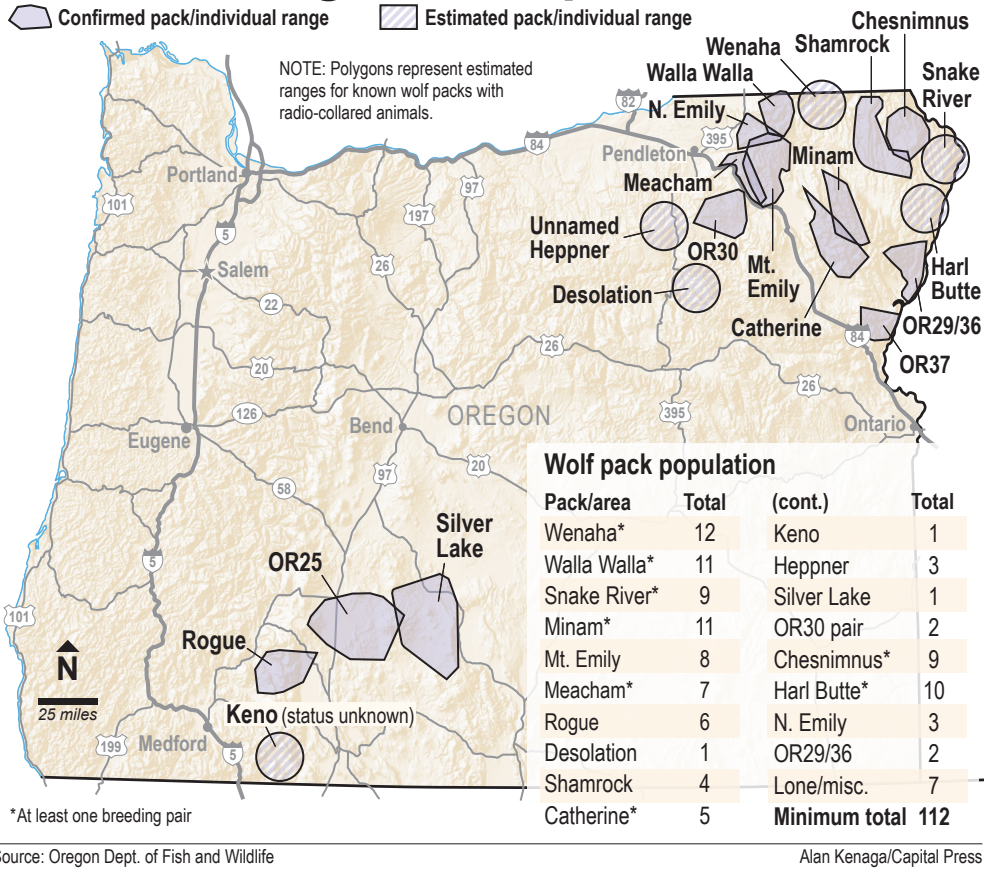
"There's increasing science that it creates more problems than it fixes," he said.

The current draft plan doesn't benefit anyone "whether they're wearing cowboy hats or driving Priuses," said Rob Klavins, Northeast Oregon field coordinator for Oregon Wild.

"This irresponsible and unscientific plan should be shelved," he said.

Scientists who the agency found credible enough to cite in the plan have objected to how their research was applied, Klavins said. "Those scientists deserve a direct response."

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



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Prairie City School sophomore Lucas McKinley, second from right, explains his FFA project cattle to his fellow ag science students.

**GRANT**

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**Learning to do**

Students learn anatomy, physiology and animal husbandry in their annual semester-long ag science classes, Cruise said. The new 40-by-80-foot post and pole barn will include an enclosed room for veterinary science, where students can learn how to administer shots and perform artificial insemination, she said.

"We want the students to manage the livestock facility," she said. "We want them to graduate with more employable skills."

A 2005 graduate from Prairie City School, Cruise has a bachelor's of science in ag education from the University of Idaho. Her maiden name is Black, and she grew up on the J&M Coombs Ranch outside Prairie City.

"It was homesteaded in the early 1900s," she said. "I'm a fifth generation there. My children are sixth."

Cruise taught ag science for three years at Dayville School and then took some time off to raise her children on the family's cattle ranch. She started teaching at Prairie City this year.

Partners in the Prairie City ag program include Strux Engineering of Prairie City, Shannon Voigt Construction of Prairie City, Pape



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Lucas McKinley, a sophomore at Prairie City School, leads his FFA project cow to his ag science class Dec. 7.

Kenworth of Cottage Grove, John Day River Veterinary Center, Eastern Oregon Workforce Board in La Grande, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario, Red's Electric of Canyon City and Oxarc of La Grande.

"These partners are key to sustaining the program with their program knowledge," Cruise said.

She said a Prairie City School graduate at Strux Engineering will help the school learn how to operate the CNC machine.

**Doing to learn**

Many of the students in Cruise's ag science class raise livestock that are brought to market about a year

later. For some students, that could mean earnings for college tuition and expenses, Cruise said.

Lucas McKinley, a sophomore at Prairie City School, recently bought two breeding cows, one breeding heifer and one FFA steer, ranging from 5 months to 1 1/2 years old. He also rented two parcels of land totaling about 40 acres to pasture the cattle. He plans to sell the calves born next spring in November and to sell the steer at the Grant County Fair in August.

Declan Zwegygart, a freshman, lives on a large ranch outside of town and has raised an FFA steer for the county fair for a number of years. Calves that were born last month will grow to 1,250 pounds

by the time they go to market at the fair. Ranchers have already started feeding cattle baled hay, as the cold weather has reduced pasture land.

Emily Ennis, a sophomore, has raised pigs for the county fair for the past two years. They typically weigh about 80 pounds and are a couple months old when she gets them in April, and they grow to about 280 pounds in time for the fair. Ennis doesn't live on a ranch, so she keeps the pigs at the school. Last year, her pig got strep throat, and she had to give it antibiotics.

"We put antibiotics in the food and gave him shots," she said. "Someone had to help hold him down while I gave him a shot."

Katie Hire, a freshman, said she's raised pigs since fourth grade. She lives on a ranch and gets the pigs when they're young. Hire has been a reserve champion at the fair for showmanship.

Carson McKay, a sophomore, and his sister Laken, a seventh-grader, are raising steers in a pen on land they rent in town — a kind of "urban ranch." This is his second year raising steers. They got the two 9-month-old steers in early December from a ranch in Homedale, Idaho.

Other FFA activities include public speaking and ag mechanics.

"Our students compete around the state," Cruise said.

**STREP**

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A test conducted in the office can quickly determine if a person has strep throat, she said.

"It really picked up in the last few weeks," she said. "We first noticed an increase in mid-November."

Strep throat is typically a seasonal disease, Winegar said, but this year was unusual with instances of strep throat reported in Grant County during the summer. The health department has also been seeing a small cough accompanying strep throat, which is not usual, and maybe a little runny nose, she said.

Strep throat is relatively easy to treat and prevent from spreading if people take necessary steps, but left untreated it could lead to scarlet fever. Winegar noted that cases of scarlet fever were reported in Grant County about five years ago.

"If you're sick, you should stay home," she said. "If symptoms don't improve, people should seek medical attention from their local providers, not the emergency room."

For more information about strep throat symptoms and treatment and about improved hygiene, contact the Grant County Health Department at 541-575-0429.

**Strep throat symptoms**

About three out of every 10 children with a sore throat actually have strep throat, according to information provided by the Grant County Health Department. Symptoms include:

- Severe throat pain.
- Fever with temperatures higher than 100.4 degrees.
- Swollen glands in the neck.
- The roof of the mouth turns red, and the tonsils appear white.

**Symptoms warranting a trip to the doctor include:**

- Stiff neck or severe headache.
- Trouble breathing.
- Trouble swallowing because of throat pain.
- Coughing up colored or bloody mucus.
- If fever returns after a few days.
- New symptoms appear, such as rash, joint pain, earache, vomiting or nausea.
- No improvements after two days of antibiotics.

**Blue Mountain Hospice**  
**Light up a Life**  
 Dec. 14, 2017  
 6 p.m.  
**Valley View Assisted Living**  
 112 Valley View Dr.,  
 John Day

*We take this time to remember those in our community who have passed away, but continue to live on in our memories and hearts. We invite you to include your loved one in this memorial service. The American Legion collaborates with us to provide special recognition for our Veterans who have passed away. Refreshments will be provided following the service. Donations are accepted at the door, which are dedicated to providing end of life care for all patients in need.*

Anyone can participate by contacting Blue Mountain Hospice at 541-575-1648, or [sross@bluemountainhospital.org](mailto:sross@bluemountainhospital.org).

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3850 10th St. Baker City 541-523-6377  
 62302 Pierce Rd. La Grande 541-963-6577  
 1160 S Egan Burns 541-573-6377  
 86812 Christmas Valley Hwy. Christmas Valley 541-576-2160