

WATER

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The amount has topped 1 million gallons. Options in addition to hauling water include tying the city's water system to a private well near Dixie Creek or a well at the former Prairie Wood Products mill, but Mayor Jim Hamsher estimated the cost of hooking up the wells was about the same as paying for trucking water from John Day, Brown said. Hamsher has promoted the Faiman Springs site as the city's best option for more than a decade, but debt the city incurred for constructing a water treatment facility on Dixie Creek Road made it difficult to arrange loans to develop Faiman Springs. The original estimate to develop the site was about \$900,000. Recognizing the emergency situation, the state agreed to provide Prairie City up to \$1.5 million for the project, with one-third as a grant and the rest as a 30-year loan at 1.7 percent interest.

Brown said engineering consultant firm Anderson Perry is working with the state to finalize the state funding application for the city. She expected the application could be completed and submitted in about three weeks, and the state funding would become available about 45 days after that.

The city will receive a \$550,000 grant and a loan up to \$950,000, Brown said. Once the city begins making payments on the loan, city water fees will increase by \$7.60 per month. Sewer fees will remain the same, she said.

Brown said 105 people showed up at an Aug. 22 town hall meeting where the water fee increase was brought up. All of the people present at the meeting agreed to the fee increase, she said.

The city is also applying for a \$1 million emergency grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. That money could be used to pay the cost of hauling water from John Day and pay off the state loan, Brown said. The state will not penalize the city for paying off the loan ahead of schedule, she said. The availability of the federal grant could be 24 months away, and there's no guarantee the city will be awarded the grant, Brown noted. The water emergency and proposed infrastructure improvements are not on the Sept. 12 city council agenda, Brown said. The city council will meet again Oct. 10, at which point more information will be available.

Finding common ground on wolf plan proves difficult

Second meeting scheduled for Sept. 21

By George Plaven
EO Media Group

It was a tale of two meetings Thursday in The Dalles as traditional adversaries sat down to find common ground within the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, now three years past due for an update.

Around the table, members of farming, ranching, environmental and hunting organizations laid out their objectives for the plan, which will guide wolf recovery across the state for the next five years.

Conversations were heated at times — especially while discussing the prospect of hunting wolves — but the group eventually reached some areas of compromise, and agreed to schedule a second meeting.

Deb Nudelman, a mediator with Kearns & West in Portland, was hired by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife to facilitate the talks. ODFW staff members, including Director Curt Melcher, were also on hand to listen.

Joining the work group were Todd Nash, with the Oregon Cattlemen's Association; Mary Anne Cooper, with the Oregon Farm Bureau; Rob Klavins, with Oregon Wild; Nick Cady, with Cascadia Wildlands; Jim Akenson, with the Oregon Hunters Association; Dave Wiley, with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Amaroq Weiss, with the Center for Biological Diversity; Quinn Read, with Defenders of Wildlife; and Amira Streeter, natural resources policy adviser to Oregon Gov. Kate Brown. "I think it's a great group,"



EO Media Group/George Plaven

Todd Nash, a rancher and Wallowa County commissioner representing the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, speaks during a meeting in The Dalles to find common ground on an update to the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, while Quinn Read with Defenders of Wildlife and Amira Streeter, natural resources policy adviser to Gov. Kate Brown, listen.

Nudelman said. "Groups like this don't come together if it's easy. They come together because it's hard."

This is not the first time opponents have met face-to-face to talk about wolves. The Oregon wolf plan was first written by ODFW in 2005, and last updated in 2010. Environmental groups sued the department in 2011 to halt killing wolves that had preyed on livestock under Phase I of the plan, which resulted in a settlement in 2013 emphasizing non-lethal deterrents.

Since then, the Oregon wolf population has grown to a minimum of 124 animals, and the plan has progressed to Phase III in Eastern Oregon, allowing greater flexibility for ranchers and wildlife managers to consider killing so-called "chronic predators." Wolves remain protected under the federal Endangered Species Act west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

ODFW was supposed to update the wolf plan again in 2015. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission decided to postpone its vote indefinitely in January so the

agency could build a broader consensus among stakeholders.

Thursday's work group got the process started, though it nearly faltered out of the gate. After identifying numerous issues, the group attempted to debate the merits of killing wolves that repeatedly prey on livestock, which led to an uneasy dialogue that had Nudelman openly questioning whether to proceed.

Akenson, conservation director for the Oregon Hunters Association, said he believes hunting needs to be included in management of wolves.

"The bottom line is, hunters need to be part of the process," Akenson said. "It's a real need."

Nash, a Wallowa County commissioner and longtime rancher, said livestock producers never wanted to kill wolves in the first place, but are in a predicament now where they must protect their livelihood.

"There isn't a class of livestock out there that is safe anymore," he said. "Lethal take in the remote areas where we run (livestock) is

sometimes the only conclusion we can come to."

Klavins, northeast Oregon field coordinator for Oregon Wild, fired back at the notion of hunting wolves. Adding hunting into the wolf plan would be troublesome, he said, and might actually backfire when it comes to protecting livestock. He referred to research that suggests killing wolves actually increases the odds of future attacks, because it disrupts the social structure of packs.

"We're not trashing hunting," Klavins said. "We are expressing serious concerns about (wolf) hunting."

Weiss, the West Coast wolf advocate with the Center for Biological Diversity, said hunting wolves in the lower 48 states is not being done for subsistence, and decried it as a "waste of wildlife."

Having reached an impasse, the group shifted gears to focus on collaring wolves with GPS tracking collars, and using the data to alert ranchers when wolves are in the area.

The cattlemen's association has called for making

sure at least one wolf from every pack in the state is wearing a collar. But Roblyn Brown, wolf program coordinator for ODFW, said it is nearly impossible for staff to find and safely collar certain wolves in densely forested habitat. ODFW also estimates collaring costs about \$2,000 to \$7,000 per wolf, with an average lifespan of 18 months per collar.

"It's just a tough thing to do," Brown said.

Nash said ranchers need to know where wolves are moving to make the most effective use of range riders and other non-lethal deterrents. Rather than provide specific GPS points of where wolves have been, Brown said it may be more effective to use the data as a whole, coloring a picture of where wolf activity is most active — what wildlife officials call the "blue blob."

Despite concerns about whether the data would be used to poach wolves, Klavins said GPS collars may be one area where environmental groups may be willing to make a compromise.

With that bit of progress, the work group decided it would be worth it to meet again on Sept. 21 in Redmond.

Derek Broman, state carnivore biologist for ODFW, said the tentative plan is to go back before the Fish and Wildlife Commission in October to receive further direction.

"We know there's not going to be unanimous decisions," Broman said. "That's ultimately why this process is so valuable."

Melcher, the ODFW director, said he is an "eternal optimist," and believes the collaboration will prove to be a positive investment.

"We're writing the checks, and we're happy to keep doing it," Melcher said.

RACES

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Monument

City council position 4 — one position, four-year term

No candidate filed

City council position 5 — one position, four-year term

No candidate filed

City council position 6 — one position, four-year term

No candidate filed

Mt. Vernon

Mayor — two-year term

Kenny Delano

City council at large — two positions, four-year term

Jan Lowry
Mitchel Wilson
Bryan Montague

Prairie City

Mayor — two-year term

Carole Garrison

Frances M. Preston

City council at large — three positions, four-year term

Scott Officer

Tisha Packard

Les Church

Chantal Marie DesJardin

Chase McClung

Eddy Hicks

Seneca

City council — three positions, four-year term

Lilly Foster

Barbara Northington
Sue Holliday

Grant County Soil and Water District

At large position 2 — four-year term

Roger O. Ediger

Zone 1 — four-year term

Joanne Keerins

Monument Soil and Water District

At large position 2 — four-year term

Andrew Watkins

Zone 1 — four-year term

Jim Bahrenburg

Zone 3 — unexpired term

Brian Campbell

HOMICIDE

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lives in Hawaii, told the Eagle she felt pretty sure from the beginning that the Smiths had died and were consumed in the fire. But there were still unanswered questions.

"I can't understand where the truck went," she said.

She said the sheriff's office asked her for a DNA sample and then three weeks later

asked her to send a form confirming that they could use her sample.

Hinshaw said she spoke to Sharon the evening of the fire, and Sharon had told her they were headed to bed. The Smiths had planned to clean the caretaker's house the next day and then go fishing.

The caretaker's wife had suffered a stroke. The couple were in Idaho seeking medical treatment at the time of the fire but were expected to

return the next day.

The Smiths sometimes let people stay on the 80- to 100-acre property on Nan's Rock Road that the couple bought in the mid-1990s, Hinshaw said. They were a very social couple, and their disappearance was very unusual and suggested foul play, she said.

Hinshaw said she's dealing with the tragedy.

"After a while, it gets easier," she said. "I'm trying. There are good days and bad days."

COUPLE

Continued from Page A1

was 12. Hinshaw was Terry's age and was in his class at school.

Even at 13, Terry was a "go-getter," Hinshaw said. He found a job as a bus boy at a restaurant at a large hotel in Eugene and one month later was the assistant manager, she said.

"His goal at the time was to have a career in hotel management," she said.

Sharon was a cheerleader in high school and was very social, Hinshaw said. When Terry was hired to help manage a hotel at Seattle-Tacoma

International Airport in Washington, Sharon dropped out of high school and went with him, Hinshaw said.

After a time, the Smiths returned and established a trading post or second-hand store in the Springfield area. Another trading post in Harrisburg followed, then a restaurant in Springfield and another restaurant in Eugene.

Terry and Sharon were a happy couple, Hinshaw said.

"I never saw them yell at each other," she said.

The Smiths never had children. They were always working and keeping busy — Terry with his various business interests along with hunting and fishing, and Sharon gardening

and reupholstering furniture or working for senior homes and hospice. Hinshaw recalled them serving food at homeless shelters on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

"Terry would give you the shirt off his back," she said, adding that he always picked up hitchhikers.

Hinshaw moved to Hawaii in the early 1980s, and after a few visits, the Smiths bought property there. Over the years, Terry bought numerous properties in Hawaii and rented them out.

The Smiths later went into the clothing business, hiring seamstresses in Bali, Indonesia, and even designing clothes and printed fabrics. Hinshaw joined them for a time.

"We really got into it for a while," she said.

The Smiths wintered in Hawaii and sold clothing and other items during the summer. They had outlets at Friday Harbor, in the San Juan Islands of Washington and at a large flea market in Blaine, Washington, Hinshaw said.

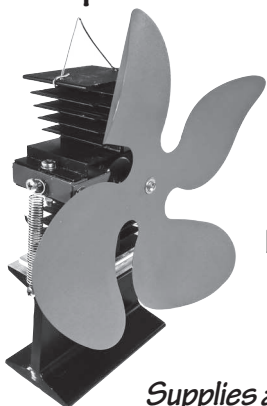
Terry had suffered two heart attacks in the past few years, Hinshaw said. He was in Hawaii each time and was flown to a hospital in Honolulu. One of the heart attacks was brought on when Hinshaw's 400-pound semi-wild pig passed away under her bedroom window and Terry was trying to deal with the dead animal.

"If it had happened three or four weeks later, he would have been out hunting in Eastern Oregon," she said.

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