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Contributed photo
Oregon State Police are investigating the killing of a wolf in eastern Baker County on or about Sept. 24.

Wolf killed in Baker County was breeding male from Cornucopia pack

EO Media Group

Oregon State Police are investigating the unlawful killing of the breeding male wolf from the Cornucopia pack in eastern Baker County.

The wolf died from a gunshot wound on or about Sept. 24, according to OSP.

This incident occurred northwest of New Bridge in the Skull Creek drainage of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Forest Service Road 7741 accesses the Skull Creek drainage, and the wolf was found off the 125 spur road. That's about 1 mile east of Eagle Forks campground. Anyone with information can contact OSP Sgt. Isaac Cyr through the Turn in Poachers hotline at 1-800-452-7888.

Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife trapped the wolf and fitted it with a GPS tracking collar in December 2018.

According to ODFW, the breeding male and female of the Cornucopia pack bred for the first time in 2019. The breeding female is a radio-collared wolf that dispersed from the Pine Creek pack, also in eastern Baker County, and the breeding male that was killed in September had dispersed from the Walla Walla pack in Union, Umatilla and Wallowa counties.

The pair produced three pups that survived to the end of 2019, according to ODFW. Data from the wolves' collars showed the pack used a 162-square-mile area in the Pine Creek and Keating wildlife management units, with 92% of the location points on public land.

Sheriff countersues Olson for defamation

Palmer claims accusations invaded his privacy and damaged his reputation

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle

Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer has filed a countersuit for defamation against the person who claimed he improperly obtained and disseminated private materials from her phone.

Palmer claims Haley Olson published false and defamatory statements on four occasions between April 24 and Sept. 3 that invaded his privacy, caused him anxiety, damaged his public image and subjected him to ridicule and loss of reputation, according to a complaint

“DEFENDANT’S STATEMENT WAS A STATEMENT OF FACT, AND NOT A MERE ALLEGATION, WHICH ACCUSED (PALMER) OF ILLEGALLY ACCESSING AND VIEWING NUDE IMAGES OF (OLSON) INCLUDING NUDE IMAGES OF HER AS A MINOR.”

—Complaint filed Oct. 8 in Grant County Circuit Court on behalf of Grant County Sheriff Glenn Palmer

filed in Grant County Circuit Court Oct. 8 by Palmer’s attorney Daniel E. Thenell.

Olson, whose lawsuit against Palmer, District Attorney Jim Carpenter and Grant County is proceeding in federal court, said she

planned to file a motion to dismiss Palmer’s countersuit.

Olson accused Palmer, Carpenter and the

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Sheriff Glenn Palmer



Haley Olson

WATER RIGHTS

Larson prevails in contested case



Contributed photo

Gordon Larson’s Berry Creek Ranch is green again after he prevailed in a contested water rights hearing and was able to irrigate this summer after two years without being able to use the water.

Officials say claims Larson stole wilderness trees, failed to secure water project permits also false

By Sean Hart
Blue Mountain Eagle



Gordon Larson

Gordon Larson will retain all portions of his water rights on the Berry Creek Ranch south of Canyon City after two people who claimed he did not use the water failed to provide any evidence at an administrative hearing.

Larson said this and other false claims against him were politically motivated to upend his bid for Grant County commissioner in 2018.

“They were trying to send a clear message that they were willing to go to any lengths to damage a political opponent,” Larson said. “This was a better community than that, I thought, and in many ways, I feel so betrayed by the people who let it happen. It was an open and unveiled attack against my family and I.”

Grant County residents Jim Sproul, who died in July, and Dave Traylor each signed affidavits in 2018 attesting that Larson failed to put all or a portion of three separate water rights from Canyon Creek to beneficial use for a period of at least five consecutive years from 2011 to 2018, which would legally forfeit the water rights.

However, Administrative Law Judge D. McGorin ruled in April that Sproul and Traylor did not prove by a preponderance of the evidence that Larson did not use his water rights for five consecutive years.

“Neither Mr. Sproul nor Mr. Traylor testified at the hearing,” McGorin wrote in his proposed order. “They offered no evidence other than their July 2018 affidavits and August supplemental submissions to the (Oregon Water Resources Department).”

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—Gordon Larson



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