

Groups offer rewards for information on wolf shootings

By George Plaven
EO Media Group

Conservation groups are increasing the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of whoever shot a female gray wolf in Eastern Oregon.

The wolf, killed about Oct. 29, was found by a hunter in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest about 8 miles northeast of Halfway, within the territory of the Pine Creek Pack.

A coalition of groups are offering \$7,300 on top of the \$300 provided by Oregon State Police for information about the case.

Last month, the breeding male from the Cornucopia Pack was shot and killed about 15 miles west of where the female wolf was found. The reward in that case stands at \$6,150.

Oregon is home to at least 158 wolves, according to the latest population estimate from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

While the Trump administration recently announced its final rule to lift endangered species protections for gray wolves across the Lower 48 states, it remains illegal to kill wolves under the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, except in limited circumstances to protect human life and livestock.

Since 2000, ODFW has documented 54 wolf mortalities; 15 were illegally killed. Six others were killed accidentally, and three causes of death are still undetermined.

Seventeen wolves have also been legally killed following multiple confirmed livestock depredations, or caught in the act of chasing livestock.

Rodger Huffman, a Northeast Oregon rancher and co-chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association wolf committee, said large cash rewards do nothing to recognize the challenge of living with wolves.

Huffman said the state wolf plan has been "heavy on conservation" since it was first adopted.

"We incur more expense and more stress now, even if there is not a kill or a state-approved 'confirmed' event," Huffman said. "We have to prove that we are not attracting wolf activity and show we are doing everything possible to prevent wolf attacks. The true number of (livestock) losses would be staggering if we really knew, just like if we knew the true number of wolves in our state."



Contributed photo
A collared gray wolf was found shot and killed in eastern Baker County in late September.

Arrests and citations in the Blue Mountain Eagle are taken from the logs of law enforcement agencies. Every effort is made to report the court disposition of arrest cases.

Grant County Circuit Court

John D. Colton, 40, pleaded guilty Nov. 5 to a count of first-degree criminal trespass committed on June 21. He was sentenced to 10 days in jail, 18 months of supervised probation and to pay \$350 in fines and fees. A count of first-degree criminal trespass was dismissed.

Dakota M. Alegre, 28, pleaded guilty on Nov. 4 to a count of driving under the influence of intoxicants committed on Aug. 8. He was sentenced to 48 hours in jail and 18 months of bench probation, and his license was suspended for a year. He was ordered to pay \$1,355 in fees and a DUI fine. Two counts of recklessly endangering another person were dismissed on a civil compromise.

Britt Wilcox admitted Nov. 4 to two counts of contempt of court. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail.

Grant County Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week of Nov. 4:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 13
- Average inmates: 16
- Bookings: 9
- Releases: 9
- Arrests: 1
- Citations: 6
- Fingerprints: 1
- Civil papers: 3
- Warrants processed: 3
- Assistance/Welfare check: 0
- Search and Rescue: 0

Grant County Justice Court

Violation of basic rule: Donald E. Hobbs, 52, Prineville, June 10, 77/55 zone, fined \$265; William M. Pasiechnik, 37, Prineville, Sept. 22, 72/55 zone, fined \$165; Lan Marberry, 40, Salem, Oct. 14, 78/55 zone, fined \$265; David P. Billar, 41, Dayville, Oct. 1, 69/55 zone, fined \$165.

Exceeding speed limit: Cindy M. Sandage, 48, Vernona, Sept. 24, 74/65 zone, fined \$165; Jeffrey D. Noland, 61, Leawood, Kansas, Oct. 13, 80/65 zone, fined \$265; Delayna L. Murray, 27, Puyallup, Washington, Sept. 28, 42/30 zone, fined \$165; Yeime P. Shipley, 26, Garden City, Idaho, Sept. 20,

COPS AND COURTS

75/65 zone, fined \$165; Colten L. Puzey, 24, Clatskanie, Sept. 22, 50/30 zone, fined \$165; Austin D. Russell, 21, La Pine, Sept. 21, 51/35 zone, fined \$165; James N. Molinaro, 42, Boise, Idaho, Nov. 1, 78/65 zone, fined \$265; Richard F. Kephart, 72, Grants Pass, Oct. 12, 40/25 zone, fined \$165; Robert A. Arnold, 58, Seattle, Washington, Oct. 14, 52/35 zone, fined \$165.

Driving while suspended: Donald E. Hobbs, 52, Prineville, June 10, fined \$440.

Careless driving—accident: Darold P. Conely, 25, Elk, Washington, Sept. 29, fined \$440.

Open container of alcohol: Kristi A. Granberg, 60, Corbett, Oct. 3, fined \$265.

Failure to install ignition interlock device: Donald E. Hobbs, 52, Prineville, fined \$440.

Motor vehicle use restrictions: Morgan D. Wingerd, 25, Mulino, Oct. 26, fined \$115; Kyle R. Sayre, 41, Mulino, Oct. 26, fined \$115.

Christopher R. Hoppe, was convicted of driving while suspended and open container of alcohol. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation, 20 hours of community service and to pay \$1,490 in fees and fines.

Oregon State Police

Nov. 3: Oregon State Police responded to North Mountain Boulevard in Mt. Vernon for a report of an unwanted subject in a vehicle. OSP found Karina Robinson, 20, of Mt. Vernon in the reporting party's vehicle, hiding under trash. Robinson was acting paranoid and making bizarre statements that did not make sense. The reporting party wanted Robinson charged. OSP had previously contacted the jail who advised they would not lodge Robinson due to COVID-19 restrictions. OSP cited and released Robinson for second-degree criminal trespass.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 150 calls during the week of Nov. 2-8, including:

• John Day Police Department

Nov. 2: Dispatched for a possible violation of a release agreement on West Main Street.

Nov. 6: Nicholas E. Filloy, 41, of California was cited for speeding on Highway 395S near milepost 1, 63/35 zone.

Nov. 7: David Darling, 46, of John Day was cited for driving while suspended and driving uninsured on Northwest Third Street.

Nov. 8: Responded to a report of a possible drunk driver on Northeast Second Street.

• Oregon State Police

Nov. 3: Cited Karina Robinson, 20, of Mt. Vernon for trespassing.

Nov. 8: Along with Oregon Department of Transportation and Grant County Sheriff's Office, responded to a slide off on Highway 7 near milepost 8.

• Grant County Sheriff's Office

Nov. 2: Received a report of criminal mischief at Dayville School.

Nov. 2: Received a report of theft in Monument.

Nov. 2: Received a report of theft on East Front Street.

Nov. 4: Received a report of theft on South Bridge Street in Prairie City.

Nov. 3: Received a report of theft on Pine Creek Road.

Nov. 8: Advised of a slide-off on Highway 395B.

Nov. 8: Along with ODOT and OSP, advised of a semi that slid off on Highway 395C.

Nov. 8: Along with ODOT and OSP, advised of a truck and trailer in the ditch on Highway 395B near milepost 96.

• John Day ambulance

Nov. 2: Along with Long Creek ambulance, dispatched for a sick elderly woman on East Main Street.

Nov. 2: Dispatched for an elderly woman with possible diabetic issues on West Riverside.

Nov. 2: Dispatched for a 3-year-old child who ingested a large amount of mentholated topical ointment on West Main Street.

Nov. 3: Received a report of a 43-year-old woman with abdominal pains on Third Street.

Nov. 4: Responded for an 87-year-old woman feeling ill on Northeast Seventh Avenue.

Nov. 5: Along with Prairie City ambulance, responded for a 67-year-old woman on Kilburn Street.

Nov. 6: Dispatched to Canyon City for a woman who fell and needed a lift assist on Brent Lane.

Nov. 8: Along with Seneca ambulance, responded for a man with nausea and cough on Second Street.

• Monument Ambulance

Nov. 7: Along with John Day, responded for a patient with heart issues on Third Street.

• U.S. Forest Service

Nov. 4: Received a report of a grass fire on Nans Rock Road. Interagency fire dispatch was advised.

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ON THE ROAD THIS WINTER

STAY SAFE

SLOW DOWN
Leave early. Add cushion to your normal drive.

SKID SMARTS
Learn how to handle your car BEFORE you go into a skid.

BE PREPARED
Road delays happen. Put together & carry a road trip safety kit.

SKID 101
Winter driving classes are a great idea.

HAVE PATIENCE
Be willing to wait for better road conditions.

SHOULDER SAFETY
If you pull over, get as far on the shoulder as possible, turn off headlights & turn on hazards.

DON'T CRUISE CONTROL
Your tires may spin too fast on slick roads, causing you to lose control.

BE SEEN
Turn on your low-beam headlights even during the day.

PASSING PRECAUTION
Allow lots more distance for passing - or just don't pass.

KEEP YOUR (STOPPING) DISTANCE
It can take 10 times longer or more to stop on ice.

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