

# PLC awards public lands grazing grants

Capital Press

The Public Lands Council has awarded more than \$450,000 in grants to support research and educational programs that strengthen the future of public lands livestock production.

The grant recipients for 2022 are the Western Resources Legal Center, Idaho Cattle Association, Oregon State University, Foundation for Ranch Management, Oregon Cattlemen's Association and University of Nevada-Reno.

"Part of PLC's mission is supporting external programs that enhance the current work of public lands ranchers and ensure a strong, viable future for our industry," Niels Hansen, PLC president, said in a press release.

The projects will bolster PLC's ability to advocate for grazing as a necessary component of conservation and federal lands management, he said.

Western Resources Legal Center will receive a grant to expand its program that educates attorneys on natural resource law and public lands advocacy.

"Our relationship with PLC allows our program to fulfill our mission of teaching law students legal skills and knowledge of natural resources and environmental laws," said Caroline Lobdell, WLRC executive director.

WRLC advocates on behalf of grazing, public lands ranching and natural resources industries, she said.

The Idaho Cattle Association will receive a grant to continue a research project with the Uni-

versity of Idaho Rangeland Center on the impact cattle grazing has on sage grouse.

"This research will provide tangible evidence to guide livestock production across the West," said Karen Launchbaugh, director of the Rangeland Center.

"The Idaho Cattle Association has supported the economic viability and continual environmental improvement of ranchers for more than a century," said Karen Williams, ICA natural resources policy director.

Many of ICA's priorities overlap with the mission of PLC, and ICA looks forward to building further on that partnership, she said.

Oregon State University will receive a grant to conduct research and extension education programs on fine fuels management in the Northern Great Basin.

"This funding will make a meaningful difference in our work to better understand and educate people on western rangeland fuel management," said Sergio Arispe, associate professor of animal and rangeland science.

The Foundation for Ranch Management will receive a grant for creating and distributing a booklet on Western ranching to urban residents newly arrived in rural communities.

"Too often, urban Americans make decisions about ranching and public lands management without understanding the history, culture and present-day impact of these communities," said Dan Leahy, the foundation's president.

# ODFW approves killing wolves in Ukiah calf attack

By GEORGE PLAVEN  
Capital Press

UKIAH — Oregon wildlife officials have authorized killing up to two wolves in the Ukiah Valley south of Pendleton where eight calves were attacked in a three-day span.

The first depredation report came on Sept. 25, when a ranch hand discovered one dead and six injured calves in a 200-acre private pasture. All were about six months old and weighed between 450 and 550 pounds. Two of the injured livestock were later euthanized.

Another calf was also found dead on Sept. 28 in the same pasture. In each case, the animals had pre-mortem bite marks suggesting they were attacked by a predator. Their injuries consisted of tooth scrapes, punctures and tears that were consistent with wolves.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife issued a permit on Oct. 1 allowing the rancher to kill up to two wolves on a portion of the private land, located in the Heppner and Ukiah wildlife management units.

The permit is restricted to shooting wolves from the ground, and expires Oct. 31, when the two wolves are killed or when the cattle are removed from the area — whichever comes first.

While ODFW has chalked up the depredations to wolves, the agency does not know which pack caused the injuries.

The Ukiah pack, which roams parts of southern Umatilla and Union counties, was not in the area, according to GPS collar data. ODFW is now monitoring the nearby Fivemile pack to see if it is utilizing territory farther east than biologists originally thought.

In addition, the agency says recent public reports have indicated a new group of wolves within 10 miles southeast of where the depredations happened.

"ODFW has identified an initial area around the presence of the depredating wolves in the Ukiah Valley area to address associated risk to livestock," the agency said in a statement. "ODFW staff are monitoring the region to confirm resident activity by new wolves as well as confirm the current movements of the Fivemile pack."

Under the state's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan, wolves in Eastern Oregon may be subject to lethal control if they have two confirmed depredations



ODFW/Capital Press

**Wolves attacked eight cattle in the Ukiah Valley of north-eastern Oregon. Wildlife managers are attempting to determine which pack the wolves were from.**

in a nine-month period.

The plan also stipulates that ranchers must be using appropriate non-lethal deterrents before lethal control may be considered. Prior to the first depredation, ODFW says the rancher had removed dead animal carcasses from the landscape to avoid inadvertently luring wolves to the pasture, and was continually monitoring the health of the cow herd.

After the first depredation, the rancher has had employees stay with the cattle each night, adding a human presence to further prevent wolves from returning.

Already this year, ODFW has issued three permits to kill wolves for "chronic depredation" in Eastern Oregon.

The agency shot two wolf pups from the Lookout Mountain pack in Baker County in August, and then killed three more wolves from the pack — including the alpha male — in September after livestock depredations did not stop.

ODFW also approved killing one wolf from the OR-30 group after the predators attacked two calves and five sheep in June and July near Meacham, Ore. That permit eventually expired without any wolves being shot.

Rodger Huffman, a Union County rancher and co-chairman of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association wolf committee, said ranchers have long been frustrated with the state's management of wolves. He said the number of depredations confirmed by the agency is lower than the actual losses producers face.

"We have a wolf management and conservation plan, and conservation has clearly been the first and highest priority," Huffman said. "We're just asking very respectfully that at least management be 50% of the equation in this."



Blue Mountain Hospital District

# Community Health Beat



## What's new at BMHD?

### 3D Mammography

3D Mammography is now available at Blue Mountain Hospital! 3D exams are clinically proven to significantly increase the detection of breast cancers. Call to schedule your appointment today.  
541-575-4163

### Chronic Care Management

Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic has partnered with ChartSpan to provide further access and support for Medicare patients with chronic illnesses. For more information visit our website or call 541-575-0404.

walk WITH a DOC



### Upcoming walks:

Saturday October 16th 8:00am  
Seventh Street Complex

Saturday November 20th 8:00am  
Seventh Street Complex



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month!

### Viral Clinic

Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic is offering a viral clinic for patients experiencing mild to moderate, non-emergent, viral and/or COVID-19 symptoms to include:

- fever or chills
- cough
- mild respiratory or breathing issues
- fatigue
- muscle or body aches
- headache
- new loss of taste or smell
- sore throat
- congestion or runny nose
- nausea
- vomiting
- diarrhea

SWCC Viral Clinic Hours:  
Monday – Friday 9am - 3pm  
(541)575-0404

Check in at the COVID-19 information tent in the upper hospital parking or call SWCC at (541) 575-0404. Please do not enter the hospital with symptoms. We will direct you where to go upon arrival to the information tent or over the phone if you call.

### Monoclonal Antibody Treatment

SWCC is now offering COVID-19 monoclonal antibody administration to high-risk individuals who qualify. If you have mild to moderate symptoms, have tested positive for COVID-19, are presumptively positive, or have a known exposure and are a high risk individual, please contact your local Primary Care Provider's office to discuss as you may be a good candidate for these. Monoclonal antibodies are only authorized for non-hospitalized, high-risk individuals, with mild to moderate symptoms. These antibodies can help prevent progression to severe COVID-19 symptoms and complications. It is best to receive treatment as soon as possible after onset of illness.

Qualifications for monoclonal antibody treatment include:

- age 65 or older
- elevated body mass index
- pregnant
- chronic kidney disease
- diabetes
- immunosuppression
- cardiovascular disease, including high blood pressure
- chronic lung disease such as COPD or asthma
- sickle cell disease
- neurodevelopment disorders
- having a permanent medical device in place

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