

Future of Lookout wolves uncertain

By JAYSON JACOBY
jjacoby@bakercityherald.com

BAKER CITY — The Lookout Mountain wolf pack, which has killed at least nine head of cattle and injured three others in eastern Baker County since July, has been pared from an estimated 11 wolves to three.

But how the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) killing of eight wolves from the pack over the past two and a half months will affect its behavior in the future can't be forecast with confidence, according to the agency's state wolf coordinator.

"When wolves hunt they are looking for vulnerable prey and relying upon instinct and experience," Roblyn Brown, who works at ODFW's La Grande office, wrote in an email to the

Baker City Herald in response to questions about the future of the pack. "We cannot predict what a wild animal will do in every different situation, so I will not predict whether or not the breeding female will depredate in the future."

After ODFW biologists confirmed that Lookout Mountain wolves had attacked cattle five times during July, killing three and injuring three others, agency employees killed two pups, born during the spring of 2021, on Aug. 1.

Following additional attacks in August and September that killed five head of cattle, ODFW employees shot and killed three more wolves, including the pack's breeding male, on Sept. 17.

There were no attacks on cattle for almost a month, until

Oct. 16, when biologists determined that wolves had killed a 400-pound calf, likely on Oct. 14.

ODFW employees then shot and killed three more wolves, two juveniles born this year and one wolf born in 2020, on Oct. 20.

ODFW officials believe the Lookout Mountain pack, which roams in the area between Highway 86 on the north and Interstate 84 to the south, now consists of up to three wolves — the breeding female and two juveniles born this spring that are about six months old.

The breeding female has a GPS tracking collar that allows biologists to monitor her movements.

Brown wrote that one possibility is that the breeding female will remain in the area.

"When there is a loss of a breeder, the remaining wolf will often stay in the familiar territory, while waiting for a new mate to disperse into the area," Brown wrote.

It's also possible that the breeding female will leave the area to search for a new mate.

But Brown said she doesn't think that will happen so long as the two juvenile wolves are still traveling with their mother.

Because the breeding female would not mate with one of her offspring — ODFW doesn't know the gender of the two remaining juveniles — the only circumstance in which the breeding female would have a new mate is if a dispersing male wolf moves into the Lookout Mountain area, Brown wrote.

"Dispersing wolves commonly travel throughout the

Lookout Mountain unit," she wrote.

Brown wrote that there are no nearby wolf packs that are likely to "take over" the territory of the Lookout Mountain pack.

The juvenile wolves are old enough to travel full time with the breeding female, but they "are unlikely to contribute any when killing larger prey due to their lack of experience," Brown wrote.

The juvenile wolves can kill smaller prey on their own, she wrote.

ODFW officials have said previously that they decided to kill wolves from the pack because the evidence showed that the wolves were targeting cattle despite healthy populations of elk and deer, the usual main food source for wolf

packs, in the Lookout Mountain area.

Officials also said ranchers in the area had frequently patrolled the area, tried to haze the wolves, and ensured there were no bone piles or other attractants.

The agency initially focused on juveniles and yearlings rather than the pack's breeding pair. But ODFW officials decided to kill the breeding male on Sept. 17 when depredations continued.

Baker County Sheriff Travis Ash, who has talked with ranchers who have lost cattle to the wolves and been present at some ODFW investigations at attack scenes, wrote a letter on Sept. 12 to ODFW Director Curt Melcher asking for the state to eliminate the entire Lookout Mountain pack.

COPS AND COURTS

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 Sheriff

The Grant County Sheriff's Office reported the following for the week ending Oct. 20:

- Concealed handgun licenses: 11
- Average inmates: 11
- Bookings: 5
- Releases: 7
- Arrests: 2
- Citations: 1
- Fingerprints: 0
- Civil papers: 11
- Warrants processed: 0
- Asst./welfare check: 0
- Search and rescue: 2

Justice Court

The Grant County Justice Court reported the following activity for the week ending Oct. 20:

- Traffic citations filed: 3
- Hearings held: 23
- Persons on probation: 40
- Warrants issued: 1
- Violation of basic rule: David Eugene Blood Jr., 45, John Day, Aug. 24, 75/55 zone, fined \$140; Gregg Larry Boehlke, 55, Mitchell, Sept. 2, 85/55 zone, fined \$225; Daniel Royse Simpson, 45, Burns, Aug. 26, 75/55 zone, fined \$165; Jordan Wayne Jenkins, 35, Portland, Sept. 26, 95/55 zone, fined \$440.
- Exceeding speed limit: Connor Michael White, 20, Mt. Vernon, Sept. 20, 80/65 zone, fined \$265; Raybon Wayne Tan-

ner, 80, Yuba City, California, Oct. 8, 50/35 zone, fined \$165.

- Passing in a no-passing zone: Connor Michael White, 20, Mt. Vernon, Sept. 20, fined \$265.

- No operator's license: William Escobar Jr., 43, Deming, New Mexico, Sept. 22, fined \$265.

- Driving uninsured: Chance Joseph Fleetwood, 23, Mt. Vernon, Aug. 31, fined \$225; Jason Steven Shaw, 47, Prairie City, Aug. 19, fined \$265.

- Open container of alcohol: Benjamin-Steven Kaheakulani Tani, 35, Salem, Sept. 22, fined \$265.

On Oct. 18, Easton Beau Caldwell, 21, pleaded guilty to criminal trespass and was fined \$440.

On Oct. 18, Tucker Lee Caldwell, 23, pleaded guilty to second-degree criminal trespass and was fined \$440.

On Oct. 18, Dorothy J. Miller, 33, was convicted of allowing a dog to create a public nuisance and was fined \$265.

On Oct. 20, Andrew Lee Beers, 39, pleaded guilty to driving while suspended and was sentenced to a year of probation, ordered to perform 20 hours of community service and fined \$1,000. Additional charges of operating an ATV without a permit or decal and failing to install an ignition interlock device were dismissed.

Dispatch

John Day dispatch worked 179 calls during the week ending Oct. 22, including:

Oregon State Police

Oct. 16: Advised of suspicious circumstances on Highway 395 South near milepost 11.

Oct. 17: Responded to a road hazard on Highway 26 near milepost 202.

Oct. 19: Responded to a road hazard on Highway 26 near milepost 134.

Grant County Sheriff's Office

Oct. 15: Responded to reports of shots fired or illegal fireworks on West Main Street in John Day.

Oct. 16: Responded to a possible domestic assault at the Meadowbrook Apartments in John Day.

Oct. 16: Cited Philip Savio, 26, of Seattle following a traffic stop on Highway 26 near milepost 173.

Oct. 16: Took a report of subjects driving too fast on motorcycles on Southwest Brent Drive.

Oct. 16: Assisted Wheeler County with a suicidal subject.

Oct. 16: Responded to a reported dispute at the Chevron gas station in Mt. Vernon.

Oct. 16: Responded to a dispute involving a civil matter at Highway 26 and Southeast Cottonwood.

Oct. 16: Advised of criminal mischief on Cottonwood Street.

Oct. 16: Removed a dog from the roadway on Highway 26 near milepost 160.

Oct. 16: Responded to a report of an intoxicated person at 1188 Brewery in John Day.

Oct. 17: Responded to a trespassing call on Southwest Brent Drive in John Day.

Oct. 17: Arrested Travis Bryers, 22, of John Day after responding to a call on South Canyon Boulevard.

Oct. 17: Responded for a theft report on West Main Street in John Day.

Oct. 17: Advised of harassment complaint on West Main Street in John Day.

Oct. 18: Dispatched to a residential burglar alarm on Northwest Washington Avenue.

Oct. 18: Performed a welfare check at Pine Creek.

Oct. 18: Responded to a trespassing complaint on North Washington Boulevard.

Oct. 18: Removed a hazard from the roadway on Highway 26 near milepost 158.

Oct. 19: Responded to Green Acre Lane for a missing juvenile.

Oct. 19: Responded for a lost animal on East Main Street in John Day.

Oct. 20: Responded to a possible trespasser on Southwest Brent Street.

Oct. 20: Received a noise complaint from South Washington Street.

Oct. 21: Responded to a report of theft of services at the Grant County Fairgrounds in John Day.

Oct. 21: Dispatched to a report of a suspicious vehicle at Bisnett Insurance in John Day.

Oct. 21: Dispatched to a report of trespassing on Millie Way.

Oct. 21: Responded to a report of an overdue motorist in John Day.

Oct. 21: Responded to a report of an abandoned vehicle at the Mt. Vernon Grange.

Oct. 21: Advised of a vehicle vs. deer collision on Highway 26 near milepost 154.

Oct. 21: Responded with Oregon State Police for a fight on East Second Street in Long Creek.

Oct. 22: Responded to a report of suspicious circumstances on North McHaley Street in Prairie City.

Oct. 22: Responded to a report of a possible abandoned vehicle on Carpenter Pond Road.

Oct. 22: Responded to a report of trespassing on Rudio Road.

Oct. 22: Assisted a motorist on Highway 395B near milepost 74.

John Day Ambulance

Oct. 16: Dispatched to Dixie Creek Road for a female who fell.

Oct. 17: Responded for a

patient transfer at the airport.

Oct. 17: Responded for a patient transfer at the airport.

Oct. 19: Transported a patient to Redmond.

Oct. 20: Responded to West Main Street for a male who fell.

Oct. 20: Responded to West Bench Road for a female who fell.

Oct. 20: Responded to B Street for a female with a medical issue.

Oct. 20: Responded for a patient transfer at the airport.

Oct. 21: Dispatched to Valley View Assisted Living for an elderly female with breathing difficulties.

Oct. 21: Responded to Cottonwood Street for a male with headache, nausea and vomiting.

Oct. 16: Responded with John Day Ambulance to North Johnson Avenue for an 82-year-old male with eye pain after a fall.

Oct. 18: Responded to North Johnson Avenue for a 61-year-old female with breathing difficulties.

Monument Ambulance

Oct. 16: Responded to Lost Hubcap Road with Monument Fire and John Day Ambulance for a female with a broken pelvis.

Prairie City Ambulance

Oct. 17: Responded to a structure fire on Highway 26 near milepost 176.

Prairie City Fire

Oct. 17: Responded to a structure fire on Highway 26 near milepost 176.

Balance Today with Retiring Tomorrow

No matter where you're starting from, COUNTRY can help you achieve financial security in retirement. It starts with listening to your situation. Then we help you build a straightforward plan with step-by-step guidance. Call me to get started today.

Debbie Ausmus
245 South Canyon Blvd.
John Day, OR 97845
OPEN WED. & THUR.
9 am - 5 pm
541-575-1113
24 hrs/7 days wk

debbie.ausmus@countryfinancial.com

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

09-2013-01265AC S262605-1

AW CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Featuring:

- Roofing
- Remodeling
- Fences
- Decks
- Storage Sheds
- General Construction

and Much More!

Andy Wolfer 541-910-6609 CCB#186113 S262604-1

Sponsor:

NEWSPAPER CONNECTIONS

Connect to what's important... FASTER!

the Blue Mountain EAGLE

S235004-1

DGDriscoll's BOOKS!

Halloween's Here

Books about Ghosts, Goblins Spooks and Spectres

Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat; 10 til 6
248-719-2122

In Canyon City just across from the post office

S263285-1

Robbins Farm Equipment

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

AGCO PARTS MASSEY FERGUSON HESSTON

Your Rural Family Health Clinic

Grant County HEALTH Department

528 E. Main, St. E., John Day

Monday - Thursday 7am - 6pm
Friday 8am - 5pm

Services Provided:

- Primary Care
- Acute Care
- Women's Health Exams
- Men and Children Exams
- Immunizations
- Family Planning
- Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing & Referrals
- HIV Testing & Referrals
- Cocoon
- WAC
- High Risk Infants
- Maternity Case Management

Appointments available

Call and schedule your appointment today!

TOLL FREE
888-443-9104
or 541-575-0429

S263297-1

Prepare for unexpected power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-557-1912

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty* A \$695 Value!
Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

S262672-1

A Smarter Way to Power Your Home.

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!
1 (844) 989-2328

*Offer value when purchased at retail. Solar panels sold separately.

S262671-1

Leaf Filter GUTTER PROTECTION

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & 10% OFF

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!

CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-536-8838

S262678-1

One solution for oxygen at home, away, and for travel

Introducing the INOGEN ONE - It's oxygen therapy on your terms

No more tanks to refill. No more deliveries. No more hassles with travel. The INOGEN ONE portable oxygen concentrator is designed to provide unparalleled freedom for oxygen therapy users. It's small, lightweight, clinically proven for stationary and portable use, during the day and at night, and can go virtually anywhere - even on most airlines. Inogen accepts Medicare and many private insurances!

Reclaim Your Freedom And Independence NOW!

Call Inogen Today To Request Your FREE Info Kit

1-855-839-0752

S262679-1

BRING EVERYTHING YOU LOVE TOGETHER!

Blazing Fast Internet! ADD TO YOUR PACKAGE FOR ONLY \$19.99/mo. where available

2-YEAR TV PRICE GUARANTEE \$64.99/mo. for 12 mos.

America's Top 120 Package 190 CHANNELS Including Local Channels!

CALL TODAY - For \$100 Gift Card Promo Code: DISH100

1-866-373-9175 Offer ends 11/15/21.

S262680-1

Your home is only as smart as your Internet.

AT&T Internet \$40/mo. (includes taxes and fees)

- Plans up to 100 Mbps*
- Free Smart Home Manager App* with Parental Controls.*
- The bandwidth to power multiple devices at once.
- Member device support on every connection.
- Get a seamless whole-home Wi-Fi experience with AT&T Smart Wi-Fi.†

Cut cable internet and switch to AT&T Internet. Call now! 888-486-0359

S262681-1