Fish and Wildlife reverses course on threatened seabird

Marbled murrelet not endangered

By Katie Frankowicz
The Daily Astorian

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Marbled murrelets won't be listed as endangered in Oregon.

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on June 7 reversed a decision to upgrade the status of the marbled murrelet from threatened to endangered, choosing to wait for a 10-year study of the species to end.

There were concerns that increased protections for marbled murrelets — small seabirds that winter at sea but nest in coastal forests — would mean stricter logging limits on state forestland. Several county commissioners from coastal communities testified at a commission meeting in Baker City Thursday that they were concerned about the economic impacts of the decision.

The move toward uplisting nearly ended in a deadlock when commissioners first considered it at a meeting in February. It only passed after Commissioner Bob Webber decided to change his vote.

Staff recommended reclassifying marbled murrelets as an endangered species Thursday, but Curt Melcher, director of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, said commissioners had the option to reject the listing change, which they did in a 4-2 vote.

The commission intends to wait for results from an ongoing study of marbled murrelets by Oregon State University researchers. The researchers are in the second year of the 10-year study.

"Let's wait a few years and let scientists update us on how this species is doing," Mike Finley, the commission's chairman, said.

Environmental groups shot back against Thursday's reversal.

Quinn Read, director for Defenders of Wildlife, said the commission "bowed to the interests of the timber industry, abandoning the conservation leadership they demonstrated just four months ago."

"We are extremely disappointed, but we are not done," Read said. "Oregonians won't stand for this failure of leadership. Defenders will continue to work with our conservation partners to challenge this indefensible decision."

Marbled murrelets are considered endangered in Washington state and California. Oregon listed the species as threatened in 1995. Very little is known about them and nests are hard to find and study. The birds appear to favor large, old-growth conifers, a habitat that has dwindled, researchers say.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife assessed the species in response to a petition from multiple conservation organizations.

Rare whale dolphin washes ashore

Cannon Beach Gazette

A female northern right whale dolphin washed ashore on Manzanita Beach.

TIFFANY BOOTHE/SEASIDE AQUARIUM

MANZANITA — A rare female northern right whale dolphin washed ashore on Manzanita Beach on the Oregon Coast on June 9, the Seaside Aquarium reported.

The animals tend to live much farther south and in deeper offshore waters, although they can range as far north as Alaska, Tiffany Boothe of the aquarium said.

The whale dolphin moves south during colder water temperature periods and north during warmer water periods.

Boothe said that aquarium staff have only seen four of these unique dolphins since 1995, when the aquarium became involved with the Northern Oregon/Southern Washington Marine Mammal Stranding Network.

The northern right whale dolphin is known to travel in groups of up to 2,000, although they are more often found in social groups of 200 or 300.

The largest threat to these dolphins is from high-sea drift nets.

Drift nets are considered responsible for a 24 to 73 percent population decline. In Oregon and California, law requires fishing boats to use pinger devices that deliver acoustic warnings into the water column to reduce bycatch.

The dolphin beached in Manzanita was picked up by the Seaside Aquarium and transferred to Portland State University, where a necropsy was preformed, Boothe said. Preliminary results from the necropsy were inconclusive.

Two-car collision near Tolovana park

One driver cited for failing to obey a traffic control device

By Brenna Visser
Cannon Beach Gazette

COURTESY OF CANNON BEACH RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Two cars collided at the intersection of Hemlock Street and Warren Way Wednesday afternoon.

A two-car collision at the intersection of Warren Way and South Hemlock near Tolovana State Park sent one driver to the hospital with minor injuries Wednesday, June 20.

At about 1 p.m., a vehicle traveling westbound on Warren Way collided with another car traveling northbound through the intersection on Hemlock Street. The driver traveling westbound was cited for failing to obey a traffic control device, according to Cannon Beach Police. The driver traveling northbound was given medical attention for a possible neck injury.

John Parkin Meece

Canby

March 28, 1927 — April 30, 2018

Jack Meece died April 30, 2018, at Marquis Hope Village in Canby, Oregon. He was 91.

John Parkin Meece, second son of James Charles and Joyce Parkin Meece, was born March 28, 1927, in Portland. He attended Ainsworth and Lincoln schools.

John Meese

Jack was active in Scouting and was a Sea Scout; when the older boys went to war, he served as an unusually young quartermaster. Graduating early to join the Navy, Jack completed basic training in San Diego, just as the war ended. He attended Oregon State College and was a Delta Tau Delta.

In 1950, Jack married Dorothy Joyce Sharpe; they were married just shy of 60 years when Dorothy died in 2010. With a degree in industrial engineering, Jack spent 35 years with ESCO Corp., mostly in outside sales in the Portland, Denver and Spokane offices.

After retiring, he and Dorothy owned Arch Cape Deli & Grocery on the Oregon Coast in the 1980s, moved to Warrenton in the 1990s, and to Canby in 2003.

An avid outdoorsman, Jack had a passion for swimming, snow skiing, boating, fishing, hunting, clamming, crabbing, golfing, and even windsurfing. Outside chores and tending a vegetable garden were lifelong hobbies, along with being a Beaver, Bronco and Blazer fan. He was a member of the Elks Lodge in Aurora, Colorado, and the Spokane, Multnomah Athletic, and Astoria Country clubs.

As an active, fit 70-year-old, Jack had a massive stroke which left his right side paralyzed. Proving doctors wrong with months of hard work and Dorothy's support, he walked again with a foot brace and cane. He lived almost independently, tending his garden for another 20 years.

Jack is survived by daughters Peggy (Dan) Sigler and Judy (Craig) Daufel of Canby; grandchildren Ben (Tiah) and Nick (Katie) Sigler of Canby, and Ali (Conor) Baranski of Sandpoint, Idaho; and seven great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy, brother, Jim, and great-granddaughter, Talia.

There will be a family service at Willamette National Cemetery. Our sincere thanks to Canby Adult Center's Meals on Wheels, the Canby Fire Department, and his longtime caregiver, Anna, for the care and support provided to Jack through the years.

Donations may be made in Jack's memory to the Canby Adult Center Meals on Wheels.

CANNON BEACH POLICE LOG

May 31

5:07 a.m., Highway 101: Police responding to a port-o-potty in the middle of the road found nothing fitting that description.

June 2

Nine incidents of prohibited overnight camping were reported.

2:18 a.m., Edgewood and Oceanway, Seaside: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police with a report of eight people engaged in physical fighting.

June 3

Three incidents of prohibited overnight camping were reported.

12:00 a.m., Warren House: Police responding to a report of an intoxicated driver are unable to locate.

12:00 a.m., Highway 101 & Junction 26: Police arrest a subject and transport them to jail; the person is charged with fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; driving with a suspended license; reckless driving, reckless endangerment; failure to obey a police officer; and giving false information to a police officer. The subject also was wanted on a warrant.

5:20 p.m., N. Hemlock: A vehicle with a broken window may have been the target of an attempted vehicle break in.

June 4

One incident of prohibited overnight camping was reported.

2:29 a.m., 600 block Ecola Park Road: Officers responding to a report of a domestic disturbance arrest the male for violating probation for possession of marijuana and methamphetamine residue. A no-contact order was in place for the woman.

3:34 p.m., Second Avenue: A man trespassed from a store returned to the store. Police were unable to locate him.

11:57 p.m., S. Holladay: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police with a possibly suicidal male said to be fighting with police officers. The subject was controlled and detained prior to Cannon Beach officer's arrival.

June 5

10:02 p.m., 1100 block S. Hemlock: A subject said to be loitering in a store for an hour making employees anxious was asked to leave. Subject initially refused to leave, but left after police made contact.

June 6

One incident of prohibited overnight camping was reported.

2:42 p.m., N. Hemlock: A store employee reports a woman who walked off with a denim jacket without paying for it. Police are unable to locate.

June 7

Four incidents of prohibited overnight camping were reported.

June 8

Five incidents of prohibited overnight camping were reported.

12:31 a.m., Beach: A driver's license found on the beach is turned in to the police department. It was later released to its owner.

2:11 p.m., 1100 block S. Hemlock: A transit bus driver reports two intoxicated males they said banged on the bus windows and caused a disturbance. Police locate the pair at another bus stop; subjects say they are not intoxicated or causing any kind of issue. They said they were taking the bus south. They were told of the complaint and warned of disorderly conduct.

4:09 p.m., N. Hemlock: A man wanted on a warrant from Montana was picked up and arrested.

June 9

One incident of prohibited overnight camping was reported.

1:53 a.m., 2100 block S. Franklin, Seaside: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside police with a domestic disturbance.

4:28 p.m., 1100 block Spruce Court: Caller reports a woman playing loud music and dancing in the street while allowing her dog to defecate in neighbors' yards. Police responding find no woman, no loud music, no dancers, and no dog.

4:47 p.m., Beach and Gower: A vehicle stuck in sand was denied a tow. The gas tank was punctured during extrication attempts spilling approximately 5 gallons of oil on the beach. The appropriate environmental office was notified.

7:40 p.m., 2500 block S. Roosevelt: Police attempting to stop a subject wanted on a warrant were unsuccessful as the subject eluded them. Police say they know who the subject is. The pursuit was terminated.

June 10

Three incidents of prohibited overnight camping were reported.

June 11

One incident of prohibited overnight camping was reported.

June 12

Two incidents of prohibited overnight camping were reported.

14:37 p.m., Elk Run Avenue: A glass float garden decoration is reported stolen from a yard.

June 15

Four incidents of unlawful camping were reported.

5:28 p.m., Washington and Ocean Shore: Cannon Beach police assist Seaside poice with an out of control male. A detainer on the subject was made after he said he was using drugs.

4:15 p.m., E. Sunset: A runaway is reported.

June 16

Eight instances of illegal overnight camping were reported.

1:16 a.m., N. Elm: A homeowner locked out of her own house was assisted with entry.

2:28 p.m., Indian Beach: Police responded to a surfer in distress. The person was able to extricate themselves prior to police arrival.

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