

REACHING FOR MORE



Bill Bradshaw / freditor@postregister.com

A couple of horses stretch their necks across a fence to get a bite of some tall grass June 11 near Lewisville. The roadsides — as well as pastures — are greening up with plenty of feed for horses and other livestock.

IDAHO NEWS
BRIEFLY

Idaho man accused of stabbing in N.D.

STANLEY, N.D. (AP) — Authorities in northwest North Dakota are accusing an Idaho man of stabbing an Alaska man over the weekend.

The Bismarck Tribune reported 31-year-old Travis Barnes has been charged with attempted murder. The Mountrail County Sheriff's Office said Barnes stabbed 23-year-old John Daly three times in the torso during an altercation Sunday at the White Earth Rodeo Grounds near Stanley.

Authorities said deputies found Daly, of Wasilla, Alaska, propped up against a corral panel while people applied pressure to his wounds. He is in stable condition at a Minot hospital.

Authorities said Barnes, who is from Post Falls, fled the scene in his vehicle with Idaho plates. He was later pulled over while driving on Highway 2 and arrested.

Drawdown aided milfoil winter kill

DOVER (AP) — The deep drawdown of Lake Pend Oreille last winter helped curb Eurasian milfoil growth, according to the Idaho Department of Agriculture.

"In the shallow-water areas, we're not going to have major milfoil issues this year. It looks like the drawdown was pretty effective winter kill with that cold snap we had early on," Tom Woolf, an aquatic plants program manager for the Agriculture Department said earlier this month.

SW Idaho trees damaged by frost

BOISE (AP) — Harsh weather from last November has destroyed members of several tree varieties in Treasure Valley.

The Idaho Statesman reported director of field operations for Idaho Tree Preservation, Terri Ham, said the trees she has examined this spring at homes across the valley have shown little growth.

Ranchers to monitor grazing allotments

BLM, state show permittees how to use photos to collect info

By CINDY SALO
For Farm & Ranch

LEADORE — Ranchers across Idaho are adding a new skill to their management toolbox. Those who hold U.S. Bureau of Land Management grazing permits are learning to monitor their grazing allotments with repeat photography.

The BLM and Idaho Department of Agriculture last summer signed a Memorandum of Understanding to begin permittee photo monitoring on BLM lands. The Agriculture Department will help ranchers get started and provide technical help. The BLM will use the photos in grazing permit renewal decisions.

Last year, the program rolled out on 125,000 acres at the BLM Jarbidge Field Office in Twin Falls. This year, 375,000 acres will be monitored with photos. Permittees in eastern Idaho received letters about how to participate in the program next year.

Last week, Lemhi County ranchers and agency staff learned BLM photo monitoring protocols at a workshop in Leadore. Amanda Gearhart, a UI Rangeland Extension specialist, taught participants how to take photos and record locations and dates. Permittees will take both landscape views and closeups of plots the BLM monitors. The latter images are supposed to be detailed enough to show changes in plant species and cover over time.



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Merrill Beyeler holds an earlier photo used to monitor a Bureau of Land Management grazing allotment so Ingrid Fulstone can take a matching photo. Alice Knight, left, and Mike Kossler, right, look on at rangeland photo monitoring workshop June 10 near Leadore.



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From left, Faith Ryan records data while Kyra Povirk and Jim Malcon take a photo June 10 at rangeland photo monitoring workshop held by the federal Bureau of Land Management and the Idaho Department of Agriculture near Leadore.

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back it up with data."

Jacobson is the ranchers' contact for the Agriculture Department/BLM photo-monitoring program. She answers questions and provides help every step of the way. Permittees first contact the BLM to obtain maps and existing photos of monitoring points. Jacobson can send them to the right person at the agency or make the initial contact herself.

Jacobson then helps ranchers locate established BLM monitoring points in the field, take photos and record needed information.

Linda Price, manager of the BLM Salmon Field

Office, said in a phone interview that both agency staff and permittees in Lemhi County are excited about the opportunity to work together to collect better information on rangelands.

"We see permittees as partners, with the same objective," she said. "We want to develop working relationships."

However, Price anticipates court challenges to the use of permittees' photos.

"If we use the photos, it's going to be challenged," she said. "They'll say it's the fox guarding the henhouse. But photos don't lie."

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