

# Capital Press

The West's **Ag** Weekly



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# MONUMENTAL

## BATTLE

The near doubling of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument threatens ranchers, timber operations and counties

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

**E**agle Point, Ore. — To rancher Lee Bradshaw, the presidential order nearly doubling the size of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument was both shocking and predictable.

Ever since the original 53,000 acres of public land were designated as a monument in 2000, there had been whispers about enlarging it.

Even so, the announcement during the final days of President Barack Obama's administration in early 2017 appeared rushed to Bradshaw, particularly since a handful of meetings held about the expansion were more about creating hype than seeking public input, he said.

"I knew it was coming our way, but it was unexpected about the way they did it," Bradshaw said.

With the federal government adding 47,000 acres to the monument, the ranching and timber industries in Southern Oregon are bracing for the worst.

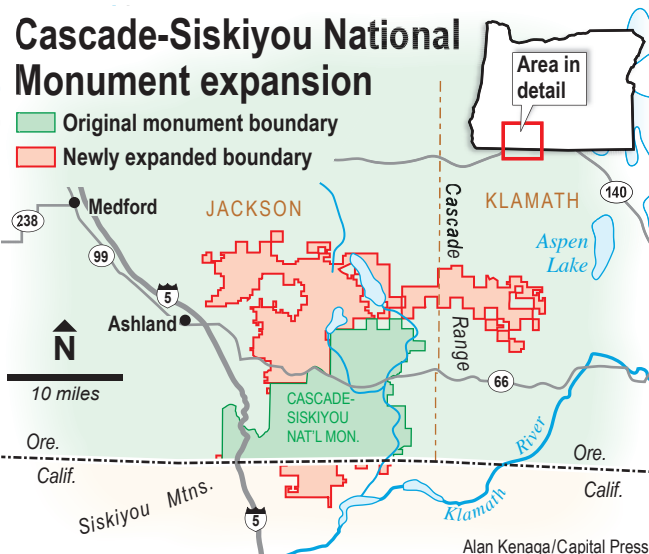


Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Rancher Lee Bradshaw visits with a horse at his property near Eagle Point, Ore. A cattle grazing allotment that Bradshaw relies upon is included in the recent expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

Critics of the monument say they've seen the economic damage caused by the original designation, leading them to expect similar restrictions on grazing and

A view of Mount Shasta from the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument near Ashland, Ore.



Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

logging within the expanded boundary. "Through no fault of their own, their operations are in jeopardy," said John O'Keeffe, president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

Meanwhile, supporters have cheered the expansion of the monument, which they believe was shortchanged in the initial designation.

"We knew the footprint wasn't as large as the scientists had hoped for," said Terry Dickey, board chairman of the Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which promotes and advocates for the monument.

### Battle looms

This time, though, the timber industry and county governments are spearheading a legal battle against the monument expansion, arguing the federal government lacks the authority to restrict logging on much of the newly included property.

Turn to **BATTLE**, Page 12

## Trump adviser: No more EPA-funded attacks on farmers

Farm group applauds remark

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

President Trump's top agricultural adviser says the new administration won't tolerate

federal support for advocacy campaigns like What's Upstream.

Ray Starling, special assistant to the president for agriculture, trade and food assistance, outlined the White House's farm policy priorities in a speech March 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

"This administration will not allow the EPA to give taxpayer dollars to activist groups who then turn around and put up billboards that attack our farmers and ranchers," said Starling, a former general counsel for the North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

The promise cheered Ger-



Courtesy of ZimmComm New Media

President Trump's special assistant on agriculture Ray Starling speaks March 21 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Starling said the new administration won't allow the EPA to fund more billboard attacks on farmers, a reference to the What's Upstream campaign in Washington state.

ald Baron, director of Save Family Farming, which was formed last year to respond

Turn to **EPA**, Page 12

## Some Washington ranchers fear USFS taking their grazing

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

**OKANOGAN, Wash.** — The U.S. Forest Service denies that it's trying to restrict or take away ranchers' grazing rights in Okanogan County, but U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., isn't buying it.

And Okanogan County Commissioner Jim DeTro believes the Forest Service's aggressive stance may even be part of a larger effort by the agency to restrict grazing before Sonny Perdue is confirmed as U.S. agriculture secretary since he is presumably pro-grazing.

Starting in January, the USFS issued non-compliance letters to 23 of 39 graz-



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Calves on winter feeding grounds on a ranch in Okanogan County, Wash., last March. Ranchers are concerned the U.S. Forest Service is trying to curtail their summer grazing this year.

ing allotment holders in the Tonasket Ranger District in Okanogan County — far more than the usual number of letters.

Ranchers in a Feb. 22 letter to the USFS protested that they have not received

any justification for the letters that allege over grazing, grazing in unauthorized areas and streambank damage.

Newhouse wrote a letter to USFS Region 6 Forester

Turn to **GRAZING**, Page 12



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