

KLAMATH

Continued from Page B1

only a matter of time before trout populations collapse.

Unite

So much of the narrative in my lifetime has been one of polarized, opposing sides. Farmers and ranchers on one side and Native Americans on the other. It's time for this to stop.

The Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Tribes are not alone in their victimization by United States policy and past actions. There is no denying the mistreatment and genocide of tribes across the country; however, past sins are not an excuse for continued marginalization.

A healthy Klamath Basin is a healthy Klamath Falls, a healthy Klamath County and a healthy public at large. We do not have to choose between agriculture and ecology.

It's time to buy back and rewild vacant land where possible then open it to regulated public use. Create new wetlands. Limit erosion. Rebuild banks where possible.

Many ranchers have already taken these steps, including



Luke Ovgard/Contributed Photo Local guide Tim Cleland (rear) motors in the boat for the author and videographer Nick Mitchell (front), who is working on a documentary of his own centered in the Klamath Basin.

a close friend and successful rancher in the area who has already fencing his properties on Lost River where waterfowl benefit just as much as fish from the natural, healthy habitat untrampled by hooves.

Fencing is a solution neither prohibitively expensive nor overwhelmingly complex. Cattle ranching can persist even as we restore the Klamath and its tributaries to its former glory.

For similar stories, read the author's book "Fishing Across America," which is available for preorder now at https://bit.ly/3MKuclp.

BACKYARD

Continued from Page B1

I've often daydreamed, while hiking in the woods, about how fine it would be to take a rest on a stump or log and munch a savory slice, grease pooled in the pepperoni and molten cheese dripping from the crust.

I scarcely had time to ponder the pizza delivery scenario before we got to the parking lot. I suspect that if I lived around Riverside Park I could make the trip in about as much time as it takes to drive from my house to the grocery store.

We applied bug spray for the first time in many blissfully insect-deficient months, and started hiking on the Red Apple trail.

The bugs, happily, weren't numerous enough — or voracious enough, anyway — to constitute even a minor annoyance. Although when we paused for more than 10 seconds or so I noticed that every mosquito in the vicinity veered over to have a look at the rich sources of carbon dioxide that had suddenly appeared.

It was the sort of evening that it seems to me is exclusive to June.

We started hiking around 7 o'clock. I donned a fleece jacket but this was for protection against

mosquitoes rather than insulation. The temperature, according to the thermometer in our car, was 65. If mild can be defined precisely, I think 65 degrees would do nicely.

The air had the fresh clean quality that disappears along about the middle of July, when the heat and the dust — and more so in recent years the wildfire smoke — make outdoor endeavors sweaty and sometimes unpleasantly congestive.

Patches of lupine perfumed the air.

There was little wind, and the occasional breezes seemed perfectly timed to cool our brows during an uphill stretch or when the trail found a patch of waning but still potent sunlight.

We sampled just a small section of MERA, having limited time and being on foot besides.

(Our own feet, that is. We saw plenty of evidence that equestrians had enjoyed portions of our route as well.)

We had so much fun, though, that we returned two nights later, on June 22.

This time we hiked farther north, on the MERA Loop and a few other sections of trail.

It was noticeably warmer — the hottest day in more than 9 months, in fact, in Baker City — but the basalt ramparts of Mount Emily block the sun pretty early, and we were in shade almost the whole way.

We swatted at a few more mosquitoes than we did two evenings earlier.

And we had to rush the last mile or so to get back to LHS to pick up Olivia.

But otherwise it was again an altogether enjoyable visit — the

sort of hike I usually have to wait until the weekends for.

Unlike our previous visit, when we saw only one person on the trails, we came across about a dozen mountain bike riders, all of them courteous and appreciative when we stepped aside as they grinded up a series of switchbacks above the Upper Igo trailhead.

We also passed a pair of hikers, each of whom was accompanied by a friendly dog.

MERA, which is managed by the Union County Parks Department and has an advisory committee, is renowned for its mountain bike trails and its network of paths for ATVs.

I've never pedaled at the place but I'm sure I would have fun — albeit not the same variety of high-flying fun that a couple of riders were indulging in as they navigated a downhill section of trail amply endowed with jumps and smoothly banked corners.

MERA is no wilderness, to be sure.

But it's a pretty fair approximation, with its patches of forest and its meadows and its occasional streams, the latter lined with thick vegetation and spanned in places by simple but quaint wooden bridges.

As we walked along on the two evenings it occurred to me, now and again, about how close we actually were to the bustling city, and the busy freeway, yet we could neither see nor hear the commotion. They might as well have been a hundred miles away instead of a handful.

I was also consumed, as it were, with the nagging reality that a hot pizza was mere minutes away.

Jayson Jacoby is the editor of the Baker City Herald.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 Fish-eating mammal 6 Fake it 9 Foot-pound relative 12 — and repeat 13 Cultural Revolution figure 14 Postal Creed word 15 Pub. prosecutor 16 Tin, in the lab 17 More liberal 19 Notable time 21 Appetite 23 Hindu prince 25 Hardened 26 Queen's quarters 30 Piped up 32 Woody or Steve 33 Swamp gases 36 Makes steel 37 Vast assortment

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Grid for crossword puzzle answer: KOA SAD HAUL IMP S IRE ELLA MASK NIB YANG ROUSED MYNAS LOW MOO YELLS NATURAL UTE MIT YIP LATERAL PEERS VIP TAE RAZED FURROW EBON ZEN IBIS SLOT ETE EELS TESS EAR YEN

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Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-61.

- DOWN 1 Command 2 Headpiece 3 Opry's st. 4 Curvy letter 5 Ripped apart 6 Moseyed along 7 Insert mark 8 Tweety or Sylvester 9 Goal 10 Beluga product 11 Watchdog's warning 18 Jock 20 Foyt's initials 22 Where Japan is 24 Falls upon 27 Sick 28 Zoo staffer 29 USN officer 31 Jo's sister 32 Qty. 33 Scratch or dent 34 Nest-egg letters 35 Prince Valiant's son 36 "You bet!" 38 Soft and cushiony 40 Fountain in Rome 42 W. Coast metropolis 43 Piece of china 44 Harnessed 46 Melville captain 47 "Phoey!" 49 Unreturnable serve 50 Show disapproval 51 Rand of "Atlas Shrugged" 53 "The Facts of Life" star 58 Compass pt.

103 Announcements Construction Auction Saturday June 25th. 11:00 am Start time. Preview will be from 12-6pm on Friday before the sale.

103 Announcements PULL TABS ACCEPTED AT THE FOLLOWING BAKER CITY LOCATIONS Baker City Herald Dollar Tree Black's Distributing Ryder Bros VFW Baker Elk's Lodge Main Event Lefty's Tap House Baker City Fire Dept. Haines Sell-Rite Idle Hour Salvation Army

104 Community Calendar VFW POST 460 Every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm. LA GRANDE LIONS CLUB Meets 2nd & 4th Monday of each month @ 12 PM Union County Senior Center 1504 N. Albany St., La Grande PINOCHLE Fridays at 6:30 p.m. Senior Center 2810 Cedar St., Baker City Public is welcome

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