Nick Goit, owner of Eastern Oregon Tactical, places a Panther Arms DPMS LR-308 at display for his shop Tuesday in Hermiston.

In West, heritage and landscape shape rural, urban views on guns
By ERIC MORTENSON  | Capital Press

In Hermiston, Ore., 184 miles east of Portland and 180 degrees politically turned, gun shop owner Nick Goit prides himself on treating customers as he walks about town: "I do that in Portland, however, or Seattle, Eugene or other urban areas, and people would most likely be alarmed. There is a urban divide over gun culture that some every bit as stark as the divisions over farming practices, wildlife, land and water use and environmentalism.

In guns, however, the disagreement sharpens in the wake of yet another mass murder, this time the Oct. 1 shooting at Umpqua Community College in Roseburg, Ore. Nine people died, five of them wounded.

How to cross that divide?

One issue, two sides
From urban areas, primarily, come the demands for greater gun control. From rural areas, primarily, come the answer: Leave us alone.

Wes Hare says it's a really tough question.

"There's such a culture clash, I don't think it can be explained," said Goit, a professional manner.

He said it doesn't raise eyebrows, although it helps to carry yourself in a "trailer, not a PR boss faces backlash
As former president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Bob Skinner, former president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, was involved in launching other organic programs and organizations. "I don't know if we had higher expectations than McEvoy desired or if he changed," Skinner said.

A spokesperson for USDA said the agency "acknowledged that McEvoy is the Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program." The program thoroughly investigates any complaints and determines whether there is a violation of organic protocols and it's that process that causes the program to be so independent of the department, as claimed by the Cornucopia Institute, the spokesperson said.

Furthermore, subcommittee members were removed from the list of approved organic program. In March 2013, two of the three members of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board voted to remove them.

In 2013, the USDA changed the procedure to allow the board to have one vote to remove a substance. In effect, it is a minority of the board that can vote to remove a substance and in use would still be allowed.

Earlier this year, a lawsuit was filed against McEvoy and its opponents at USDA for allegedly violating administrative law by implementing the new rule without public comment.

Ranchers oppose Malheur County monument designation
By SEAN ELLIS  | Capital Press

CONTRARY to what some see as a national monument or wilderness area has raised a furor among ranchers and farmers in the area. They have joined forces with a group of concerned citizens and elected officials who are fighting the Oregon Cattleman's Conservation Proposal, which would encompass 5 million acres.

Malheur County Cattlemen's Association President Chris Christensen said the lack of federal oversight would result in a large amount of grazing land and a degradation of Oregon's No. 1 cattle producing county.

"While things come to pass, it would have devastating effects on the ranching community and the agriculture in Malheur County," he said. "Anybody involved in agriculture in Malheur County isn't going to like in favor of this thing."

Christensen said a large chunk of that 5 million acres is grazed.

According to Sergio Arizpe, a livestock and range, land agent at Oregon State University's Malheur Extension office, looking up that much land would eliminate about 33 percent of the area's total grazing land.

A monument designation would "destroy the community and the business of agriculture as it's being done in this area right now," Christensen said.

Oregon National Resource, which is leading the monument effort, says it would protect 2.5 million acres of wild lands and hundreds of miles of wild and scenic rivers. According to the group's web site, the monument would "allow working farms and ranches to continue to operate."

Jordan Valley rancher Bob Skinner, former president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, was involved in launching other organic programs and organizations. "I don't know if we had higher expectations than McEvoy desired or if he changed," Skinner said.

A spokesperson for USDA said the agency "acknowledged that McEvoy is the Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program." The program thoroughly investigates any complaints and determines whether there is a violation of organic protocols and it's that process that causes the program to be so independent of the department, as claimed by the Cornucopia Institute, the spokesperson said.

Furthermore, subcommittee members were removed from the list of approved organic program. In March 2013, two of the three members of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board voted to remove them.

In 2013, the USDA changed the procedure to allow the board to have one vote to remove a substance. In effect, it is a minority of the board that can vote to remove a substance and in use would still be allowed.

Earlier this year, a lawsuit was filed against McEvoy and its opponents at USDA for allegedly violating administrative law by implementing the new rule without public comment.

Ranchers oppose Malheur County monument designation
By SEAN ELLIS  | Capital Press

CONTRARY to what some see as a national monument or wilderness area has raised a furor among ranchers and farmers in the area. They have joined forces with a group of concerned citizens and elected officials who are fighting the Oregon Cattleman's Conservation Proposal, which would encompass 5 million acres.

Malheur County Cattlemen's Association President Chris Christensen said the lack of federal oversight would result in a large amount of grazing land and a degradation of Oregon's No. 1 cattle producing county.

"While things come to pass, it would have devastating effects on the ranching community and the agriculture in Malheur County," he said. "Anybody involved in agriculture in Malheur County isn't going to like in favor of this thing."

Christensen said a large chunk of that 5 million acres is grazed.

According to Sergio Arizpe, a livestock and range, land agent at Oregon State University's Malheur Extension office, looking up that much land would eliminate about 33 percent of the area's total grazing land.

A monument designation would "destroy the community and the business of agriculture as it's being done in this area right now," Christensen said.

Oregon National Resource, which is leading the monument effort, says it would protect 2.5 million acres of wild lands and hundreds of miles of wild and scenic rivers. According to the group's web site, the monument would "allow working farms and ranches to continue to operate."

Jordan Valley rancher Bob Skinner, former president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, was involved in launching other organic programs and organizations. "I don't know if we had higher expectations than McEvoy desired or if he changed," Skinner said.

A spokesperson for USDA said the agency "acknowledged that McEvoy is the Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program." The program thoroughly investigates any complaints and determines whether there is a violation of organic protocols and it's that process that causes the program to be so independent of the department, as claimed by the Cornucopia Institute, the spokesperson said.

Furthermore, subcommittee members were removed from the list of approved organic program. In March 2013, two of the three members of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board voted to remove them.

In 2013, the USDA changed the procedure to allow the board to have one vote to remove a substance. In effect, it is a minority of the board that can vote to remove a substance and in use would still be allowed.

Earlier this year, a lawsuit was filed against McEvoy and its opponents at USDA for allegedly violating administrative law by implementing the new rule without public comment.

Ranchers oppose Malheur County monument designation
By SEAN ELLIS  | Capital Press

CONTRARY to what some see as a national monument or wilderness area has raised a furor among ranchers and farmers in the area. They have joined forces with a group of concerned citizens and elected officials who are fighting the Oregon Cattleman's Conservation Proposal, which would encompass 5 million acres.

Malheur County Cattlemen's Association President Chris Christensen said the lack of federal oversight would result in a large amount of grazing land and a degradation of Oregon's No. 1 cattle producing county.

"While things come to pass, it would have devastating effects on the ranching community and the agriculture in Malheur County," he said. "Anybody involved in agriculture in Malheur County isn't going to like in favor of this thing."

Christensen said a large chunk of that 5 million acres is grazed.

According to Sergio Arizpe, a livestock and range, land agent at Oregon State University's Malheur Extension office, looking up that much land would eliminate about 33 percent of the area's total grazing land.

A monument designation would "destroy the community and the business of agriculture as it's being done in this area right now," Christensen said.

Oregon National Resource, which is leading the monument effort, says it would protect 2.5 million acres of wild lands and hundreds of miles of wild and scenic rivers. According to the group's web site, the monument would "allow working farms and ranches to continue to operate."

Jordan Valley rancher Bob Skinner, former president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, was involved in launching other organic programs and organizations. "I don't know if we had higher expectations than McEvoy desired or if he changed," Skinner said.

A spokesperson for USDA said the agency "acknowledged that McEvoy is the Deputy Administrator of the National Organic Program." The program thoroughly investigates any complaints and determines whether there is a violation of organic protocols and it's that process that causes the program to be so independent of the department, as claimed by the Cornucopia Institute, the spokesperson said.

Furthermore, subcommittee members were removed from the list of approved organic program. In March 2013, two of the three members of the USDA's National Organic Standards Board voted to remove them.

In 2013, the USDA changed the procedure to allow the board to have one vote to remove a substance. In effect, it is a minority of the board that can vote to remove a substance and in use would still be allowed.

Earlier this year, a lawsuit was filed against McEvoy and its opponents at USDA for allegedly violating administrative law by implementing the new rule without public comment.

Ranchers oppose Malheur County monument designation
By SEAN ELLIS  | Capital Press

CONTRARY to what some see as a national monument or wilderness area has raised a furor among ranchers and farmers in the area. They have joined forces with a group of concerned citizens and elected officials who are fighting the Oregon Cattleman's Conservation Proposal, which would encompass 5 million acres.

Malheur County Cattlemen's Association President Chris Christensen said the lack of federal oversight would result in a large amount of grazing land and a degradation of Oregon's No. 1 cattle producing county.

"While things come to pass, it would have devastating effects on the ranching community and the agriculture in Malheur County," he said. "Anybody involved in agriculture in Malheur County isn't going to like in favor of this thing."

Christensen said a large chunk of that 5 million acres is grazed.

According to Sergio Arizpe, a livestock and range, land agent at Oregon State University's Malheur Extension office, looking up that much land would eliminate about 33 percent of the area's total grazing land.

A monument designation would "destroy the community and the business of agriculture as it's being done in this area right now," Christensen said.

Oregon National Resource, which is leading the monument effort, says it would protect 2.5 million acres of wild lands and hundreds of miles of wild and scenic rivers. According to the group's web site, the monument would "allow working farms and ranches to continue to operate."

Jordan Valley rancher Bob Skinner, former president of the Oregon Cattlemen's Association, was involved in launching other organic programs and organizations. "I don't know if we had higher expectations than McEvoy desired or if he changed," Skinner said.