

Ranch claims grazing prohibition encourages juniper, wildfire

Oregon's Cahill Ranches challenging BLM decision in federal court

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

An Oregon ranch is challenging the federal government's decision to eliminate grazing on more than 8,000 acres of public land to study vegetation.

Cahill Ranches of Adel, Ore., has filed a complaint alleging the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's decision will encourage juniper encroachment and wildfires while harming sage grouse populations.

"Eliminating grazing is not necessary to prevent irreparable damage to sage grouse or sage grouse habitat and the

best available science shows that eliminating management will increase the risk of loss of habitat from rapidly spreading and intense wildfire and juniper expansion," the lawsuit said.

A representative of BLM said the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation.

Rangeland conditions within the 8,282-acre Sucker Creek pasture have been determined to be in good health by the BLM, whose decision to re-authorize grazing in the area for 10 years drew no objections from environmental groups, the complaint said.

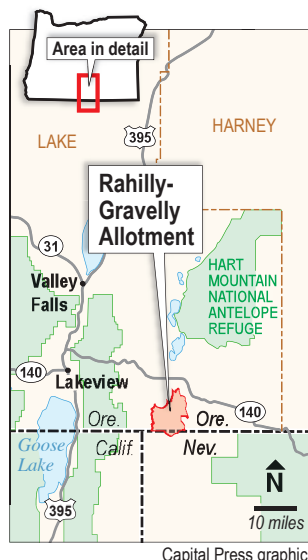
The agency has also al-

ready conducted a juniper research project in the area, the complaint said.

Cahill Ranches postponed juniper removal on its property between 2007 and 2014, providing the BLM with a "control area" for comparison with areas where the invasive trees were removed.

After the conclusion of the study, which determined sage grouse reproduction and survival improved in areas treated for juniper, Cahill Ranches resumed removing the trees from its property.

The BLM's decision to halt grazing in the pasture to study the natural development



Capital Press graphic

of vegetation is thus unnecessary, particularly since it is near two federal refug-

es where grazing is already prohibited, according to the plaintiffs.

Meanwhile, prohibiting grazing within the Sucker Creek Pasture will "significantly reduce or eliminate" Cahill Ranches' cattle operations on the larger Rahilly-Gravelly Allotment, the complaint said.

The pasture makes up 44 percent of the 18,678-acre allotment, so disallowing grazing there would disrupt the ranch's ability to rotate cattle, which is necessary for vegetation to recover in some areas while it's consumed elsewhere, the plaintiffs claim.

"The decision to eliminate grazing from the Sucker Creek pasture fails to consider

the overall impact on the economic viability of the Cahill Ranches, and consequently, whether Cahill Ranches can afford to continue sage grouse habitat improvement projects," the complaint said.

The lawsuit calls the decision to halt grazing in the pasture an "artifact of a top-down decision process that fails to account for the local conditions on the ground" in violation of federal administrative, land management and grazing statutes.

Attorneys with the Western Resources Legal Center, a nonprofit representing Cahill Ranches, are asking U.S. Magistrate Judge Mark Clarke in Medford, Ore., to overturn the decision as unlawful.

Harsh 2017 winter will result in reduced Idaho wine grape crop

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

CALDWELL, Idaho — A bitter January cold snap damaged a lot of wine grape vines in the heart of Idaho wine country and this year's harvest is expected to be down significantly as a result.

"This harsh winter really reduced our production," said wine grape grower Michael Williamson.

Temperatures reached 18-below zero in his Caldwell vineyard for a few nights in early January.

"It was only for a couple of nights but it was enough to just wipe it out," he said.

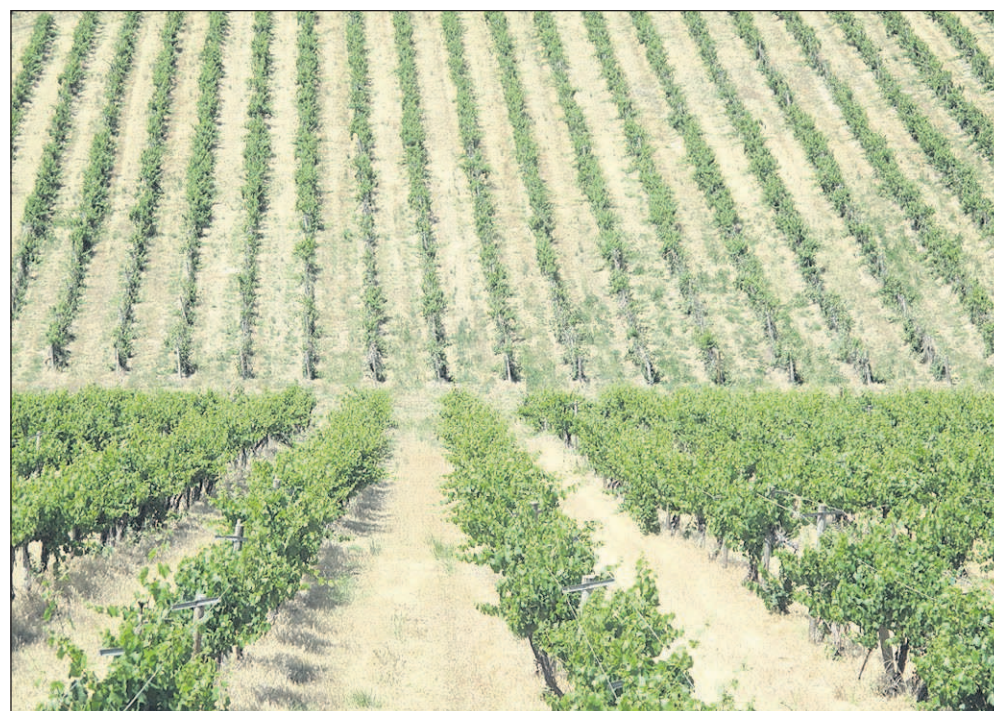
Like other vineyard owners, Williamson made the decision to cut most of his vines to the ground and retrain them, which means they won't produce any grapes this year.

"The damage is probably the worst I've seen in my 35 years," said wine maker and vineyard owner Ron Bitner.

Wine grapes in North, Eastern and southcentral Idaho are OK, said Idaho Wine Commission Executive Director Moya Shatz-Dolsby.

But the damage was centered around the Caldwell area in southwestern Idaho, where the majority of Idaho's vineyards and wineries are located, and that will have a major impact on the state's total wine grape tonnage this year, Shatz-Dolsby and vineyard owners told Capital Press.

"Some areas got hit really



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

A vineyard near Caldwell, Idaho, is shown in this June 27 photo. A bitter January cold snap heavily damaged much of Idaho's wine grape crop and total tonnage is expected to be down significantly this year as a result.

bad," Shatz-Dolsby said.

Dale Jeffers, manager of Skyline Vineyards, the state's largest, said his operation harvests about 480 acres of wine grapes in a typical year. But low temperatures that reached at least minus-20 degrees for three straight nights took a major toll on this year's crop, he said.

The low temperature at a nearby weather station reached minus-26.9 degrees on Jan. 7, Jeffers said.

"We'll probably harvest 50-55 acres this year and it will be a reduced crop on the

acres we do harvest," he said. "It's pretty devastating."

A lot of growers reported having to cut their vines to the roots and they said the only reason the roots weren't damaged as well is because of the record or near-record snow cover that blanketed most of the region this winter.

"A lot of guys had to cut everything off" to the roots, said vineyard owner and University of Idaho research assistant Tom Elias. "The incredible snow cover acted as an insulator so the roots didn't get really damaged. But everything

above that snow cover just got toasted."

The bright spot is that the 2016 wine grape harvest in Idaho was a bumper crop, Shatz-Dolsby said.

According to an IWC news release on Idaho's 2016 wine grape harvest, Skyline Vineyards doubled production last year and most other vineyards reported about a 50 percent increase from previous years.

"The 2016 harvest was huge and what's in the tank is hopefully going to be able to carry a lot of people through," she said

Battle against chlorpyrifos continues despite decision

Reversing course, EPA has decided not to ban most of the insecticide's uses

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Environmental groups are continuing their battle against chlorpyrifos on several fronts after the Trump administration refused to end the insecticide's use on food crops.

Until recently, victory appeared to be within reach for several environmental groups that fear the chemical poses an excessive health risk.

The organizations originally petitioned the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2007 to revoke all "tolerances" of chlorpyrifos on food crops.

The government's delays in reacting to the petition eventually ended up before the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ordered EPA to make a decision on the request.

Under the Obama administration, the EPA proposed revoking all food tolerances for the chemical in 2015. The 9th Circuit gave the agency until the end of March 2017 to make that action final.

By the time that deadline arrived, though, Trump-appointed administrator Scott Pruitt denied the environmental groups' petition despite the agency's earlier proposal.

At the time, Pruitt said the decision would provide "regulatory certainty" to farmers who rely on chlorpyrifos to control insects on numerous

crops. "By reversing the previous administration's steps to ban one of the most widely used pesticides in the world, we are returning to using sound science in decision-making — rather than predetermined results," Pruitt said.

The American Farm Bureau Federation and several other agricultural groups praised the decision, saying they had reservations about the epidemiological studies upon which EPA had previously based its proposed revocation.

Several environmental groups are now objecting to the EPA's denial of their petition through the administrative process and in the 9th Circuit.

The organizations are fighting Pruitt's decision on several fronts to minimize further delays, said Patti Goldman, managing attorney for Earthjustice, the environmental law firm representing them.

The EPA has said the 9th Circuit can compel the agency to grant or reject a petition, but the appellate court cannot force the agency to make a decision on re-registering the pesticide earlier than the 2022 deadline set by Congress.

Goldman claims the EPA is likely postponing the decision because it can't legally prove that chlorpyrifos is safe.

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 819

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 7/6/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by B.C. TOWING 1834 BEACH AVE. NE, SALEM, OR 2010 MAZDA SPEED 3, 4DR VIN = JM1BL1H30A1313436 Amount due on lien \$4,105.00 Reputed owner(s) CHRISTIAN E. & KATHRYN A. SWANK NAVY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION Legal-25-2-2/#4

Washington Dairy owner fined for manure discharge

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

SUNNYSIDE, Wash. — The state Department of Agriculture has fined a Sunnyside dairy owner \$4,000 for violating water pollution laws by failure to contain manure effluent.

The same dairyman, Jake Slegers,

owner of JLS Dairy, received notices of correction for similar violations from the department in 2013 and 2014. None of the violations have been intentional but resulted from facilities he's been upgrading, Slegers told Capital Press.

"I bought this place six years ago. I've been upgrading it according to what the state requires," Slegers said,

adding he will ask for the civil penalty to be reduced.

In its June 15 notice of penalty, WSDA said equipment failure resulted in a discharge of manure toward Roza Irrigation Canal in 2013 and that an effluent lagoon was leaking in 2014.

Slegers said the lagoon leaked when a neighbor, doing construction work,

removed trees that roots reached into the lagoon. He said he then had the lagoon lined.

In March 2017, WSDA received a complaint that liquid and solid manure from JLS Dairy was running off the dairy property and into a ditch and onto a neighbor's property, the notice of penalty states.

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Public Notice Announcing Scoping Meeting Swalley Irrigation District System Improvements

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance of The Farmers Conservation Alliance and in cooperation with the Swalley Irrigation District and Deschutes Basin Board of Control as the project sponsor, is considering improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure in the Swalley Irrigation District. Improvements under consideration may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL83-566) and will address water conservation, enhancement of aquatic species habitat, and public safety risks while supporting existing agricultural land use.

The proposed projects are located in the north-central portion of Deschutes County. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

You are invited to attend a public scoping open house where your input is requested. The range of resource issues and conceptual alternatives addressing system improvements to the Swalley Irrigation District will be presented and discussed.

Public Scoping Open House: Date: July 6, 2017 - Thursday Time: 6:30PM to 7:30PM Location: Tumalo Community Church, (64671 Bruce Avenue, Bend OR 97703)

Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period starting July 7, 2017 and ending on July 20, 2017. Additional information is available at www.oregonwatershedplans.org or the NRCS link for Public Notices: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/newsroom/pnotice/>

Comments may be emailed to swalleycomments@gmail.com

For further information contact: Margi Hoffmann Community Relations Director Farmers Conservation Alliance 11 3rd Street, Suite 101 Hood River, OR 97031 (503) 550-3556 margi.hoffmann@fcasolutions.org

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Margi Hoffman (503) 550-3556

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Public Notice Announcing Scoping Meeting Tumalo Irrigation District System Improvements

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance of The Farmers Conservation Alliance and in cooperation with the Tumalo Irrigation District and Deschutes Basin Board of Control as the project sponsor, is considering improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure in the Tumalo Irrigation District. Improvements under consideration may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL83-566) and will address water conservation, enhancement of aquatic species habitat and public safety risks while supporting existing agricultural land use.

The proposed projects are located in the north-central portion of Deschutes County. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

You are invited to attend a public scoping open house where your input is requested. The range of resource issues and conceptual alternatives addressing system improvements to the Tumalo Irrigation District will be presented and discussed.

Public Scoping Open House: Date: July 6, 2017 - Thursday Time: 5:30PM to 6:30PM Location: Tumalo Community Church, (64671 Bruce Avenue, Bend OR 97703)

Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period starting July 7, 2017 and ending on July 20, 2017. Additional information is available at www.oregonwatershedplans.org or the NRCS link for Public Notices: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/newsroom/pnotice/>

Comments may be emailed to wsp@tumalo.org

For further information contact: Margi Hoffmann Community Relations Director Farmers Conservation Alliance 11 3rd Street, Suite 101 Hood River, OR 97031 (503) 550-3556 margi.hoffmann@fcasolutions.org

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours before the meeting to Margi Hoffman (503) 550-3556

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Public Notice Announcing Scoping Meeting Central Oregon Irrigation District System Improvements

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), with assistance of The Farmers Conservation Alliance and in cooperation with the Central Oregon Irrigation District and Deschutes Basin Board of Control as the project sponsor, is considering improvements to aging irrigation infrastructure in the Central Oregon Irrigation District. Improvements under consideration may be partially funded through the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act of 1954 (PL83-566) and will address water conservation, enhancement of aquatic species habitat and public safety risks while supporting existing agricultural land use.

The work being considered is located in the north-central portion of Deschutes County. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508 require an evaluation of potential environmental impacts associated with federal projects and actions with input from the public.

You are invited to attend a public scoping open house where your input is requested. The range of resource issues and conceptual alternatives addressing potential system improvements to the Central Oregon Irrigation District will be presented and discussed.

Public Scoping Open House: Date: July 10, 2017 - Monday Time: 5:30PM to 7:00PM Location: Redmond Grange (3152 SW Metolius Place, Redmond, OR 97756)

Comments may be submitted during the public scoping period starting July 11, 2017 and ending on July 24, 2017. Additional information is available at www.oregonwatershedplans.org or the NRCS link for Public Notices: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/or/newsroom/pnotice/>

Comments may be emailed to watershed@coid.org

For further information contact: Margi Hoffmann Community Relations Director Farmers Conservation Alliance 11 3rd Street, Suite 101 Hood River, OR 97031 (503) 550-3556 margi.hoffmann@fcasolutions.org

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