

# Ranchers slowly return to grazing land scorched by 2015 Soda Fire

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

Idaho and Oregon ranchers have just recently started to resume grazing their cattle on some of the 279,000 acres of prime range land scorched two years ago by the Soda Fire.

The fire burned 84 pastures on 40 U.S. Bureau of Land Management grazing allotments. Most of the damage was done in Owyhee County southwest of Boise, with some of it occurring near Jordan Valley, Ore.

As part of BLM's post-fire restoration plan, ranchers were not allowed to graze their animals on those allotments for at least two growing seasons following the blaze.

Grazing has resumed this fall on 48 affected pastures and BLM officials expect to make decisions on the remaining 36 pastures by the end of December, said Peter Torma, BLM's Soda Fire project manager.

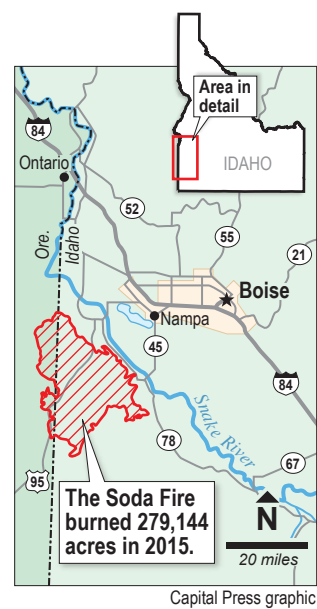
Ted Blackstock is one of many ranchers who lost large swaths of their traditional grazing land to the fire.

"It wiped out all of our feed for that year and the next year," he said. "It's been very expensive for our ranch, having to find all that feed."

Blackstock was able to get back on one of his allotments this fall and will also be able to use some range this winter that was damaged by the fire.



Owyhee County rancher Ted Blackstock, left, and other ranchers discuss a fire map with BLM firefighting officials during the Soda Fire, which scorched 279,000 acres in southwestern Idaho and part of Oregon in 2015.



Capital Press graphic

"It's good to be back home again," he said. "The grass is coming back really well."

The lightning-caused fire burned rapidly and it burned hot, Torma said.

"There really weren't these unburned islands or pastures that were not burned," he said. "Whatever it went across, it burned 100 percent of it."

The fire also killed hun-

dreds of cattle.

"It was a pretty devastating fire," said BLM spokesman Michael Williamson. "A lot of ranchers had to drastically adjust what they were doing" because of it.

BLM officials have undertaken several treatment efforts aimed at restoring the land and the agency's restoration plan includes making

the landscape more resilient to fire in the future.

That plan includes 30 miles of targeted grazing fuel breaks, which will begin this spring and will be accomplished using producers who graze cattle in those areas.

The idea is to create a 200-foot buffer on each side of roads, with the grass grazed down to a 2-inch stubble

height, said Lance Okeson, a BLM fuels program coordinator.

With the fuel breaks, "The rate of a fires' spread is going to be drastically reduced," he said.

The targeted grazing fuel breaks are designed to prevent another big fire, said Lara Douglas, manager of the BLM's Boise district office.

BLM has used this tactic before but never on this scale or without extensive fencing, Okeson said.

"We're trying to develop these techniques with the operators on the landscape, without a bunch of extensive fencing," he said. "We've done some small-scale stuff like this but we're trying to take it a little farther than that."

The grazing fuel breaks are part of the BLM's plan to protect the millions of dollars of restoration work that has already been done, Okeson said.

"From day one of the plan, it was, we're going to do all these restoration efforts and we're also going to have a strategy to protect them," he said.

# Oregon dairy changing hands after regulatory problems

Willamette Valley Cheese Co. will continue operating next to farm

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

A dairy farm associated with a well-known Oregon cheese company is being

sold off following repeated failures to follow wastewater regulations.

Volbeda Farms near Salem, Ore., violated the terms of its "confined animal feeding operation" permit numerous times over several years, prompting the Oregon Department of Agriculture to revoke the permit.

Violations included discharging waste into nearby waterways and not complying with the dairy's animal waste plan, said Wym Matthews, manager of the agency's CAFO program.

"This was an operational

failure. It was not a facility failure, it was the failure of the operator to manage it correctly," Matthews said.

Apart from the permit revocation, Volbeda Farms was issued a \$90,000 civil penalty. ODA also obtained a temporary restraining order requiring the farm to remove its animals and clean the facility.

The agency permits about 260 dairy CAFOs in Oregon, and most of them comply with wastewater regulations, said Matthews. "This was an anomaly for our program. This is not something we see all the time."

Capital Press was unable to reach Rod Volbeda, the farm's owner, for comment.

The dairy farm is being bought by Brian Turley, whose family operates a grass seed and custom farming business, with the closing expected to take place in January.

Turley said he's familiar with the dairy industry as his



Darren Volbeda of the Willamette Valley Cheese Co. near Salem, Ore., examines cheeses as they brine. The adjacent dairy farm is being sold to another farmer, who will be milking Jersey cows at the facility.

family raised replacement heifers in the 1990s and currently provides seed drilling and hauling services for dairy farms.

Once the dairy farm receives a new CAFO permit, Turley expects to initially keep 180 to 225 Jersey cows at the facility, roughly one-third the number it once

housed at its peak.

Turley became aware of the opportunity to buy the facility after hauling away manure from the farm.

The Willamette Valley Cheese Co. will continue operating next to the site and Turley is negotiating about supplying the company with milk.

"We'd like to work out a deal with them," he said.

Manure management problems aren't a concern for the new owners, as they already apply dairy manure to multiple fields in the region, said Brianna Turley, Brian's wife.

"We have a lot more acreage than they had to apply it," she said, noting that the Turleys will also collect and dispose of wastewater from the cheese facility.

## LEGAL

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

Probate Department  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
Harold L. Hayes, Deceased  
No. 17PB08210

### NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published November 24, 2017.

Personal Representative:  
DORIS M. HAYES  
1064 Camelot Dr. S.  
Salem, OR 97306

Attorney:  
DAVID B. BECKHAM  
319 Sixth Avenue SW  
Albany, OR 97321

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## LEGAL

### PUBLIC LIEN SALE U-STORE SELF STORAGE Salem, Oregon

Sat, December 9, 2017 10AM  
1501 Hawthorne Ave NE  
Keyla Almestica Looney, 2C54; Tina Barlow, 1A04; Gordon R Bean, 2A65; Debra L Bennett, 2B46; Darrin Cragle, 1G17; Tammy Delfino, 1E43; Carmen Rocio Duran Ramirez, RJ14; Linches Esetok, RE14; Amanda Frechin, 2C65; Michell Graves, 1C41; SheaAnn Greaves, 2A50; Amber Jones, 1B15; Jonathon Jones, 2B56; Kevin M Lent, Y1-1; Andrew McMillan, 2E06; Sam Means, 2B58; Lynn Medina, 1F06; Joselyn Oropeza, 2C37; Christy Packer, 1C24; Dustin Patee, 1G16; Haley Potter, RE19; Kimberly Reitzer, 2C52; Erica Salazar, 2C57; Silas Scott, Y1-8; Shallone Sheets, 2G03; Jared Sheridan, 1F42; Brian Siegmund, 2A71, 2A73; Duane W Stateler, 1F34; Keith Weddle Jr, 1F47; Vincent K Wilson, 2D51; Kimberly Wollin, 2B25; Luis Zavala Santana, 2C39

legal-47-3-4/999

## LEGAL

### PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 12/18/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by  
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2017 CHEV CRUZE  
VIN = 3G1BE6SM9H5534981  
Amount due on lien \$3,615.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
LOGAN R. HEARD & JOE L. HEARD  
ALLY FINANCIAL

legal-49-2-3/999

## LEGAL

### PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 98

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 12/11/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by  
LITTLE J HOOK INC.  
15114 MANNING RD, WOODBURN, OR 2016 FORD FOCUS  
VIN = 1FADP3K28GL247245  
Amount due on lien \$3,320.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
UTL OR WA CA

legal-48-2-3/999

## LEGAL

### PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 98

Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 12/11/2017. The sale will be held at 10:00am by  
DELFIN'S TOWING  
1255 SUNNYVIEW RD NE, SALEM, OR 2007 CHEV SILVERADO PU  
VIN = 3GCEK13M87G548953  
Amount due on lien \$4,640.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
JESSICA L. FORSTER & SEAN S. MATHERS

legal-48-2-3/999

## LEGAL

### PUBLIC LIEN SALE U-STORE SELF STORAGE Albany, Oregon

Sat, December 9, 2017 1PM  
1668 Industrial Way SW  
Troy Babbit, J017; Teri Barnett, H063; Chelsey LaMora, H021; Richard Miano, H006; Minnie Reimer, E017

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