



GORDON CLARK'S SECOND LIFE

From surfing icon to rancher on historic Oregon farm

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN
Capital Press

MADRAS, Ore. — Gordon Clark likes to say he's had two lives. In the first life, Clark was a California surfing icon and owner of the world's leading surfboard blank manufacturing company. Surfer magazine once placed him at No. 2 on its list of "25 Most Powerful People in Surfing."

In his second life, Clark, 89, is a farmer who has raised thousands of cattle and sheep at Hay Creek Ranch in Central Oregon, one of the state's oldest and largest ranch holdings, spanning 52,500 contiguous acres.

Clark says the common thread between his two lives is that both surfboard manufacturing and farming require strategy, curiosity and hard work.

"I'm a nuts-and-bolts guy," said Clark. "I love solving problems and working with my hands."

Because Clark wasn't raised on a ranch, locals say he learned how to farm "by asking a lot of questions and reading a lot." Often, Clark has copied ranchers around him, trying to emulate their success. At times, however, he has pushed the boundaries: using drones to manage his cattle, applying variable-rate fertilizer to his crops, installing inventive systems to stretch water during drought and using DNA profiles to improve his herd's genetics.

Reed Anderson, a fourth-generation farmer and owner of Anderson Ranches who met Clark through the Oregon Sheep Growers Association, said Clark isn't afraid to try new things.

"There's a lot of people that have success in other businesses and they have a kind of romanticism about owning a ranch — you know, 'Gunsmoke,'"

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Gordon Clark in front of a crumbling wooden home on his property that once belonged to one of the early settlers.
Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

Oregon private forestland deal wins acclaim, though doubts remain



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press
Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signs legislation at a May 18 ceremony in Portland that imposes new regulations on private forestland.

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

PORTLAND — Regulations that reduce Oregon's harvestable timber acreage by roughly 10% aren't a development that would normally be embraced by timber industry representatives.

Yet new rules that increase no-logging buffers around streams and impose other restrictions were celebrated May 18 by executives of forest product companies alongside Gov. Kate Brown and environmental advocates at an event in Portland.

The signing ceremony memorialized the Private Forest Accord, a compromise deal over forestry regulations struck by timber and environmental representatives. The agreement was enshrined in legislation passed earlier this year and signed by Brown.

"You all set aside your differences to

do what is best for everyone," Brown said. "Both sides recognized the old way of doing things wasn't working."

Any decrease in the state's log supply is a hard pill for lumber and plywood manufacturers to swallow but the segment of the industry that supports Senate Bill 1501 believes it's a calculated risk: The new restrictions are meant to forestall ballot initiatives or other unpredictable disruptions to logging rules.

"There are no certainties in life, but we have a negotiated agreement that's supported by all sides," said Eric Geyer, strategic business development director for Roseburg Forest Products. "I'm confident we will have regulatory certainty for the elements that were negotiated."

This regulatory certainty is generally cited as a key benefit to foresters, loggers, landowners and manufacturers, but detractors in the timber industry view the term as

unrealistically optimistic.

Critics say the regulations don't actually prevent environmental advocates from filing lawsuits or seeking ballot initiatives, either immediately or years from now.

"One must suspend disbelief that the greens will not sue in the future. History says otherwise," said Rob Freres, president of Freres Lumber. "Surrogates and newly formed organizations will be used to circumvent the agreement."

Meanwhile, the timber investment management organizations and real estate investment trusts that agreed to the restrictions will eventually divest their Oregon forestlands, "avoiding the harm they have caused," he said.

The larger buffer zones around waterways, which depend on stream type, are a major component of the deal and have come

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Entomologists mull official name for 'murder hornets'

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Asian giant hornets, popularly called "murder hornets," should be commonly known as "northern giant hornets," according to the Entomological Society of America's committee on naming insects.

Washington State Department of Agriculture entomologist Chris Looney proposed the name. The recommendation by the names committee must still be approved by the society's governing board.

The society's "Better Common Names Project" has been targeting what the society calls "problematic

names (that) perpetuate harm against people of various ethnicities and races."

Last year, the society renamed the "gypsy moth" to "spongy moth," the first name change approved by the governing board.

Looney said Wednesday that he wanted to keep the public from confusing Asian giant hornets with a different species commonly known in Europe as "Asian hornets," another large and destructive pest.

"That was my main motivation," he said.

Asian giant hornets, scientifically known as *Vespa mandarinia*, have been found in Washington and Brit-

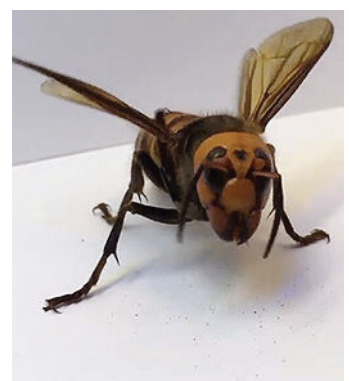
ish Columbia.

Asian hornets, *Vespa velutina*, are spreading in Europe, but have never been documented in North America. The similar names, however, have already apparently caused a mix-up.

A Washington resident in 2020 reported an Asian giant hornet sighting to a United Kingdom agency's website. The misdirected report delayed finding an Asian giant nest in Whatcom County, the agriculture department said.

The confusion spans the Atlantic. Residents of Switzerland, Spain

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WSDA
An Asian giant hornet held captive by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

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