

# Business & Ag

## Baker County working with Fred Kelly Grant to protect local lands

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Chair of the Baker County Board of Commissioners Bill Harvey is constructing a strategy to protect local lands as federal and state agencies enact new land management policies. Harvey has enlisted the help of land use lawyer Fred Kelly Grant in his quest to exercise local control on lands within the county.

Grant is a well-respected land use expert and carries an impressive resume. He is an author, public speaker, has worked as council for two Idaho Governors, is an associate working as American counsel to Lloyds of London, was president of Stewards of the Range and American Stewards of Liberty, CEO of Trademark America, and since 2008 has worked as expert consultant to local governments, and private party ranchers and farmers to help protect local assets and the heritage and livelihood of the western United States.

Grant has yet to begin his work in Baker County

but has been placed on retainer. Grant's guidance may begin once the Baker County Commissioners have made a final decision based on the recommendations compiled in the Baker County Natural Resource Plan, a project currently undertaken by the county's Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC).

Harvey thinks the recommendations from the NRAC may reach the desk of the three commissioners in about one month. At that time, commissioners will make the decision on whether to accept the recommendations and then finalize the new natural resource plan.

It is at that point that Grant could begin his work to help Baker County enter the process of coordination with the federal and state land management agencies.

Grant has long been an advocate of local control on local lands through a legal process referred to as "coordination". Coordination, written into federal laws, mandates the federal and state land management agencies to remain consistent with local land

use policy and has been used by local governments to protect local interests and assets within lands managed under federal and state authority.

Once the county's Natural Resource Plan is finished, Harvey expects to enlist the services of Grant to enter into the coordination process with federal and state land managers. Baker County has an ordinance requiring the coordination process, in place since 2001 and that ordinance was reaffirmed by the county commissioners through a coordination resolution passed in 2009. While the law requiring coordination exists within county ordinance it has not been fully used by county officials. Harvey plans to change that.

Topping the list of Harvey's priorities is the formation of a joint effort between the county and City of Baker City to work with federal land managers to address what Harvey calls "a huge, unrealistic fire load," in the Baker City watershed.

Harvey wants to gain the support of his fellow



Submitted Photo.  
Fred Kelly Grant.

Baker County Commissioners Tim Kerns and Mark Bennett. Once able to move forward, Harvey said a letter denoting Baker County's intent to coordinate would be sent to Environmental Protection Agency, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

"Once we have a Natural Resource Plan in place, we'll go to the BLM and Forest Service to see how their plans work with the county's plan," Harvey said.

## Forester sets the record straight at 'First Friday' meeting

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This month's meeting was held on Monday, July 6, since the Baker County Courthouse was closed on Friday, July 3, in observance of Independence Day.

Joining County Commission Chair Bill Harvey were Craig and Doni Bruland, Andersen, Tork and Wanda Ballard, Debi Bainter, Marshall McComb, Chuck Chase, and Bobbie Danser.

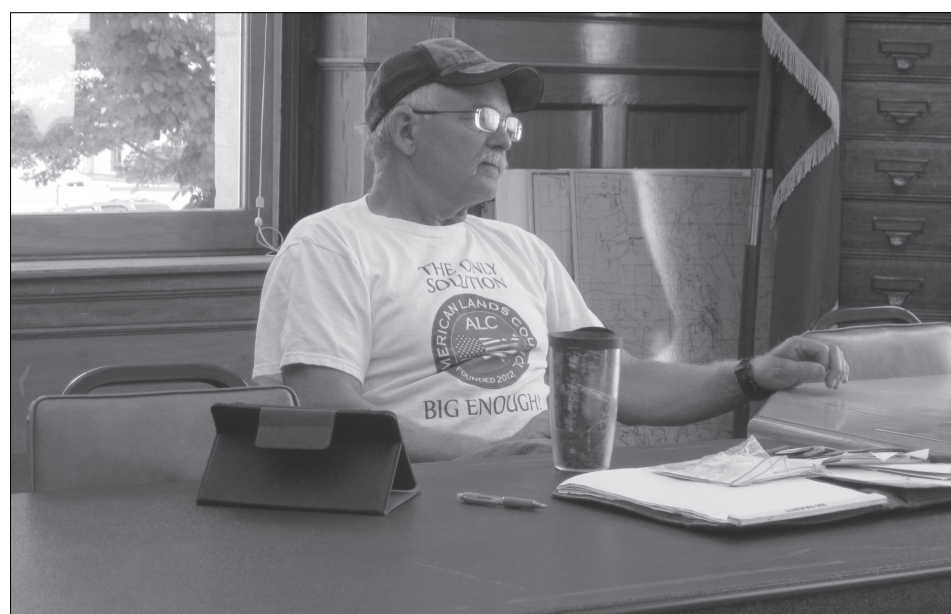
During last month's meeting, Andersen made some comments regarding his opinion concerning the transfer of public forest lands from federal to state or county control and management, since people in the local community have asked him about this subject, he said.

Andersen, a member of the Baker County Republicans, was part of that party's natural resources subcommittee, which drafted a resolution in favor of the transfer of public lands. That resolution was submitted to the County Commissioners.

During this week's public meeting, Andersen took the floor to publicly clarify his stance, which he maintains doesn't line up at all with what was reported last month.

The Record Courier published the following on June 11, 2015, in an article titled "Public Lands Resolution 15-01 is Heated Discussion Topic at June 5 Meeting," written by Emily Braswell:

"Not everyone present at the meeting was in agreement with the concept of such a transfer (of public lands back to local control, stated in Resolution 15-01), including Arvid Andersen, a forester and member of the Baker County Republican Central Committee who asked,



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

Forester Arvid Andersen sports an American Lands Council T-shirt while clarifying his stance that transfer of public lands is possible if done right.

"How could the county possibly take care of the Federal Lands? There's all the staffing, the money, and even Cliff Bentz, our Representative, said it couldn't be done."

During this month's meeting, Andersen said, "I have a little bit of a concern, and I wish either Gina Perkins (editor of The Record Courier) was here, or Emily Braswell."

Braswell attended part of this month's meeting, but was absent during the time Andersen spoke.

Andersen said, "After I spoke (at last month's meeting), they wrote an article saying that I was against the forests relinquishing the timber sales, the timber lands, to Oregon State or Baker County. I never tried to address that, but they printed that in their paper, and I asked them to retract that. She (Perkins) said she would not."

Andersen sent an email to The Baker County Press reiterating that, "A number of Baker County residents who know me as a forester, have asked me, 'How could the State of Oregon or a county government hold onto forest land if

the USFS (U.S. Forest Service) lands were transferred to state or county governments?"

"I stated with clarity that Idaho, Oregon and Washington states have forestry programs where timber is cut, and yield a net profit to state general funds. I also mentioned Hood River County as it has a forestry program, and provides a positive cash flow to Hood River County, of around 30 to 35% of that county's annual budget."

"I did not actually state whether I supported the transfer of BLM/USFS to State/County governments, but answered the question of whether they can. My answer was, absolutely yes, with giving examples of the local governments that are currently doing that, and doing it right."

Andersen, at this month's meeting, cited some more examples of how timber sales programs could work, handing Harvey documents with information regarding the sale of timber to an Idaho saw mill, Tamarack Mill, LLC, from the Idaho Department of Lands, in McCall.

The final sale information included the gross

sale amount of \$1,244,502 (net value of \$1,165,200), for 29,631 tons of timber, from 570 acres located approximately 13.5 miles northwest of Council, Idaho.

**Other Items.** Other topics at the monthly meeting with Harvey included a discussion about Fred Kelly Grant, lead attorney on the Stand & Fight Club, a group dedicated to protecting the culture and economy of the rural communities in the U.S., by fighting to keep the federal government in check regarding laws and regulations.

Wanda Ballard said that she's aware that Forest Access For All (FAFA) and other entities have donated funds to the Stand & Fight Club, and Harvey said he'd spent several hours with Grant on Monday, informing the attendees that Grant was hospitalized due to an injury and some health issues.

Harvey said that he's recovering well, and the two are communicating regularly, and moving forward.

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### — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, July 3, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to the same quality last week. Trade activity increased a little this week, however many producers were still busy in the field with the new crop. Most producers have not yet begun selling new crop hay. All prices are in dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise stated.

Sales:

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg	Comments
	Alfalfa — Large Square		
Fair/Good 180	170.00-170.00	170.00	New Crop
	Alfalfa/Orchard Mix — Large Square		
Good 150	190.00-190.00	190.00	New Crop

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

### — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

(No sale for July 1)

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 349

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk 273.00 - 309.00	Top 313.00
500-600#	Bulk 251.00 - 271.00	Top 278.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
500-600#	Bulk 226.00 - 243.00	Top 247.50

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 236.00 - 249.00	Top 250.50
700-800#	Bulk 215.00 - 224.00	Top 228.00
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 217.00 - 226.00	Top 228.00
700-800#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	76.00 - 93.00
Butcher Cows	97.00 - 108.00
Butcher Bulls	112.00 - 128.00
Pairs BM	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	112.00 - 130.00
Young Pairs	N/A

ProducersLivestock.com  
541-473-3136

### — LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Doug Fir is \$415.00/mbf  
White fir is \$365.00/mbf

Ponderosa Pine is brought sold on diameter splits

6 to 11 inch dib	\$300 to \$310/MBF
12 to 17 inch dib	\$350 to \$375/MBF
18 to 23 inch dib	\$400 to \$430/MBF
24 inch plus dib	\$450 to \$500/MBF

DIB is diameter inside bark at small end of log.

MBF is thousand board feet lumber, net scale.

People interested in selling logs should call and get specific quotes from saw mills.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

### — PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1157.00

Silver: \$15.05

Platinum: \$1,032.45

Palladium: \$655.20

Bloomberg.com

### — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$424.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$577.50/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$988.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$267.00/bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$11.01/cwt/USD

Canola: \$520.20 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$149.10/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$213.98/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$75.70/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com