

Local

Eastern Oregon counties

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The coordination process has been used by local governments throughout the West to protect local interests by working with federal and state land use planners. The process of coordination has been used to protect local interests by enabling local government to work in a government-to-government relationship with federal and state agencies ensuring that federal and state land use plans remain consistent with local natural resource plans during land management projects.

Harney County has begun the work of coordinating with the BLM on the Greater sage-grouse protection plan, Harvey announced at the August 1st meeting of Forest Access for All, a local organization formed to advocate for an open forest.

Harney County commissioners are using coordination to protect cattle grazing on the great expanse of federal land within the boundaries of Oregon's geographically largest county as the BLM works on the Greater Sage-grouse protection plan, said Harvey.

Wallowa County commissioner Paul Castilleja has been an advocate of coordination for many years and has worked to get the Wallowa County Board of Commissioners to begin the coordination process as the USFS works on the revision of the Blue Mountain Forest Plan and on a Travel Management Plan for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Baker County Natural Resource Advisory Committee is currently finalizing the county's Natural Resource Plan.

Once finished, commissioners can then take the Baker County Natural Resource Plan to coordinate with the USFS and BLM on several federal land use plans currently underway.

Some of the federal plans to be rolled out within the next year or two on lands within Baker County include the revision of the USFS Blue Mountain Forest Plan, the USFS Travel Management Plan in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, the BLM Greater sage-grouse protection plan, the BLM Baker Area Resource Management Plan, and the BLM planning project for the placement of Idaho



Brian Addison / The Baker County Press

Bill Harvey, chairman of the Baker County Board of Commissioners, and Forest Access for All Secretary Wanda Ballard discuss county business during a recent Forest Access for All meeting, Aug. 1.

Power's 500-kV electrical line.

"We're a week or two from finalizing our Natural Resource Plan, then we will declare coordination," said Harvey. "They have to deal with Baker County government."

Harvey has requested weekly one-hour meetings to begin a dialogue on topics important to Baker County with Tom Montoya, USFS Supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Timber thinning in the Baker City watershed, protecting county rights-of-way in the forested lands, helping restore land affected by wildfire through allowing heating firewood gathering in areas of blown down timber, and an open forest policy in Baker County top the list of concerns Harvey plans to discuss with Montoya and to cover in the coordination effort.

Success stories from county and city governments and school districts using the process of coordination resonate throughout the western states with local resources and interests protected from federal and state planning projects in Owyhee County, Idaho, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Modoc counties in California, and Sanders County, Montana.

Probably the highest profile success story recently came out of Texas where several small school districts joined together and asserted their local plan using coordination to stop the Trans-Texas Corridor, a project that would have split up long-established school districts forcing a complete redrawing of

bussing routes. The school districts found that unacceptable and showed where the plan to construct the multi-lane super freeway was counter to local interests and plans.

Fred Kelly Grant's Coordination 101 Workshop coming to Baker City.

One man has led the charge to protect local resources through the legal process of coordination. For the past 25 years, Idaho lawyer and land use expert Fred Kelly Grant has helped local communities realize their rights and enter into coordination with federal and state agencies during land management projects.

Hundreds of people have attended Grant's coordination training classes during the past two decades and this month eastern Oregon residents won't have far to travel for the opportunity to learn directly from the source.

Grant and a host of nationally recognized experts in coordination are coming to Baker City for a three-day training workshop. The Fred Kelly Grant Group presents Coordination 101, beginning August 20 through August 22.

"Fred Kelly Grant has listed 'success after success' over the years in which the coordination process was used by local agencies across the West to block grazing restrictions on federal land, reverse forest closures or to get federal agencies to back off from protected-species restrictions," begins an advertising flyer being circulated throughout the community. "We are bringing this to Baker City to help Eastern Oregon

Businesses, Organizations, and Counties learn what makes the mandatory Coordination process with Federal and State Agencies successful and then receive the detailed steps and tools necessary to create just such a relationship."

Along with Grant, the Coordination 101 Workshop brings trainers Sylvia Milligan, Chairperson for the Recreation Outdoors Coalition from Siskiyou County, California; Sean Curtis, natural resource advisor and analyst from Modoc County, California; Terri Hall, who was instrumental in stopping the Trans Texas Corridor; Dick Wright, chairperson for the Shasta County Coordination Coalition; and also from Shasta County, California Sally Rapoza.

The Coordination 101 Workshop is a privately sponsored event. The workshop begins August 20 with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. and the presentation beginning at 8:30 a.m., continuing August 21 and 22. The workshop takes place at the Baker County Events Center (old National Guard Armory building), 2600 East Street. Cost to attend the workshop is set at \$150 and includes lunch for the three days, workbook and brochures, intensive training, and interactive problem solving.

Those interested in attending should contact Lorrie Harvey by phone at 541-519-5470, by E-mail at lorrieharvey@gmail.com, or by visiting 3370 10th Street, Suite C, Baker City. Checks should be made out to, "Keep the Fight."

First gridiron grill-off held before game



Todd Arriola / The Baker County Press

The Baker County Cattlewomen co-sponsored the first gridiron cook off and tailgate party this year before the big Shrine Game.

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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On Saturday, August 1, 2015, the very first Baker County Gridiron Tailgate and Grill-Off, sponsored by the Baker County Cattlewomen (BCC) and the Baker County Livestock Association (BCLA), was held at the lot at 3240 10th Street, northwest of Baker Bulldog Memorial Stadium, before the annual East-West Shrine football game.

Despite the heat (the event ran from noon to six p.m.), plenty of attendance was noted, including members of the community, the East and West cheerleading squads, and travelers from out of the area.

Food and beverages (non-alcoholic) were available there, including different cuts of beef (the main theme and promotion), barbecued on several different grills. One notable cooking method involved using a pitchfork to skewer the chunks of beef, and lowering them into a pot of cooking oil, which was accomplished by Roy Anderson of the Anderson Cattle Company.

Jake Bingham, President of the BCLA, manned one of the grills, along with Matt McGilligan, offering free samples of beef (a common practice there). Bingham said, "The proceeds we get—the Cattlewomen and the Cattlemen—basically goes to help pay for the Shrine game." He said that the Shrine Steer, auctioned off during half-time of the game, was pre-purchased by the BCLA and BCC from Cody Bellville.

Bingham said, "The idea is to, year after year, get more businesses interested, and generate more excitement for it," speaking about the desire to make the event a successful, continuing, annual tradition, and to promote the beef industry in the process.

"If this can be something that adds to the Shrine game, if it draws people to come into town, I think that's what we want to see," he said.

J.R. Striefel and Martin Arritola were cooking beef at yet another grill next to the BCLA's 2015 Honda Rancher ATV the group purchased from Cliff's Saws and Cycles of Baker City, as a part of a raffle fundraiser. BCLA's goal was to sell 499 tickets for \$20 a piece for the chance to win the ATV.

Debi Bainter, Jeff Nelson, Jerry Peacock and Cheryl Martin of the Baker County Chamber of Commerce grilled beef under another canopy, selling it shish kebabs-style, with vegetables. Pat Sullivan also had cuts of beef grilling, with gathered members of the Burnt River area ranching community.

A silent auction included: a leather recliner from Home Furnishings Liquidator, a Shrine blanket throw from Bill and Colleen Taylor and Phil and Heidi Lagao, a \$30 gift certificate and free fill punch card (\$40 value) from Burger Bob's, seven panels and one gate from Behlen Manufacturing, two Civil War (Oregon/Oregon State) football tickets from Chandler Herefords, a Russell Wilson #3 Limited Edition mini football from the Seattle Seahawks, a handmade "Code Of The West" crock from Old Crow Stoneware Company/Pam Bingham, two separate \$50 fuel certificates from Black Distributing, two yards of landscape bark from Ace Nursery Grass Growers, a Silver Level membership from the Baker County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, one pet photo session, one children photo session, and one family photo session from Kolshots Photography By Heidi Lagao, a Haines Stampede hat and two general admission tickets to the Demolition Derby from Haines Stampede and Rodeo, and a metal barbecue pit with supplies from Mountainview Cattle and Morris Angus Ranch.

York's Covered Wagon was represented at the event, along with other vendors, including the BCC, Baker Food Co-op, Brianna's Breads, Baker County Custom Meats, Umpqua Bank, Mountainview Cattle Company, Morris Angus Ranch, Lions International, and Country Financial. Tacos Don Pedros, a regular lot vendor, also was there and open.

Mary Ellen Anderson, of the BCC and Anderson Cattle Company, who played a major role in bringing the vendors and volunteers together to make the event a possibility, said, "Just remember the Cattlewomen, and we kind of brainchild these things along. We want to make it an annual event. We want it to grow. It's very non-traditional (as a tailgate party), but we have the game, and people from all over the state, and it's all part of who we are."

Chip sealing to begin in Baker

Beginning August 10, 2015, the Baker City Public Works Department will be chip sealing a number of city streets.

It is expected that this work will last for four days.

The chip seal process extends the life of a street by restoring vital asphalt

pavement components that are lost through the aging and oxidation process. By sealing the street, moisture is unable to penetrate below the asphalt surface.

Additionally, recently paved surfaces will receive a fog seal coat on August 17. A map showing the streets to be treated during

the 2015 project is attached.

A minimum 48-hours notice will be provided to residents affected by the street improvement project.

Please expect traffic delays and possible rerouting of traffic during this project. Should inclement weather conditions or

mechanical issues arise, the street work will be rescheduled for the next available work day.

Your cooperation and patience during this project is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact Baker City Public Works at (541) 524-2063.

EOU offers rafting trip

Eastern Oregon University's Outdoor Adventure Program is organizing an outings for new freshmen this September.

Registrations are being accepted now a five-day whitewater rafting trip.

Space is limited and early reservations are recommended. Eastern Oregon University This 50-mile, multi-day whitewater rafting trip explores the Lower Deschutes River in central Oregon. The river flows

through high desert with stunning cliffs of towering basalt, rolls over Class II and Class III rapids, and has plenty of calmer sections to relax, soak up the sun and share good times with new friends.

Dates: September 18-22
Student Limit: 12
Fitness Level: Easy
Cost: \$300

For more information contact Hatch at 541-962-3621, mhatch@eou.edu or visit www.eou.edu/outdoor.