



The Baker County Press

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Ag producers gather to discuss fire losses

• AGENCIES OFFER UP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

BY KERRY McQUISTEN
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“We’re looking at a potential of 20 permittees whose allotments were affected,” said Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Field Officer Lori Wood on Monday.

Following the nightly 7 p.m. Incident Management Team night shift debriefing meeting in the Baker High School Commons, landowners, farmers and ranchers made their way through the City’s fog seal project, which had most of the streets blocked off around the school, then through the surrounding fire camp, to the same meeting location.

As fire crews dispersed, roughly 30 landowners, local ag producers and relatives of those who had lost timber or livestock, moved forward in the room to take the vacated seats.

Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya said his heart went out to those whose livelihoods had been affected by the fire.

Trent Luschen from the USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) and Greg

Kuehl from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) were on hand with information regarding land treatment, rehabilitation, livestock, livestock forage, and crop disaster assistance.

Luschen spoke briefly, saying a Livestock Forage Program is in place through the FSA. Those who have lost cattle to the fires can apply through his office on Midway Drive. SEE AG LOSS PAGE 3



Submitted Photo.

A fence line up Beaver Creek showing a clear difference in grazed vs. un-grazed lands after the fire passed.

BAKER COUNTY WILDFIRE COVERAGE



Suzan Ellis Jones / The Baker County Press

The Windy Ridge-Cornet Fire swept through Bridgeport Valley, burning this pole and several others in half, knocking out power in the community.

Wildfires scorch 120,000 acres in Baker County

• CANYON FIRE NEAR JOHN DAY GROWS TO NATION'S NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

BY BRIAN ADDISON
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Forest fires continue to burn in Baker County as the western United States experiences one of the most destructive fire seasons in nearly a decade.

All tolled, about 300-square miles are on fire in Oregon and Washington. With the nation’s firefighting resources stretched to maximum capacity, the US Secretary of Defense has authorized the use of military personnel and calls for reinforcement have been sent out internationally to help battle the blazes.

US officials have placed calls to Canada for additional personnel and on Wednesday, August 19, 200 members of the US armed forces began fire training and will be pressed into action shortly thereafter to help quell the fires throughout the west.

SEE WILDFIRES PAGE 9



Suzan Ellis Jones/ The Baker County Press

Leland Siddoway’s bull takes a minute to warm up his belly on the newly scorched ground.

Stories told of bravery, loss and hope amidst heartache

• ACCOUNTS OF WILDFIRE SURVIVAL BEGIN TO SURFACE

BY BRIAN ADDISON
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As fire crews begin to maintain perimeters around the Cornet/Windy Ridge Fire, early stories of bravery, loss, and heartache begin to surface. With the nation’s wildfire fighting forces spread thin by an extreme fire season, local people and resources have stepped up to help save structures and to lend a hand where needed.

Local rancher Kody Justus watched as Larry and Tammy Davilla’s home near the end of Beaver Creek Road was nearly lost to the flames of the Cornet Fire. Fire crews had left the area after determining the safety risk too high to remain.

That is when Baker County Road Department Assistant Road Master Nolan Perkins (aka Noodle) stepped in, bull-dozing a protective fire line and saving the residence.

SEE BRAVERY AND HEARTACHE PAGE 4

Stices Gulch residents return home

• GREATER BOWEN VALLEY FIRE CHIEF’S FAMILY AMONG THOSE DISPLACED, HOME SAVED

BY SUNNY WERNER
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The mood was remarkably cheerful as about 35 residents who had been evacuated from Stices Gulch, and firefighting volunteers, met at the Bowen Valley Rural Fire Department’s firehouse for a briefing and update on the Fire Management Plan by Fire Chief Jim Devlin on Monday evening.

SEE STICES GULCH PAGE 8

	Friday	Sunny and not as hot as the rest of the week. Highs in the upper 80s. Mostly clear with significant cool down at night. Lows in the upper 40s.
	Saturday	Sunny and cooler still. Highs near 80. Mostly clear during the night with lows in the upper 40s.
	Sunday	Sunny and warming up again. Highs in the mid 80s. Mostly clear at night with lows in the mid 40s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

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