



# The Baker County Press

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## Obama land-grab means 'monumental' grazing loss

• 2.5-MILLION-ACRE MONUMENT PLANNED FOR MALHEUR COUNTY WOULD AFFECT LOCAL LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

On July 10th of this year, President Barack

Obama designated three new national monuments, Berryessa Snow Mountain in California, Waco Mammoth in Texas, and Basin and Range in Nevada, for a total of at least 19 created or expanded monuments during his term so far.

The new monuments sparked a firestorm of division in the nation among politicians and others regarding the original intent of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and its ever-expand-

ing modern reach.

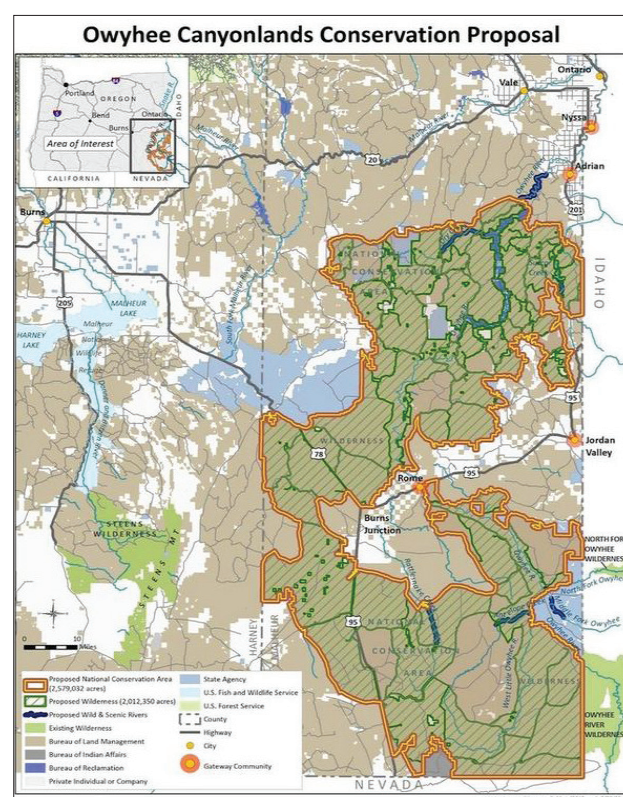
Now the Owyhee Canyonlands in central and southern Malheur County in Oregon are the next proposed designation, covering 2.5 million acres, in the sights of the Obama Administration.

The Antiquities Act, passed by Congress and signed into law on June 8, 1906, by President Theodore Roosevelt, was originally intended to protect small archaeological

sites from looting.

However, the Act—only four paragraphs long—has since been interpreted to give presidents the unilateral power, without Congressional approval, to designate a virtually unlimited number of federal parcels of land, currently totaling over 260 million acres, as national monuments with restrictions on logging, hunting, grazing and mining.

SEE OWYHEE PAGE 4



Submitted Photo.

The proposed Owyhee wilderness area.



Brian Addison / The Baker County Press

Forester Arvid Andersen locates a pine tree next to the forest road felled by fire crews for safety reasons. He explains the value of timber after the fire. This tree was badly burned, but inside the bark the wood is unblemished by the fire and retains near full value.

## Forester surveys aftermath of the Cornet Creek fire

• ELVIN CARTER REMEMBERS THE END OF AN INDUSTRY

BY BRIAN ADDISON  
Brian@TheBakerCountyPress.com

A quick tour through the Dooley Mountain area proves a sobering and awe-inspiring experience as the once beautiful green landscape has been replaced with 100,000 acres of blackness and, in many places, total forest fire devastation. The once intoxicating aroma of pine has been replaced with the smell of burned wood and decomposing animal carcasses wafting on the breeze.

"When will we ever learn," professional forester Arvid Andersen mutters to himself, shaking his head as he surveys the aftermath of the 103,000-acre Cornet Creek Fire.

Andersen has worked in the woods most of his life and demonstrated his vast knowledge of forest ecology when, this past February, he made a grave prediction during an interview and field trip for an article that ran in *The Baker County Press*. At the time, he predicted a catastrophic forest fire.

During that February field trip and interview, Andersen pinpointed within a mile to where, on August 12, the catastrophic Cornet Creek Fire started.

SEE CORNET FIRE AFTERMATH PAGE 8



Kerry McQuisten / The Baker County Press

The south side of Dooley Mountain resembles a grayscale moonscape.

## Langrell, Kee, VandenBos meet over double sewer, water rates

BY GINA K. SWARTZ  
Gina@TheBakerCountyPress.com

Early Wednesday afternoon, City Councilor Richard Langrell accompanied Glen VandenBos, who leased property from the Bootsmas on Windmill Road, to what turned out to be a brief closed-door meeting with City Manager Mike Kee.

VandenBos says that a similar agreement to Langrell's own annexation agreement, requiring him to pay double water and sewer rates on the property was in effect while he leased the property and operated Eagle Valley Feed and Seed at 2295 Windmill Road from 2000-2011.

SEE VANDENBOS MEETING PAGE 2

## \$402K suit against City, Baker Loves Bikes settled

• INSURANCE COMPANY FOR BAKER LOVES BIKES NONPROFIT COMES TO AGREEMENT WITH WOMAN STRUCK BY BICYCLE DURING ELKHORN CLASSIC

BY KERRY MCQUISTEN  
News@TheBakerCountyPress.com

A year-long litigation process between Joyce Elaine McDannel of Pinal, Arizona vs. the City of Baker City and the nonprofit organization, Baker Loves Bikes, came to an end on August 19th.

On Monday morning, City Manager Mike Kee said via email, "Riverport Insurance, which represented Baker Loves Bikes and indemnified the City settled with her (McDannel) during a mediation and before the City had the opportunity to be heard in a motion to dismiss."

On June 11, 2014, McDannel filed a \$402,000 personal injury lawsuit against the two entities, after stepping off a sidewalk and being struck by a fast-moving bicycle.

SEE BICYCLE LAWSUIT PAGE 5

**Friday** Sunny and warm with temperatures in the high 80s. Clear and cooler at night. Lows in the upper 40s.

**Saturday** Sunny and hot with temperatures peaking into the 90s. Clear and mild at night, lows near 50.

**Sunday** Sunny and cooler with highs only reaching into the mid 80s. Clear and cooler at night with lows in the mid 40s.

Your weekend weather forecast for Baker County.



Official weather provider for The Baker County Press.

Our forecast made possible by this generous sponsor:



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