

Business & Ag

County and USFS meet

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Attendance also included Baker County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) Coordinator Eric Wuntz, Alice Knapp, Cynthia Long, John and Ramona Creighton, Chuck Chase, Dave Noble, Doni Bruland, Bobbie Danser, Tork and Wanda Ballard, and Arvid Andersen.

Introductions were made, and Tomac provided those in attendance with a PowerPoint presentation, using the County's Smart Board. This slide show presentation included photographs displaying wildfire aftermath, treatments implemented, and different map overlays and statistics for the Cornet/Windy Ridge wildfire.

Statistics for the Cornet/Windy Ridge wildfire, according to Tomac, include a total of 103,906.4 acres burned, broken down as: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 26,885.6; private, 46,985.7; and, USFS, 30,035.1.

Using different map overlays, Tomac proceeded to narrow down what timber salvage opportunities the USFS is currently pursuing in the Cornet/Windy Ridge wildfire area, using different factors. Of 103,906.4 acres that burned, he said that the USFS is looking at 1,052.9 acres for salvage, but, that number is cut in half—500 acres—since two Categorical Exclusions (CEs) would be applied at 250 acres each, which Tomac is working on.

CEs, according to USFS documentation, "...provide a categorical determination based on agency experience, that certain categories of actions do not result in significant impacts to the human environment, eliminating the need for unnecessary or lengthy documentation in an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS)."

Harvey asked about the other 500 acres, and Tomac, after first responding that nothing would be pursued with that remaining area, stated that there might be firewood cutting opportunities.

When asked about any timber salvage sales currently expected by the USFS by Harvey, Tomac said that a bid for a con-



USFS officials (center) address the audience and County Commissioners on Wednesday.

tract for roadside salvage would be open on January 7, 2016, with a possible sale in February, which includes an estimated 7.4 million board feet. The two CEs utilized for the 500 acres would result in an estimated 2 to 2.5 million board feet, Tomac said. He said that, the USFS is looking at two to three total sales for the Cornet/Windy Ridge area.

During the meeting, Harvey devoted a significant portion of time to discussing the term coordination. This included issues he pointed out to Tomac and Gamble, regarding Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya's letter, dated November 19, 2015, to the Board, which Harvey read to those present. In response to Montoya's letter, Harvey read a letter he drafted, addressed to Montoya, dated December 15, 2015:

"In response to your letter dated November 19, 2015, I would like to clarify some misconceptions regarding Coordination between USFS and the County.

"Coordination is not used to identify conflicts. Rather, it is a process for government-to-government dialogue that allows for the representation of multiple-users in an evenhanded negotiating manner. Local governing boards have the responsibility of providing for the safety, health and welfare of their citizens, as well as funding public services with tax revenues generated by property taxes. Because of the massive holding of federal land from which no tax revenue

is drawn, it is important to local elected officials to have direct, meaningful input into management that promotes natural resource-based income.

The desired outcome of the Coordination process between government entities is to reach consistency between plans, policies and actions.

"I am providing an Agreement to Protocol for Coordination. This is to help reach an understanding on the responsibilities for each of the coordinating participants. Please read through this carefully and come to the next meeting prepared to discuss this document.

"The American Heritage Dictionary defines 'coordinate' as 'one that is equal in importance, rank, or degree.' It also states that as a verb, the term means, 'to harmonize in a common action or effort,' 'to work together harmoniously.' It defines the term 'coordination' as 'the act of coordinating; the state of being coordinate; harmonious adjustment or interaction.'

"Congress placed coordination obligation in the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and defined what steps the agency has to take to coordinate. They felt no need to specifically identify coordination in both FLPMA and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) as a definition of the term for management of public lands was thought enough for management of all federally managed lands. The Supreme Court of the United States has also stated that unless the term

'coordination' was stated to be different between the two Acts, then it would have had to be specifically defined in each.

"The Baker County Commissioners look forward to working with you through coordination. Sincerely, Bill Harvey, Commissioner."

Harvey read through a three-page document, Local Government Coordination with the US Forest Service, copies of which the Board provided to Tomac and Gamble. Copies of the four-page Agreement To Protocol For Coordination were also provided to Tomac and Gamble, for which neither had any comment to make at the time, as it was something they had no experience with previously.

The Board provided copies of a list, titled U.S. Forest Service Requirements to Coordinate and Cooperate with Local Governments, to Tomac and Gamble. This list contained a brief summary of all the federal coordination and cooperation policies, according to the document.

The Board, Tomac and Gamble discussed briefly the remaining topics on the agenda, including the East Face project, road work, and access management.

Gamble said, in response to a request at earlier meetings from the Board, for information relating to the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision/Travel Management Subpart A, that the information was expected to have been released by Thursday, December 17.

OCA holds annual meeting in Bend

Hawaii, Wyoming, Washington D.C. and of course, Oregon, were a few of many states represented at this year's Oregon Cattlemen's Association Convention in Bend, Oregon.

The event was well attended with over 300 Oregon ranchers registering and hosted a myriad of industry speakers from across America.

Jerome Rosa, executive director for OCA, praised the event. "I thought this year's Convention was outstanding," Rosa said.

He felt all the speakers were great and was excited to have National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Kristina Butts from Washington D.C. presenting. "We were really privileged to have Kristina speak.

She was very enlightening on many issues."

Young Oregon rancher, Tierra Kessler, appreciated being able to connect with other ranchers from around the state. "It's an opportunity to see other producers and catch up with them while learning what's going on in the industry."

Kessler also valued the variety of presentations offered, specifically a class on QuickBooks and a presentation from National Young Beef Leader Keith Nantz.

"As a young producer, I enjoyed attending Young Cattlemen events and listening to what's coming up," she said. The event came to a close with a banquet and a concert by Oregon's

Joni Harms. The evening honored Paulette Pyle of Oregonians for Food and Shelter and celebrated the association's outgoing president Ray Sessler and welcomed new president John O'Keeffe.

Sessler felt like the event was a success and a great conclusion to his presidency. "That I can remember, this was the best attended Convention that I've seen in the last few years. It means the organization is growing and that is positive."

Rosa noted OCA is sad to see one man go but excited to see another come in. "We are sad to see Ray leave as he did tremendous work for OCA and will be missed."

He added that O'Keeffe is well respected, knowl-

edgeable of the cattle industry and will do a great job of leading the cattlemen.

O'Keeffe commented that he is "looking forward to meeting the many outstanding individuals who make up the livestock industry in this state." O'Keeffe started his term as OCA president after the conclusion of the cattlemen's business meeting on December 5.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association was founded in 1913 and works to promote environmentally and socially sound industry practices, improve and strengthen the economics of the industry, and protect its industry communities and private property rights.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, December 11, 2015 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. The upcoming holidays have slowed sales. Many producers have decided to hold on to their hay for now, in hopes for higher prices. Snow has hit some of the hay producing areas.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Orchard Grass — Small Square Premium		
3	190.00-190.00	190.00
<i>Last Week:</i>		
Alfalfa — Large Square, Good/Premium		
900	130.00-130.00	130.00
Alfalfa/Orchard Mix — Small Square, Good		
17	195.00-200.00	195.50
Timothy Grass — Large Square, Good		
65	200.00-200.00	200.00
Timothy Grass — Small Square, Good		
5	200.00-200.00	200.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, December 9, 2015
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 2,114

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 149.00 - 192.00	Top 215.00
400-500#	Bulk 147.00 - 199.00	Top 207.00
500-600#	Bulk 149.00 - 179.00	Top 181.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 159.00 - 182.00	Top 188.00
400-500#	Bulk 141.00 - 179.00	Top 198.00
500-600#	Bulk 139.00 - 159.00	Top 160.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 144.00 - 161.00	Top 162.00
700-800#	Bulk 128.00 - 152.00	Top 152.50
800-900#	Bulk 126.00 - 137.00	Top 138.00
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 131.00 - 154.00	Top 163.00
700-800#	Bulk 122.00 - 139.00	Top 141.00
800-900#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	42.00 - 57.00
Butcher Cows	57.00 - 65.00
Butcher Bulls	36.00 - 55.00
Stock Cows Yng.	N/A
Younger Hfrts.	93.00 - 122.00
Stock Cows Older.	775.00 - 1075.00

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: \$1,075.10
Silver: \$14.17
Platinum: \$874.90
Palladium: \$571.50
Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$370.50/bu/USD
Wheat: \$484.25/bu/USD
Soybeans: \$860.00/bu/USD
Oats: \$224.00/bu/USD
Rough Rice: \$10.89/cwt/USD
Canola: \$482.70 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle: \$124.48/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle: \$147.50/lb./USD
Lean Hogs: \$57.98/lb./USD
Bloomberg.com