

Business & Ag

Huntington gets new smoke shop

BY EILEEN DRIVER
Eileen@TheBakerCountyPress.com

High Mountain Smoke Shop of Baker City has opened a second store in Huntington adding yet another new business to the small town.

Darleen and Jody Hallett, the owners of High Mountain, have set up a shop full of fun and interesting items from which the residents and visitors of Huntington to choose.

When a customer walks into the store, they are immediately drawn to the sparkle and shine of the unusual and stunning jewelry on display, then onto the beautiful display of hanging and tabletop air plants and the brightly colored tie-dyed clothing.

If unusual is what you crave, check out the dragon chess set or the mystical section. High Mountain also carries piercing kits, tattoo supplies, incense burners and incense, tobacco and marijuana pipes, vape supplies and even a small section in the back of adult only items.

High Mountain has been open for business about three weeks now in Huntington and according to Darleen Hallett, "The community has been really welcoming and we are starting to get a lot of repeat customers."

If you live in Huntington and visit the Huntington store, let them know you are a resident and receive a 10 to 20-percent discount on your purchase.



Eileen Driver / The Baker County Press

Darleen and Jody Hallett, owners of High Mountain.

High Mountain Smoke Shop is located at 205 W. Adams Street in Huntington behind 420ville, and at 2658 10th Street in Baker City.

They are open from 10

a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday and 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday. Those interested can reach Darleen at (541) 519-0750 or Jody at (541) 403-2928.

County meets USFS over BMFPR

BY TODD ARRIOLA
Todd@TheBakerCountyPress.com

The Baker County Board of Commissioners met with representatives of the United States Forest Service (USFS) on Thursday, June 2, 2016, 1:30 p.m., in the Commission Chambers of the Baker County Courthouse, for a Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision (BMFPR) update. Neither the Commissioners, nor the attendees, fell short on displaying strong concerns about the USFS's management of National Forests.

Present from the Board were Chair Bill Harvey, Commissioners Mark Bennett, and Tim Kerns, and Executive Assistant Heidi Martin. Present from the USFS were Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya, BMFPR Team Leader Sabrina Stadler, Planner Josh Mulligan, and Public Affairs Officer Peter Fargo.

Attendance also included Baker County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC) Coordinator Eric Wuntz, Baker County Justice of the Peace Don Williams, Tork and Wanda Ballard, Chuck Chase, Arvid Andersen, Craig and Doni Bruland, Bobbie Danser, John and Ramona Creighton, and Cynthia Long.

Montoya began the informational meeting by reviewing the history of agency-to-agency cooperation and coordination, between the USFS, and Baker County, when the USFS started working with counties, to develop a Proposed Action and public engagement process, in 2003, seeking input from the counties regarding that process.

In 2004, he said, the Forest Revision Plan process was initiated, in the USFS's Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Alternatives were developed, using scoping workshops, including Alternative D, which he said resulted from major input from the cooperating counties in Washington, and Oregon at that time, and alternatives were analyzed by the USFS for the Draft EIS (Environmental Impact Statement). Montoya said there were changes to the Forest Planning Rules in 2001, 2005, 2008, and 2012, and delays were caused by those changes, and lawsuits, among other

details. In 2009, he said, Baker County had become a cooperating agency with the USFS, through an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding), which expired in 2011.

In 2014, the Draft EIS, and the Draft Forest Plans were released, and this process included 14 public meetings and presentations (14 different communities), with over 1,000 participants, and an extended public comment period (by request), which totaled 150 days, he said. In 2015, the USFS reengaged with the public, after receiving input from members of communities regarding that process, for a total of 24 public meetings, involving over 700 participants, the result of which is a collection of published meeting notes, on the project website, fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision.

Now in 2016, the USFS is reviewing public input, formal and informal, and the decision was made to analyze two new Alternatives, with a focus on forest restoration, he said. Continuing work includes consulting with federal agencies (primarily, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA); meeting obligations to coordinate with Baker County, as well as other counties, as requested; cooperating with some counties, as requested; consulting with the Treaty Tribes associated with the Blue Mountains National Forests, primarily the Nez Perce, the Federated Tribes of the Umatilla, the Federated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Burns Paiute Tribe, in order to continue to meet obligations; and continuing communication with the public, and stakeholders, regarding ongoing revisions, via newsletters, conference calls, to address concerns (this will continue until a Final EIS is developed, he said).

Other efforts includes developing responses to the formal comments, which will be published (by requirement) in the Final EIS; publishing a single EIS, three Revised Forest Plans (one for Malheur, one for Wallowa-Whitman, and one for Umatilla), and three, separate Draft Records of Decision (ROD, to be signed by the Regional Forester), for each of the Forests; and

the objection process will be overseen by the USFS Washington, D.C. Office, which includes a 60-day review and objection period, and a resolution period of 90 days.

Montoya discussed how the USFS is addressing concerns, as stated in Baker County's 2014 formal comment letter. He said the County commented that the USFS, via the Forest Plan, isn't going far enough in improving social, and economic conditions, and that the County seeks recognition of the social, and economic importance of the National Forest in Baker County. Montoya responded that the USFS has been trying to update its social, and economic analysis (an economist has worked on it, he said), and it has been updated, using 2014 data, to be included in the Final EIS, to better address these concerns, which were also echoed by other counties. He said that this process also includes comment letters, and other regional, eastern Oregon-specific analysis.

Montoya said the County commented that the USFS should coordinate with the County, and the Forest Plan should be consistent with the County's Natural Resource Plan (NRP). He said that he understands that the National Forest Management Act requires the USFS to coordinate with the County, which is the USFS's plan, and also why Montoya and the others were present for this meeting, to begin that process. He said that the USFS is looking at the NRP, in order to determine how the Forest Plan can be more consistent, regarding any differences with the Forest Plan, and the NRP, though the ultimate decision will be made by the USFS, as far as adhering to policies, rules, and regulations, as required by federal law, primarily. This will all be part of the documentation of the Final EIS, he said.

He said the County commented that the Forest Plan focuses on ecological principles, and protections over other uses, such as mining, timber harvest, roads, and grazing. Some of the comments Montoya noted were: more of the Forest should be suitable for economic uses, such as timber production, grazing, and mining; few lands are suitable for

timber removal, or lands are in Management Areas, where timber production is not allowed; there are enough wilderness, and species protections already; and the threat of wildfires to the residents of Baker County is too high. He said he understands the County's interest, in terms of the economic benefits, and the USFS is trying to balance that with ecological requirements, under federal law. The USFS is also trying to find a suitable balance, in terms of harvest levels, and looking at those areas, of the highest quality only, to be suitably designated as Management Areas. The USFS is trying to address the threat of wildfires, partly through the two Alternatives, he said, and he discussed details of those new Alternatives.

The first Alternative focuses on forest restoration, and the second Alternative, more of a long-term one, focuses more on the life of the Forest Plan (15 years), and meeting the Plan's conditions.

Montoya said the County commented that the Forest Plan should not influence Travel Management in any way, and that the three Forest Plans should be developed independently, to account for their unique social, economic, and environmental concerns. His message, he said, is that the Forest Plan, and the Travel Management Plan are two separate documents, and that the Forest Plan is more of a guide as far as moving forward with management, while the Travel Management Plan is more site-specific. In response to concerns about combined Forest Plans, he said that it comes down to boundaries, and how commonalities are shared, with neighboring Forests, and that there are overlaps. He emphasized that, at the end of the process, there will be different Plans, and RODs.

Montoya said that there were negative comments about the term "designated routes," and the USFS decided to remove that language from the documentation, however, he said that Travel Management would be a focus, once the Forest Plan was completed.

SEE BMFPR
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— WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, June 10, 2016 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week-ago prices in a very limited test. Many hay producers are sold out for the year. New crop hay is growing and will be harvested in the upcoming weeks. No new sales reported this week. Last week:

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa/Ochard Mix — Small Square Premium		
20	165.00-165.00	165.00
Two weeks ago:		
Alfalfa — Mid Square Good		
150	190.00-190.00	190.00
Alfalfa — Small Square Premium		
23	170.00-170.00	170.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 369

Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	171.00 - 184.00	Top	187.50
400-500#	Bulk	163.00 - 178.00	Top	185.00
500-600#	Bulk	154.00 - 171.00	Top	175.00

Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk	135.00 - 164.00	Top	167.00
400-500#	Bulk	149.00 - 159.00	Top	166.00
500-600#	Bulk	134.00 - 141.00	Top	142.00

Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk	144.00 - 153.00	Top	158.00
700-800#	Bulk	131.00 - 141.00	Top	143.00
800-900#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk	127.00 - 135.00	Top	138.00
700-800#	Bulk	119.00 - 128.00	Top	131.00
800-900#	Bulk	113.00 - 124.00	Top	126.00
900-1,000#	Bulk	N/A	Top	N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	53.00 - 63.00
Butcher Cows	66.00 - 74.00
Butcher Bulls	71.00 - 87.00
Pairs Yng.	1250.00 - 1525.00
Hfretts.	81.00 - 94.00
Stock Cows Young	- N/A

ProducersLivestock.com
541-473-3136

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Price per 1,000 board feet: Northeast Oregon

Currently the local log market is flooded with fire salvage logs. The log buyer for Malheur Lumber Co. stated they have all the logs they need under contract and are not accepting any new purchases. BCC/LLC of La Grande has receive so many burned fire salvage logs they are no longer accepting logs at the La Grande log yard. Any additional pine logs have to be delivered to the Elgin Log yard cut in plywood lengths and to a 8 inch top. For these pine logs cut in plywood lengths, BCC is offering \$280.00/mbf. They are also paying \$420.00/mbf for Doug Fir & Western Larch. For White Fir they are offering \$325.00/mbf. At the Pilot Rock Saw Mill BCC is offering \$360.00/mbf for a 12 to 15 inch top, for 16 to 19 inch top \$400.00/mbf & offering \$425.00/mbf for 20 inch plus top

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen,
Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD

Gold: \$1,288.80

Silver: \$17.40

Platinum: \$974.65

Palladium: \$533.65

Bloomberg.com

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$436.50/bu/USD

Wheat: \$485.00/bu/USD

Soybeans: \$1149.25/bu/USD

Oats: \$206.50 bu/USD

Rough Rice: \$11.50/cwt/USD

Canola: \$530.20 CAD/mwt

Live Cattle: \$115.00/lb./USD

Feeder Cattle: \$142.15/lb./USD

Lean Hogs: \$89.33/lb./USD

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