

# Business & Ag

## BLM criticized for project

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Said landowner Keith Jones, “If the Pedro fire last weekend had come just over the next hill and hit that juniper we don’t see how it could have been stopped.”

Firefighters had a difficult time reaching the Pedro fire due to the terrain and remote location. A crew was dropped in by air at one point, and the Oregon Department of Forestry crossed through the Jones property, Devils Canyon Ranch, in another attempt to find access.

Jones pointed out, “Our criticism isn’t of the firefighters who put their lives on the line—it’s of policies and projects that put both them and private lands in danger when it doesn’t have to be that way. Can you imagine a firefighter trying to make his or her way through that mess there on the ground?”

Andersen added of his own practices, “I fell 110 acres this April, but the juniper was piled by the end of May. I will not fall anymore juniper until the weather turns and fall rain/snow occur.”

As reported by Arriola, Fuels Specialist Scott English, of the Vale BLM/Baker Resource Area, said the goal of the project was to, “help maintain range land, restore plant communities, and improve wildlife habitat diversity, including elk, antelope, deer, and birds.”



Submitted Photo.

Crews head out after mop-up the “China Fire” on Rooster Comb. Behind is one remaining stand of junipers. To the left back, one edge of the lop and lay project.

Planning of that project began in 2006, but the execution of it—the actual cutting—didn’t happen until June. 2,700 more acres were still planned for the project.

Said Jones’s wife Suzan, “For a few weeks, the crews had to drive up Rooster Comb—right past where the second fire started last weekend—and hike down the hillsides with their chainsaws to reach the trees. It looks like a bomb went off all around the place now.”

English explained, “You get rid of all of the juniper; we’re not saving any. It’s considered a weed tree. A tree can suck up to 30 to

40 gallons of water a day, and it will crowd out the pine.”

Still others look at BLM management decisions such as this as a reason to bring control of public lands back to a County or State level.

Utah State Representative Ken Ivory, who heads up the American Lands Council, said, “Our forests are the living, breathing lungs of our environment, and the heart of our rural economies. Imagine turning the care of your heart and lungs over to someone else, let alone someone thousands of miles away who suffers no personal pain when your vital or-

gans are not well cared for. Under distant, unaccountable bureaucratic management, our forests are dying and with them, the heart of western communities. It’s time to unlock our lands for more effective local care and management.”

“I just hope the BLM plans to come clean up this mess otherwise we’re going to start getting the impression they want to burn us out. In the 40 years or so that we’ve been paying attention,” said Jones, “their land on the three sides of our property hasn’t been cleaned up. We’d like to see that done.”

## More motions filed in Sunridge legal battle

BY TODD ARRIOLA  
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Last week, several Motions were filed in the District of Oregon U.S. Bankruptcy Court, in the Townridge, Inc. (dba Best Western Sunridge Inn) Chapter 11 case. Among those, a Motion to expedite the hearing on the United States Trustee’s Motion for Entry of an Order Directing the Appointment of a Chapter 11 Trustee was answered with an Objection to both Motions, by Townridge, Inc. legal representation, Boise attorney D. Blair Clark.

In the U.S. Trustee’s Motion for an expedited hearing, Trial Attorney Carla G. McClurg made the following claim, as part of four key points, for

cause for the hearing: “The debtor’s sole shareholder and director, Carl Town (“Town”), has shown that he is unable to act as a fiduciary due to his demonstrated propensity to elevate his own personal interests above those of the estate, creditors, and employees.”

In Clark’s Objection, he responded to that first claim as follows:

“Carl Town is not involved in management of this entity. The Court has already removed his ability to receive compensation. Moreover, he had relinquished his management before (underlined) the case was filed in the corporate resolution authorizing this case filing, where he executed the corporate resolution designating Ms.

Wilson as an officer and General Manager, and with the responsibility of the Debtor in Possession. See Docket 11 (filed on June 27, 2016). Moreover, as the Motion for Appointment of a Trustee alleges, Ms. Wilson has done an outstanding job in operating this Debtor during the administration. The Motion is full of praise for her and Mr. Mendenhall, the Maintenance Manager, who is an employee of approximately 24+ years service to the company.”

McClurg stated the following, as the second claim:

“Town’s personal health situation and personal circumstances appear to impair his judgment and ability to effectively manage and control the affairs of the debtor.”

Clark responded as follows:

“Mr. Town is not involved in management. Period. He is receiving no salary or other income, nor any distributions. He is not ‘managing and controlling the affairs of the Debtor.’ He had sense enough to remove himself from that situation.”

In McClurg’s third claim, she stated:

“Due to Town’s self-dealing propensities and personal health challenges, Town has effectively abdicated his role in the day-to-day management of the debtor to a General Manager, Lisa Wilson, which he could revoke at any time to the detriment of the estate, creditors, and employees.”

SEE SUNRIDGE PAGE 10

### — WEEKLY HAY REPORT —

Friday, August 5, 2016 — Eastern Oregon

Prices trended generally steady compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. Many hay producers are selling or have already sold most of their first and second cutting hay, and are working on later cutting(s) resulting in higher volumes of hay moving.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Supreme	400 130.00-130.00	130.00
Alfalfa — Large Square Premium	400 115.00-115.00	115.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Premium	15 185.00-185.00	185.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

### — CATTLE MARKET REPORT —

Wednesday, August 3, 2016  
Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 354

#### Steer Calves

300-400#	Bulk 152.00 - 168.00	Top 170.00
400-500#	Bulk 144.00 - 152.00	Top 154.00
500-600#	Bulk 139.00 - 153.00	Top 156.00

#### Heifer Calves

300-400#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
400-500#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
500-600#	Bulk 124.00 - 130.00	Top 135.00

#### Yearling Steers

600-700#	Bulk 128.00 - 136.00	Top 138.50
700-800#	Bulk 119.00 - 138.00	Top 141.50
800-900#	Bulk 124.00 - 134.00	Top 136.75
900-1,000#	Bulk 104.00 - 110.00	Top 112.00

#### Yearling Heifers

600-700#	Bulk 126.00 - 134.00	Top 135.00
700-800#	Bulk N/A	Top N/A
800-900#	Bulk 122.00 - 128.00	Top 129.75
900-1,000#	Bulk 112.00 - 118.00	Top 119.00

Thin Shelly Cows	61.00 - 71.00
Butcher Cows	72.00 - 79.00
Butcher Bulls	74.00 - 91.00
Pairs Young	N/A
Hfretts.	86.00 - 97.00
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:	\$1,346.70
Silver:	\$19.93
Platinum:	\$1156.30
Palladium:	\$693.98

Bloomberg.com

### — AG COMMODITIES —

Corn:	\$332.50/bu/USD
Wheat:	\$417.00/bu/USD
Soybeans:	\$988.50/bu/USD
Oats:	\$184.00 bu/USD
Rough Rice:	\$9.70/cwt/USD
Canola:	\$459.70 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle:	\$115.00/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle:	\$148.85/lb./USD
Lean Hogs:	\$58.20/lb./USD

Bloomberg.com



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\$1- 1/2 hour \$5 - 1/2  
Saturday - Biscuits & \$10 - all day



**Cook Shack**  
Noon - 7 pm Fri  
7am to 7pm S & S  
**\$5 Breakfast**  
day  
Gravy  
Sunday - Pancakes

**Flea Market - Demo Booths - Games - Indian Fry Bread Raffles - Indoor & Outdoor Historical Museum**

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