

Outdoor Rec / Local

HELP WANTED

The Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting applications for a seasonal irrigation system worker. This position will be responsible in assisting partnering agencies with the implementation of small scale irrigation systems and riparian vegetation. Candidates must have the following:

- 1.) Valid Drivers License
- 2.) Basic knowledge of household irrigation systems, small pumps, and controllers
- 3.) Ability to use hand tools
- 4.) Ability to operate small engines/equipment
- 5.) Ability to perform routine tasks for long periods of time
- 6.) Basic knowledge of weed identification and treatments
- 7.) Strong communication skills
- 8.) Ability to make maintenance decisions with little or no supervision

This position will be from May 2017 to approximately November 1, 2017 and will require a 32 hour work week. The rate of pay will be \$13/hr.

To apply, please drop off or email resume along with a cover letter explaining your qualifications for the position to; Whitney Collins 3990 Midway Dr. Baker City OR 97814 or whitney.collins@bakercountyswcds.com. All applications must be in by 3:30pm, March 30th 2017. "Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer." For questions, please feel free to contact me at 541-523-7121 x 109. 3/31

BAKER SCHOOL DISTRICT is currently accepting applications for **Summer Academy Staff**. For a complete description of the position and the application process, go to Job Openings at www.Baker5J.org. You may also call Cathy Martin at 541-524-2261, or email at cathy.martin@bakersd.org. 4/7

PETS

FREE CATS! Three adult cats. 2 white manx, mother and son, blue eyes. One female, calico, fixed. All shots given. Call 541.755.5003 in Granite.

Spring Break at the Oregon Trail Center

The National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is offering special activities for families during Spring Break—March 27 to 30! Ninety minute workshops start at 10:00 a.m. each day. The daily themes include:

Monday, March 27: Pioneer for a Day – Dress up in pioneer clothing and work with other kids in an interactive overland simulation. Make decisions and explore the Trail as you tour the Center with Ranger Rachael. Try your hand at kneading hardtack and have a taste of dutch-oven grub.

Tuesday, March 28: Heirloom Gardening – Ranger Rachael leads this workshop about foods that pioneers grew. Hear the legend of the three sisters ("corn, squash, beans") and make your own seed pellet. Wednesday, March 29: Solar Eclipse – Ranger Cheri teaches eclipse legends of the Native Americans, and helps you build a model of the sun and moon, so you can show others how solar eclipses happen.

Thursday, March 30: Making a Fire the Old-Fashioned Way – Ranger Jeremy will help you make your own char cloth and practice safely starting a camp fire with a flint and steel.

B&C Logging wins prestigious Eastern Oregon Forestry Practices Operator of the Year award



Photo courtesy of ODF.

ODF's 2017 Operators of the Year: Wayne Stone Logging, Cameron Newell with B&C Logging (center), and Plikat Logging.

BY TODD ARRIOLA
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Baker City's Cameron Newell and his company, B & C Logging, were recognized as 2016 Eastern Oregon Area Forest Practices Operator of the Year, by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), and presented with the award during the Oregon Board of Forestry's regular meeting at ODF Headquarters in Salem, on March 8, 2017.

According to a news release issued by ODF, "The award recognizes logging operators who consistently perform above the minimum standards set forth in Oregon's Forest Practices Act for protecting natural resources.

"Operators are judged on how well they protect soil, water, wildlife habitat and scenic corridors among other natural resources, especially in difficult terrain or challenging circumstances...

"The Forest Practices Act governs logging and forest management to protect natural resources in Oregon. Enacted in 1971, the Act is overseen by the Oregon Board of Forestry and administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry. Each year a logging operator who consistently goes 'above and beyond' basic requirements is recognized by the board in each of three regions in

Oregon--the southwest, northwest and lands east of the cascades."

During the Board meeting, as part of the award presentation and recognition, ODF Roseburg District Office Stewardship Forester Jay Morey said, "B & C Logging earned the Operator of the Year award for helping landowners after the Stices Gulch wildfire, and protecting fish-bearing streams. B & C's work improved public safety by removing trees damaged by the wildfire from urban areas."

A four-minute, ODF-produced video was played (part of the submitted material for each operator), which included interviews in the Stices Gulch area, with Newell, ODF La Grande/Baker Unit Forester Logan McCrae, who nominated B & C Logging as Operator of the Year, and landowner Bonnie Allen.

Newell said, "It feels good to have a good reputation; we've earned, or, tried to earn that for over thirty-five years."

McCrae said, "Stices Gulch... It's a subdivision that was hit pretty hard by the fire. There were about eight different landowners that he (Newell) worked on..."

Newell said, "I'd been told, when we started looking into it, that there had already been quite a few

people up here trying to do it, and...they'd all refused, because there were so many different landowners, and so many different obstacles."

McCrae said, "These landowners had called, probably...five or six of their operators, at least, and, nobody wanted anything to do with this, because it was too small of a parcel size, you had a fish-bearing stream, you had steep ground, you had a Forest Service road."

Newell said, "I thought it was kind of wrong that they didn't get paid any stumpage for their timber, especially after such a big fire...They came up here to live in the forest, and be out of town, and, now their forest is gone, and, at the very least, they should be able to get it cleaned up, and make a dollar."

"They didn't get rich, but, they did get it cleaned up, and they made more than they thought they would, and, it felt good to try to help."

Allen said, "Well, everybody I talked to before and since loves Cameron. They all say, 'Yeah, he's great, when you can get him, because he's so busy, because he does so good.'"

McCrae said, "Eight different landowners, eight different personalities, there's anywhere from two-, to forty-, fifty-acre parcels--not a whole lot of volume, the markets were

tough. Cameron came in, he worked around all the infrastructures, all the personalities. He got the wood out, he did it in a fashion, that, every single person was happy."

Allen said, "We were so happy. We were expecting a whole lot more mess--yeah, there was some mess--but, he did real good at cleaning up what he could, without destroying something else."

Newell said, "So, we had a pond on side, we had a house, and a propane tank, on the other side, and then we had...her father's or mother's grave right above this big tree, that had burned over her cabin. And, that was one of her big concerns, is that we get that tree out, from over her house--because it was three foot or better--without wrecking the house, the propane tank, or, especially, the grave, or, hitting the pond. So, that one made me nervous; you can be forgiven for a propane tank, but, a grave's a little harder."

McCrae said, "As time went on, and people saw the work that he was doing, more and more people showed up, and more and more people wanted him to do their property. They wanted theirs to look like what he was doing everywhere else."

Newell said, "It seems like in the industry, a lot of times, especially if you get

to logging for mills, that the emphasis gets more on production, and the cheapness, the price you can do the job for--somebody wants it done cheap all the time, and, don't really care how it looks. We've always tried to build a reputation, doing a little better job--usually, a lot better job than most--and I like that."

Allen said, "He's professional, conscientious, polite. He's everything you want in a contractor."

Newell said, "I like working outdoors. I like to have a picnic each day, at lunch time. I like to see the wildlife that we see. I like to leave the forest better than we found it, so, maybe my son, or his son can log it again someday--keep it healthy. It's kind of a way of, I guess, leaving my mark on the world, a little bit."

In an email to *The Baker County Press*, Arvid Andersen, owner and President of Baker City-based Andersen Forestry Consulting, Inc., said, "This award is very difficult to obtain. B & C Logging has, for years, been a high quality operator, and in winter and spring, salvage logged around homes burned out in the Cornet-Windy Ridge Fire.

"He felled trees around power lines, swimming pools, houses, etc...When Cameron Newell applied for an operation permit, he

had to file a new one for every land owner, whether two acres, or two-hundred acres.

"ODF asked him, 'Are you sure you want to do this?' because of all the paper work, and hassle/liability, when working around all the different landowners.

"Many other logging contractors refused to do this, but Cameron Newell didn't..."

Speaking about a difficult, 160-acre commercial thinning job B & C Logging completed for him, which included issues such as multiple creek crossings and other considerations, Andersen said, "The job was flawless in execution."

Also receiving Operator of the Year awards were Wayne Stone and Wayne Stone Logging, Inc., for the Northwest Area, and Wally Plikat and Plikat Logging, Inc., for the Southern Area. Merit Award recipients include B & M Timber, LLC, of Burns (who was also nominated for Eastern Area Operator of the Year); Mike Pihl Logging, Inc., of Vernonia; and Rick Krohn, Western Helicopter, of Newberg, and Mark Gourley, Starker Forests, Inc., of Corvallis. Letters of Commendation were awarded to Keith Ross Contracting, LLC, of Redmond, and Paul Tate, of Elgin.