

Fire issues raised in Caves expansion debate

By SCOTT JORGENSEN
IVN Staff Writer

Legislation has been introduced in Congress to expand Oregon Caves National Monument, located 22 miles east of Cave Junction, but its passage could be complicated by potential fire suppression issues.

On June 16, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) introduced S.1270, which would expand the 480-acre monument by more than 4,000 acres. It would prohibit grazing, and transfer administration of much of the land from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to the National Park Service (NPS).

Wyden invited Cave Junction resident Greg Walter to testify before the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks in favor of S.1270. Walter did so on Wednesday, July 22, and said that the proposal was met with some resistance by USFS officials.

“There are pieces in there they didn’t like,” Walter said.

Walter said that the provisions regarding grazing and the “Wild and Scenic” designation of streams near and under the cave caused consternation by USFS.

Also noted were concerns about NPS ability to fight wildfires in an expanded monument area, he said.

“The park service felt like they needed more time to figure out what units would receive treatment and who would provide the funding,”

Walter said.

Concerns about wildfires were mentioned on a Tuesday, July 21 e-mail from Southern Oregon Resource Alliance Vice Chairman Jack Swift that was submitted in opposition to S.1270.

Swift mentioned the 1988 fire at Yellowstone National Park as proof that NPS is ill-equipped to deal with catastrophic events. Swift wrote that the 2002 Biscuit Fire “began in a wilderness area, precluding effective rapid response.”

“The fire management of these lands under national forest policies is infinitely preferred to those of the national park system,” Swift wrote. “We doubt sincerely that the National Park Service appreciates the hazard, has the resources to undertake the management required or even operates under the philosophical inclination to do so.”

Walter said that he disagrees with Swift’s assessment of the Yellowstone blaze.

“The park service made some mistakes at that, but that was 20 years ago,” he said. “There’s been an increased amount of tourism at Yellowstone because of that fire and people seeing the

recovery.”

Walter said that the NPS has a “very active fire management and fuels reduction program.”

“There are units where fire management is an issue,” he said. “But there is evidence that the park service has more equipment and the funds necessary to carry out fuel-reduction projects in a timely and efficient manner due to their larger budgets.”

In his testimony, Swift wrote that the area surrounding Oregon Caves has a “semi-arid geography and the intermixed and adjacent (Bureau of Land Management) lands in the area are all rated extreme hazard for a catastrophic stand replacement event.

“It should be kept in mind that under the Northwest Forest Management Plan and traditional Congressional funding for the national forest, effective fuel management has not existed for almost two decades,” Swift wrote.

“We are discussing an area which historically has been visited by low intensity fuel eradication fires every 10 to 12 years.”

Swift also opposes the proposed expansion on the

grounds that it would harm the area’s economy and jeopardize the ability of the county government to fund basic services.

“The economic management of the lands in the proposed expansion under national forest policies is more than beneficial to the economy of Southern Oregon whose timber industry has been devastated by the Northwest Forest Management Plan in combination with the current economy,” Swift wrote.

“Revenues from the public lands are crucial to the support of local schools. The expansion proposed will be a loss to those interests with no mitigation.”

Walter said that the monument expansion is “not meant to be a cure-all” for the area’s ailing economy, but that it could have some positive benefits.

“I don’t think it will drive the area’s economy, but I think it would help,” he said. “I do not see this as the main and only driver for the economy.

“It’s about diversifying the local revenue streams and further promoting the tourism that is already here.”

In the Service

Alissa W. Wells

U.S. Air Force Airman Alissa A. Wells has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base at San Antonio, Texas.

Wells is the daughter of Frank & April Wells of Cave Junction. She is a 2009 graduate of Illinois Valley High School.

She completed an intensive, eight-week program. It included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate-in-applied-science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.



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Poetry contest announced

The Oregon State Poetry Association (OSPA) has announced its 2009 Fall Poetry contest offering \$600 in

prizes for winners in five categories, including a new theme for the Free Verse category, Movies.

Poets interested in entering poems can get rules at www.oregonpoets.org, or by writing to Laura LeHew, OSPA Contest Chairman, P.O. Box 50638, Eugene OR 97405. Enclose a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope.

Church News

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

When people think about Jesus Christ’s comment, “I am the Bread of Life,” they are forced to start unpacking a loaded statement.

Certainly it refers to enjoying daily bread -- which itself is really more than just food. Yet the phrase goes much deeper, as do many other parts of the Gospel of John that are understood on many levels.

Calendar: All-Comers Sunday School, 9:15 a.m. followed by worship and Communion. *Good Shepherd Singers* now rehearse on Thursdays at 7:15 p.m.

A poet can survive everything but a misprint.
~ Oscar Wilde ~

TOO HOT FOR SPOT!

In hot weather, leave dogs at home.

On a 78°F day, the temperature inside a shaded car is about 90°F, while the inside of a car parked in the sun can reach 160°F in minutes. Even opening windows or parking in the shade won't prevent a dog from getting overheated. The heat is especially hard on dogs because they can only cool themselves by panting and by sweating through their paws. With only hot air to breathe, dogs and other animals can suffer irreversible brain damage and even die of heatstroke in just minutes. This summer, leave your dog safe at home.

To learn more about helping animals in hot weather, please visit PETA.org.

Obituary

Cora D. Killam

No service is planned for O’Brien resident Cora Daisy Killam, 88, who died Monday, Aug. 3, 2009 at home. Illinois Valley Funeral Directors is in charge of arrangements.

Remembrances may be made to Illinois Valley Fire District, 681 Caves Hwy., Cave Junction OR 97523.

Mrs. Killam was born March 4, 1921 in Tracy, Minn. to Alfred Howard Town & Daisy Belle (Rodgers). She attended elementary school in Idaho. On April 9, 1936 in Salmon, Idaho she married Alvin James Killam, who died on July 3, 2003.

From 1958 to ‘59 she lived in Iran while her husband worked for the Bureau of Public Roads. She was a full-time mom and “gramma.” In 1961 she and her husband moved to Applegate and in 1978 to O’Brien.

She volunteered with the Start Making A Reader Today program at Evergreen Elementary School in Cave Junction. She was an ardent reader and collected elephant figurines. She also enjoyed crocheting and traveling back roads to explore the countryside.

Surviving are two daughters, Lynette Owley and Cynthia Killam, both of O’Brien; three sons, Gordan Alvin Killam and Hormoz Hugh Killam, both of O’Brien, and Star Linn Pearson, of Oregon; a brother, Ernest Town of Washington state; 17 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a grandson in 1978, and a daughter, Cheri Bradley, in 2004.

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474-1193

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Delta Pet Therapy Certification - Aug 23
Advanced Directives, Cave Junction - Aug 25
Advanced Directives, Grants Pass - Sept 15

Places of Worship

ILLINOIS VALLEY PENTECOSTALS
987 Caves Hwy., CJ
541-592-4716 or 218-2792
Sunday - 2:30 p.m.

IMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 Watkins St., CJ
Phone 592-3876
Pastor Charles Chase
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 9:15 a.m.
Child-care for small children
Web Page:
<http://UMCImanuel.org>

ST. PATRICK OF THE FOREST CATHOLIC CHURCH
407 W. River St., CJ
592-3658

Fr. William Holtzinger, Pastor
Mass - Saturday 5:30 p.m.
No Sunday Mass
Holy Days TBA
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday - 4:30 to 5 p.m.

ILLINOIS VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH
2110 Caves Hwy., CJ
Pastor Frank J. Matz, Jr.
Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Women’s Bible Study
Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.
www.illinoisvalleybaptistchurch.org
Phone: 541-592-6149

CAVES CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Pastor Jeremy Nehf
PO Box 293
Cave Junction, OR 97523
541-287-7862
Email: nehfilim@gmail.com
Sunday Service - 10:30 a.m.
Lorna Byrne Middle School Gym, 101 S. Junction Ave., CJ

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
East River Street & Lewis Court, CJ
Pastor Don Torala
Sunday School - 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
Tuesday Youth group - 6 p.m.
Church Phone: 592-2290
www.goodshepherdlutheraniv.org

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
113 S. Caves Ave., CJ
Evangelical
Morning Worship - 10:30 a.m.
Evening Service - 6 p.m.
Awana - Wednesdays - 6 p.m.
Pastor Dave Gordon
Christian Academy - PK to 12th

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SELMA
18285 Redwood Hwy., Selma
597-4169
Pastor Monty Pope
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship - 11 a.m.

VALLEY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH
498 Laurel Road, CJ
P.O. Box 1248
Pastor Les Knapp
Sunday School - 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11 a.m.
evfree@frontiernet.net
592-6160

TAKILMA BIBLE CHURCH
10300 Takilma Road, Takilma
Pastor Dan Robinson
Bible Study / Prayer Time 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

BRIDGEVIEW COMMUNITY CHURCH
5181 Holland Loop, CJ
592-3923
“We celebrate God’s Presence in our lives!”
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

FOUNTAIN OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
451 S. Junction Ave., CJ
592-3956
Pastor Mark McLean
Sunday School - 10 a.m.
Morning Worship - 11 a.m.
Evening Worship - 6 p.m.
Wednesday - 7 p.m.
Adult Bible Study

CALVARY FELLOWSHIP OF CAVE JUNCTION
meeting at
Evergreen Elementary School
520 W. River St., CJ
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
Pastor Pat Henderson
592-3092

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
265 S. Old Stage Rd., CJ
Sabbath School - 9:30 a.m.
Saturday Church Service 11 a.m.
Saturday Prayer & Praise 7 p.m.
Tuesday Pastor Verne Hyland
Church 592-3218
Everyone Welcome
Madrone Adventist School
592-3330
Sr. Teacher: Mrs. Amy Whitchurch
592-6604

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
209 S. Junction Ave., CJ
Sacrament Meet - 9 a.m.
Sunday School - 10:20 a.m.
Priesthood, Relief Soc. - 11:10 a.m.
Bishop John A. “Jack” Brown
1st Counselor Bob Knott
2nd Counselor Dan Fiske