

Letters to the editor

Illinois Valley News welcomes letters to the editor. Please e-mail them to dan@illinois-valley-news.com

POLICY ON LETTERS: ‘*Illinois Valley News*’ encourages letters to the editor provided they are legible and not libelous or scurrilous. All letters must be signed, including name, address and telephone number. The latter need not be published, but will be used to verify authenticity. The “News” reserves the right to edit letters. Letters are used at the discretion of the publisher.

(Editor’s Note: Views and commentary, including statements made as fact are strictly those of the letter writers.)

Smoke, Haze, and Hypocrisy from the BLM

While smoke hangs in the air and fires still burn in the mountains around us, the Medford District BLM has been busy not just fighting the fires, but also approving the first timber sales proposed under the 2016 Resource Management Plan (RMP). Meanwhile, the timber industry, the elected officials that serve them, and public land managers have been busy promoting rhetoric to support their push for “active management,” a supposed panacea to smoke and fire, and a subtle euphemism for industrial logging disguised as “forest restoration.” According to the BLM, implementation of the 2016 RMP, “will contribute

to restoring fire-adapted ecosystems in the dry forest landscape of southern Oregon by increasing fire resiliency. The Proposed RMP will increase stand-level fire resistance and decrease stand-level fire hazard from current conditions.” Yet, through the smoke, the haze, and the misleading rhetoric, the BLM has proceeded to approve the Clean Slate Timber Sale near Selma, Oregon and the Griffin Halfmoon Timber Sale near Howard Prairie Lake, just outside the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

These timber sales have been designed to maximize timber outputs and reinstitute clearcut logging (rebranded as “regeneration logging”) on public lands. Both timber sales were specifically approved to produce timber for the BLM’s annual O&C timber quota, while admittedly increasing fuel loads, and future fire severity. The Griffin Halfmoon Timber Sale has proposed to conduct nearly 757 acres of “regeneration” logging, replacing mature forests with young plantation-like stands. Although some overstory trees will be retained, canopy cover retention could be as low as 10%-20% following the commercial logging operations. The majority of the harvest area would be replanted with commercially valuable species. These

plantation stands have been shown to significantly increase fire severity while providing little habitat value. The Griffin Halfmoon Timber Sale will also remove 918 acres of Northern spotted owl habitat and an occupied nesting site for the great grey owl. According to the Environmental Analysis proposed commercial treatments, “would have negative effects to habitat suitable for use by fisher for denning and resting and for some fisher prey species due to the removal trees and other vegetation.”

The Clean Slate Timber Sale has proposed to eliminate 450 acres of Northern spotted owl habitat and 175 acres of late successional forest dominated by large, old, fire-resistant trees. This includes some of the last stands of old-growth forest in the watersheds above Lake Selmac and the Deer Creek Watershed. Although the BLM claims these are not “regeneration” harvest units, they will be logged to between 25% and 35% canopy cover with up to 30% of each unit consisting of small clearcuts called “group selection harvests.” These group selection harvests will be planted like little plantations and will quickly become choked in brush. The drastic canopy reduction will necessitate the removal of 2,085 large, fire

resistant trees over 20” in diameter and will encourage the highly flammable regeneration of young trees, shrubs and sprouting hardwoods.

Both timber sales propose to convert currently mature, fire-resistant forest into young, regenerating forest that is both highly flammable and susceptible to high-severity fire effects. Perhaps for this reason, both timber sales contain the exact same language in their Environmental Assessments regarding fuel loads and future fire severity. The BLM states, “For the first 1 to 5 years after harvest, these stands would remain a slash fuel type until the shrubs, grasses, and planted trees become established. After the establishment of regeneration, these stands would move into a brush fuel type. Brush fuel types are more volatile and are susceptible to high rates of fire-caused mortality. Stands could exhibit higher flame lengths, rates of spread, and fire intensity. Fires started within these stands could be difficult to initially attack and control. For 5 to 20 years following planting, the overall fire hazard would increase in these stands.”

These timber sales are neither fuel reduction nor forest restoration, but they are “active management,” and they will actively make fires more severe and harder

to control. After a summer of fire and smoke, the residents of southern Oregon should demand more from their public land managers. I’m not sure what makes me choke more: thick wildfire smoke or the hypocrisy of BLM timber sale planners who are making the situation worse.

**Luke Ruediger
Siskiyou Conservation
Director for the Klamath
Forest Alliance**

Smart Meter Controversy

I must thank CJ Schatza for his two long articles in the last two weeks of *I.V. News*. I’m grateful for being allowed a letter in response; but with relatively few words, I must rely on internet-based information to go into the details of the issues raised by CJ. After 15 years of SMs, the gloss put on them by their promoters is wearing thin as folks suffering from their installations come forward with several serious issues.

Unlike industry claims, these issues are not theoretical, but the result of living with SMs for up to 15 years. Iris Chinook wrote in last week’s issue that, incredibly, no industry research has been carried out into health effects, relying – as CJ admits – on the FCC’s safe limit for the thermal effects of RF, not the radiation. Please look at <https://takebackyourpower.net/watch-take-back-your-power->

2017/ which starts with an industry lawyer being reduced to silence by the penetrating questions (about the lack of such research) of the judges on Maine’s Supreme Court. Credible witnesses deal with the many health issues, including the astonishingly high FCC ‘safe limit’, the phenomenon of ‘Dirty Electricity’, degradation of blood cells of people exposed to SMs, and a disturbing link to the pandemic of autism.

The end of this important video deals with what an individual can do to resist this technology, if they are concerned about what is being discovered about SMs. The glowing statements that are being carefully made by industry acolytes in public meetings are really no match for this sort of investigative journalism. One of main functions of the Fifth Estate (news media) is to probe and question corporate/ government claims, not to promote them. If I’m being an activist, it’s because I believe that corporate initiatives should be investigated BEFORE they envelope us in yet another disaster. It’s NOT ‘disdain of the technology’, CJ – it’s a respect for human life over corporate profit. And the full ramifications of the 5G network have yet to be discussed!

**John Gardiner
Cave Junction**

ILLINOIS VALLEY FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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541-592-4110

Save the date

Sept. 19
IVHS varsity boys’ soccer game at Paisley High School at 4:30 p.m.

Sept. 20
IVHS girls’ JV volleyball game at home vs. Bonanza at 4:30 p.m.
IVHS girls’ varsity volleyball game at home vs. Bonanza at 6:15 p.m.

Sept. 21
IVHS boys’ varsity football at home vs. Reedsport at 7 p.m.

Sept. 22
IVHS girls’ varsity volleyball tournament at Brookings Harbor at 8 a.m.
IVHS boys’ varsity soccer game at St. Mary’s High School at 1 p.m.
IVHS girls’ varsity soccer game at Lakeview High School, 906 S. 3rd St. in Lakeview, OR at 1 p.m.

Sept. 22
Stretch your summer and meet your neighbors at the Selma Center! Classic Movie Nights the next three Saturdays at 7 p.m. in the Selma Center gym.
Sept. 22 is a Sci-Fi triple feature! Join us for the animated “Flash Gordon,” followed by cult classic “Plan 9 from Outer Space” starring Bela Lugosi. The third flick will be “Virus” with Glen Ford and Robert Vaughn leading a group of survivors following nuclear war and plague.
Refreshment Booth: Hot dogs donated by Taylor’s, baked goods, popcorn, hot or cold drinks and candy. Gates open 6 p.m.
Admission: \$2 for adults, \$1 for teens and free for ages 12 and under. Information: 541-592-4444

Sept. 22
*New program developed by community members who met in the cohorts of the Ford Family Foundation: FREE Food Trading Post, 10 a.m. at Jubilee Park in CJ to trade food such as fruits and vegetables fresh from the garden. All gardeners who have extra fruit and vegetables, please join us and share your crop with your neighbors in Cave Junction. Any leftovers will be donated to a local church and the food bank. Please call Kim at 541-415-1125 for any questions. All are welcome to receive the blessings of our harvest even if you don’t have any to share. There is also Food Trading Post scheduled for Oct. 20 at 10 a.m.

Sept. 22
*IVHS football fundraiser changed to Sept. 22 due to smoke. See ad on page 5.

*Takilma Clothes Giveaway, FREE, at Takilma Bible Church, 10343 Takilma Rd., 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sept. 27
*Thursday, 5:30 to 8:30 PM, Candidates Forum TOWN HALL and Potluck. LOCATION: Illinois Valley Senior Center. Scheduled to appear are candidates for sheriff: Dave Daniel and Jonathan Knapp; and Commissioner Candidates: Ron Smith and Darin Fowler who is on vacation, may participate remotely. CJ Council Candidates included. Topic Order will be on the Sheriff’s and Commissioners Office, law enforcement, patrols, Neighborhood Watch, fire and emergency preparedness, then all topics from public. For submissions and to subscribe to topic updates email us at: ivwatch541@gmail.com. Event Sponsored by I.V. Community Watch. For more info. contact Guenter Ambron 541-415-1929 event coordinator.

Sept. 28
*You could win \$500, \$300 or \$200 for creative recycling of “junk.” Spend your summer making a piece of furniture out of junk to enter in the third annual Upcycle Furniture contest sponsored by the Southern Oregon Guild. Judging will be Friday, Sept. 28, 3:30 p.m. at the CJ Farmer’ Market at Jubilee Park. Your work will be judged on CREATIVITY!!! So have fun making it! For more information pick up a flyer at the community booth at the CJ Farmers’ Market Friday afternoons 4-7 p.m.

Sept. 29
CJ Clean Up Day, Saturday, Sept. 29, 8:45 a.m. - 11 a.m., meet at I.V. Family Coalition, 535 River St.

Oct. 14
*NEW DATE AND TIME: “Making Your Vote Count,” the third event in IV Indivisible’s Democracy at Risk series, will take place Oct.14, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at Wild River Pizza. Short presentations interspersed with video and theater will illuminate the many reasons voting is more crucial than ever, despite increased threats to our election system on several fronts. We’ll also hear about those threats and possible ways to remedy them, as well as numerous other voting-related topics.

Community dialogue will follow. Admission is free. For more information or to help, call 541-761-4746, or email dwyer@cavenet.com.

Oct. 19
*2018 10th Annual Valley Girls Quilt Show a project of IVCDO October 19, 20 & 21, Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. I.V. Senior Center 520 E. River Street Cave Junction Entrance Fee \$3. All proceeds donated to: I.V. Youth Soccer Club I.V. Boys & Girls Club I.V. Little League Baseball.
100 Never Shown Before Quilts on display Country Store Games & Door Prizes 2018 Opportunity Quilt “A Year -in The Valley” Burgers & Desserts too! Also enjoy Artoberfest in Kerby.

*MEDICARE 101 Learn the basics of Medicare and what you need to consider before making your health care choices. Attend a free, educational Medicare workshop. Friday, Oct. 19, 2018 at 11 a.m.; Wednesday, Nov14, 2018 at 11a.m.; and Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018 at 11 a.m. Illinois Valley Family Coalition, 535 E. River Street, Cave Junction, OR 97523

Continuing Saturdays
*Stretch your summer at the Selma Center! Classic Movie Nights every Saturday this month. Drive-In Deal: only \$10 per car. Gates open 6:30 p.m.
Bring jackets and seating for outdoors. Smoke or rain? Screening in the gym! Refreshment Booth: baked goods, popcorn, candy and sodas.

Aug. 21 – Sept. 30
Native Plant Sale: Online Pre-orders Aug. 21– Sept. 30, 2018, Wildflowers – Shrubs – Trees – Bulbs Order Online: RogueNativePlants.org. Plant Pickups: Oct 6, 2018, Cave Junction & Medford, Rogue Native Plant Partnership & Illinois Valley Conservation District
*The I.V. Senior Thrift Store: Join the crew and make new friends. You don’t need to be a senior citizen to volunteer at the store. Call us at 541-592-6630. Open Monday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
*Illinois Valley Democrats meet the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the I.V. Family Coalition, 535

E. River St. in Cave Junction. Join with like-minded people for camaraderie and to plan actions in support of the Democratic agenda. Call Anita 541-592-3073 to confirm meeting days. Check us out on FB!

*Public Health Clinic- Location: I.V. Family Coalition, 535 E. River St., CJ, 1st Thursday of every month. Services offered STI Testing/Treatment, Women’s Health Exams (Annuals/Problem Visits), Birth Control (All Methods Available), Pregnancy Testing, Pre-pregnancy counseling. 3rd Thursday of every month: STI testing/treatment, birth control counseling (methods limited), Pregnancy Testing, Immunizations. Call 541-474-5329 for an appointment, and make sure to tell the receptionist to schedule you in CJ. Walk-ins welcome! Hours: 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*The Sheriff’s Office Substation in Cave Junction is now open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 to 2. Volunteers are still needed to staff additional days. Applications are available at the substation or online at <http://www.co.josephine.or.us/Files/Volunteer>. For information call 541-474-5123.

*FIRE SEASON SAFETY Meetings, Every MONDAY, 5:30 TO 7 p.m., AT WILD RIVER PIZZA, in Cave Junction, back room. Includes: Fire Preparedness handouts, latest updates on conditions, building local resources and current networking efforts. Also “Era of MegaFire” presentation. Join us for pizza and root beer. Contact Guenter ivwatch541@gmail.com 541-415-1929 for an emergency preparedness packet or assistance with a Neighborhood Fire Plan.

*Cave Junction Patrol, LLC is looking for volunteers. CJ Patrol is a private citizen volunteer organization dedicated to effectively addressing heretofore-unchecked property crime in our city and neighborhoods. The primary mission of CJ Patrol is to prevent, interrupt, report and decrease property crime in the city of Cave Junction. Call 541-592-9665 or visit cjpatrol.org.

*Committee Meeting STATE OF JEFFERSON Josephine County 1st Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., Wild River Pizza in Cave Junction.

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editor - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

copy editor - C.J. Schatza

classified ads - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

circulation - Laura Mancuso
laura@illinois-valley-news.com

advertising / composition - Dan Mancuso
dan@illinois-valley-news.com

mailroom - Kimberly Potter

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4 P.M. FRIDAYS

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