

COUNCIL
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“Community safety and development are also very important to me. Before I get started on any of this, I need to learn. This is new to me, and I want to do right by the citizens of Cave Junction and our valley as a whole. I am very excited to get started.”

Look for a summary of the first council meeting that was held Jan. 11 in the Jan. 20 edition of the *Illinois Valley News*.

LIGHT
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To move the project forward, the City Council approved hiring IVCanDO to manage the project. Project management will support bidding, contracts, documentation of the project, and public updates. Project partners will include commercial property owners, business owners, the Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce, technical consultants, and other project partners. IVCanDO will facilitate a process to design and select the lighting fixtures and how best to successfully implement the project. A budget of \$21,000 has been allocated for the Downtown Lighting Project providing match grants up to \$1,000 each to business properties to install the new lighting. All project decisions will be reviewed and approved by both the Cave Junction City Council and Board of County Commissioners.

The project is set to kick off in January with completion estimated by the end of April 2021.

For more information, please contact: Kenny Houck, IVCanDO Executive Director at khouck@ivcdo.org or 541-592-4440

Study shows wildfires produced up to half of recent pollution in Western US

Matthew Brown
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Wildfire smoke accounted for up to half of all health-damaging small particle air pollution in the western U.S. in recent years as warming temperatures fueled more destructive blazes, according to a study released Monday.

Even as pollution emissions declined from other sources including vehicle exhaust and power plants, the amount from fires increased sharply, said researchers at Stanford University and the University of California, San Diego. Their findings underscore the growing public health threat posed by climate change as it contributes to catastrophic wildfires such as those that charred huge areas of California and the Pacific Northwest in 2020.

“From a climate perspective, wildfires should be the first things on our minds for many of us in the U.S.,” said Marshall Burke, an associate professor of earth system science at Stanford and lead author

of the study.

“Most people do not see sea-level rise. Most people do not ever see hurricanes. Many, many people will see wildfire smoke from climate change,” Burke added. The study was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Researchers used satellite images of smoke plumes and government air quality data to model how much pollution was generated nationwide by fires from 2016 to 2018 compared to a decade earlier. Their results were in line with previous studies of smoke emissions across earlier time periods and more limited geographic areas.

Large wildfires churn out plumes of smoke thick with microscopic pollution particles that can drift hundreds or even thousands of miles. Driving the explosion in fires in recent years were warmer temperatures, drought and decades of aggressive fire fighting tactics that allowed forest fuels to accumulate.

Air pollution experts say that residents of the West Coast and Northern Rockies in particular

should expect major smoke events from wildfires to become more frequent.

Loretta Mickley, an atmospheric chemist at Harvard University, said it’s difficult to separate how much of the increase in smoke pollution is driven by climate change versus the forest fuel buildup. But Mickley said there’s little doubt air quality regulations helped decrease other sources of pollution even as wildfire smoke increased.

An AP analysis of data from government monitoring stations found that at least 38 million people in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana were exposed to unhealthy levels of wildfire smoke for at least five days in 2020. Major cities in Oregon suffered the highest pollution levels they had ever recorded.

Smoke particles from those wildfires were blamed for health problems ranging from difficulty breathing to a projected spike in premature deaths, according to health authorities and researchers.

Fires across the West emitted

more than a million tons of particulate pollution in 2012, 2015 and 2017, and almost as much in 2018.

Scientists studying long-term health problems have found correlations between smoke exposure and decreased lung function, weakened immune systems and higher rates of flu.

The new study matches up with previous research documenting the increasing proportion of pollution that comes from wildfire smoke, said Dan Jaffe, a wildfire pollution expert at the University of Washington. Jaffe added that it also raises significant questions about how to better manage forests and the role that prescribed burns might play.

“We have been making tremendous progress on improving pollution in this country, but at the same time we have this other part of the puzzle that has not been under control,” Jaffe said. “We’re now at the point where we have to think about how to manage the planet a whole lot more carefully than we’ve done.”

COUNTY ...
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Robert Holland, who also owns a business near the proposed transit hub’s location, seconded Stone’s request. “We are a business environment,” Holland said. “We have insurance companies, attorneys, financial planning firms; and you’re going to be taking away substantial parking from us and create a tremendous amount of congestion with buses and that, I think, will be a great deterrent to us.”

Holland proceeded to call out one commissioner by name: “One of the very great disappointments I had was listening to Commissioner DeYoung when he said that putting the bus stop, or transit hub, in front of City Hall next to the police, would be like putting dog doo on your welcome mat. And now I see all of a sudden, instead of putting dog doo in front of the courthouse up on Sixth Street, you want

to put the dog doo here. I’m greatly offended by that.” Holland concluded, “I think that this is an ill-conceived idea. I think it’ll be detrimental to all of the people here who are property owners, who are business owners, and I would like to see you just not do it.”

Holland’s wife, Denise, also called in to discuss the hub. “I don’t think this is the right neighborhood to put a hub,” she said. “One of the other things that’s very concerning to me is that we never had an opportunity with a public forum to discuss our concerns, which are many.” Denise Holland added that she went door-to-door around her neighborhood and could not find a single person who was in favor of the hub. She started a petition of those opposed to the hub and claimed to have over 170 signatures.

DeYoung dispelled one commenter’s suggestion for an alternate hub location, saying it does not meet appropriate qualifications and that ODOT would object. He also pushed back on the notion that the project was not noticed properly, saying it had been in the works for at

least four years. DeYoung added that his ‘dog doo’ comment was referring to transients and “nefarious stuff” taking place right outside the courthouse at the bus stop.

Fowler said that the location where the transit hub is slated to be implemented is ideal for its purposes, and said that because it is the “11th hour”, it’s very unlikely the county will consider another location. “This has been in front of the public for years, and I can appreciate that you folks have this concern, but no matter where the transit hub was sited, there would be a concern.” He went on, “It’s been studied, it’s been engineered, the plans have been drawn; if we’re to change locations now, there will be tens of thousands of dollars that will be wasted, and then tens of thousands of dollars that will be spent to try and come up with the new engineering, the new planning, the new building, the new transportation study; all those things cost money.”

“It’s a little far down the tracks to try and change locations,” Fowler concluded.

BY THE YARD:

- DG & Sand
- Granite, River & Shale
- Bark-O-Mulch
- Pumice (2 sizes)
- Washed Steer Manure
- OMRI Compost
- Compost’N Pumice
- Compost Chicken & Pumice
- 50/50 Mix (Chicken & Steer)
- Oregon Mix
- Coco Peat (fluffed)
- WSDA Composted Chicken Manure
- OMRI ROCK’N SOIL POTTING SOIL
- OMRI 1 LOVE POTTING SOIL



BY THE BAG/TOTE:

- 1 Yard Tote
- Perlite (4CF)
- Perlite (60CF)
- Peat Moss (3.8 CF)
- Peat Moss (55 CF)
- Premium Worm Castings

BY THE BLOCK:

- Coco Peat Blocks

BY THE PALLET:

- Peat Moss
- Coco Peat Blocks

DOWN TO EARTH AMENDMENTS

CULVERTS - GARDEN, GREENHOUSE, HARVEST, IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPE SUPPLY - ROAD FABRIC

3/4 MINUS, DRAIN, DRIVEWAY & GRAVEL ROCK

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