

Planning Commission to Hold Public Hearing

On May 28, 2015 at 6 p.m., the Baker County Planning Commission will hold a public hearing to consider the remanded portions of a modification request for a conditional use permit case number CU-13-011.

Kerry Gulick and Linda McEwan submitted a request to modify their existing Conditional Use Permit, CU-00-005, for an existing 15-acre aggregate rock pit located on Tax Lot 1001 of Township 8 South, Range 46 East, W.M., Baker County, Oregon in November 2013. These proposed modifications include: increasing the amount of material to be processed and crushed at the pit, increasing the time periods allowing blasting and crushing, increasing the hauling hours and allowed truck trips per day/week/year, along with operating a temporary asphalt plant. These modifications were proposed to facilitate both the repair of U.S. Forest Service Road 39 and general upgrades to the existing pit. The subject property is located in the Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) Zone, northeast of Halfway, Oregon, on Gulick Road and Estes Hill Lane.

The Conditional Use Permit approval was appealed to the Board of Commissioners in Jan., 2014. The Board of Commissioners affirmed the Planning Commission approval. Subsequently, the matter was appealed to the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA). LUBA remanded the decision in

Dec., 2014. The Planning Commission will review the remanded decision and adopt new findings. In order to do so, they may elect to open the record to new testimony.

The public is invited to attend this hearing and to submit comments if the Planning Commission opens the record for public testimony. Testimony and relevant evidence, either in support of or in opposition to the proposal, must be based on the relevant applicable review criteria and submitted to the Planning Department by 5 p.m., on the hearing date, May 28, 2015, or in person during the hearing. A copy of the application, all documents and evidence submitted by or on behalf of the applicant and applicable criteria are available for inspection at no cost and will be provided at a reasonable cost. The staff report for remanded portion of the modification request for CU-13-011 will be available for inspection on May 21, 2015; copies will be provided for a reasonable charge, digital versions will be e-mailed for free.

The hearing will be held in the Commissioner's Chambers at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third Street in Baker City, Ore.

If you have questions regarding the application, please contact Planner Kelly Howsley-Glover at (541)-523-8219 or kglover@bakercounty.org, at the Planning Department, located in the basement of the courthouse.

See you at Memorial Day Ceremonies

To the Editor:

I would like to share an excerpt from an article in the Spring 2015 edition of the "Journal of the Clann Campbell Society (North America)," concerning the 32nd Regiment of foot (a leg outfit) and their regimental colors during the battles leading up to, and the battle against the French at Waterloo. During the battle of Quatre Bras (June 16, 1815), the colors were ripped to pieces by an air burst artillery shell. Two days later on June 18, 1815, they took the field with 647 men of all ranks and by chance opposite the main French effort. At the end of the day, the regiment had 131 men left standing. I guess the colors took a beating also, and later the colors were on display in a church in Monmouthshire, Wales and they inspired a short poem by Sir Edward Hamly. It struck a cord with me - thus, this letter before Memorial Day. Anyone who has served their nation in any capacity or have felt that "little something" upon seeing our national colors pass in review at a ceremony or parade and said, "It's a grand old flag," will know what I mean.

"A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole,
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul,
'Tis the deeds that were done 'neath the moth-eaten rag,
When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag."

See you at the ceremonies Memorial Day.
Al Ashenbrenner
Baker City

Public Lands Issues Complex

To the Editor:

Much has been said recently in the West about local control of and "taking back" our public lands.

Taking them back from whom? The public lands never "belonged" to the States...they are made up of what was left after the U.S. government made land available for, among other things, homesteading, road-building, selections by the states as each came into the Union, and constructing the railroads that welded our young country together.

The United States acquired its land base primarily through conquest, purchase, and treaty. The Constitution provides the authority for the federal government to acquire, regulate, and manage public lands, and the U.S. Supreme Court has long-recognized federal ownership of the public lands (once referred to as the Public Domain).

Subsequent actions designating National Forests, National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, etc., were accomplished from already-existing public lands.

In 1976 Congress changed the status of the Public Domain and decided it was in the public's interest for the federal government to maintain ownership of, and to require several

natural resource agencies to more actively manage the public lands. In BLM's case, long-term planning requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act still accommodate land purchases, land exchanges, grazing, mining, recreation, wilderness, rights-of-way, timber management, energy leasing... in short, multiple uses of the public lands.

The issues surrounding the management of public lands are many and complex. Many laws apply to these lands...all passed because of the public's need for food, fiber, water, energy, transportation, and safety. Transferring ownership and management will not simplify these issues, and folks who think so are either deluding themselves or are woefully uneducated about them.

Utah has been cited as an example of how to implement this ill-advised scheme. The problem there is that the efforts of the legislature and the governor fly in the face of the state attorney-general's legal advice, legal precedent and case law, the economic analysis from the University of Utah requested by the legislature, and common sense.

Each state in the West is challenged to maintain a level of service to the public commensurate with their budgets. Taking on millions of acres with complex and often competing issues of management is not in our best interest or the land's.

Imagine for a moment a time when the state and/or county might manage these public lands. Fire, grazing, wildlife, recreation, logging/timber management, water quality, watershed management, energy and mining, access and transportation, wilderness management, rights-of-way, public safety and many other uses would have to be managed. How would this be paid for? Proponents say we could simply cut more timber, mine more minerals, lease more oil and gas and coal, sell more land, charge more for grazing and recreational uses, and cut administrative costs... and magically our problems would be solved. A simple answer to a complex problem. And the wrong answer.

We have a system of representative government in this country guaranteed by the Constitution. It has worked for over 200 years and it has created the greatest country in the world. Let's use the tools at hand. Let's get over ourselves and get to work cooperating and coordinating with each other and our public land management agencies to address real issues...not wasting our time and money on half-baked, poorly thought-out strategies that already have proven to be ineffective and not based in law or logic. I know we can do this... we've done it before and are doing it in right now in many instances throughout our state and our county.

Dave Hunsaker
Baker City

Dave Hunsaker worked in natural resource management for over 40 years. He was the Center Director for the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center here, retired as the Associate State Director for BLM in Colorado, and moved back home to Baker City in 2011.

RESULTS

continued from page 1

Powder Valley RFPD, Postion 4- Colby Thompson 42
Unity Community Hall Recreation District- Dave Ross 51
Unity Community Hall Recreation District - Write In 18
Unity Community Hall Recreation District - Write In 8
Hereford Community Hall Recreation District - Write In 27
Hereford Community Hall Recreation District - Write In 25
Hereford Community Hall Recreation District - Write In 24
Powder Valley Water Control District, Postion 1 (Vote 4)
- Jerry Gray 189, Alan E. Maxwell 196, Thomas E. Pierce 180, Jay (Bill) W. Browne 184
West Eagle Water Control District - Timothy E. Heater 71
West Eagle Water Control District - Loren Goracke 229
Pine Eagle Health District - Julie Stromer 243
Haines Cemetery District - Jim G. Aldrich 217
Haines Cemetery District - Steve Proebstel 200
Eagle Valley Cemetery District - No Candidate Filed, Write-In 61
Pine Valley Cemetery District - Janet Oliver 270
Blue Mountain Translator District - No Candidate Filed, Write-In 33
Blue Mountain Translator District (Vote 3) - Tim Wallender 366, Christina Wood 393, Write-In 19
Durkee Community Building District (Vote 2) - Richard D'Ewart 33, Wesley B. Prouty 28

News of Record

Marriages

Stanley Ira Bagenski, Jr. to Kristin Nicole Abbott, both of Baker City.

Arrests

May 15 - Janet Marie Schomburg for Probation Violation.
May 15 - Michelle Joy Stuckert for Failure to Appear.
May 15 - James Donald Doyle for DUII.
May 15 - Jon Alvin Sanders for DUII, Failure to Appear, Probation Violation.
May 17 - Anthony Morgan Mailman for Possession of Methamphetamine.

Baker County Circuit Court

April 30 - Glen Leroy Honsvick III v. Randi Ann Honsvick regarding Domestic Relations Dissolution.
May 1 - Midland Funding, LLC v. Jennifer Hafer regarding Civil Money Action.
May 12 - State of Ore. v. Jennifer Nicole Melchior regarding Furnishing Liquor for Minor, misdemeanor.
May 15 - State of Ore. v. Michell L. Wehl regarding Harassment, misdemeanor.
May 15 - Midland Funding, LLC v. Frank Zednik regarding Civil Money Action.

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