

FISHIN'

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Kids and parents alike echoed their appreciation for such a family-friendly event. Six-year old Wyatt Carey simply said, "I love it." Grandfather, Doug Shade, agreed with that sentiment and added, "It's just a really good idea to get kids out here. He [Wyatt] was so excited about coming. You can't beat that."

The event was free of charge and that too, was much-appreciated by the numerous adults who spanned the pond. Linda Gayhart proclaimed, "It is a great family event. Anyone can participate. Keeping it free gives lots of families a chance to have fun without costing a fortune."

Statewide, Oregonians enjoyed two days (June 4 and 5) of free fishing. Fishing licenses, tags and endorsements were not required.

Fishing Derby Results:

Ages 3-5

First rainbow trout – Carson Ratliff
First bluegill – Bently Bernardy
Biggest rainbow trout – Brantley Robertson
Most bluegill – Hailey
Trout limit – Matthew Scott

Ages 6-9

First Rainbow – Alex Wise
First (and only) bass – Kelton Broadie
First bluegill – Wyatt McCants
Biggest rainbow – Ethan Rayl
Trout limit – Jacob Jones
Most fish – Jacob Johnson

Ages 10-13

First rainbow – Kacee Phlaum
First bluegill – Diego Quintella
Biggest rainbow – Phoebe Wise
Most bluegill – April Hatfield



See more fishing photos on page 10.

Turnip the Beet

Lone Pine Café was the happening place on Saturday evening as supporters of Baker City Farmer's Market gathered to show their enthusiasm. The benefit concert event signaled the kick-off for the 2016 summer/fall season for market activities.

For the donation price of \$20, participants received entry to the event, a free drink, and a T-shirt. The Lone Pine Café provided a modified menu for the evening while attendees sat back and listened to great tunes provided by Shannon Gray, The Channel Cats, and Swawn Pass.

Amy Young, Co-Chair of the Farmer's Market Board was very happy with the outcome. "We had more than 100 in attendance and \$940 was raised," said Young.

This year, Board members are hoping to make improvements that will encourage more musicians to play during market hours. "We have basic costs like insurance that always need to be covered. But we hope to use some of this money to purchase some speakers and other items that will be inviting to musicians. We think our customers will enjoy having music at the events," proclaimed Young.

Will they do it again next year? "Absolutely," stated Young.

So Farmer's Market enthusiasts, keep your eye out for next year's announcement!



Submitted photo
Improvisational electro-funk band, Swawn Pass, entertains Baker City Farmer's Market supporters at last Saturday evening's benefit concert.

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Locals Skeptical About Blue Mountain Forest Plan

By Emily Braswell

Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor, Tom Montoya, and Blue Mountain Forest Revision Team Leader, Sabrina Stadler, met with the Baker County Commissioners to give a public presentation of the current status of the Blue Mountain Forest Plans. A slide show staged the activities that began back in 2001, when the U.S. Forest Service began to make changes to the Forest Planning Rules. It has been a long process.

Commissioner Mark Bennet was encouraged that he (Montoya) initiated the meeting with Commissioners at this juncture of the planning process. "As long as we are sitting down at the same table, we stand a better chance of moving things in a positive direction," said Bennet.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Draft Forest Plans were released in 2014, prompting 14 public meetings and presentations. The process drew more than 1,000 participants, resulting in an extended formal public comment period; a total of 150 days.

2015 gave way to another 24 public meetings and more than 700 additional participants who were part of the formal and informal commenting process. These activities stimulated the creation of two new alternatives.

These alternatives are focused on forest restoration and address specific issues brought forward in Baker County's Natural Resource Plan. Montoya pinpointed Baker County's request for the Forest Service to coordinate with the County in the Forest Plan "to be consistent with the Baker County Natural Resource Plan. Again, we realize that the National Forest Management Act requires us to coordinate with you all, so that's what we plan to do and that's why we're here today, is to start that process," Montoya said.

Currently the Forest Service revision team is continuing to work on the analysis of the two new alternatives, and they plan to continue communicating with the public and stakeholders regarding the ongoing revisions via newsletters, conference calls and other communication opportunities.

Montoya described the first alternative as being focused on the ground restoration of forests that are overstocked and in dire need of improvement over a period longer than 15 years.

"We need to enhance how we store this water and we need to change the way we manage these systems that involve the water."

- Tim Kerns

The second alternative was built from the first one, but puts the life of the plan within a 15-year period. Basically, a more accelerated restoration plan.

Also included in both plans is changes to the wildlife corridors, a re-calculation of timber harvest volumes to increase the yield amounts, some possible changes in management area acreage and the elimination of the words "designated route".

Commissioner Tim Kerns spoke to the need to address watershed issues for the purpose of municipalities and for agriculture.

"We know things are changing. We don't have the snow we once had. We need to enhance how we store this water and we need to change the way we manage these systems that involve the water," said Kerns.

Montoya acknowledged that different approaches to management will be necessary to meet water demands.

Kerns noted many of these new management ideas will cost money – money the Forest Service may not have available. "However, said Kerns, we need to start this really important conversation today."

Kerns noted later to the *Record Courier* that many of the general concepts that govern these Forest Plan decisions have already been determined, "but it sure was not any of us who helped determine them." He noted specifically

the issues surrounding riparian issues.

Bennett agreed that riparian areas must be better addressed in this plan. "Our riparian areas must be treated or we could potentially see terrible fire devastation in our watershed areas," said Bennett.

Montoya acknowledged his concerns about the current management of riparian areas.

Montoya commented on the Travel Management Plan, but not in detail. "The Forest Plan and the Travel Management Plan are two separate documents. The Forest Plan is an overall guiding document for the National Forest, and it's not a site specific document, as the Travel Management Plan will be. But it does give us some direction on how we should look at the landscape."

The Travel Management Plan will not be completed until after the Forest Plan document is finalized.

Commissioner Bennett acknowledged to the *Record Courier* later that while the two documents are technically separate, the Blue Mountain Plan will provide an important template for decisions within the Travel Management Plan.

"The Blue Mountain Plan sets the table for other plans so we need to be very mindful that the decisions we make here don't hinder Baker County down the road," said Bennett.

Audience member Don Williams urged Montoya to look at where federal rules and regulations that are being made and where the final decisions for these plans are made and "make a stand against them."

Montoya pointed out that his agency is not allowed to lobby Congress, but acknowledged the concern and in the same sentence encouraged the public to do what they [Forest Service] cannot do.

"The Blue Mountain Plan sets the table for other plans so we need to be very mindful that the decisions we make here don't hinder Baker County down the road."

- Mark Bennett

Williams suggested Montoya not lobby but you need to "tell your superiors what you need to manage these systems."

Montoya noted he was not at liberty to discuss Travel Management at this time, but in turn said this to Williams, "There will be a time to talk about Travel Management and I will promise you this: I will listen to you."

Kerns shared a side thought with the *Record Courier* regarding the Elkhorn Crest Trail. "You have this beautiful trail that runs between Anthony Lakes and Marble Pass. Did you know there is one area that you can't ride a bike on – but the entire rest of the trail you can? I know it's a small thing, but that make no sense. That's the kind of thing we need to prevent and/or fix in these plans, the senseless stuff that just wears citizens down," said Kerns.

Bennett expressed concerns to the *Record Courier* about regulatory creep. "You know, we started with regulations in wilderness designations that prohibited motorized vehicles. Okay. But now that has shifted to also include no bikes or even wheel barrows. We have to find ways to make some common sense out of all of this."

Audience members were informed that when the Forest Service issues their Final EIS, at an unspecified time within the next year, there will be three separate draft documents and three separate Forest Plans that will be open for public comment.

Bennett is encouraged that the lines of communication are open and he hopes that Baker County can provide input now, rather than be confined to the anticipated 60 day comment.

"It seems we are always asking for extensions because these federal rules get rolled out in a fashion we just physically cannot get all the work done in defined comment period. This is important to us, and we would like to be part of the process now – not at the end."

North Powder Girl Recovering in Seattle Hospital

Six-year old, Chelsie Thompson is recovering in a Seattle hospital after losing her left leg in a lawn mowing accident last Friday.

The North Powder Quick Response Team was first on the scene. The La Grande Fire Department transported Chelsie to Grande Ronde Hospital and she was later flown to Harborview Hospital.

The North Powder girl is the daughter of Colby and Erin Thompson. The *Record Courier* sends our best wishes to Chelsie and her family.

Here's how you can help: A fund has been set up at Community Bank to help the family with expenses. Burger Bob's restaurant is also collecting donations.

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June 10 - 16

NOW YOU SEE ME 2
PG-13
The Four Horsemen resurface and are forcibly recruited by a tech genius to pull off an impossible heist.
FRI-THURS (3:45) 6:45 9:30

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: OUT OF THE SHADOWS
PG-13
FRI-THURS (4:00) 7:00 9:35

ALICE THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS PG
FRI-WED (4:10) 7:10 9:40
THURSDAY (4:10)

FINDING DORY PG
Opens Thursday, June 16!
THURSDAY 7:10 9:40

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