

# Governor went to Final Four on campaign's dime

## Cost of security detail paid by state taxpayers

By **CLAIRE WITHTYCOMBE**  
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown was there when the University of Oregon men's basketball team lost its NCAA Final Four match against the University of North Carolina by one point.

Brown left an event at the

Oregon Veterans' Home in Lebanon Friday afternoon in order to catch her flight to the game, which was held Saturday in Glendale, Arizona.

According to the Governor's Office, the trip was paid for by the governor's campaign.

A spokesman for the governor referred questions about the governor's attendance to her campaign, and questions about the costs of having her security detail travel with her to the Oregon State Police, which employs the governor's dignity protection unit.

Thomas Wheatley, Brown's campaign manager, said the campaign paid for all costs — including airfare, lodging and tickets — for the trip, except for the costs for the security team, which is "standard protocol."

Brown traveled with her husband and a staff member. The campaign paid for their travel as well, Wheatley said in an email.

Wheatley said Brown is a "big fan" of the Oregon Ducks and other Oregon college sports teams and wanted to "support Oregon's team."

The governor did not accept any gifts as part of the trip.

"I am so proud of my Ducks," Brown told KOIN news in an interview posted to the station's YouTube channel Saturday night. "They did an amazing job tonight. They are an incredible team, and I just love watching them, and Oregon should be proud of our Oregon Ducks tonight."

Oregon State Police did not answer inquiries by deadline about costs associated with sending her security detail to the game.

Running the dignitary pro-

tection unit at its current size — seven full-time employees and 16 seasonal positions — is expected to cost the state's general fund about \$2.5 million in the upcoming budget cycle, according to the Legislative Fiscal Office.

This year marks the first time the University of Oregon's team made it to the Final Four since 1939, when the NCAA tournament started. That year the team — known as the "Tall Firs" — won the tournament.

In contrast, Oregon's opponent, the University of North Carolina, makes it to the final

rounds of the NCAA tournament almost as a matter of routine, and has won the championship five times — most recently in 2009.

North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper is a fellow Democrat, and an apparent college basketball fan. He posed for a photo with his NCAA bracket in March and posted it to Twitter.

However, Cooper did not attend Saturday's game, according to his press office.

*The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.*

# Battle: 'We saw the writing on the wall. The end was near'

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"We knew the footprint wasn't as large as the scientists had hoped for," said Terry Dickey, board chairman of the Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which promotes and advocates for the monument.

## Battle looms

This time, though, the timber industry and county governments are spearheading a legal battle against the monument expansion, arguing the federal government lacks the authority to restrict logging on much of the newly included property.

If the litigation proves successful in scaling back the monument's size, it would also effectively thwart potential restrictions on cattle grazing.

Although inclusion in the monument doesn't automatically prohibit grazing — as it does most commercial logging — critics say ranchers will inevitably face increased scrutiny and curtailments.

"Even though the language of the proclamation says grazing can continue, they just regulate you out of business," said Karen Budd-Falen, an attorney specializing in public land disputes.

Under the original Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument proclamation issued by President Bill Clinton, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management had to analyze whether grazing interferes with "protecting the objects of biological interest."

If necessary, the agency was ordered to retire allotments.

In 2008, the study found "negative interactions between livestock and individual biological objects of interest," meaning that grazing was "not compatible" with their protection in some locations.

This determination convinced Mike Dauenhauer and several other ranchers to sell their grazing rights to environmental groups for an undisclosed amount.

## 'Writing on the wall'

"The bottom line was we saw the writing on the wall. The end was near," Dauenhauer said. "We figured anything was better than nothing, and the BLM was going to give us nothing."

Dauenhauer said he's skeptical of the study's objectivity and believes the outcome was largely predetermined.

In his view, the biological diversity of the area was retained through more than 100 years of grazing by cattle, which have an impact on the land similar to that of deer and elk.

"I think the cows are part of the biological diversity. I don't think they hurt it in any respect as long as they're managed correctly," Dauenhauer said.

When the monument was first established, Bradshaw felt as though he'd largely dodged a bullet — fewer than 30 acres of his BLM grazing allotment were included.

Now, roughly half of Bradshaw's 10,000-acre BLM allotment is encompassed by the monument.

If grazing is eventually restricted on that allotment, he could still graze cattle on private land and a national forest allotment.

However, losing the BLM acreage would disrupt the



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

**Jake Groves, operations director for the Murphy Co., examines a forest stand near the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Public forestland on which the company depends for timber were recently included in the monument's expansion.**

continual availability of forage through the seasons, potentially rendering his cattle operation economically unsustainable.

"We won't be able to use our rotational grazing system," Bradshaw said. "We would lose half our grazing season."

## Timber impacts

For the Murphy Co., which owns forestland and plywood mills, the impacts of the monument's growth are twofold.

Up to half the company's timber volume comes from federal land during some seasons, so the expansion equates to a loss of raw material in the long term, said Jake Groves, its operations director.

"It's wood out of the wood basket," Groves said. "It's just been a constant erosion of the available land base, from our perspective."

Mills are geographically limited in sourcing timber, as some logs are too distant to transport economically, he said.

Logs from the Southern Oregon region are peeled at the firm's facility in White City for raw veneer, which is used in plywood and engineered wood at its other plants.

In all, the company employs nearly 800 people and invests in state-of-the-art technology to process logs efficiently, but none of that equipment can operate without wood, Groves said. "This stuff can't make veneer out of air."

Aside from the timber supply, the monument expansion affects Murphy's private forests in the region, he said.

Of the nearly 50,000 acres owned by the company in Southern Oregon, roughly 4,000 acres are surrounded by the monument or are adjacent to it.

Groves is concerned about

overstocked federal forests fueling wildfires that will spread onto Murphy's property, as well as the public outcry in reaction to logging near the monument.

Visitors often don't realize that private inholdings are within its boundaries, he said. "It changes the social license. The first time people see logging trucks rolling through the monument, questions get asked," Groves said. "I don't have unlimited hours in the day to explain our actions."

Proponents of the monument say it's economically beneficial, bringing in hunters, fishermen, snow-shoers, hikers and others.

"There's a huge amount of tourism-related revenue coming into this area," said Dickey of the Friends of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

The monument is also valuable for university scientists and students who research its bountiful animal and plant life, he said. "It's really great to be able to use the monument as a background for teaching environmental education."

## Lawsuits filed

For the Murphy Co., though, the economic threat is big enough to justify filing a lawsuit that asks a federal judge to declare the expansion unlawful.

Other cases have been filed by the American Forest Resources Council, which represents timber interests, and the Association of O&C Counties, which represents counties that depend on revenue from federal timber sales.

The three complaints rely on the same basic theory: A majority of the new monument acreage consists of so-called O&C Lands, which the federal government has dedicated to sustained

timber production.

By effectively banning most logging on those O&C Lands, the monument expansion was unlawful, the lawsuits claim.

Several environmental groups have intervened as defendants in the lawsuit filed by Murphy Lumber, arguing their interests "may not be adequately represented by the existing parties to the litigation."

As reasons for their intervention, the environmentalists cite "the federal government's frequent reluctance to adequately protect the O&C lands" and the governmental transition to a "president and federal agency leadership who did not participate in the review and expansion."

Environmentalists are also seeking intervenor status in the case filed by the Association of O&C Counties.

Based on history, it's not likely the Trump administration would overrule the environmental intervenors to reach a settlement scaling back the monument's size, said Karen Budd-Falen, the natural resources attorney.

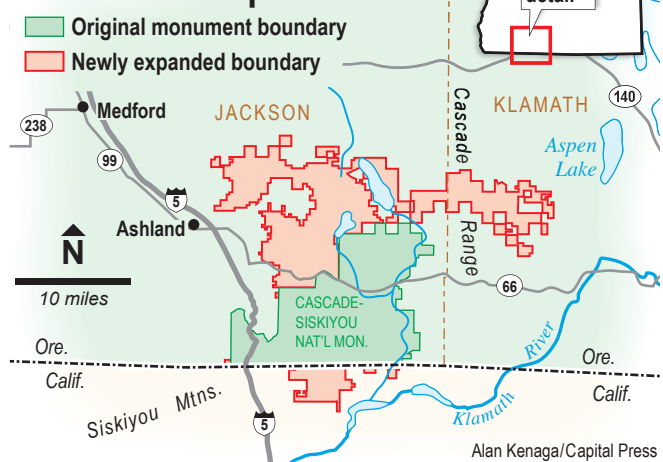
"They can do that, but it doesn't happen very much," she said. "It's really rare."

The U.S. Interior Department, which oversees the BLM and the national monument, is now headed by Ryan Zinke, a former Montana congressman who supports multiple use of public lands, Budd-Falen said.

However, it's still too early to tell how much sway the Interior Department will have in these cases, compared to the influence of the U.S. Justice Department, she said.

"I just don't know how the

## Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion



new administration will handle it," Budd-Falen said.

## Obama's impact

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is one of several designations made by the Obama administration that have stirred controversy, said Ethan Lane, executive director of the Public Lands Council, which advocates for cattle grazing.

"It certainly has been on our radar," he said.

Altogether, the Obama administration used the Antiquities Act to establish or expand more than 30 national monuments totaling 550 million acres of land and water, Lane said.

The massive scope of Obama's designations has prompted calls for Trump to shrink monument boundaries, he said.

Theoretically, Trump could decrease the size of these monuments as swiftly as Obama increased them, Lane said. "There's no red tape or analysis or box-checking required."

However, the overly liberal use of the Antiquities Act — which allows a president to declare national monuments on public land and restrict its uses — has also compelled demands to reform the statute, he said.

"It's been turned from a tool for protection into a large land-planning tool, and that's just not what was intended," said Lane.

For example, Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, has introduced a bill that would require Congress to approve a national monument designation, in addition to the governor and legislature of the state it's in.

That language, or simi-

lar provisions, could also be rolled into a broader package of legislation, Lane said. "There are a lot of resource issues that need attention."

Environmental groups that support the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument see some of the hardships claimed by the ranching and timber industries as overstated.

The Soda Mountain Wilderness Council used private funds to purchase grazing leases in several allotments from willing ranchers, said Dave Willis, the organization's chairman.

Ranchers who refused the buyouts have continued grazing cattle on some allotments — such as Dixie and Buck Mountain — that failed to meet several grazing standards set by BLM to improve rangeland health, he said in an email.

Forest management isn't entirely banned within the monument, as the proclamation allows timber harvest that's part of an "authorized science-based ecological restoration project," Willis said, citing the monument proclamation.

Much of the O&C Lands within the expanded boundary are classified as "late-successional" and "riparian" reserves, or have reforestation problems, he said. "The ecological benefits of protecting these relatively very few acres exceed their commercial timber volume value."

Science has also shown that wildfires are less severe in protected forests than those that are commercially logged, Willis maintained. "If anything, it is the fire hazard on private, logged-over land that endangers protected public forests."

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