

Wildfire season sparks calls for forestry reform

Lawmakers seek changes to federal policy

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
EO Media Group



Genna Martin/Seattle Post-Intelligencer

The Eagle Creek Fire was one of several devastating wildfires in Oregon this year.

PENDLETON — Out of the ashes of another record-breaking wildfire season across the West, Oregon lawmakers are calling for changes in the way national forests are managed and how the government pays for fighting increasingly large, destructive fires.

U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, the state's lone Republican member of Congress, visited Pendleton and Hermiston on Thursday where he touted the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, which passed the House Committee on Natural Resources in June. The controversial bill includes provisions that would expedite certain forest thinning projects, while establishing a pilot program to resolve legal challenges through arbitration.

U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, meanwhile, joined a bipartisan group of senators pushing to end the practice of "fire borrowing," where the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are forced to rob money from fire prevention programs to pay for fighting wildfires.

Their bill, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017, would make federal disaster

funding available when the cost of firefighting exceeds the 10-year average, thereby maintaining the agencies' budgets for other conservation and restoration programs.

In a statement Wednesday, Wyden said communities are put in danger and fire prevention work is left undone because of the backward fire budgeting system.

"It's past time for Congress to make it a top priority to end fire borrowing, stop the erosion of the Forest Service becoming the 'Fire Service,' and start treating wildfires like the natural disasters they are," the Oregon Democrat said.

The Forest Service has spent more than \$2 billion so far on wildfires nationwide in 2017, setting a new record. Nearly 8 million acres of forest have been consumed by

fire this summer, including 678,000 acres in Oregon.

Lack of management

The problem, Walden said, is a lack of active management in the forests, which has resulted in a buildup of overly dense and dead tree stands ready to burn.

"I don't want to see our forests continue to go up (in flames) like they are," Walden said during a meeting Thursday with the East Oregonian editorial board.

More than three-quarters of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests are at moderate to high risk for uncharacteristic fire, according to the Northern Blue Mountains Coalition, a group dedicated to increasing forest thinning and logging. Across the country, 58 million acres of

national forests are at high or very high risk of severe wildfires — an area equal to the size of Pennsylvania and New York combined.

"We've got to deal with these forests," Walden said.

A version of the Resilient Federal Forests Act has passed the House each of the last four years. It focuses on measures to speed up the pace of restoration, providing categorical exclusions for certain projects to expedite environmental review.

Projects that would qualify for categorical exclusion include hazardous fuels reduction, salvaging dead trees, protecting watersheds or improving wildlife habitat. The bill caps project sizes at 10,000 acres, or 30,000 acres if they are developed by a multi-interest collaborative group.

The bill also directs the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a pilot program to resolve lawsuits filed against forest management through arbitration, rather than heading to court, and would prevent plaintiffs from recovering their attorney fees in such cases under the Equal Access to Justice Act.

Opponents of the legislation, however, claim it would severely undermine environmental review and cater to the interests of the timber industry. Steve Pedery, conservation director for Oregon Wild, described the bill as a wish list for timber lobbyists.

"It's really about maximizing the profits of logging corporations over the health of our public lands, and the ability for Americans to enjoy them," Pedery said.

Speaking earlier this month to the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Walden urged support for the bill as a means to jump-start forestry reform.

"Year after year, we have catastrophic wildfires on federal lands, some of which have been set aside and managed in a way that they have no management," Walden said. "So if you want to do something that is extraordinarily important, join us in reforming the way we manage our precious public lands and federal forests to reduce the fuel loads."

Financial resources

As for fire borrowing, a bipartisan group of sena-

tors has introduced the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act to ensure the firefighting budget does not eat into the fire prevention budget, and allow projects to proceed with greater financial resources.

In the same joint statement with Wyden, Merkley — an Oregon Democrat — said it is time to reverse what has become a vicious cycle.

"The way we fund wildfire suppression today is counterproductive and crazy," Merkley said. "As this fire season has proven all too vividly, robbing from forest health and fire prevention programs to pay for suppression only creates a vicious cycle of bigger and bigger fires."

The bill would work by capping the firefighting budget at the most recent 10-year average, with any additional funding for fighting wildfires coming from federal disaster relief coffers. That would place wildfires more in line with other natural disasters, such as the hurricanes that have devastated parts of Texas and Florida.

Supporters include other Western lawmakers from across the political aisle, including Idaho Republicans Mike Crapo and Jim Risch; Colorado Republican Cory Gardner and Democrat Michael Bennet; California Democrat Dianne Feinstein; Washington state Democrat Maria Cantwell; and Utah Republican Orrin Hatch.

Beach cleanups target trash on the coast

Volunteers help preserve the environment

The Daily Astorian



Submitted Photo

Cleaning up in Seaside.

Hundreds of volunteers came to Cannon Beach, Seaside and Gearhart beaches Saturday for the annual SOLVE Beach and Riverside Cleanup.

More than 4,600 volunteers joined the event statewide, which collected an estimated 72,000 pounds of trash and marine debris from 140 project sites.

According to SOLVE, cleanups took place along all 362 miles of the Oregon Coast.

In addition to removing litter, invasive plants were cleared from 2.5 acres of natural area.

In Seaside, SOLVE and the Seaside Lions met at the Turnaround at 10 a.m. and continued efforts through the early afternoon.

In Cannon Beach, volunteers joined SOLVE and Pacific Alarms Systems for the cleanup.

The most common items found during the event were tiny bits of plastic, cigarette butts, fishing rope, glass bottles and plastic bottles. Items found by volunteers included a door and \$20 at the Salmon Headwaters Cleanup at Timberline, 20 large Styrofoam blocks in the Multnomah Channel and two bikes along Bear Creek Greenway in Medford.

SOLVE was originally about stopping litter, but as the years have passed, their mis-

sion has focused in on how volunteers can make a difference with the environment and build a legacy of stewardship. Quintin Bauer, program director of volunteers, told members of the Seaside Downtown Development Association this spring.

"We want to bring people together and we want to improve the environment," Bauer said. "We want to get to the heart of this and stop people from leaving their trash on the beach."

Upcoming Fall Art Classes

Judith McElroy: Acrylic PEBO
One day workshop
September 30 | 9:30am

Robert Paulmann: Drawing & Oil Painting
October 7, 14, 21, & 28 | 9:30pm

Brigitte Willse: Driftwood Carving
October 11 | 10am-3pm

Sabina Turner: Portrait Painting
Choose your medium
October 13, 14 & 15
www.SabinaTurner.com

Stan Riedesel: Let's Paint Boats
October 20-21

Kristine Trexel: Paper Box Making
October 21 | 9:30am until finished

Sandi Kelley: Zentangle Card Making
October 28 | 1:00pm until finished

The Great Holiday Gift Sale
December 2
9:30am-4pm

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| MONDAY EVENING | | | | | | | | | | | | SEPTEMBER 25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------|---|--|---|--|--|-----------------|---|--------------------|--|-------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| A | L | 6 PM | 6:30 | 7 PM | 7:30 | 8 PM | 8:30 | 9 PM | 9:30 | 10 PM | 10:30 | 11 PM | 11:30 | A - Charter Astoria/ Seaside - L - Charter Long Beach | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | KATU | (2) KATU News at 6 (N) | | Jeopardy! (N) | Wheel Fortune (N) | Dancing With the Stars (N) | | | | The Good Doctor "Burnt Food" (P) (N) | | KATU News (N) | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | KOMO | (4) KOMO 4 News (N) | | Wheel of Fortune | Jeopardy! | Dancing With the Stars (N) | | | | The Good Doctor "Burnt Food" (P) (N) | | KOMO 4 News (N) | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel | (3:55) Jimmy Kimmel | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | KING | (5) NBC News (N) | KING 5 News (N) | Evening | The Voice "The Blind Auditions Premiere" | The 'Blind Auditions' start out. (SP) (N) | | | | The Brave "Pilot" (P) (N) | | KING 5 News (N) | (3:55) Tonight Show | (3:55) Tonight Show | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | KOIN | (6) KOIN Local 6 (N) | Evening News (N) | Extra | Ent. Tonight | BigBang (SP) (N) | Sheldon (P) (N) | Kevin Can (SP) (N) | Me, Myself (P) (N) | Scorpion "Extinction" (SP) (N) | | KOIN 6 News (N) | (3:55) Colbert | (3:55) Colbert | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | KIRO | (7) KIRO 7 News (N) | Evening News (N) | KIRO 7 News (N) | Ent. Tonight | BigBang (SP) (N) | Sheldon (P) (N) | Kevin Can (SP) (N) | Me, Myself (P) (N) | Scorpion "Extinction" (SP) (N) | | KIRO News (N) | (3:55) Colbert | (3:55) Colbert | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | KGW | (8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N) | | Live at 7 (N) | Inside Edition | The Voice "The Blind Auditions Premiere" | | The 'Blind Auditions' start out. (SP) (N) | | The Brave "Pilot" (P) (N) | | KGW News (N) | (3:55) Tonight Show | (3:55) Tonight Show | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | KRCW | (3) Modern Family | Modern Family | The Goldbergs | The Goldbergs | Supergirl "Resist" | | Penn & Teller: Fool Us (N) | | News at 10 (N) | Mom | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | KOPB | (10) This Old House | Business (N) | PBS NewsHour (N) | | Antiques Rd. "Seattle (Hour Two)" | | The Vietnam War "The Veneer of Civilization (June 1968-May 1969)" (N) | | | | The Vietnam War | | The Vietnam War | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | KPTV | (12) 6 O'Clock News (N) | | Family Feud | Family Feud | So You Think You Can Dance "The Finale" The winner is announced. (N) | | 10 O'Clock News (N) | | 10 O'Clock News (N) | | News (N) | Page Six TV | Page Six TV | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | KPDx | (12) Mike & Molly | Mike & Molly | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | FOX 12's News (N) | | 9 O'Clock News (N) | | Family Guy | American Dad! | The Game | The Game | The Game | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | KCPQ | (13) Modern Family | Modern Family | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | So You Think You Can Dance "The Finale" The winner is announced. (N) | | Q13 News at 10 (N) | | Q13 News at 10 (N) | | Q13 News (N) | The Simpsons | The Simpsons | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | TBS | (20) Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Family Guy | Conan (N) | Conan (N) | Conan (N) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 22 | KZJO | (22) Friends | Friends | The Goldbergs | The Goldbergs | Modern Family | Modern Family | Q13 News at 9 (N) | | Big Bang Theory | Big Bang Theory | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | Two and a Half | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 29 | ESPN | (29) (5:15) NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Arizona Cardinals (L) | | | | (2:20) SportsCenter Scott Van Pelt presents the day in sports. (N) | | NFL PrimeTime | | NFL PrimeTime | | SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt | SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt | SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | ESPN2 | (30) (5:15) NFL Football Dallas Cowboys at Arizona Cardinals (L) | | | | (2:20) SportsCenter (N) | | Sports Shorts | | SportsCenter With Scott Van Pelt | | Jalen & Jacoby | ESPN Films | ESPN Films | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 | NICK | (31) Dude Perfect (N) | Henry Danger "Live and Dangerous" | I Am Frankie (N) | Full House | Full House | Full House | Full House | Full House | Fresh Prince | Fresh Prince | Friends | Friends | Friends | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 32 | DISN | (32) Jessie | Bunk'd | K.C. Undercover | K.C. Undercover | Raven's Home | Stuck in Middle | Bizaardvark | Bizaardvark | Liv and Maddie | K.C. Undercover | Bizaardvark | Raven's Home | Raven's Home | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 34 | FAM | (34) Movie | *** Coming to America (1988, Comedy) Arsenio Hall, James Earl Jones, Eddie Murphy. | | | *** Date Night (2010, Comedy) Steve Carell, Mark Wahlberg, Tina Fey. | | | | | | The 700 Club | | The 700 Club | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35 | FMC | (35) (5:00) *** 2012 (2009, Action) Amanda Peet, Thandie Newton, John Cusack. | | | | (1:10) FXM Presents *** 2012 (2009, Action) Amanda Peet, Thandie Newton, John Cusack. | | | | | | | (4:40) FXM Presents | (4:40) FXM Presents | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 38 | LIFE | (38) (5:00) *** Love and Other Drugs (10) Anne Hathaway, Jake Gyllenhaal. | | | | To Be Announced | | | | | | | | To Be Announced | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | ROOT | (39) Mariners Access | Mariners Pre-game | MLB Baseball Seattle Mariners at Oakland Athletics Site: Oakland Alameda Coliseum - Oakland, Calif. (L) | | | | Post-game | | Press Pass (N) | | MLB Baseball Seattle vs Oakland | | MLB Baseball Seattle vs Oakland | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 39 | FS1 | (39) (5:00) UFC UFC Fight Night | | | | MLB Whiparound (L) | | Speak for Yourself | | Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day. | | | | Skip and Shannon: Undisputed Opinions on the biggest sports topics of the day. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 43 | SPIKE | (43) Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | Cops | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 44 | COM | (44) Futurama | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | South Park | The Daily Show (N) | Opposition (P) (N) | Opposition (P) (N) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45 | HIST | (45) American Pickers "Coin-Op Kings" | American Pickers "Full Speedo Ahead" | | | American Pickers "The Superfan" | | American Pickers "Catch-32" (N) | | (0:55) Pawn Stars (N) | (3:55) Pawn Stars | (0:55) Pawn Stars | (3:55) Pawn Stars | (3:55) Pawn Stars | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 46 | A&E | (46) Streets of Compton | | | | Streets of Compton | | Biggie: The Life of Notorious B.I.G. A revealing story about the late Christopher Wallace. | | | | | | Biggie: The Life of Notorious B.I.G. A revealing story about the late Christopher Wallace. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 47 | TLC | (47) Say Yes-Dress | Say Yes-Dress | 90 Day Fiancé "What Now?: Part 2" (N) | | 90 Day Fiancé "Moment of Truth" (N) | | Counting On "Finding Joy's Dress" (N) | | Meet the Putmans (N) | | The American Family | | The American Family | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 48 | DISC | (48) Diesel "Race Against the Machine" | Diesel Brothers "3 Axles and a Baby" | Diesel Brothers "Clash of the Titan" | | Diesel Brothers "Snow Job" (N) | | Diesel Brothers "Clash of the Titan" (N) | | Gear Dogs (N) | | Diesel Brothers "Clash of the Titan" | | Diesel Brothers "Clash of the Titan" | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 49 | NGEO | (49) Alien Deep "Wrecks of the Abyss" | Stonewenge Decoded | | | Moose: Titans of the North | | The Rise of Black Wolf | | Cour D'Cour Undercover | | KingdomNorth "Return of the Giants" | | KingdomNorth "Return of the Giants" | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50 | TNT | (50) (5:15) *** The Hunger Games (12) Josh Hutcherson, Jennifer Lawrence. | | | | *** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (2013, Drama) Josh Hutcherson, Donald Sutherland, Jennifer Lawrence. | | | | Sutherland, Jennifer Lawrence. | | The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Pa... | | The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Pa... | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 51 | AMC | (51) (5:00) Blazing Saddles Gene Wilder. | | *** Tombstone (1993, Western) Val Kilmer, Michael Biehn, Kurt Russell. | | | | *** Tombstone (1993, Western) Val Kilmer, Michael Biehn, Kurt Russell. | | | | (5:05) Modern Fam | (3:55) Modern Fam | (3:55) Modern Fam | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 52 | USA | (52) Modern Family | Modern Family | Modern Family | Modern Family | WWWE Monday Night Raw | | | | | | | | WWWE Monday Night Raw | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 53 | FOOD | (53) Halloween Baking "Monster Mashups" | Halloween Baking "Field Of Screams" | | | Halloween Ba "Haunted House Party" | | Baking "Filled With Surprises" (N) | | Halloween "Most Monstrous Scares" (N) | | Cake Wars "The Addams Family" | | Cake Wars "The Addams Family" | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 54 | HGTV | (54) Love It or List It "Tree House Trouble" | Love It or List It "Functioning for Four" | | | Tiny Luxury (N) | Tiny Luxury (N) | Tiny Luxury (N) | Tiny Luxury (N) | House Hunters (N) | House Hunters (N) | House Hunters | House Hunters | House Hunters | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 55 | FX | (55) (5:30) *** American Reunion (12) Alyson Hannigan, Jason Biggs. | | | | *** We Bought a Zoo (11, Comedy/Drama) Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Matt Damon. | | *** We Bought a Zoo (11, Comedy/Drama) Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Matt Damon. | | | | | | *** We Bought a Zoo (11, Comedy/Drama) Scarlett Johansson, Thomas Haden Church, Matt Damon. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 57 | CNN | (57) Anderson Cooper 360 | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | | Anderson Cooper 360 | | Anderson Cooper 360 | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | | CNN Tonight With Don Lemon | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 58 | FNC | (58) The Five | | Hannity | | Tucker Carlson Tonight | | The Five | | Hannity | | Tucker Carlson Tonight | | Tucker Carlson Tonight | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 61 | CNBC | (61) Shark Tank | | American Greed: Scam | | American Greed: Scam | | American Greed "The Lady Killer" | | American Greed: Scam | | Paid Program | | Paid Program | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 63 | BRV | (63) Housewives "Drag Bingo Bombshell" | | H.Wives "Loose Lips Sink Friendships" | | Orange County Social (N) | | The Real Housewives (N) | | Real Wives Dallas "Viva La Mexico" (N) | | WatchWhat (N) | Real Housewives | Real Housewives | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 64 | TCM | (64) Movie | (4:45) *** The Phantom of the Opera (62) Michael Gough, Herbert Lom. | | | *** The Paris Express (53) Marius Goring, Claude Rains. | | (1:15) *** The Ladykillers (55, Cri) Katie Johnson, Herbert Lom, Alec Guinness. | | | | The Princess Bride (87) Cary Elwes. | | The Princess Bride (87) Cary Elwes. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 65 | SYFY | (65) *** Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991, Sci-Fi) Linda Hamilton, Edward Furlong, Arnold Schwarzenegger. | | | | *** Race to Witch Mountain (09) Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. | | | | | | | | *** Race to Witch Mountain (09) Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 102 | RFD | (102) Rancher (N) | Red Steagall | Horse Master | Inside Reining | Craig Cameron | Rural Eve. News | Rural America "Live" "CanCooker" | | American Rancher | Red Steagall | Product Showcase | | Product Showcase | | | | | | | | | | | |