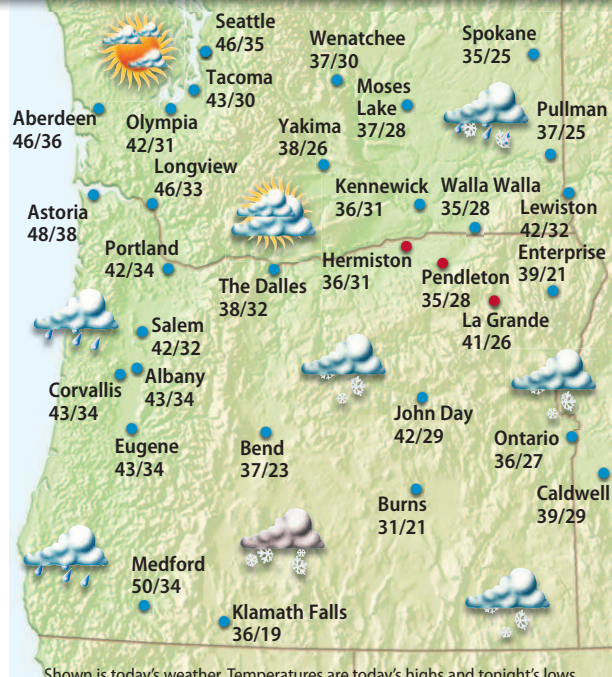


AccuWeather.com Forecast
TODAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY
Fog in the a.m.; mostly cloudy Partly sunny and chilly Mostly cloudy Chilly with periods of sun Chilly with some sunshine

ALMANAC
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW
Yesterday 26° 21°
Normals 40° 26°
Records 62° (1933) -11° (2004)

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday
TEMPERATURE HIGH LOW
Yesterday 29° 26°
Normals 40° 27°
Records 63° (1933) -11° (1950)

SUN AND MOON
Sunrise today 7:36 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:26 p.m.
Moonrise today 4:09 a.m.
Moonset today 2:06 p.m.



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Occasional rain and drizzle today, mainly across the south; mostly cloudy.
Eastern Washington: Fog in the morning; otherwise, mostly cloudy today. A wintry mix near the Idaho border.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Thu. (Hi, Lo, W). Lists cities like Astoria, Baker City, Bend, Brookings, Burns, Enterprise, Eugene, Heppner, Hermiston, John Day, Klamath Falls, La Grande, Meacham, Medford, Newport, North Bend, Ontario, Pasco, Pendleton, Portland, Redmond, Salem, Spokane, Ukiah, Vancouver, Walla Walla, Yakima.

WORLD CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Thu. (Hi, Lo, W). Lists cities like Beijing, Hong Kong, Jerusalem, London, Mexico City, Moscow, Paris, Rome, Seoul, Sydney, Tokyo.

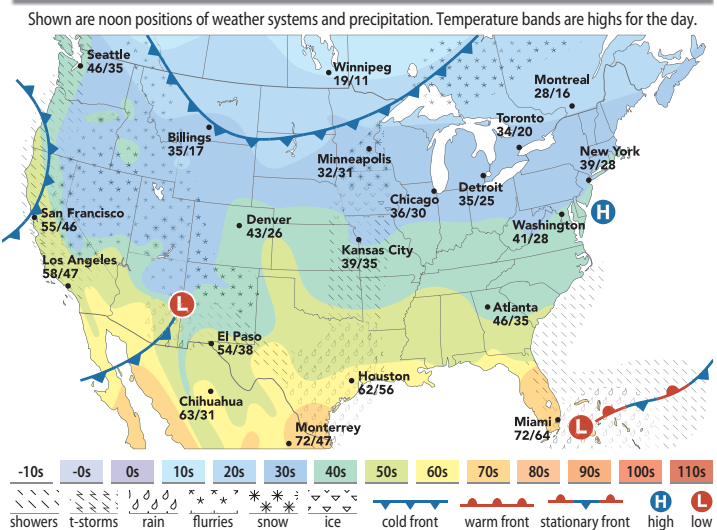
WINDS (in mph)
Today Thursday
Boardman NNE 3-6 VAR 2-4
Pendleton NNE 3-6 VAR 2-4

UV INDEX TODAY



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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



National Summary: Heavy rain will brush southeastern Florida today and soak parts of the Pacific coast. Heavy snow will fall on the Sierra Nevada. Rain will dampen the central and southern Plains with snow in the Upper Midwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) High 75° in Boca Raton, Fla. Low -27° in Clayton Lake, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

Table with columns: Today (Hi, Lo, W), Thur. (Hi, Lo, W). Lists cities like Albuquerque, Atlanta, Atlantic City, Baltimore, Billings, Birmingham, Boise, Boston, Charleston, SC, Charleston, WV, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, El Paso, Fairbanks, Fargo, Honolulu, Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Kansas City, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Angeles, Louisville, Memphis, Miami, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, Oklahoma City, Omaha, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, ME, Providence, Raleigh, Rapid City, Reno, Sacramento, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Tucson, Washington, DC, Wichita.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

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RANCHING: Government owns 53 percent of Oregon land

Continued from 1A

The FBI in Portland referred calls to the Harney County Joint Information Center, which said in a statement it had no information on arrests or arrest warrants and that authorities were "still working on a peaceful resolution."

Fincum, holding a rifle and a backpack, told reporters he would stay at the entrance to the refuge overnight so authorities could find him. Bundy said they would take a defensive position anticipating a possible raid.

Earlier, Bundy offered few specifics about the group's plan to get the land turned over to local control. But Fincum said the group would examine the underlying land ownership transactions to begin to "unwind it."

The federal government controls about half of all land in the West, which would make the wholesale transfer of ownership extremely difficult and expensive. For example, it



AP photo/Rick Bowmer
Arizona rancher LaVoy Fincum, holds a rifle as he guards the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Tuesday near Burns.

owns 53 percent of Oregon, 85 percent of Nevada and 66 percent of Utah, according to the Congressional Research Service. Taking over federal public lands in Idaho could cost the state \$111 million a year, according to a University of Idaho study.

Randy Eardley, a Bureau of Land Management spokesman, said the group's call for land ownership

transfer didn't make sense. "It is frustrating when I hear the demand that we return the land to the people, because it is in the people's hand — the people own it," Eardley said. "Everybody in the United States owns that land. ... We manage it the best we can for its owners, the people, and whether it's for recreating, for grazing, for energy and mineral development."

Bundy said the group felt it had the support of the local community. But the county sheriff has told the group to go home, and many locals don't want the group around, fearing they may bring trouble. A community meeting was scheduled for Wednesday.

So far, law enforcement has not taken action against the group whose rallying cry is the imprisonment of father-and-son ranchers who set fire to federal land. "These guys are out in the middle of nowhere, and they haven't threatened anybody that I know of," said Jim Glennon, a longtime police commander who now owns the Illinois-based law enforcement training organization Calibre Press. "There's no hurry."

The group calling itself Citizens for Constitutional Freedom said it wants an inquiry into whether the government is forcing ranchers off their land after Dwight Hammond and his son, Steven, reported back to prison Monday.

SHERIFF: Did not give specifics on what charges the men will face

Continued from 1A

meeting Wednesday afternoon. He says he wants to talk directly to local residents, and hear their concerns about the occupation.

The FBI is handling a criminal case against the armed men occupying the refuge since Saturday, and has told Ward that the men will face charges. The sheriff still believes a peaceful resolution to the conflict is possible.

"The bureau has assured me that those at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge will at some point face charges," Ward said.

Ward did not give specifics on what charges the men will face.

"They have an opportunity right now to work towards a better solution, and not face further charges," he said.

Ward said that the FBI

is leading the response to the situation at the refuge, while he is focused on the protection of people in the town of Burns and the surrounding communities.

Sheriff's deputies from across Oregon have come to Harney County to assist with patrols and community safety.

"These folks aren't here to harass the citizens of Harney County," Ward said of the outside police. "They're here to help us maintain a safe and secure environment while we work through the issues at hand."

Ward said in the months prior to the occupation, Bundy's group had made a number of people who work for the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service feel uncomfortable, following them or their family members around and photographing their homes.

TEA PARTY: 'The most sickening case of government overreach I've seen'

Continued from 1A

Bundy, who has acted as the group's leader, and believes the group will eventually leave peacefully.

Bundy's brother, Ryan Bundy, has told Oregon Public Broadcasting they will go home if the community wants them to go.

"My guess is this thing won't last much longer," Duquette said.

Duquette said the residents of Burns are divided on the 15-or-so armed protesters. If nothing else, he said the occupation has helped raise awareness of the Hammonds' case.

"There's nothing better than free press. And they got a lot of it," Duquette said.

Duquette called the Hammonds' sentencing "the most sickening case of government overreach I've seen." The ranchers were

convicted of arson after setting fires that burned onto federal land, burning 140 acres total.

A U.S. district judge initially refused to impose the mandatory five-year minimum sentence, arguing cruel and unusual punishment. However, that ruling was overturned on appeal and the Hammonds were resented in October.

The Hammonds turned themselves in on Monday, though Duquette believes they will be released early. He said nonprofit group Protect the Harvest will go to bat for the ranchers.

"It was an extreme injustice to send them away for five years," Duquette said. "I think they were done wrong. Constitutionally, I don't think it was legal what happened."

In a separate presentation, the tea party heard from Dave Price, a retired district forester

who spent 37 years with the Forest Service in Oregon, Washington and California. He spoke about the ongoing Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision, which is due for a final environmental analysis in September.

Price was critical of the Forest Service for stacking restrictions that he said have dramatically narrowed the window for timber harvest and management. That's led to a major backlog of fuels driving bigger, hotter wildfires in Eastern Oregon.

Lovett said the Forest Service has acted like a "quasi-dictatorship" at the

expense of communities. He said the group intends to reach out to timber executives and county commissioners to come up with a local plan to invoke coordination with the feds.

Forest plans do not approve site-specific projects, but set goals and desired conditions for a period of 10-15 years. Price encouraged members to speak up now before it's too late.

"If this plan goes the wrong way, you could lose any opportunity to (influence) this in the future," he said. "It's your land. And you have a big investment."

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