

STANDOFF: Tribe has guaranteed access to the refuge

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Saturday at the nature preserve in eastern Oregon's high desert country. Authorities have made no attempt to remove them.

At a community meeting attended by hundreds of people in Burns on Wednesday evening, cheers erupted when Harney County Sheriff David Ward said it was time for the group at the refuge to "pick up and go home."

"We can work through it like adults, peacefully, with a united front," Ward said.

The standoff in rural Oregon is a continuation of a long-running dispute over federal policies covering the use of public lands, including grazing. The federal government controls about half of all land in the West. For example, it owns 53 percent of Oregon, 85 percent of Nevada and 66 percent of Utah, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The Bundy family is



Residents raise their hands as Harney County Sheriff David Ward addresses their concerns at a community meeting at the Harney County fairgrounds Wednesday in Burns.

among many people in the West who contend local officials could do a better job of managing public lands than the federal government.

"It is our goal to get the logger back to logging, the rancher back to ranching," Ammon Bundy said Tuesday.

The argument is rejected by those who say the U.S. government is better equipped to manage public lands for all those who want to make use of them.

Among those groups are Native Americans.

The Burns Paiute tribe has guaranteed access to the refuge for activities that are important to their culture, including gathering a plant used for making traditional baskets and seeds that are used for making bread. The tribe also hunts and fishes there.

Rodrique said the armed occupiers are "desecrating one of our sacred sites" with

their presence at refuge.

Jarvis Kennedy, a tribal council member, said: "We don't need these guys here. They need to go home and get out of here."

Randy Eardley, a Bureau of Land Management spokesman, said Bundy's call for control of the land to be transferred makes no 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's group, calling itself Citizens for Constitutional Freedom, says 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.

Whose land is it?

By KEITH RIDLER
Associated Press

What do outdoor enthusiasts say?

BOISE, Idaho — An armed group occupying the headquarters of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon wants the federal government to relinquish about 300 square miles to local control so it can be opened up for ranching, mining, logging and other uses.

Birders covet the same land for its many migrating species that use refuge marshland as a key resting place. Anglers, hunters and wildlife watchers also are drawn to the high desert terrain.

The competition between the different interests is emblematic of a much larger struggle in the West, playing out in federal courts, state legislatures and Congress.

At its core, the dispute comes down to personal values: Recreationists' and environmentalists' views on open spaces clash with traditional uses that have sustained rural communities for generations.

What's at stake?

About a million square miles of public land managed by the federal government, mostly in the West, according to the Congressional Research Service.

What do business interests say?

Many of those who depend on the land for their livelihood argue that wildlife holds more weight than people. They sometimes frame their outlook in patriotic or religious terms and say federal land managers who impose limits are shutting down lumber mills, cutting off cattle grazing, preventing mining and destroying a way of life in the rural West.

They say that could be solved by turning public lands over to locals who would be better caretakers than far-off bureaucrats.

They do have some protections, including an 1872 mining law that still offers miners low-cost access to federal land.

What do environmentalists say?

Many environmental groups say mining, logging and ranching have run roughshod for decades on public land and left a legacy of pollution for taxpayers to clean up. They say the industries have wiped out old-growth forests and overgrazed landscapes made vulnerable to invasive species.

Conservationists accuse federal officials of allowing the practices that have scarred the West and failing to enforce laws. The most widely recognized is the Endangered Species Act, famously used to limit logging in the Pacific Northwest to protect forests that are home to spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

The open spaces of the West have miles of streams to fish, trails to hike, mountains to climb and areas to traverse on snowmobiles. Among recreationists' biggest fears is being shut out.

In northern Idaho, residents so far have torpedoed a proposed land swap between a timber company and the U.S. Forest Service over concerns about losing access to part of a national forest.

What does the government say?

U.S. agencies manage most of the public land and try to balance the different interests, but they frequently become lightning rods with their decisions challenged in court.

Employees of the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service tend to have an affinity for open spaces and a belief in public service, said John Freemuth, a Boise State University professor and public lands expert.

Who's the heavy-weight?

Congress. U.S. lawmakers could turn over federal lands to local control, but state efforts so far have failed.

A strategy has emerged in recent years in which members of Congress slip land-use amendments into critical budget bills. For example, U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester, D-Montana, attached a so-called rider in 2011 that stripped federal protections for gray wolves in their states.

As a result, environmental groups have become increasingly watchful. But their push to weaken the 1872 mining law has failed, as have industry efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act.

Is compromise possible?

Yes. After more than a decade of effort, Simpson this summer shepherded through Congress a compromise bill that created a 430-square-mile federal wilderness in some of central Idaho's most pristine country. It limits development in some areas but opens it up in others.

It got help passing after President Barack Obama signaled that the area would be designated a national monument if the bill stalled.

In another compromise, federal land critics and ranchers supported an order by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell last year that aimed to stop wildfires.

Republican Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter, a critic of federal land policy, has praised the order. So have ranchers, who partnered with federal firefighters in a plan to respond quickly to blazes.

STOVES: Uncertified stoves produce 11 times as much pollution as certified

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of the program. An inventory back in the mid-'90s revealed that approximately 900 uncertified stoves existed within Pendleton's urban growth boundary.

"We think there are at least 400 stoves left out there," Klaus said.

The uncertainty comes because not everyone who got rid of an inefficient stove applied for a no-interest loan. Oregon regulation requires removal and destruction of uncertified stoves and fire-place inserts before a home can be bought or sold. Some of those sellers didn't access the program.

DeBolt said wood smoke contains fine particulates that can get into people's respiratory systems and aggravate lung diseases such as asthma and trigger lung infections. Children, teenagers, older adults and people with chronic lung and heart disease are most vulnerable.

Hoehna produced a graph that shows particulate matter steadily decreasing since the

program's launch in 1991 until 2007, but wood smoke still causes respiratory distress when the air is cold and stagnant. Commission member Robert Maranville is a respiratory therapist at St. Anthony Hospital. During a recent inversion, he treated a stream of people for breathing issues.

"We had some bad air quality days and I was extraordinarily busy over the weekend," Maranville said. "The ER was busy with multiple patients having breathing problems."

Those who aren't sure whether their stoves meet emission standards can look for a sticker on their stove emblazoned with the name of either the Environmental Protection Agency or the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

To nail down just how many stoves remain in Pendleton, the city recently launched a survey on its website. Residents of Pendleton and the surrounding area are encouraged to fill out a short questionnaire. The answers will give the

commission an idea of how many stoves remain within city limits or lurk just outside town. The commission welcomes responses for people outside the growth boundary because the city is considering geographically expanding the program.

Each stove removed is a victory, said Oregon DEQ Air Quality Specialist Larry Calkins, who is based in Pendleton and advises the commission.

"Each uncertified stove that comes out of a home will benefit air quality," Calkins said. "On poor ventilation days, smoke in the air stays right at the ground's surface where people breathe."

An uncertified stove produces 11 times as much pollution as a certified stove, he said. Calkins applauded the city for offering the loans.

"Pendleton is pretty unique in Oregon," he said. "I've been trying to push Pendleton's program to other areas of the state."

The city council approved \$20,000 for this year's program — that's five possible replacements.

Here's the way the program works: Go to the city's building department and apply. Select a replacement heating system from a city-approved list. Select a contractor. Meet all permit and inspection requirements. Provide receipts and a certificate from Pendleton Sanitary Service that the stove was disposed of properly.

The to-do list sounds grueling, but is fairly simple, said Hoehna. The contractor generally hauls away the old stove and secures the certificate. Pendleton Sanitary Service recycles the metal.

Maranville encouraged those don't think their stove doesn't make that much difference in air quality.

"You might think it's just one little stove," he said, "but when everybody does it, it has a big effect."

To take the city's Wood Stove Utilization Survey, go to www.pendleton.or.us and look for the survey under News & Announcements.

Contact Kathy Aney at kaney@eastoregonian.com or call 541-966-0810.

DEPOT: Environmental study of land nearing public comment phase

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though, he could not say. The Army makes sure to cross every "t," Smith said, and he works to answer all the questions or concerns the feds have.

The land is at the intersections of Interstate 84, Interstate 82 and the Union Pacific Railroad. Smith said the location is prime for industrial development. The authority wants the land clean, free of charge and with an adequate water supply.

The environmental study of the land is nearing the public comment phase, he said, and a surveying for legal

definitions for deeds is "99 percent done." But the water requires what he dubbed "an Oregon solution."

The military wanted the Oregon National Guard on the site to have 80 percent of the water rights, Smith said, and the Columbia Development Authority would have the remaining 20 percent. Smith said without water there will not be much developing.

Rather than haggle with Washington, he said he asked the National Guard about the water, and the guard would be good with 20 percent. Smith said he has a meeting next week with the Guard to

hash out water distribution.

The basic layout would provide the Guard with 20 percent, the CDA with 80 percent and an agreement to provide more to the Guard if needed.

Smith said when the land comes under local control he would have more freedom to ramp up recruiting businesses to the site. The interest, he said, is there.

"I've had several real leads, very legitimate leads, some of these are Fortune 500 companies," he said. "Others are alternative energy companies, primarily in the solar sector."

Some prominent local

businesses also have expressed interest in moving or setting up new operations on the depot lands.

And Smith said he sees a way the development authority could help schools and nonprofits. The depot buildings are filled with quality office furniture the Army left behind.

"Literally, they just walked away from it," he said. "There's like 300 desks out there, brand new."

Once the CDA is in charge, he said, he would like to find a way to have local schools and some nonprofits benefit from the furniture and equipment.

KITZHABER: Donations were unusual in their size, concentration

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the means at my disposal to deliver the financial support needed for the championships" in a video message he sent — along with then-Secretary of State Kate Brown — with TrackTown's team to the International Association of Athletics Federations bid meeting in Monaco in late November.

For the first time in that video, Kitzhaber endorsed a specific amount: the full \$40 million. Getting the governor to publicly state the \$40 million was a priority for TrackTown, Porter's emails show.

What happened between Kitzhaber's initial resistance and his endorsement? His campaign coffers were swamped with donations from people who want the track world championships held at the UO's Hayward Field.

The emails show that Kitzhaber's apparent reversal coincided with almost \$400,000 in campaign contributions he received during a 42-day period in September and October 2014 from athletic apparel giant Nike, its

co-founder Phil Knight and its CEO Mark Parker, as well as four members of the UO Board of Trustees.

The donations came at a busy time in Kitzhaber's 2014 re-election bid: Other money was pouring in as the November election approached. But the donations were unusual in their size and concentration, and because many of the donors had not given to Kitzhaber in at least the past decade for which Oregon keeps disclosures online.

Knight, who donated \$250,000, had not personally given to Kitzhaber in that time. A registered Republican, he backed Kitzhaber's GOP opponent, Chris Dudley, in 2010 with \$400,000. Parker's \$50,000 donation was his first to a state politician. Nike's \$65,000 to Kitzhaber during those 42 days dwarfed the \$22,500 it gave to him during the entire 2010 election cycle.

Among the UO trustees, Chuck Lillis, the board chairman and an infrequent political donor, gave \$10,000 to Kitzhaber. He and his wife contributed \$1,000 to Kitzhaber in 2010. Connie Ballmer gave \$5,000, her first

political donation in Oregon. Allyn Ford gave \$5,000 and Joe Gonyea III gave \$2,500, though both trustees are much more frequent political donors.

The donations came at a crucial time for Kitzhaber. Polling showed that he had a big lead over his GOP challenger, Dennis Richardson, when the donations started, but his campaign was rocked in early October by allegations of ethics violations related to his fiancée, Sylvia Hayes, which ultimately led to his February 2015 resignation.

In recent weeks, TrackTown and Lananna have found themselves defending the IAAF's April 2015 decision to award the 2021 championships to Eugene without a formal bidding process, after the IAAF awarded the 2019 event to Doha. French police are investigating alleged bribery in the IAAF, and the Eugene award itself. The revelation that Sebastian Coe, the new IAAF president, had been for years receiving undisclosed annual payments of \$150,000 from Nike, a potential conflict of interest, have sent shockwaves through the sport.

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