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OUR VIEW

Nuance can't replace 'yes' or 'no' on national monument

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, responding to questions from Rep. Greg Walden during hearings March 1, said she's unaware of any active plan in the administration to designate an Owyhee Canyonlands national monument.

That's good news, as far as it goes.

Backed by the Oregon Natural Desert Association, the proposed Owyhee Canyonlands wilderness and conservation area would cover 40 percent of Oregon's Malheur County — about 2.5 million acres of what is now controlled by the Bureau of Land Management.

Residents believe designation would be accompanied by restrictions and regulations that would prohibit or severely complicate grazing, mining, hunting and recreation.

While proponents say traditional uses of the land will be allowed, a local group called Citizens in Opposition to the Owyhee Canyonlands Monument does not believe them.

There's quite a bit of opposition to the plan in Eastern Oregon. A lot of people see it as another example of the federal government putting the desires of distant special interests ahead of the local community.

While supporters are well organized, have money, have a website, have drawn up maps and detailed proposals, Jewell downplayed it during her testimony. "It's been kicking around, it's one of the things people have recommended to us," Jewell said.

But she said the Interior Department, which includes the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has held no community meetings or discussions about the idea.

"People haven't been actively in my office asking about it," Jewell said.

Walden asked if there has been any coordination between the White House and Department of Interior on the issue.

"Not that I'm aware of," Jewell replied.

You would think that she would know. But forgive us for not taking this as the last word on the subject from an administration that has raised nuance to an art form.

With 10 months and change left in President Obama's

tenure, there's plenty of time for the plan to move forward.

While the administration has previously said it would work collaboratively with Congress, local interests and elected officials in making such designations, because the land in question is already owned by the federal government the Antiquities Act of 1906 requires only that Obama pick up his pen and proclaim it so. No fuss, no muss.

In February he designated three such monuments in the California desert covering almost 1.8 million acres.

The fear on the ground is that the White House will play coy, carefully denying what is not true, not addressing what is true. Then, somewhere after the election and before Jan. 20 the deal will be done.

Walden said the angst many rural westerners feel over government management of public lands and federal overreach would be made worse by such a declaration. We agree.

The president and his representatives should just say no. Absent that, they should honestly telegraph their intentions and engage in an honest debate with the people of Malheur County and the West.

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Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

OTHER VIEWS



Trump is no accident

Establishment Republicans who are horrified by the rise of Donald Trump might want to take a minute to remember the glitch heard round the world — the talking point Marco Rubio couldn't stop repeating in a crucial debate, exposing him to devastating ridicule and sending his campaign into a death spiral.

It went like this: "Let's dispel with this fiction that Barack Obama doesn't know what he's doing. He knows exactly what he's doing." The clear, if ungrammatical, implication was that all the bad things Republicans claim have happened under President Obama — in particular, America's allegedly reduced stature in the world — are the result of a deliberate effort to weaken the nation.

In other words, the establishment favorite for the GOP nomination, the man Time magazine once put on its cover with the headline "The Republican Savior," was deliberately channeling the paranoid style in U.S. politics. He was suggesting, albeit coyly, that a sitting president is a traitor.

And now the establishment is shocked to see a candidate who basically plays the same game, but without the coyness, the overwhelming front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination. Why?

The truth is that the road to Trumpism began long ago, when movement conservatives — ideological warriors of the right — took over the GOP. And it really was a complete takeover. Nobody seeking a career within the party dares to question any aspect of the dominating ideology, for fear of facing not just primary challenges but excommunication.

You can see the continuing power of the orthodoxy in the way all of the surviving contenders for the Republican nomination, Trump included, have dutifully proposed huge tax cuts for the wealthy, even though a large majority of voters, including many Republicans, want to see taxes on the rich increased instead.

But how does a party in thrall to a basically unpopular ideology — or at any rate an ideology voters would dislike if they knew more about it — win elections? Obfuscation helps. But demagoguery and appeals to tribalism help more. Racial dog whistles and suggestions that Democrats are un-American if not active traitors aren't things that happen now and then, they're an integral part of Republican political strategy.

During the Obama years Republican leaders cranked the volume on that strategy up to 11 (although it was pretty bad during the Clinton years too). Establishment Republicans

generally avoided saying in so many words that the president was a Kenyan Islamic atheist socialist friend of terrorists — although as the quote from Rubio shows, they came pretty close — but they tacitly encouraged those who did, and accepted their endorsements. And now they're paying the price.

For the underlying assumption behind the establishment strategy was that voters could be fooled again and again: persuaded to vote Republican out of rage against Those People, then ignored after the election while the party pursued its true, plutocrat-friendly priorities. Now comes Trump, turning the dog whistles into fully audible shouting, and telling the base that it can have the bait without the switch. And the establishment is being destroyed by the monster it created.

Things are very different on the other side of the aisle.

I still sometimes see people suggesting an equivalence between Trump and Bernie Sanders. But while both men are challenging a party establishment, those establishments aren't the same. The Democratic Party is, as some political scientists put it, a "coalition of social groups," ranging from Planned Parenthood to teachers' unions, rather than an ideological monolith; there's nothing comparable to the array of institutions that enforces purity on the other side.

Indeed, what the Sanders movement, with its demands for purity and contempt for compromise and half-measures, most nearly resembles is not the Trump insurgency but the ideologues who took over the GOP, becoming the establishment Trump is challenging. And yes, we're starting to see hints from that movement of the ugliness that has long been standard operating procedure on the right: bitter personal attacks on anyone who questions the campaign's premises, an increasing amount of demagoguery from the campaign itself. Compare the Sanders and Clinton Twitter feeds to see what I mean.

But back to the Republicans: Let's dispel with this fiction that the Trump phenomenon represents some kind of unpredictable intrusion into the normal course of Republican politics. On the contrary, the GOP has spent decades encouraging and exploiting the very rage that is now carrying Trump to the nomination. That rage was bound to spin out of the establishment's control sooner or later.

Donald Trump is not an accident. His party had it coming.

Paul Krugman is a NY Times columnist.



PAUL KRUGMAN
Comment

YOUR VIEWS

Bundy stands in tradition of civil disobedience

In the last week of the session, a seemingly innocent bill was unanimously passed. HB 4009, designates March 28 in honor of Minoru Yasui, the day he violated a military curfew imposed against Japanese Americans during World War II — that led to the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans.

He deliberately challenged that curfew by walking the streets of Portland, and then turned himself in to the Portland police so that he could test the constitutionality of such discriminatory regulations.

As I listened to Ammon Bundy's interview from prison on KATU held March 8, he explained how they went into the refuge, which was not in use, to make a point that government was not following the constitution, illegally taking land and putting people in grave danger. He is challenging the government with the Constitution and his hope is that history will record that they stood when they needed to stand. Stood peacefully in the right way, using their freedom to bring redress against what was wrong.

Minoru chaired the JACL National Redress Committee, the very process that Bundy used to seek justice for the Hammonds. Bundy, and others, took legal action filing a redress exposing illegal actions during the Hammonds' trial. Without response from the Oregon governor, Harney County judge or Harney County sheriff, Ammon and fellow patriots did their version of "walked the

streets of Portland ... so that he could test the constitutionality of such discriminatory" actions, and occupied the Malheur County Refuge. He continued to reach out to the sheriff for response to his redress. Instead, the sheriff abrogated his powers to the FBI.

Yasui led the movement seeking reparations for the injustices perpetrated against Japanese Americans during World War II. Bundy is leading the movement seeking reparation for 100,000 farmers and ranchers that have had their lands illegally taken by the federal government, and many are unjustly in prisons.

Yasui lost his case in the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, and spent the next nine months in solitary confinement awaiting his appeal to the United States Supreme Court only to have the Supreme Court rule against him in regard to the military curfew. When he was released from jail, he was incarcerated in the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho.

Bundy and others await their fate for challenging the actions of the federal government. Have the courts learned anything from history? Will they again fix their case against We the People who dare to expose their unconstitutional practices?

So, as we honor Yasui on March 28, let us continue his fight and ask legislators and candidates why they honor past actions and condone the same actions in the present. Yasui's fight did not end with him. We have patriots continuing the fight for our freedoms and the future of our Republic.

Donna Bleiler
Salem

Anglers unite to put pressure on ODFW

I'll bet you folks out there didn't realize that the modern-day trout cannot swim in moving water like they used to. No, the only way they can survive for a few days is in a pond 50 miles from town. And by the time you get there it's fished out.

And here is something else you didn't know: Salmon and steelhead are not allowed to swim in the same water in our rivers and streams. So I have been told by game officials that they are trying to build up a wild trout habitat. If there is a trout in our local streams it came from a plant years ago. There is no such thing as a wild trout in our streams.

Ignorance is no excuse for failure, so this old guy thinks more pressure should be put on our fish and wildlife department to stop this nonsense. And for several years salmon and steelhead have to be trucked up part of the stream; they don't know how to swim upstream any more.

One other thing that has come to my attention is the free pioneer hunting and fishing license. It now costs \$6 to get something that was free, but I suppose it will really improve our success rate. Our fishermen need to put more pressure on our fish and wildlife department. Every one of you should complain about it and not just sit on your seat and say, "Oh well, I guess this is just the way it is." It doesn't have to be this way.

I will be moving on in a short time, they say. I hope it works out for people that love to fly fish for trout, as I used to.

Gary M. Bonner
Pendleton

Kudos to great basketball hosts in Pendleton

I am extending my gratitude on behalf of our school community and would like to take the opportunity to thank the city of Pendleton for hosting another fantastic state tourney. Our school has had the privilege and honor of attending the tourney for the past 11 straight years and I can't tell you how impressed we are by your community, your volunteers, and the hospitality you all show each and every year.

•Pendleton Book Co., we so appreciate your recognition of our boys' and girls' teams the past couple of years and the other businesses who have done the same for us in the past.

•Thank you to the Oxford Suites staff for welcoming our community to move in and call it home for the entire weekend. We love it there!

•The East Oregonian for fantastic coverage of the teams and great articles we can take home as keepsakes for our children's albums.

•All the restaurants and businesses who handle the influx of people so well. Thank you all!

It is the volunteers, though, who prompted me to send this letter. We are so grateful for the

time they give and the familiarity of those faces as they give up of their time year in and year out for that weekend. As I briefly stood in the door to enter the gym, the two gentleman who monitor the doors were engrossed in a conversation that I couldn't help but overhear. One said to the other that this was going to be his last year because he was so tired of the rude and disgruntled fans who either muttered something under their breath or refused to keep moving, basically defying their authority. I inserted myself into their conversation and apologized on behalf of every fan there. I assured them how very much I appreciate what they do and the time they give and that they are such a huge part of what makes Pendleton the city we love!

I apologize for the ones who do not realize how much your community gives of themselves, but please let me convey how much we appreciate all that you do.

We never assume that we get to return every year, but when we do, we can be assured we will experience an amazing experience and we have your community to thank for it.

Thank you for allowing me to share this with your community.

Brenda Hull
Salem

LETTERS POLICY

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