

Governor, senators request additional relief for ranchers

Letter to USDA asks for increase, extension on CRP grazing

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
EO Media Group

Ranchers in north-central Oregon are just beginning to recover from a devastating wildfire season that saw hundreds of thousands of acres of dry grass and rangeland go up in flames.

To assist livestock producers who lost vital grazing pastures, USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue authorized emergency grazing on Conservation Reserve Program, or CRP, land through Sept. 30 in Wasco, Sherman and Wheeler counties. CRP is a federal conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency that pays farmers to take environmentally sensitive land out of agricultural production for 10-15 years.

Now, Gov. Kate Brown and U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley are asking Perdue to extend the CRP deadline through Feb. 28, 2019, while also expanding emergency grazing and haying to neighboring Gilliam County, which recently sustained a 50,000-acre blaze.

Brown, Wyden and Merkley, all Democrats, sent a letter Wednesday to Perdue asking for additional relief, and to consider any other programs to address soil erosion that may affect both farmland and



In this photo taken from video provided by Fox-12 Oregon, a fast-spreading wildfire moves through Dufur on Aug. 1. Oregon political leaders are seeking addition help for ranchers and farmers impacted by fires in the region.

fish habitat.

“All told, it was a devastating year for rural agriculture communities in Oregon,” the letter reads. “Now, as these communities seek to recover, producers need support from the government to utilize appropriate resources.”

Perdue approved emergency CRP grazing for affected ranchers through Sept. 30 at the behest of Oregon officials, while at the same time directing the Risk Management Agency to allow wheat farmers who lost some or all of their crop to plant cover crops on

burned acres, preventing soil erosion without causing any changes to their crop insurance.

The region was hit especially hard by fires over the summer, including the Boxcar, Substation, Long Hollow and South Valley blazes that scorched a combined

235,000 acres of cropland. In their letter, Brown, Wyden and Merkley thanked Perdue for the assistance ranchers have received so far, but urged more is needed to help them get back on their feet.

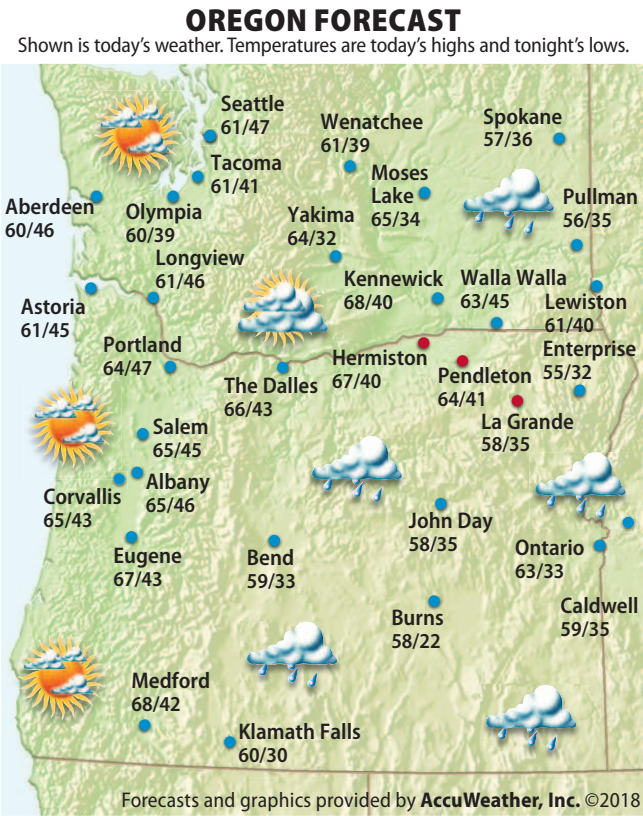
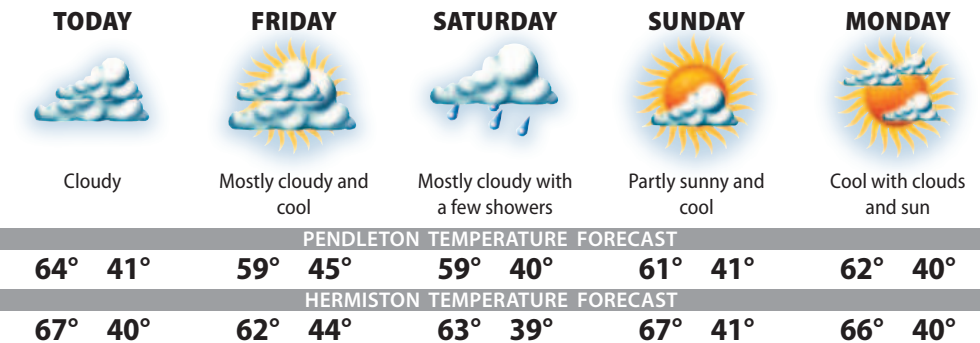
“The loss of grazing land in particular presents an ongoing concern for producers in the area, and the opening of CRP land in Wasco, Sherman and Wheeler counties has proven invaluable to producers in those counties,” they wrote, requesting an extension through February 2019. “We further ask that USDA extend the CRP haying and grazing authorization to Gilliam County for the same period.”

Gilliam County Judge Steve Shaffer said they are “forever grateful” to farmers and ranchers who helped to suppress fires over the summer, and authorizing CRP grazing will help relieve them of a huge concern caring for their animals through fall and into winter.

“When their grazing issues are solved, Gilliam County farmers and ranchers can begin to focus on soil erosion and bringing their land back to its natural state,” Shaffer said.

Jerome Rosa, executive director of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, said the group is “excited about the potential opportunity to see these grazing opportunities for ranchers in that part of the state who have been devastated by the effects of the wildfires, and hopes that these grazing and haying opportunities will be extended.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	61°	34°
Normals	70°	44°
Records	88° (1892)	28° (2012)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.01"
Normal month to date	0.10"
Year to date	6.53"
Last year to date	12.34"
Normal year to date	9.04"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	63°	39°
Normals	71°	42°
Records	85° (1952)	28° (1999)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	Trace
Month to date	Trace
Normal month to date	0.06"
Year to date	5.15"
Last year to date	7.04"
Normal year to date	6.62"

WINDS (in mph)

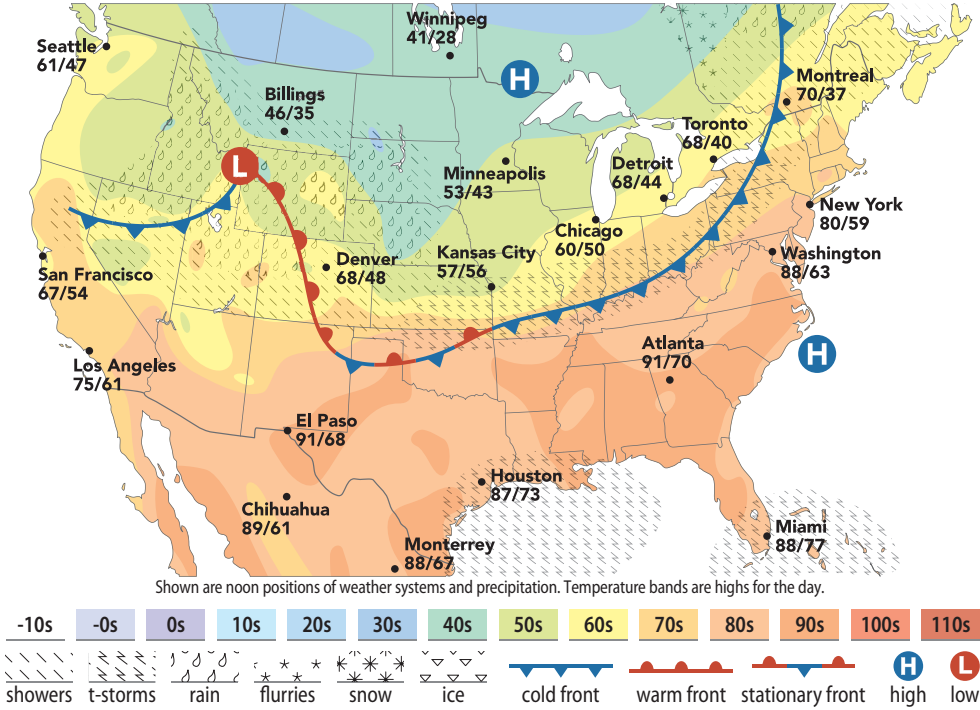
	Today	Fri.
Boardman	WSW 7-14	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	WSW 7-14	WSW 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:57 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:30 p.m.
Moonrise today	1:17 a.m.
Moonset today	4:27 p.m.

NATIONAL EXTREMES
Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 99° in Pampa, Texas Low 21° in Deer Park, Wash.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Gov. Kate Brown touts environmental legislation

PORTLAND (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown on Wednesday announced legislation that would maintain Oregon’s water and air quality rules at the same level or higher than they were the day before President Donald Trump took office.

Oregon Public Broadcasting reports that one of the goals of the legislation is to protect public health welfare from the adverse effects of pollution and climate change.

With the new legislation, called the Oregon Environmental Protection Act, Brown said she is looking to inspire a national movement of states to oppose what she called the “unprecedented and aggressive attack” on clean air and water.

The Trump administration has undertaken several actions to overturn or delay environmental laws from taking effect, ranging from carbon-emissions goals in the Obama-era Clean Power Plan designed to help the United States meet international climate goals to protections for wildlife — and from regulations of pesticides, ozone and mercury to expanding fossil fuel development on public lands.

Brown’s proposed legislation focuses on the federal Clean Water Act and Clean



Brown

Air Act. Both are regulated and enforced at the state level by Oregon agencies such as the Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Health Authority and the Water Resources Department. In most instances, the federal laws allow states to establish more stringent environmental protections than required nationally.

The governor’s office said, if passed by the Legislature, the legislation would maintain Obama-era ozone emission standards, regulate methane and other pollutants from landfills, as well as mercury emissions from the state’s one remaining coal power plant and extend water quality protections to some to the state’s rivers and streams.

The state Legislature, which is controlled Brown’s fellow Democrats, has balked at some new environmental legislation in recent years.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

BRIEFLY

Burgerville reports data breach that could affect thousands

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Vancouver-based Burgerville says thousands of customers’ credit and debit card information may have been compromised during a cyberattack.

The *Oregonian*/OregonLive reports officials with the fast-food chain say anyone who used plastic to pay at its restaurants from September 2017 through last week should watch their card statements for unauthorized charges.

The chain also recommends customers obtain a copy of their credit report to look for unauthorized information and consider freezing their credit.

Burgerville said it learned of the breach from the FBI late in August although the chain didn’t acknowledge the issue until Wednesday. The company said its first priority was to contain the breach and close off cybercriminals’ access to its systems.

According to the company, the Burgerville attack was part of an effort to target American companies by a group based in Eastern Europe.

Burgerville has 47 restaurants in Oregon and Washington.

Former school official sentenced for attempted child sex trafficking

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A former executive director of the Washington Association of School Administrators has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison and admitted to having sex with hundreds of prostitutes over the years.

Paul W. Rosier, also a former superintendent of the Kennewick School District, was sentenced Tuesday in federal court.

The 76-year-old Rosier, who retired in 2014, was busted last year for trying to arrange sex with two teen girls.

The *Tri-City Herald* reported that Rosier told officials that he was a sex addict and fantasized about having sex with much younger girls.

He pleaded guilty in June in federal court to attempted child sex trafficking with a victim younger than 18.

The newspaper says there is no evidence that Rosier ever had sex with underage kids over the years.

EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed major holidays

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.
Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801.
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Single copy price:

\$1 Tuesday through Friday, \$1.50 Saturday

Circulation Manager:

Bonny Tuller, 541-966-0828

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