

# O EAST OREGONIAN PINION

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## OUR VIEW

# Lawsuit is a failure on both sides

A recent move by a coalition of conservation groups to file a lawsuit to topple a decision made by the Trump administration that negated a rule that banned logging of large trees on national forests east of the Cascades is ultimately a sad reminder that little progress has been made regarding non-legal solutions to environmental challenges.

At the heart of the issue is what is known as the 21-inch rule — an edict that restricted logging of live trees larger than 21 inches in diameter measured four and half feet off the ground — dating back to the mid-1990s.

The rule was created to address concerns from environmental groups about the safety and viability of old growth timber in national forests across our region.

The environmental groups assert the Trump administration move to lift the ban violates federal law — specifically the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Forest Management Act — and officials should have crafted an environmental impact statement to review the impacts of a decision to lift the ban.

Proponents of lifting the ban contend abolishing the rule gives agencies such as the Forest Service more flexibility in its effort to manage forests to diminish wildfire risk.

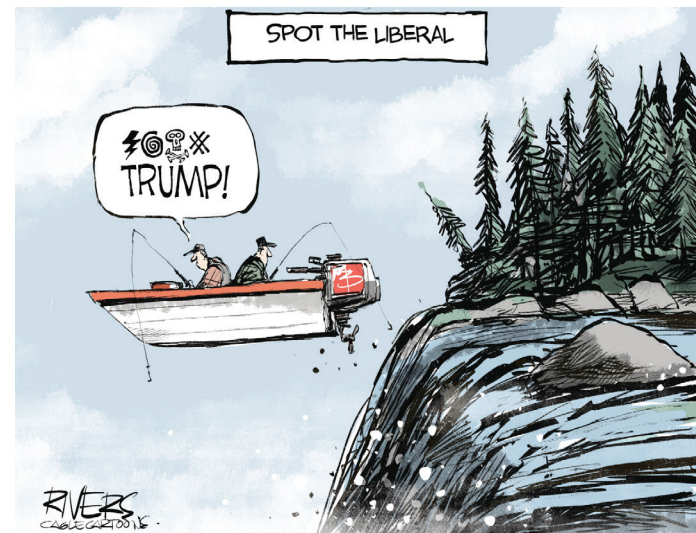
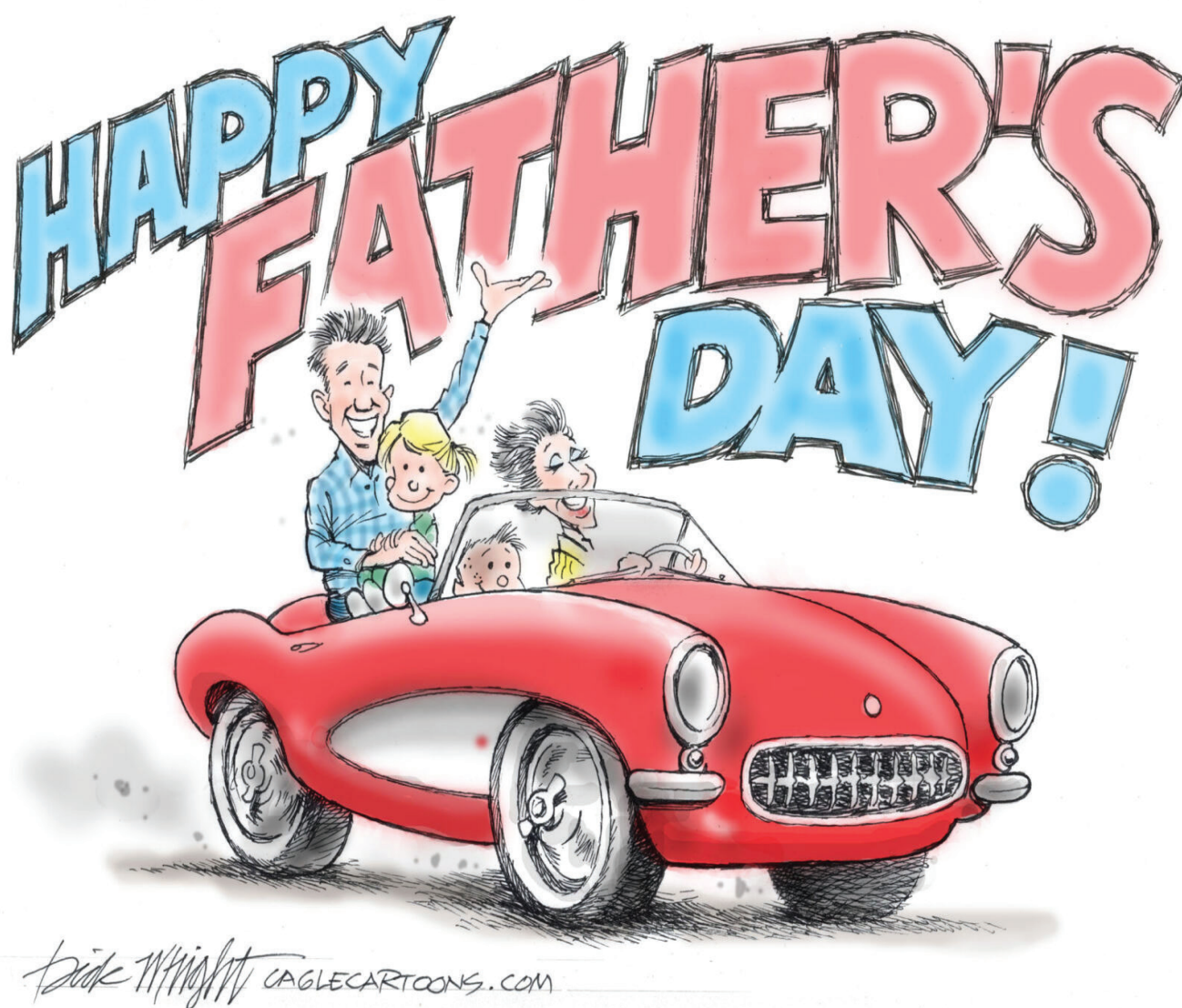
The suit — filed in the U.S. District Court in Pendleton — is yet another example of failure for both the conservationists and the U.S. Government.

Most — but not all — environmental lawsuits over flashpoint issues should never end up in a courtroom. That's because both sides of any such issue not only carry the capacity to work these challenges out but also hold a responsibility to do so.

That responsibility isn't to a long-held belief in a specific dogma or blind obedience to a new edict delivered in the waning days of an administration.

No, the responsibility should be to those who live and work and play in areas such as eastern Oregon. The voters of our region deserve better than yet another long legal battle that consumes time and money.

Opposing sides of any issue can sit down and work out a compromise. There is no better example of such a circumstance than the effort spearheaded by U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden regarding the Owyhee Canyonlands in southeastern Oregon. There, for years, environmentalists, ranchers and others squared off on how best to preserve pristine canyonland. In the end, Wyden led the effort to work out a compromise between the two groups. Was everyone satisfied? No. Did everyone get what they wanted? No. Yet that's how democracy is supposed to work. Compromise and the goal of working toward a viable solution should be the focus, not going to court.



## YOUR VIEWS

### Make changes to reduce gun violence

The Second Amendment is, of course, in our Constitution and the law, but as an amendment.... And thus, it was clearly an "afterthought." It was added when we were a frontier nation and needed self-defense. Do we still need that level of defense, or has gun violence invoked a different perspective on the subject?

I'm unable to grasp the hysteria surrounding resistance to impose even the most basic regulations. As for those supporting gun control, there seems to be two fronts, and should help. One position is to impose more regulations, such as, age considerations, waiting period, background checks, magazine size, and automatic capabilities; I believe these are very tangible

approaches, which could be quickly implemented. However, the other position is through mental health/counseling and, I believe, this would be much less tangible and take much longer to see the effect. In the long run there could be merits in both positions, but there is a priority.

I'd sure like to hear from anyone who has rational opposing views on this subject.

Lloyd D. Corliss  
Bend

### Fox News viewers should change the channel

Every major TV network in the U.S. has chosen to carry the proceedings of the Jan. 6th congressional committee except for Fox News. They continue to treat their viewers like mushrooms;

keep them in the dark and feed them cow manure.

What is Fox News so afraid of? The obvious answer is any facts that run contrary to their narrative. That pampered man-child Tucker Carlson's broadcast during the hearing time slot was commercial free. Was he scared that viewers might flip the channel during a commercial and get infected with a dose of reality?

The bipartisan committee has done an extensive job of gathering evidence based on eyewitness testimony. It would serve every citizen of this country to inform themselves of the events that happened up to and including the day of the violent attempt to overthrow our democracy or risk losing everything we've struggled for.

Don Miller  
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letters that address concerns about individual services and products or letters that infringe on the rights of private citizens. Letters must be signed by the author and include the city of residence and a daytime phone number. The phone number will not be published. Unsigned letters will not be published.

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