Teams assess forest damage in wake of fire

After Grizzly Bear fire, silting danger slight, little concern about wildlife survival, scientists say

By Kathleen Ellyn Wallowa County Chieftain

The Grizzly Bear fire continues to crackle over 82,569 acres in the Wenaha-Toucannon Wilderness area, but hydrologists, soil scientists and wildlife biologists are already on the ground assessing the damage.

A group of scientists from varying backgrounds is assembled to create a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team, said Joani Bosworth, public affairs officer for the Umatilla National Forest.

No timber salvage of any kind is done in wilderness ar-

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eas, but the BAER team does analyze the impacts to the land and looks for areas vulnerable to washout that may silt streams and rivers and endanger fish.

So far, the silting danger is slight, said Jim Archuleta, forest soil scientist for the Umatilla Forest and BAER coordinator.

"We did an erosion analysis and came up with some low numbers based on the topography of the area – the areas that are really steep already don't have soil on them," he said.

Joy Archuleta, forest hydrologist and team leader for the BAER program on the Grizzly Bear Fire said the trail system within the Wilderness area would be protected.

"We're doing a lot of storm proofing to prevent damage to the trail system and took out a bridge that got burned over and are looking for money to rebuild that, she said. "We're also putting up notices warning people to be careful in burned areas."

There is little concern about the survival of wildlife at this point, according to USFS wildlife biologist Lizzy Berkley.

"In general, because the fire burned in a mosaic pattern across the landscape, that's usually really good for most wildlife species," she said. "Sometimes these fires are pretty good (for wildlife) if they do an under burn or even high-intensity burn; they can be good for forage the following year."

Even in areas where timber was reduced to snags, some wildlife will benefit.

"Snags are actually very, very good for species like woodpeckers," Berkley said.



Courtesy photo A firefighter watches as the Grizzly Bear fire moves past

The spread of noxious or invasive weeds is always a concern after a fire, but for now the Forest Service has decided herbicide treatments to control those weeds is all they will do. There will be no reseeding this fall and no over sowing with wheat grass is done on wilderness land.

him in September.

"Any seeding that we would do in the wilderness would be native seeding," said Bosworth.

There may be opportunities for timber salvage in burned areas outside the wilderness area, Bosworth said.

We are currently looking at our opportunities for salvage on areas outside the Wilderness and taking public



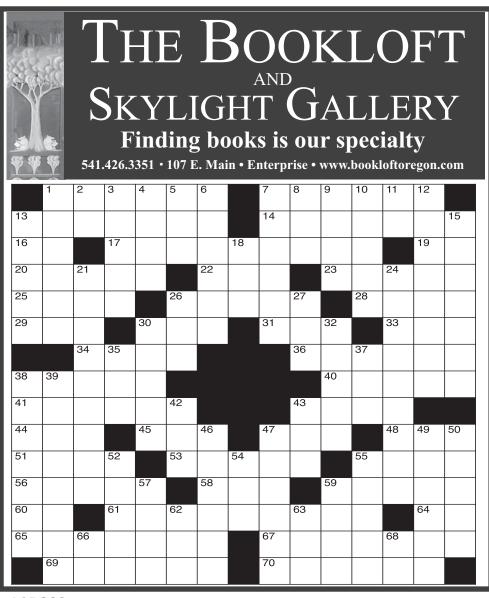
Kathleen Ellvn/Chieftain

This snapshot of an area near Grouse Flats demonstrates the mosaic pattern of the fire, with some trees fully burned to ash, some snags and some still green. The rock cliff in the background illustrates the rugged nature of the landscape and how some steep areas were already devoid of dirt and therefore not mudslide dangers.

comment on dangerous-tree removal along roads," she said. "We have several peo-

ple timber cruising to see what other areas we might harvest."





ACROSS

- Owed
- 7. Shawl
- 13. Slow tempo 14. Bodily structure
- 16. Sun-god
- 17. Franklin or Eleanor
- 19. Degree 20. Norwegian poet
- 22. Local school organization 23. Consumer
- 25. Brews
- 26. Hero 28. To clear or tidy
- 29. 9th month
- 30. Hit lightly
- 31. Pinna
- 33. DoD computer language
- 34. One Direction won at 2014 awards 36. No. Am. peat bog
- 38. Clear wrap 40. Napped leather 41. In a way, takes
- 43. Transported 44. Back muscle
- 45. Unhappy
- 47. Wrong 48. Chit
- 51. Epic poem
- 53. Capuchin genus
- 56. Weight unit
- traz: The Rock
- 58. Foot (Latin)

- 59. Egg-shaped nut palm
- 60. A radioactive element
- 61. Roosevelt V.P.

70. Hair product

- 64. Railroad track
- 65. More dense, less liquid 67. Block, Fire & Reunion

69. A set that is part of another set

DOWN

- 1. Ineffective 2. 39th state
- 3. Skins
- 4. In a moment 5. Japanese Prime Minister Hirobumi
- 6. Tyrant
- 7. A cruelly rapacious person 8. Point midway between NE and E
- 9. Abnormal breathing
- 10. Essential oil or perfume obtained from
- flowers
- 11. Italian river
- 12. Fixed firmly into
- 13. Opera songs 15. Cloth measurement
- 18. 7th Greek letter
- 21. Extractor
- 24. For boiling water to make tea 26. Possesses
- 27. Edible tuberous root
- 30. Glass window sheets
- 32. Tactics
- 35. More (Spanish)
- 37. Our star

- 38. Makes a choice 39. Great Plains indians
- 42. Baglike structure in a plant or animal

- 43. Female sibling
- 46. Diverge
- 47. Adherent of Islam 49. Defer
- 50. Semitic gods 52. Indian term of respect
- 54. 10 decibels
- 55. Surface regions 57. Small amounts
- 59. Liberal rights organization

68. Canadian province

63. Volcanic mountain in Japan 66. Atomic #71

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Worship Hour 11:00 a.m. - Noon

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BU77

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The move is only a few blocks, but a big leap forward for owners Ray, Patty and Nick Cameron. The newly remodeled building is the former Bronson Lumber building, 6,000 square feet compared to 4,800 square feet in the old building. It's a beautiful addition to the main drive through Enterprise, with rockwork accents in keeping with our local theme and a nice barn-red exterior.

· Another long-term business in Enterprise is sporting a fresh application of cheerful yellow/gold stucco. JB Bane and Company at 208 S. River Street in downtown Enterprise has a new, sunshiny façade. The business was started in the 1950s and is operated by second-generation Banes, Jane and Bret. Jane says we can expect to see more beautification in the next month with a new awning and signage. Additional freshening will continue in the

• And finally a closure of a long, long-term business. After 25 years in business, Savoie's Specialties, Wallowa County's only craft store, has closed. The store, located at 105 SW 1st Street in Enterprise, was Hannah Beaudoin's expression

of love. "I always said it was the Lord's store," Hannah said. "And the Lord blessed it with expansion and it was a good ride and I enjoyed it. The cus-

tomers became my friends." She could do every craft that was represented in the store, from beading to quilting to crochet to painting. Now, she said, it's time for her to get back to some personal beading and painting projects. Two family tragedies, following one after the other, took the wind out of her earlier this year, she said.

"I lost a daughter-in-law, Rhonda Beaudoin, in January of this year, and my daughter, Favona Holmes, in May, and I said, 'Okay, Lord, I'm done,"" she said. "I'd been thinking about retiring for about three years."

She finished emptying the store Oct. 30 and joked that she only had a narrow path through her house at that point. Retirement (such as it is) has its benefits, however, as her children have been on hand to help her organize. What she'll do with the leftover products, however, is still to be figured out.

In the meantime, at age 7, she's enjoying another expansion the Lord has given her – a new great-grandson arrived Oct. 28.

Please send your Biz Buzz news tips to Kathleen Ellyn at kellyn@wallowa.com.

