

# QUINOA

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Wallowa County quinoa is better because of where it come from, Thiel said.

"It's grown in glacial silt, isolated, easy to certify organic."

Just a few hundred feet difference on another property in the valley will mean a shorter growing season (and possibly no quinoa). We have pretty virgin soils, so the mineral contact is still in tact and it's right there at the origin of the water supply."

Plenty of people in Wallowa County have been interested in quinoa for a while. Deb Reth of Wallowa grew a test plot. Janie Tippett of Joseph grew a test plot. Jerome Goertzen of Enterprise has been growing it and wants to test it in Imnaha.

Kurt and Kevin Melville of Cornerstone Farms in



Courtesy photo

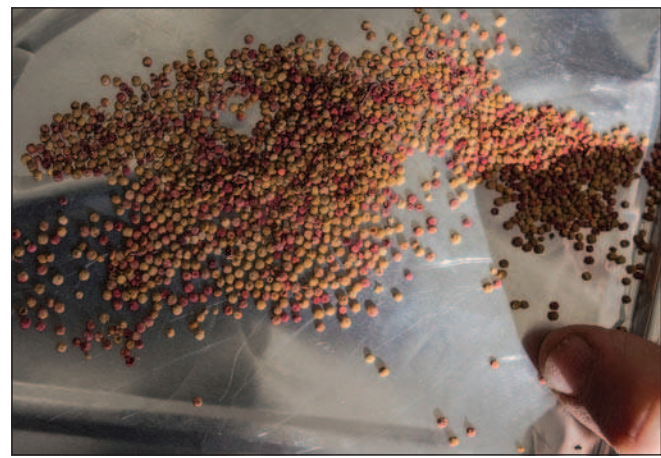
Marketing pro Ted Golder examines some of the test rows of quinoa grown in Wallowa County.

Enterprise got in on the quinoa idea early on, allowing a few test rows to be planted on Kurt's property and

then more than five acres on Kevin's property in the last two years. This year Kevin is planting 30 acres under con-

tract with PNW Grain and Feed Association.

Bob's Red Mill is even expressing an interest in locally



Ellen Morris Bishop/For The Chieftain

Wallowa County quinoa seeds spread across a pan.

grown quinoa, according to Golder.

Golder who is "the go to guy" for the latest knowledge on the burgeoning quinoa business likes to say "I ain't no businessman, I ain't no scientist, and I ain't no farmer, but I seem to be able to bring them together."

"Ted's knowledge touches every aspect or level of in-

volvement," Thiel said.

And plenty of good people are working hard to iron out the local processing problems. Sara Miller at NorthEast Oregon Economic Development District has been working with Golder and Thiel and the duo have started enlisting the aid of other talent in the county to help them start a crowdfunding campaign.

# BREWERY

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"It's more about trying to repair what's happened to our resources in this county."

While starting small, Hays sees significant but steady growth to the business over the next five to 10 years.

"The whole focus is making beer to ship out of the county. ... This is awesome because it's a pure Wallowa County brew. The Klages barley is engineered locally, grown locally, malted locally

and fermented locally with local wild yeast and bottled in ceramic bottles from local clay. It'll probably be the most local beer happening in the world today."

Hays said he's not trying to compete with Terminal Gravity Brewing in Enterprise as he is seeking a different clientele.

He added it would be a highly experimental brewery with the possibility of hosting visiting brewers and perhaps brewing several dozen different kinds of beer.

The initial brewing will be about 50 handmade bottles.

"We'll probably never drink it because it will be collectible," Hays said. He added that he hopes to eventually increase production to brew several thousand gallons at a time but stressed that it will never be a large-scale beer operation with truck loads of beer leaving the operation daily.

Hays said he plans to have five employees brewing beer, manufacturing furniture and crafting ceramics by the end of the year.

The project already is well underway in Joseph.

"We've got the building going, we've ordered the

wells drilled, we're sampling water and building the system."

He has already retained the services of local contractor Louis Perry for building construction.

Although Hays plans to hire locals in the main, he will also import people to train employees.

"For the woodworking, one of my guys is going to move up there to train. My intention is build a solid local industry there. Whether that's exclusively local, or I have to ship people in with the expertise for training."

Hays already has a cou-

ple of brewers he's talking to oversee the brewery operations once the project gets off the ground.

"I design a lot of the brews myself. We're not going to center the brewery around one brewer. It's going to be working different brewers and probably guest brewers whether local or abroad. I believe in the alchemy of brewing more than having a master formula."

While Hays is passionate about the project and hopes to eventually be the county's largest employer, he knows it won't happen overnight.

"It's not about hiring a

lot of people soon, it's about building a stable thing that has traction and grows like a redwood tree rather than a berry bush."

In the meantime, he is building community support for the project.

"We're hoping to get local people behind it if we can, because it's not something I can do alone."

Wallowa County is never far from Hays' mind, and he is intent on leaving a positive Wallowa County legacy for the future.

"When I die, I'll have given something to my heritage there."

# MEETING

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Host Dave Miller moderated a panel of guests that included Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin; Darilyn Parry Brown, executive director of the Hells Canyon Preservation Council; King Williams, a natural resources consultant based in John Day; Eric Quaempts, natural resources director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; and James Nash, a fly fishing outfitter and fifth-generation rancher from Enterprise.

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan comprises 4.9 million acres of public lands on the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur national forests in Eastern Oregon. Each forest gets its own individual plan, with the documents adding up to thousands of pages of desired conditions for the landscape.

Beverlin described the forests like a quilt, patched together in various shades of green, brown and black. It's up to the Forest Service to make sure tree stands are healthy, that access is maintained and habitat preserved. The challenge, Beverlin said, is striking an appropriate balance.

"I think some people believe that every acre can provide every use for everyone. It can't," Beverlin said. "It's going to take compromise from everyone."

Finding that compromise has been an ongoing effort. When the Forest Service released its draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest Plan in 2014, the reaction was "less than stellar," as Beverlin put it. That prompted another round of public meetings in 2015, which has led to two new alternatives that will be included in the final EIS later this fall.

Former Joseph mayor Peggy Kite-Martin spoke during the show, saying that the forests are part of Eastern Oregon's culture. She said the politics of the debate have left forest users in a difficult situation as the pendulum swings back and forth between industry and conservation.

"Our culture is in danger of dying because people can't get out into the woods," Kite-Martin said.

Public access was a common concern among members of the crowd, who vented their frustrations over

road closures. However, environmental issues were also brought to the forefront by Brown, who directs the Hells Canyon Preservation Council. She said the forests already have too many roads, which has caused heavy erosion in wild habitat.

"I do believe there is a place for ATV riding on our public lands. I really do," Brown said. "They have to be at the right place, at the right time."

Williams, who owns his own consulting company, said a lack of active management — such as tree thinning and cattle grazing — is causing a whole other set of concerns, leaving the forests to become overstocked and prone to disease or fire. Meanwhile, the region's timber industry has shriveled. Williams said the forests grow about 800 million board feet of wood every year, of which 500 million board feet is left to waste.

Beverlin said the two new forest plan alternatives take that feedback into account,

and will focus on increasing both the pace and scale of restoration. That could help provide more logs to the mill, he said, while lowering the risk of destructive wildfires.

Quaempts said the tribes are working where they can with the Forest Service on restoration projects to protect traditional First Foods. The key, Quaempts said, is to be mindful of what the forests are capable of providing. He believes the forests are big enough to accommodate everyone's interests.

Others, like Nash, were less optimistic. Nash said he is not happy with the current state of the forests, and worries that even after a plan is finalized, lawsuits will inevitably keep the whole thing tangled up in court.

"There will be groups that file lawsuits that stop any progress of using the forests," Nash said. "There are a lot of people out there who don't think people should use the woods."

A majority of the crowd raised their hands when

asked if they felt the Forest Service just planned to do whatever it wanted, regardless of the outcome. Beverlin sharply disagreed.

"I don't believe that's true," he said. "Otherwise, why are we here listening again?"

Full audio from the show can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/hu5eahw>.

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**Student of the Week**

Ronan Nash is a 7th grade student this year. Ronan has an inquisitive mind and likes to take things apart to discover how they work. He is an Honor Roll student and yearbook editor. His consistent positive attitude and leadership is why he is receiving this recognition.

**Ronan Nash**  
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"The Westerner"  
with Gary Cooper and Walter Brennan as Judge Roy Bean  
Walter Brennan won Oscar for Best Supporting Actor. Admission by donation.

**Friday, April 29th, 7p.m.**  
Book Signing and Talk with Carl Rollyson  
"A Real American Character: The Life of Walter Brennan"

**Saturday, April 30th, 2pm and 7pm**  
One man play: "The Old Character: Walter Brennan In His Own Words"  
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