

LOGGING

Continued from Page A1

Extension Service Master Forester and instructor for the Oregon Tree School program.

Tanzy says he owes a lot to Howard Johnson of Wallowa.

"When he was 92, he was still out there cutting with a chain saw," Tanzy recalled. "I worked with him, and I manage timber the way he managed timber."

Johnson was a rancher turned timberman. He owned 4,000 acres on Smith Mountain north of Wallowa, Tanzy recalls, and "he raised trees like he raised cattle: top of the line, state tree farmer one or two years, was up for national tree farmer. Growing trees is no different than raising sheep, cattle, horses, dogs, goats, whatever."

That's a particularly Wallowa County view.

Logging in Wallowa County has changed, Tanzy said. There is not a single commercial lumber mill in the county, and Tanzy trucks saleable logs to Lewiston, Idaho, and earns a fraction of what loggers earned pre-1989.

"We've lost the infrastructure of logging in Wallowa County," he said.

But he doesn't mean just the physical infrastructure of mills in the county. He means the infrastructure that supports land management of

That knowledge, that men who are now retired have in their minds on how to manage that land, has got to be passed on through generations."

— Butch Tanzy

any kind — an infrastructure that supports a human community. That kind of social infrastructure depends upon generational knowledge and love for a specific place.

"That knowledge, that men who are now retired have in their minds on how to manage that land, has got to be passed on through generations," Tanzy said. "There's more knowledge there than we'll be able to teach in a college or school."

Because that knowledge is specific to the natural landscape, much of what one needs to know about managing land must be learned both on the ground and in the community.

"Doesn't everything work hand in hand?" Tanzy asked. "It's a strong chain: logger, rancher, business person who sells fuel or insurance or grain, works at the hospital, or what have you. You take one link out of it and it's worthless. That's all we are — a link in the chain. It's all infrastructure. We all depend on each other."

On a recent day, Tanzy is working on the sheep ranch of Skye Krebs

outside of Enterprise. Krebs own quite a bit more land, but this lot is more than 3,000 acres, of which 760 acres is timber.

Krebs uses timber money to help maintain his two-state livestock business, but he wants to preserve and improve his timberland at the same time, Tanzy said. Although Krebs runs bands of sheep on the lot, he has always sought to manage both to the benefit of the other.

Tanzy points to a large green meadow.

"See that meadow?" he asks. "That was a rock scab before Krebs ran his sheep here. Now it's the first place the elk show up because it's green. And all that sheep manure helps 'my' trees grow. If you don't give back to the soil, it's not going to give to you."

Giving back is why Tanzy mulches so much of the slash left after logging and thinning. He then plants a special Wallowa County blend of grass, sweetened with a nitrogen-fixing high-altitude clover that helps the trees digest the mulch.



First in a multi-part series

"My strategy on most of the lots I manage is that every 10 years I come in and do some logging and thinning on a lot — and I've got the land broke up into 100-200 acre lots (in my plan)," Tanzy said. "You take an even mix of big and little trees so you have the diversity and you have red fir, larch, Ponderosa pine and different species. As you log your bigger trees the little trees come along to replace them."

That's a long-term strategy that is radically different than that of commercial logging operations which requires clear-cut to maximize income on timberland.

Although commercial operations are operating in line with forest practice rules and regulation and replant immediately, it will still be 70 to 80 years before the replanted stands are mature. These newly planted forests are sold.

New owners often buy with the previous owner's profits in mind

and no experience in management, Tanzy said. And new forests especially require management or they turn into a tangle of too many trees competing for limited resources. Grass growing unchecked until it's rank and unpalatable for wildlife creates extreme fire hazards.

"(Managed forestry) is constant maintenance," Tanzy said. "You can't plant a garden and not come back because the weeds are going to take over. Clear-cutting is a good management tool, and in some places it's the only option if you've got a stand of timber that is all full of root rot and mistletoe and different diseases. You've got to go in there and remove that stand of timber and change the species for one cycle."

But one cycle can be a long time. "We live in a semi-desert country here," Tanzy said. "On the coast they can clear-cut every 35 years or so. One human generation can do two clear-cuts in a lifetime — not here."

By logging and thinning "his forests" every 10 years, Tanzy reckons he will get two to three times the volume of wood harvest over 60 years compared to clear-cut and "you've never lost the original aspect, never changed the ecosystem, all the little critters that were there the day you started are still there, you've got good pasture, good water, wildlife ... and you've kept a sustainable society here: you've kept the mills, timber and grazing."

FISHTRAP

Continued from Page A1

Nella Parks of Cove, who operates a vegetable production business on half an acre and Mary Hawkins of Wallowa, who operates a small meat processing business, Hawkins Sisters Ranch Chickens, were also panelists.

The trajectory toward sustainable farming included years of education, internships at several different agricultural businesses along the way, the assistance of family and neighboring farmer and ranchers, the volunteer labor of extended family, and numerous "side hustles" or day jobs to raise money to keep the farm going.

The reward was worth the effort, both women said.

Hawkins benefited from access to third generation family farmland and relatively low startup cost, she said. Parks is also on family land she leases and opened her greenhouses with a Natural Resources Conservation Grant.

"My whole story would not have been possible in another place outside this community," Parks said. "I had so much help in Cove. People who have spent 30-40 years in agriculture just wanted to give me their



Photos by Kathleen Elynn/Chieftain

Winter Fishtrap panelist Mary Hawkins of Hawkins Sisters Chickens in Wallowa tells the story of how she became a New Agrarian in Wallowa County at the Winter Fishtrap conference Feb. 16-18 at the Josephy Center in Joseph.

knowledge. They had no one coming along behind them."

Hawkins is the only small (under 20,000 birds) chicken farm and processing plant operating in Oregon — but a small operation that feeds nonGMO, locally sourced, custom chicken feed has high costs.

"My chicken costs five times more than meat in the grocery store," Hawkins said. "But my customers know me and my chickens are healthy and happy. My customers are on a list for chickens. I sell out all the time."

Breakout sessions that followed the panels allowed for brainstorming of solutions to the problems presented and swapping information. Land trusts, formal lease agreements between private individuals, the possibility of putting philosophically-motivated investors together with young agrarians, new lending models being presented by banks, developing intern programs and developing educational opportunities were considered.

The program sought to answer the questions: Who are



Panelist, rancher and county commissioner Todd Nash listens with interest as Flora rancher and farmer Elizabeth Enslin asks followup questions during the presentation.

the new generation of farmers? What are the barriers to begin farming today? And how has farming and ranching changed over the past 30 years?

Turns out, three days was not enough to solve all the issues, including plans for succession — who will be tomorrow's farmers?

In Oregon, agricultural land

makes up 25 percent of the state — 16.3 million acres — but in the next 20 years, 64 percent of those lands will change hands.

By one estimate, 80 percent of farmers do not have a succession plan: no one in the family is willing to continue the farm and they know of no one who can purchase the farm and continue operation.

Oregon's farmland is in danger of fragmentation, and once land is subdivided, it soon becomes lost to agriculture, permanently.

There are significant financial barriers.

"Student debt crushes the ability to get started at anything," said Kate Greenberg of National Young Farmers Coalition, one of the Winter Fishtrap speakers. Studies have shown that student loan debt is the second greatest obstacle to land ownership.

"You probably aren't going to own land for a long time. None of us are going to have the same trajectory that the generation before us had," Greenberg said.

Fishtrap leadership declared the event a resounding success.

"Everyone who attended walked away with something new," executive director Shannon McNerney. "This is just what we hoped for."

Presenters came from a variety of fiends and backgrounds.

"We've got people from the full spectrum here in Wallowa County. Ranchers who have been here for generations and newcomers," McNerney said. "That diversity of experience and knowledge is what we wanted (to present) when we brought back Winter Fishtrap."

Around 75 mostly from Washington and Oregon attended.

WALLOWA COUNTY
Health Line

MOTIVATIONS Fitness Center LLC
Keycode Entry
Weight Room • Cardio
Women's Circuit • Tanning
202 W. Main, Enterprise
541-426-0313

Wallowa Valley Eye Care
519 W. North Street, Enterprise
541.426.3413
Mon-Thurs 9 to Noon/1-5pm; Fri. 9-1

Wallowa County Health Department
758 NW 1st Street, Enterprise, OR
(541) 426-4848
We offer services to all ages and income levels including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, flu shots, restaurant and hotel licensing, community tobacco prevention and education, chronic disease prevention. We provide equal opportunity programs.

DON'T BE A WACKO, STOP TOBACCO

Bad!

Don't Do This

Drawing done by Josiah Surber 4th grade, of Wallowa

Contact the QUIT LINE today at 1.800.QUIT.NOW (1.800.784.8669) or online at www.quitnow.net/oregon to receive:

- Tips on what to do when you have the urge to smoke, chew or use an e-cigarette.
- Insight into times and situations when you usually smoke, chew or use an e-cig and ways to change these routines when you quit.
- Information about medications that can help you quit. We may be able to send you free nicotine patches and or gum.
- Support! If you've tried to quit, we'll talk about what hasn't worked and new things you could try.

Celebrating 150 Years of the National Grange

Hurricane Creek Grange is Hosting
A Wallowa County 4-H Fundraiser

A Not-Quite Traditional Old-Time Box Social
5:00 PM, Saturday, February 24th, 2018
At Cloverleaf Hall

Decorated Boxes with delicious meals to be auctioned.
Free coffee, tea, and punch. Live entertainment.
Home-made Dessert Auction.
Everyone is invited.

Enjoy a great meal and support our 4-H Program.

Please bring a Box Lunch for two, or plan to purchase your meal at auction.
(Those with special diet needs may order a lunch made to order.)

For further information visit: www.HurricaneCreekGrange.org/BoxSocial or call Darlene Stephens at (541) 786-4089

The Wallowa County Ducks Unlimited Committee wishes to thank all the patrons, businesses and donors who helped make our 2018 DU event successful.

Silver Sponsors: The LaVigne Family, Burke & Tammy Lathrop, Keith & June Newburn, and Gene & Marge Bieraugel
Bronze Sponsors: Paul & Jakki Boehne, Chris & Tina Borgerding, Chris & Mary Cunningham, John Duckworth, Duncan Hunter, Jeremiah & Christina Moffit, Jim Reese, Brian & Amanda Rahn, Chance & Cricket Waters

Ace Hardware	Emily Cunningham	Mae McGinnis	Susie Madigan
Anton's Home & Hearth	Gene & Marge Bieraugel	NAPA/Thompson Auto Supply	Terry Bates
Arrowhead Chocolates	Greg & Joleen Bieraugel	North 40, Lewiston	The Sheep Shed
Bank of Eastern Oregon	Hancock Forest Management	Olaf Pottery	Terminal Gravity Brewing
Bee Crow Bee	Henderson Fuel	Outlaw Motor Sports	Tri-county Equipment
Bennett Insurance	Henderson Logging	Ram Auto & Hardware	Trudy Turner, Silversmith
Bird Dog Signs	Horseshoe Bar & Grill	Red Horse Coffee Company	T-Zion
Blue Mountain Barbers	Hunter's Firearm Services	Rogers Motors, Lewiston	Uptown Art
The Bookloft	James Reese	Ron's Place in Wallowa	Valley Bronze
Bronson Log Homes	John Duckworth	RY Timber, Bruce Dunn	VFW
Carpet One	Joe Hall Ford, Lewiston	Safeway	Wallowa County Grain Growers
Central Copy & Shipping	John L. Sullivan	Schaeffer Auto	Wallowa County Nursery
Community Bank	Joseph Hardware	Sports Corral	Wallowa Lake Lodge
Copper Creek Mercantile	Keith & June Newburn	Sportsman's Warehouse,	Wallowa Rod & Gun Club
David Bronson Photography	Kevin's Tire Shop	Lewiston	Wal-mart at La Grande
Diane Knox	Kim Hutchison	Stangel Industries	Water Dog Tenders
Double-Arrow Veterinary Clinic	Kni-Co Manufacturing	Stein Distillery Inc.	White Lightning Glass
Eagle Cap Firearms	Les Schwab Tires	Stewart Jones	Wild Carrot
Embers Brew House	Mad Mary's	Sugar Time Bakery	

A special thanks to Diana of Chuckwagon Sisters, Leo of El Bajio, the Enterprise FFA assistants, Kate of Community Bank, and Ellen Bishop. All of us on the DU committee appreciate everyone's support.

Thank you!