

# Commissioners OK preliminary moraine plan

## Issue again boils over with Joseph resident

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — More tension over the proposed forest management plan for the Wallowa Lake East Moraine surfaced Wednesday, June 16, when a Joseph resident returned to confront the Wallowa County commissioners.

The discussion came after the commissioners approved the preliminary plan, following an update by Eric Greenwell, the conservation program manager for the Wallowa Land Trust. Greenwell said the plan recommends five uses for the land on the East Moraine: Wildlife habitat, cultural resources, range management, forestry and recreation.

## Preliminary plan summarized

He said that the 100-page plan with appendices and recommendations was compiled by committees and their subcommittees that came up with the recommendations in the draft of the plan the commissioners have. He's aware commissioners plan public hearings and the ODF will review it and return it to the county "because the Oregon Department of Forestry has to approve it based on the conditions of the Forest Legacy Program, which was a \$3.9 million grant we used to acquire the property."

The county used the grant in January 2020 to purchase a 1,791-acre parcel acquired by Wallowa County in January 2020 from the Ronald C. Yanke Family Trust. More recently, another 33 acres were donated to the county by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, bringing the total to 1,824 acres. The northern end is mostly grass-



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

**Joseph resident Mildred O'Callaghan points to a map she's just given to Wallowa County Commissioner Susan Roberts, on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, saying the map needs to be included in any management plan for the East Moraine at Wallowa Lake. From left, Commissioners John Hillock and Todd Nash listen.**

land, while the southern end is forested.

Also, Greenwell said, it's a five- to 10-year vision that'll be revised at least every 10 years. The committee that came up with it will continue to meet and make annual recommendations as issues come up.

Commissioner Todd Nash said he's aware that a July 15 target date has been set to begin the public comment period. Greenwell said that depends on when the ODF returns the plan, but that date is likely.

Commissioner John Hillock said that as he understands it, a 30- to 60-day period for public comment is planned. Greenwell recommended the 60 days would work better, both as what works best for the commissioners and to get all comment in so the plan can be formally adopted by the end of the year.

"There already has been two seasons the county has owned it, so I think it's pretty critical to establish a plan and, as time goes on and expectations are being set, so I think

the end of the calendar year (would be a good target) for public adoption," Greenwell said.

All three commissioners expressed their appreciation for the work that went into compiling the plan before Commissioner Susan Roberts moved to approve it.

## Boiling over

Then, as Nash began to adjourn the meeting, Mildred O'Callaghan, of Joseph, started to speak about a map she wants to see included in the preliminary plan and the Baseline Document. Nash reminded her of the upcoming public comment period, but O'Callaghan didn't want to wait.

"I have made these comments about the wildlife map on the moraine and there's nothing on the record on it," she said. "Even John Hillock commented on it on my letter (to the editor in the June 9 Chieftain) and nothing was written in the minutes of the meeting about his comments or the Planning Commission meeting. The only com-

ment I ever got was from the reporter."

It was then she came head-to-head with Nash.

"If I can speak to that for a moment," the commissioner said, before being interrupted by O'Callaghan.

"I'm not finished," she said.

"Well, ma'am, I run this meeting and ..." said Nash, before being interrupted again. Nash serves as chairman of the commission this year.

"Well, I'm a member of the public and I'm not finished speaking," O'Callaghan said.

"I run the meeting and you adjust to how the chair manages the meeting, and if you can't do that, you'll be asked to leave," he said. "I want to respond to not having those in the minutes. Minutes are required to take action items down. There were no action items on the things you're articulating there."

## She wants a map included

O'Callaghan brought a letter and a copy of a map she said was not included in the Baseline Document "because you left it out. What I'm concerned about is that there is a wildlife conservation habitat that was put in the record in 1984 and 1988. The reason I know about it is because when I came back to the county, the first job I got was typing the land-use plan for 1988. In that, it was one of my responsibilities to get this map so it could be placed in the Planning Commission so they could get copies of this map. At that time, they had hand-drawn it onto a Wallowa County map."

It was placed in the public record in 1988, according to her letter.

Later, in 1996, she had a

job when the Wallowa Lake Moraine Overlay Committee got together.

Because "I had known a lot of the American Indians on the reservations, I was asked to approach the reservations — all three of them — and invite them to come and participate in the committee that was looking at the moraine," she said. "I did that and I was paid to do that."

But Greenwell said after the meeting the map that O'Callaghan is concerned about is included.

"The (county) Planning Department has a digital copy of all those maps. I created one map with all those overlays. I have one map that includes all that data," he said.

The map can be found online at <https://tinyurl.com/morainemaps>.

He said he appreciated it when someone brings an issue up that might have been overlooked.

"But I think we've already addressed that," he said.

Nash agreed.

"I asked you something here the last time we met: Ultimately, what is it that you want?" he asked.

O'Callaghan thought a minute, and said, "It doesn't matter what I want; the state of Oregon requires you to protect a critical wildlife area."

She said it's not identified in the Baseline Document. It is in the county's land-use plan.

"I want you to do what ODFW says and at this point, you haven't had any of these documents reviewed by ODFW," she said. "The Baseline Document report doesn't have anything about this map."

"We have the map and we have the documents and if there's nothing else, we'll adjourn," Nash said.

**The Chieftain office will be closed Monday July 5th in observance of the 4th of July**

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**ASHLYN YOUNG & JAMIE JOHNSTON**

Ashlyn Young and Jamie Johnston hadn't stepped on the volleyball court in over a year, but the 2020 Wallowa High School grads returned to action Saturday, June 19, in the Oregon All-Star Volleyball Match at Eastern Oregon University, and helped their team take second on the day.

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# Wallowa OKs lower budget for 2021-22

## Sewer project payoff helped

By **BILL BRADSHAW**  
Wallowa County Chieftain

WALLOWA — A budget of \$2,460,141 was approved

for the fiscal year 2021-22 for the city of Wallowa at a budget hearing Tuesday, June 15, a decrease of just more than \$100,000 from the previous year.

City Recorder Carolyn Harshfield said the decrease is largely because the city

made its final \$86,000 on a sewer project and it was unnecessary to include it in the coming year's budget. Mayor Gary Hulse said he was pleased the city was able to decrease its budget.

"We just went through trying to keep our services going and not budget for any increase," the mayor said.

In other matters at the City Council's meeting June 15:

- An annual resolution including volunteer workers such as firefighters in the city's workers compensation insurance was adopted.
- A resolution to accept about \$7,000 in state revenue into the General Fund was approved. The revenue comes in part from state taxes on liquor and tobacco.
- Approved an easement for a shed Matt Howard want to build on his property at 202 Douglas St. The approval came with a stipulation that the structure's eaves not extend beyond his property so snow doesn't

fall on other property.

In the department reports:

- Harshfield reported Terry Larm was selected as grand marshal for the city's Fourth of July Parade and she told the council judges are needed for the parade.

- Heard from the Public Works Department that the city needs to budget for new parts at the sewer lift station. The council said there is a contingency fund for the department that can supply need funds.

- Speaking as fire chief, Hulse said there were seven fire calls since the May meeting, bringing the year's total to 55. One of the recent calls was a mutual-aid call to assist the Lostine Fire Department with a house fire May 27. Hulse also received the council's consent for the fire department to accept an invitation from the Joseph Fire Department to train with it occasionally in Joseph.

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- Wallowa County Courthouse Gazebo - 101 S River St., Enterprise, OR 97828
- Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center - 103 N Main St., Joseph, OR 97846

We have made the hard decision to host the Woodlands & Watersheds Festival in a "TO-GO" format one more year, but we are excited for the fun bags that we get to hand out to families! On June 25th, come to one of the above locations and get your free bag of activities and goodies that you can take home with you. While you're there, sign up for our raffle to win some amazing gift baskets full of locally purchased goodies!

- Many exhibitors participating!
- Additional virtual program with guest speakers and performances by local musicians, courtesy of OK Theatre
- Three locations for easy access!

For additional information, please contact Jessica Tomasini at [jessica@wallowaresources.org](mailto:jessica@wallowaresources.org).  
Bags are first come, first serve, one per family. Quantities are limited. Only one entry per family for the raffle.

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