

# Commission approves purchase of new property for Minam River Wildlife Area

The Observer

SALEM — The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the purchase of nearly 5,000 acres of land along the Minam River on Friday, Aug. 6, according to a press release.

The purchase, the release said, is part of Phase I of a project that will eventually create an expanded 15,000-acre Minam River Wildlife Area.

ODFW, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Hancock Natural Resource Group are partnering on the a project to purchase property in Wallowa and Union counties along the Minam River. The move will permanently protect crucial big game winter range and provide habitat for salmon, bull trout and Oregon Conservation Strategy Species including white-headed woodpecker, Rocky Mountain tailed frog and several priority bat species.

Located about 30 miles northeast of La Grande, the property is currently managed by Hancock Natural Resource Group with a recent appraised value



Keith Kohl/Contributed Photo

**The expanded Minam River Wildlife Area will protect habitat and provide outdoor recreational opportunities along the Minam River in Northeastern Oregon.**

of \$18.7 million. The final purchase price will be determined by updated appraisals, the release said. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has committed a minimum of \$5.15 million apportioned to both phases. Phase I funding came from RMEF and the Wildlife Restoration Program, a federal excise tax on guns and ammunition.

Completing Phase II is contingent on securing

additional funding through a USDA Forest Legacy program grant, which will be matched with RMEF funds to purchase the remaining 10,964 acres. Oregon Hunters Association, the Oregon chapter of Four North American Wild Sheep and other organizations are also contributing funds toward the purchase.

The properties will be added to ODFW's current 440-acre Minam River

Wildlife Area, turning it into one of the state's major wildlife areas providing wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation opportunities. Future management will be determined through the adoption of a Wildlife Area Management Plan.

Managers envision the property as a "working landscape" where livestock grazing and active forest management assist with habitat management goals. ODFW will continue to pay fire protection and in-lieu of property taxes for parcels in each respective county.

Recreation opportunities on the new property could include hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, horseback riding, kayaking and other activities. A footbridge over the Minam River is being considered to facilitate improved public access to the historic Minam River Trail, which travels for 6 miles through the property. The trail connects recreationists to the Wallowa Mountains and Eagle Cap Wilderness in the neighboring National Forest.

# Enterprise council extends moratorium on vacation rentals

By BILL BRADSHAW  
Wallowa County Chieftain

ENTERPRISE — Another 90-day moratorium on new vacation rentals was approved Monday, Aug. 9, by the Enterprise City Council, according to a press release from City Hall.

The moratorium was the extension of an earlier one approved in May after concerns were expressed that the increase of vacation rentals in the city was decreasing the availability of long-term rentals, as well as other concerns.

City Administrator Lacey McQuead provided the council with a breakdown of a preliminary decision made by the city's Planning Commission. She recommended the councilors attend the next Planning Commission meeting in September or prepare written statements to be read there to share their concerns.

The moratorium restricts the vacation rentals in the city's R-2 zone, which is for multifamily residences.

Councilor David Elliott shared his concerns for con-

ditionally allowing such rentals in an R-2 zone.

In another matter, Police Chief Kevin McQuead said Saturday's grand opening of the refurbished Skate Park was a considerable success. (See story, Page A1.)

In other business, the council:

- Passed a resolution honoring and recognizing the dedication and commitment of former city Administrator Michele R. Young in her years of service to the city. The resolution was read by Mayor Ashley Sullivan and was approved by the council.

- Heard a report from city librarian Denine Rautenstrauch, who said the position of library assistant is open and she has three possible candidates. Applications for the position close Thursday, Aug. 12.

- Held public hearings on requests to vacate Tejaka Lane and Highland Drive. No public input was received on either vacation and the council approved both.

The next council meeting will be Monday, Sept. 13.

## FOR THE RECORD

### AUG. 2

- 12:54 a.m.** — Public assist.
- 6:01 a.m.** — Civil dispute in Enterprise.
- 6:10 a.m.** — Report of an unknown vehicle in Wallowa.
- 7:48 a.m.** — Report of suspicious person in Enterprise.
- 8:53 a.m.** — Stolen U-Haul trailer reported in rural Enterprise.
- 8:56 a.m.** — Noninjury traffic crash reported in Joseph.
- 9:48 a.m.** — Report of loud voices in rural Enterprise.
- 10:41 a.m.** — Parking complaint in Enterprise.
- 11:19 a.m.** — Call for public assist in Joseph.
- 12:31 p.m.** — Commercial burglary alarm in rural Joseph.
- 5:14 p.m.** — Public assist with lockout requested in Enterprise.
- 5:18 p.m.** — Disabled vehicle reported on Highway 82 in rural Enterprise.
- 7:12 p.m.** — Suspicious vehicle reported at Wallowa Lake.
- 8:16 p.m.** — Report of suspicious person in Wallowa.
- 8:30 p.m.** — Report of suspicious person in rural Enterprise.
- 9:27 p.m.** — Suspicious person in Joseph.
- 11:24 p.m.** — Traffic complaint in rural Wallowa.

### AUG. 3

- 8:13 a.m.** — Theft of services in Wallowa.
- 8:24 a.m.** — Report of a theft in Joseph.
- 10:31 a.m.** — Open door in Wallowa.
- 10:36 a.m.** — Animal complaint in Joseph.
- 10:56 a.m.** — Loose cow reported in rural Enterprise.
- 11:04 a.m.** — Public assist in rural Lostine.
- 12:03 p.m.** — Dog as public nuisance reported in

### Joseph.

- 2:45 p.m.** — Abandoned vehicle reported in Joseph.
- 3:57 p.m.** — Fire alarm activation in rural Joseph.
- 4:25 p.m.** — Trespass complaint in rural Wallowa.
- 5:14 p.m.** — Report of dog left in vehicle in Enterprise.
- 6:27 p.m.** — Public assist in Enterprise.
- 6:45 p.m.** — Wallowa County Sheriff's Office traffic stop in Enterprise. Vehicle towed for driving while uninsured.
- 6:54 p.m.** — Dog bite reported in Wallowa.
- 7:39 p.m.** — Missing juvenile reported at Wallowa Lake State Park. Juvenile found.
- 8:29 p.m.** — Call reporting a hillside fire in rural Imnaha.
- 10:45 p.m.** — Suspicious person reported in rural Enterprise.

### AUG. 4

- 3:48 a.m.** — Property found in rural Joseph.
- 4:43 a.m.** — Report of crash activation in rural Wallowa.
- 4:51 a.m.** — Report of a vehicle on fire in rural Lostine.
- 1:17 p.m.** — Noninjury motor-vehicle crash reported in rural Joseph.
- 3:53 p.m.** — Public assist rural Wallowa.
- 5:13 p.m.** — Single-vehicle, noninjury crash reported in rural Joseph.
- 5:38 p.m.** — Report of badger in Enterprise.

### AUG. 5

- 7:51 a.m.** — Report of illegal burning in Wallowa.
- 8:30 a.m.** — Report of vehicle struck deer in rural Enterprise.
- 9:45 a.m.** — Call reporting lightning strike at Wallowa Lake.
- 11:02 a.m.** — A fire started by a lightning strike reported in Flora.
- 11:14 a.m.** — Report of

### several fire starts on the Wallowa River near Fisher Creek.

- 12:24 p.m.** — Report of criminal mischief in Wallowa.
- 12:40 p.m.** — Public assist in rural Enterprise.
- 1:07 p.m.** — Report of criminal mischief in Enterprise.
- 1:38 p.m.** — Report of a dog being shot in Joseph.
- 2:27 p.m.** — Fire reported in rural Wallowa.
- 2:32 p.m.** — Public assist in rural Lostine.
- 3:40 p.m.** — Scam calls reported in Enterprise.
- 5:45 p.m.** — Agency assist in rural Wallowa.
- 6:35 p.m.** — 911 report of lightning strike fire near Grouse Flats.
- 7:19 p.m.** — Agency assist.
- 8:14 p.m.** — Agency assist requested in Pendleton.
- 9:59 p.m.** — Call reporting a suspicious person in Lostine.

### AUG. 6

- 12:52 a.m.** — Public assist requested in Joseph.
- 8:11 a.m.** — Longhorn cattle found in rural Enterprise.
- 8:04 a.m.** — Sighting of three puppies in Enterprise.
- 8:35 a.m.** — Welfare check in rural Joseph.
- 9:14 a.m.** — Suspicious vehicle reported in Enterprise.
- 9:34 a.m.** — Public assist in

### Wallowa.

- 9:35 a.m.** — Traffic complaint in rural Enterprise.
- 11:34 a.m.** — Public assist in Enterprise.
- 12:59 p.m.** — Report of propane leak in Enterprise.
- 1:32 p.m.** — Report of lost credit card in Enterprise.
- 2:27 p.m.** — Public assist in Enterprise.
- 2:47 p.m.** — Public assist near Wallowa.
- 4:03 p.m.** — Agency assist in rural Enterprise.
- 5:15 p.m.** — Public assist in Enterprise.
- 7:55 p.m.** — Suspicious vehicle reported near Wallowa Lake.
- 9:03 p.m.** — Civil dispute in rural Enterprise.
- 11:57 p.m.** — Civil dispute reported in Joseph.

### AUG. 7

- 7:26 a.m.** — Civil dispute in rural Lostine.
- 8:57 a.m.** — Request for public assist in Lostine.
- 10:01 a.m.** — Runaway report in Wallowa.
- 11:04 a.m.** — Report of a burn in the city of Joseph.
- 12:33 p.m.** — Report of loose horse in rural Enterprise.
- 1:41 p.m.** — Suspicious vehicle in Enterprise.
- 2:41 p.m.** — Civil dispute

### in rural Lostine.

- 2:44 p.m.** — Lost property in Enterprise.
- 3:38 p.m.** — Parking complaint in Enterprise.
- 3:59 p.m.** — Civil dispute in Joseph.
- 6:12 p.m.** — Report of smoke in the north end of the county.
- 6:32 p.m.** — Agency assist.
- 7:10 p.m.** — Three horses running at large in Wallowa.
- 7:32 p.m.** — Agency assist in rural Joseph.
- 8:01 p.m.** — Report of an assault in Enterprise.
- 9:05 p.m.** — Agency assist

### in rural Joseph.

- 10:24 p.m.** — Agency assist in Enterprise.

### AUG. 8

- 9:21 a.m.** — Agency assist in Lostine.
- 9:51 a.m.** — Injured deer reported in Enterprise.
- 1:26 p.m.** — Report of down cable line in Enterprise.
- 1:42 p.m.** — Vehicle vs. dog accident reported in Enterprise.
- 2:01 p.m.** — Stolen wallet in rural Joseph.
- 8:38 p.m.** — Report of injured deer in rural Joseph.

This week's featured book

## Billy Summers

by Stephen King

107 E. Main St.  
Enterprise OR 541-426-3351  
bookloftoregon.com • manager@bookloft.org

WALLOWA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY

## DOG WASH

Sat Aug. 14 • 11AM-3PM  
In the alley behind new Enterprise Fire Station

**\$10** Big dogs **\$5** Little dogs

Shampoo and towels provided. You wash or we wash but the price is the same

Call 503-621-7352 for more information

## Joe & Rita's Celebration of Life

Memorial Mass,  
Sat. Aug. 21st at 9am  
St. Pius Catholic Church  
407 South Pine,  
Wallowa, OR 97885

Please join us from 3-5pm on Saturday August 21st to share memories and a toast to Joe & Rita!  
Ian & Heidi Wislon's residence  
68593 JimTown Road, Lostine Oregon 97857

**Jack B. James (The Jackel)**  
CDR, USN, Ret., US Navy Seal

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)  
Veterans Services Officer (VSO)

Cell: 360-509 2985  
Email: jackaljames15@gmail.com

"The only easy day was yesterday."

## EHS Class of 1971 50th Reunion!

Saturday Aug 14th • 2:00 pm  
Enterprise City Park

# Come join us for this years Grande Ronde Rodeo!

## August 13 & 14 ★ Mavericks Arena

SEE OUR FULL AD IN THIS WEEKS LA GRANDE OBSERVER