

Border

Continued from A1

The Move Oregon's Border campaign suggests agricultural counties in Central, Eastern and Southern Oregon divorce themselves from metropolitan areas, and marry more like-minded Idaho.

"The value of the United States having multiple states instead of just one big state is that it allows differentiation, different laws in different states," Taylor said. "And hopefully those state boundaries can reflect actual boundaries between groups that want one kind of law and other groups that want another kind of law."

Oregonians who don't like new laws that decriminalized drugs, Taylor suggests, may feel more at home in Idaho. He contends Idaho has lower taxes, less regulation and lower unemployment.

The campaign proposes a border along the Deschutes River, which splits the county, leaving Warm Springs and Camp Sherman in Oregon. Bend would stay in Oregon, but Redmond and Terrebonne would become part of Jefferson County. La Pine would be in Idaho, but Sunriver would remain in Oregon.

Simmelink raised concerns the boundary shift could disrupt long nurtured relationships.

"Our tribal interactions, and tri-county interactions. There's so much we do between the tri counties here, whether it be health care, mutual aid in law enforcement," Simmelink said.

"It just seems very complicated with irrigation water coming out of Wickiup and going through Bend," said Commissioner Wayne Fording.

The proposed state line puts Jefferson County's irrigation water source, Wickiup Reservoir, in Greater Idaho, then flowing through Deschutes County, Oregon, before coming to Jefferson

County.

"I know a lot of our ag community has worked on water issues for years that they just recently got an agreement on, and I don't know how those would change," Fording said.

Jefferson County resident Kim Schmith worries about people with professional licenses in Oregon that Idaho might not recognize. "In the medical community, this is being talked about a lot. There would be an exodus of all those people who need to be licensed. They may or may not leave our county, but they certainly would not be able to work in our county."

And what about the county name? Idaho already has a Jefferson County. Jefferson County, Oregon, would need to change its name under this new union.

Through all the uncertainty, Jefferson County commissioners want to make one thing clear: This is not their idea.

"We're not the ones to carry the torch and do the work," Fording said.

"I don't think as a county commissioner that we have any position," said Commissioner Mae Huston. "It was a ballot measure that was passed by the voters, and we're waiting to see how it's going to work out."

The measure voters passed in November requires another meeting in August to discuss the issue. Union County — the only other Oregon county to pass a similar measure — has already held the first of three meetings. The Move Oregon's Border campaign is working to get similar measures on the ballots this May in Malheur, Baker, Grant, Lake, Harney and Sherman counties.

Simmelink says proponents of a Greater Idaho didn't need a ballot measure to get commissioners to discuss the idea. "I'll be honest with you, they could have addressed this like an agenda item at each county."

Haaland takes helm of Interior

Democrat will lead agency that makes decisions on relations with Native Americans

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday confirmed New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland as Interior secretary, making her the first Native American to lead a Cabinet department and the first to lead the federal agency that has wielded influence over the nation's tribes for nearly two centuries.

Haaland was confirmed by a 51-40 vote, the narrowest margin yet for a Cabinet nomination by President Joe Biden. Four Republicans voted yes: Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan of Alaska, Susan Collins of Maine and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina.

Democrats and tribal groups hailed Haaland's confirmation as historic, saying her selection means that Indigenous people — who lived in North America before the United States was created — will for the first time see a Native American lead the powerful department where decisions on relations with the nearly 600 federally recognized tribes are made. Interior also oversees a host of other issues, including energy development on public lands and waters, national parks and endangered species.

"Rep. Haaland's confirmation represents a gigantic step forward in creating a government that represents the full richness and diversity of this country," said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.



Jim Watson/Pool/AP file

Rep. Deb Haaland, D-N.M., speaks during her confirmation hearing as Interior secretary nominee in February. On Monday, the Senate confirmed her on an almost party-line vote.

"Native Americans for far too long have been neglected at the Cabinet level and in so many other places."

— Sen. Chuck Schumer, majority leader

"Native Americans for far too long have been neglected at the Cabinet level and in so many other places," Schumer said.

Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo and a 35th-generation resident of New Mexico, thanked hun-

dreds of supporters at a virtual party hosted by Native American organizations.

Her confirmation shows that tribal members are "visible" and being taken seriously, Haaland said after the vote. "And no, it should not have taken more than 200 years for a Native person to take the helm at Interior, or even be a Cabinet secretary for that matter."

Haaland said she was "ready to roll up my sleeves" so Interior can play its part in Biden's plan to "build back better" and responsibly manage our natural resources to protect them for future generations."

DEATH NOTICES

Terry Ketchum
of Bend, OR
May 5, 1949 - March 8, 2021

Arrangements:
Niswonger-Reynolds
Funeral Home is honored to serve the family.
541-382-2471 Please visit the online registry for the family at www.niswonger-reynolds.com
Services:
Thursday March 18 2021
Catholic Rosary 9:30am
Mass 10:00am
Graveside 11:00am Greenwood Cemetery
Contributions may be made to:
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Family Kitchen

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