

# FIRE

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resulted in flows down Canyon Creek peaking at 661 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Now, because of the loss of vegetation caused by the fire, that type of storm could be expected to result in a peak flow of 1,997 cfs down Canyon Creek.

By comparison, peak flows in Canyon Creek during the 2011 flood that damaged the local high school reached 856 cfs.

Peak stream flows following a 10-year storm would increase by a magnitude of eight in Vance Creek and by magnitudes of 3.5 in Berry Creek, 1.9 in Pine Creek and 1.8 in Indian Creek.

The BAER team recommended working with the National Weather Service to establish an early warning system that would alert people along Canyon Creek of imminent flooding.

Marilyn Lohmann, a National Weather Service hydrologist in Pendleton, said that type of system would likely include a series of rain gauges at higher elevations and at some critical points along the stream. The gauges would send messages by satellite every 10 minutes to the

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**Rob Tanner**  
Burned Area Emergency Response team leader

weather service’s Pendleton office and people could also monitor the data themselves on the Internet.

How flood alerts are issued, whether through the use of sirens, a so-called “reverse 9-1-1” system or another method, is something the community can decide, Lohmann said.

“I think together we can make something like this work,” she said.

In an effort to mitigate flooding and protect soil, fish and the watershed, the BAER team also recommends mulching treatments on slopes that were heavily damaged by the fire, which burned 110,221 acres.

The BAER team used pre- and post-fire satellite images to help compare vegetation before and after the fire.



The Eagle/Sean Ellis

**Community members listen to a specialized U.S. Forest Service team’s treatment recommendations to mitigate imminent post-fire threats Sept. 21 at the Canyon City Community Hall.**

The data showed that 11 percent of the soil affected by the fire, or 12,028 acres, was burned severely, 35,918 acres (33 percent) of soil was burned moderately, 52,526 acres (47 percent) had a low burn severity rating and 9,720 acres (9 percent) was unburned or had a very low soil burn severity rating.

Mulching treatments will largely take place in areas

with a severe soil burn rating and along slopes with a grade of between 20-50 percent.

In areas with moderate soil burn, natural needle fall is expected to act as a natural mulch, while it’s not practical to do mulch treatments on slopes with grades of less than 20 percent or greater than 50 percent, Tanner said.

The BAER team’s recom-

mendations include reconditioning 22 miles of existing drainage ditches and cleaning or modifying culverts to allow for increased water flow.

The team also recommends 12.6 miles of trail drainage work in recreation areas and campgrounds.

“There is a lot of work to do before allowing folks back into those potentially hazardous areas,” Tanner said.

“There are a lot of hazards out there.”

The team recommends posting 50 hazard signs along damaged roads and recreation areas warning people of fallen rocks and debris or that they are entering a burned area.

It also recommends surveying for and treating newly discovered invasive plants and weeds and preventing the spread of existing populations, and installing 34 wood jam catchment structures to help protect fish and hydrology.

The BAER team is also requesting non-emergency funding for things like fences and recreation infrastructure and can also apply for supplemental emergency funding if the need arises.

Engineer Doug Ferguson, who is acting as Grant County Court’s liaison with other agencies to coordinate the various restoration efforts aimed at preventing catastrophic flooding, said the BAER team has provided the community with a lot of good information and data.

The local community can take advantage of that data “to fix problems that have existed in the past,” he said. “I’ll be a lot more succinct on what we can do in the next week, hopefully, when the funding comes together.”

## Oregon cattlemen, politicians weigh in on sage grouse decision

Blue Mountain Eagle

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s decision Tuesday morning, Sept. 22, to not list the Greater Sage Grouse as an endangered species drew praise from Oregon state politicians and Oregon Cattleman’s Association.

Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said, “I am thrilled by today’s announcement that the greater sage grouse does not require protection under the Endangered Species Act,” adding, “I applaud the efforts of ranchers, conservationists, governors and others who have come to the table, signed agreements and worked hard on the ground to fight for rural Oregon jobs and communities.”



Contributed photo

**Sage grouse**

Wyden added, “This victory just goes to show how collaboration between private stakeholders and local, state and federal leaders can lead to balanced, sustainable solutions for the management of wildlife and our public lands.”

The response from U.S. Rep. Greg Walden (R-Hood River) was similar, “Farmers and ranchers in eastern

Oregon have been working hard to avoid a listing of the sage grouse, a move that would severely impact jobs in rural communities throughout the west.”

“This will give communities in Oregon time to implement locally driven conservation efforts without the federal government’s heavy hand getting in the way,” Walden said.

Walden cautioned that while the step is a positive one, obstacles remain. He noted strong concerns he heard from people at recent town halls throughout Eastern Oregon regarding the Bureau of Land Management’s sage grouse plans.

“The BLM must be flexible and continue working with the local communities

to ensure these plans work for the people who live there,” Walden said.

“This is truly a historic day in the history of the American West cattle business,” said Oregon Cattleman’s Executive Director Jerome Rosa. “Through collaborative efforts by ranchers, energy companies and conservationist reducing the decline of the sage grouse habitat in 11 Western states, the need

for a listing was not needed.”

Ranchers have been working hard for several years to prevent a listing, including partnering with other groups to booster sage grouse habitat. Rancher’s Tom Sharp

and John O’Keeffe have led many of the efforts on behalf of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association.

**BREAKING NEWS ALERTS**  
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### Thank You!

The City of Prairie City would like to thank all the Firefighters for their courage and hard work this fire season. A huge shout out goes to all the resources behind the scenes, the unsung heroes who donated time and effort to support those fighting the fires. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to those who have lost so much in this disaster.

Mayor Hamsher would like to commend the community for coming together in such a perilous time. Mayor Hamsher and the Public Works Director would also like to thank the residents for their outstanding efforts to conserve water during the emergency, and helping to avoid a major crisis.

**ELTRYM HISTORIC THEATER**  
1800 First Street • Baker City • (541)523-5439  
BARGAIN MATINEE IN ( ) Adults \$7  
ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY  
MOVIE SCHEDULE SEPT. 25 - OCT. 1

**THE INTERN PG-13**  
70-year-old retiree (Robert DeNiro) comes out of retirement to intern for an online fashion site.  
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:35  
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00  
MON-THURS 7:00

**HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA PG**  
Dracula and his friends try to bring out the monster in his grandson in order to keep Mavis from leaving the hotel.  
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:40  
SUNDAY (4:10) 7:10  
MON-THURS 7:10

**MAZE RUNNER: THE SCORCH TRIALS PG-13**  
After having escaped the maze, the Gladers now face a new set of challenges.  
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:30  
SUNDAY (3:45) 6:45  
MON-THURS 6:45

\$9 Adult, \$7 Senior (60+), Youth

## Free plane rides for fire victims

Sign up at the airport through Sept. 30

vided by Air Search pilots during October and November, weather permitting.

For more information, call airport manager Patrick Bentz at 541-575-1151.

Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY – In lieu of the canceled Fly-In, Grant County Air Search will sponsor free airplane rides for people who lost homes in the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

Anyone interested can sign up at Grant County Regional Airport during regular business hours 8 a.m.-4 p.m. through Wednesday, Sept. 30.

The free rides will be pro-

**BREAKING NEWS ALERTS**  
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**Notice**  
**Grant County Taxpayers**

Lane Burton, from the Assessor’s Office, wants to remind folks who have damaged or destroyed structures from the Canyon Creek Complex fire to PLEASE stop by the Assessor’s Office to sign an application to remove the property taxes on the damaged/destroyed structures for this current tax year - if you have not already signed an application.

**If you have any questions, please call the Grant County Assessor’s Office at 541-575-0107.**

200 S. Canyon City Blvd.  
Canyon City, OR 97820

**GREAT SELECTION OF: Fall Trees & Shrubs Mums & Asters**

**PLANT FOR FALL**

Open: Sun, Tues, Wed & Thu, 10am - 2pm

Closed: Mon, Fri & Sat.

**Better BLOOMS & GARDENS**  
Between John Day & Prairie City  
541-820-3329

**Let’s Get HEALTHY Together!**

**Please join us for the FINAL Healthy Together Event focusing on the 3 R’s! Relationships, Reflection and Resources!**

**Who?** Grant County residents who want to become more healthy!

**When?** Monday, September 28th, 2015, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Where?** John Day Senior Center, 142 NE Dayton ST

**What?** The Three R’s—Relationships that affect our lives and health; Reflection on the Healthy Together Project; Resources for our future health!

**FREE Dinner, Childcare, Door prizes**

Grant County Health Department  
528 E Main, Suite E  
John Day, Oregon  
Phone: 541-575-0429

Funded by a Transformation Grant from the Eastern Oregon Coordinated Care Organization received by Community Counseling Solutions.  
In partnership with the Community Advisory Council, the Grant County Health Department, Strawberry Wilderness Community Clinic, Blue Mountain Hospital, and local medical providers to improve community health.

**Healthy Together Project**  
Transportation is available, just call Kathy! 620-8261