

# Salvage operations set to high priority

By Sean Ellis  
 Blue Mountain Eagle

JOHN DAY — Timber salvage activity is surging in the aftermath of the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

About 100 landowners, loggers and other timber industry representatives attended a meeting in Mt. Vernon Sept. 23 that was organized to provide information about salvage operations.

Ochoco Lumber President Bruce Daucsavage said the Malheur Lumber Company, mill in John Day will add extended hours around the first of November.

He said timber affected by the fire needs to be processed quickly, before it loses its value, and the mill is going to work hard to get the timber into the mill as quickly as possible.

Daucsavage said at the

meeting his company “lost a significant amount of timber land, just like you did. We’re going to kick this thing into gear as quickly as we can.”

Almost 17,000 acres of private land were burned by the 110,000 acre Canyon Creek Complex fire.

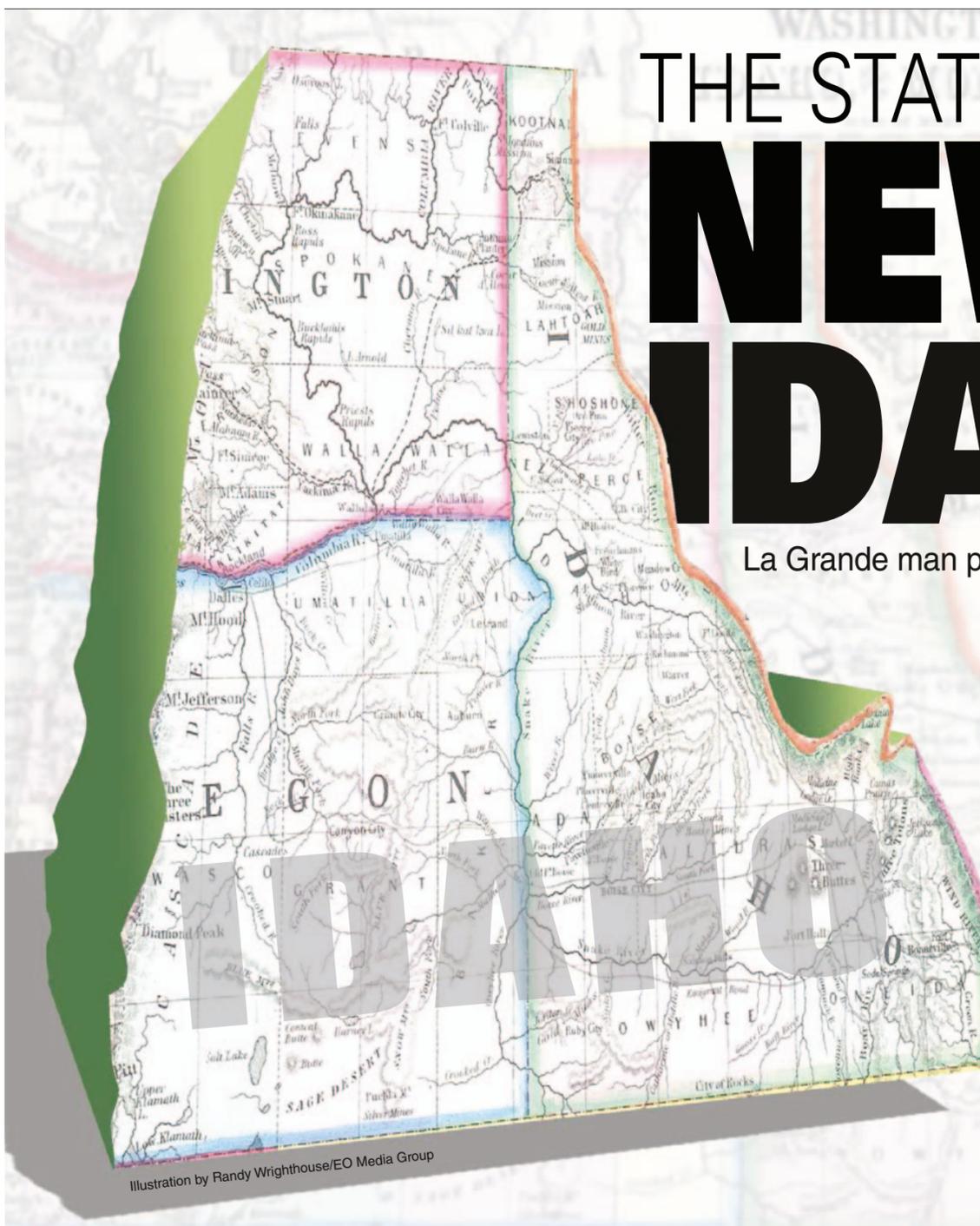
About 91,000 acres of U.S. Forest Service land were scorched by the fire and that

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About 100 loggers, landowners and timber industry representatives attended a meeting in Mt. Vernon Wednesday, Sept. 23, centered around the issue of timber salvage activities, which are surging following the Canyon Creek Complex fire.

Sean Ellis/Blue Mountain Eagle



## THE STATE OF NEW IDAHO

### La Grande man pushing for eastern secession

By Jade McDowell  
 EO Media Group

Residents in eastern Oregon and Washington have discussed breaking away from their more liberal neighbors to form a new state for years, but a new twist has been added to the conversation: Why form a new state when the rural counties could just join Idaho instead?

Ken Parsons, a 72-year-old farmer from La Grande, said the idea was floated offhand by someone else in a letter to the editor in the *La Grande Observer*. After thinking about it for a couple of months and discussing it with friends, Parsons said he has decided to try to get input from residents of neighboring counties, including Umatilla and Morrow County.

“It’s an intriguing idea,” he said.

As Parsons sees it, rural Oregon and Washington residents who are tired of being outvoted by the population centers in Portland and Seattle would be better understood by politicians from the more rural, conservative Idaho. Legislators born and raised in the most urban parts of their state “don’t have any idea,” he said, of how environmental lobbyists often hurt farmers, hunters and others in more rural parts of the state.

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**WHAT DO YOU THINK?** We value your opinion and want to hear what you think on this issue. Write a letter to the editor.

# VAWA award keeps help flowing to victims

Blue Mountain Eagle

CANYON CITY — Local victims of sexual assault and domestic violence won’t have to face a daunting legal system alone, thanks to a major grant awarded to the Grant County District Attorney’s Office.

The DA’s Victim Assistant Program obtained the grant — \$606,000 over three years — through the federal Violence Against Women Act’s rural program, known as VAWA Rural.

According to Ashley McClay, Victim Assistance Program director, the grant will keep several full-time members, including the all-staff deputy district attorney, on the job. It also funds services and education related to domestic violence and sexual assault.

The county’s previous federal grant was expiring, so the office had to reapply.

McClay noted that while her



The Eagle/Kristina Kreger

From left, victim intervention specialist Andrea Officer, Grant County Deputy District Attorney Matt Ipson and victim assistance program director Ashley McClay.

office has had success with such applications in the past, “continuation is not guaranteed.”

She said the VAWA Rural process is highly competitive. In 2014, 34 programs nationwide — including just four in Oregon — received the grants.

The county’s new grant will

take effect Oct. 1 and continues to Sept. 30, 2018.

“This grant is crucial to providing services to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking,” McClay said.

In addition to funding the

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## The need By the numbers

Here’s a count of incidents reported to the Grant County DA’s office in 2014 related to sexual assault and domestic violence.

- 13 sexual assaults reported
- 27 domestic violence incidents
- 10 reports of restraining order violations
- 5 stalking incidents
- 19 individuals assisted with restraining orders by Victim Assistance staff and Heart of Grant County

Nationally The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence puts domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking into perspective with these sobering statistics. In the United States:

- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90 percent of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men in the United States have been raped in their lifetime.
- 19.3 million women and 5.1 million men in the U.S. have been stalked in their lifetime.

Submitted by Ashley McClay, Grant County DA’s Victim Assistance Program

