## **News**

the Canyon Creek Complex fire is affecting revision plans. Carnwath said, "I think the

general tone after this summer

with these large fires is a real

sense of urgency, reflecting a

lot of what people have said here - we've got to do some-

He added the revision

offers a wider discretion to

the districts to accomplish

what needs to be done on the

plans to be more flexible.

Beverlin said they are looking at how they can adapt

He said 9.4 million acres

Jim Boethin said he wants

"They have made fire big

burned across the West this

environmentalists to see what

the burned areas in Grant

look at Canyon Creek, the

place I grew up. It's gone

forever — for my generation,

for my kids' generation and

generations after that. It's

what is necessary and make it

balanced. Make some buffers

so that we can have a chance

vice public information offi-

cer, said he's concerned about

presented a slide show reveal-

He said Carnwath recently

"I hope we'll have the

ability to be nimble and re-

sponsive in terms of manage-

lenged the County Court,

Beverlin and deputy Forest

Service Supervisor Ryan Nehl

to "sit down with Baker Coun-

Frances Preston chal-

climate change.

ment," he said.

Peter Fargo, a Forest Ser-

to fight some of these fires."

His solution: "Harvest

County look like.

thing.'

ground.

vear.

gone.'

## FOREST

Continued from Page A1

density" would also be removed from the plan, except in wildlife corridors.

Southworth asked the audience, including about 10 Forest Service employees, for their questions and concerns regarding the Malheur; they were asked to include solutions to the problems.

Larry Blasing suggested the Forest Service stop "making the same mistakes and expecting a different result."

"Start working on this a piece at a time, and go back and get rid of the eastside screens — that will start relieving a bunch of the problems," he said.

Eastside screens, originally meant to be temporary, were adopted in 1994 as a screening process to see that proposed timber sales complied with new environmental rules.

Mark Webb said timber salvage should be treated the same way as timber produc-



Eagle photos/Angel Carpente

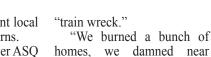
Taking turns speaking around the circle at the public meeting on the revision plan are, from left, Larry Blasing, Mark Webb, Irene Jerome and Jim Sproul.

tion, taking into account local and site-specific concerns.

He said that whatever ASQ or volume of board feet the Forest Service decides on, it "shouldn't limit what we need to do on the ground." Jim Sproul said the plan is

not going far enough.

"That is not near enough timber to be cut," he said, adding the plan would be a



homes, we damned near burned a town, and that isn't because of good management, that isn't because of good decisions," he said.

His answer: "Coordination, where local plans have equal footing," he said. "Local knowledge is what's needed to straighten this thing out. You can't come out from the East Coast and say, 'I can come out here and fix Oregon' it doesn't work.'

Elaine Eisenbraun lauded the Forest Service for working hard and taking comments from people with a different perspective.

Grant County Commissioner Chris Labhart asked Malheur Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin about a possible new biomass plant for the



Malheur National Forest Supervisor Steve Beverlin answers questions at last Friday's public meeting in John Day.

county and said he would support the idea.

Beverlin said there is a high chance such a plant would be built, and it would supply biomass to the Boardman power plant as they transition to more green energy.

Tad Houpt said the solutions are in the math.

"We're going to have to harvest more than it's growing each year," he said. "If you took the 55 million (board) feet a year and you times it by 10, you still wouldn't catch the problem in 20 years that's how behind we are on harvest."

He said he's seen parts of the forest which have burned. then burned again.

"We open Pandora's box when we have these big fires like this," he said. "They're preventable."

Revision team leader Sabrina Stadler said she could relate, as the area she's from in California also has a lot of dead trees.

must feel to see your place burn," she said.

past, it was loggers protecting their livelihood (not big fire apparatus).

"They went out and fought fire immediately, aggressively and relentlessly until the fire was out - not contained and walk away from it," he said. "Just like Smokey the Bear says: 'Put your campfire out.""

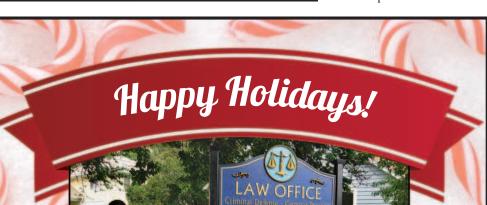
Service is answering to special interest groups.

"We have to demand that things are responsible," he said. "Look at the shape we're in."

Beverlin said they are limited by rules, laws and screens.

"We have to balance it," age the forest within the constraints we have."

Grant County Commisthe same way we got them?" Beverlin replied it would



COUNTRY.

FINANCIAL

business, huge business, and unnecessarily," he said. "I

"I feel for you all, how it

Dave Traylor said, in the

He complained the Forest

ing how the landscape could change over the next 20 years with the risk of severe wildfire due to the changing climate.

he said. "We're trying to man-

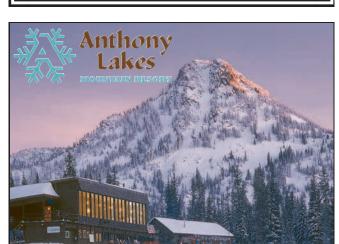
sioner Boyd Britton asked, "Can't we get rid of screens

not be an easy task. The question was asked if ty, identifying with your local natural resource plans through coordination, which is government to government." To Labhart and Britton, she said, "You've heard what these people have had to say. I challenge you to go forward

and, through coordination, bring a new forest plan to this area.' Near the end of the meet-

ing, Beverlin acknowledged local residents' wishes.

"It's our responsibility to find that balance, and it's not just who's around this circle, it's how many people enjoy our national forest," he said. That's our challenge. Obviously, there's a weight in your comments because you live here, you know it and you live it, and it personally affects you — versus somebody that isn't here. We take that into account "To do what we've done in the past three years, and to increase the pace and scale, and three times the number of decisions in half the time - nobody else is doing that in the nation," he added. "In addition to ecological desired conditions, I think we need social and economic conditions in the plan, and that will help with that balance."



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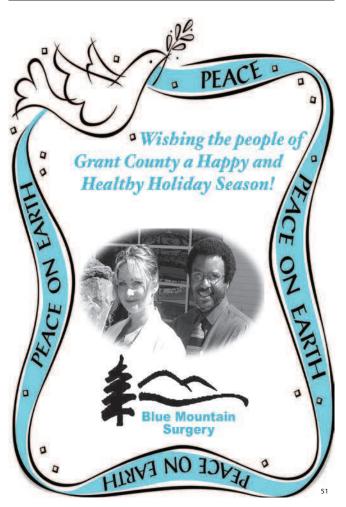
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