



GUEST COMMENT

Lands managers value input

As employees of federal land agencies in Oregon, we are entrusted by Congress with the responsibility to help steward and manage federal lands for all Americans. This is a tremendous honor and responsibility we take seriously.

And we can't do it alone.

As public lands belong to all Americans, managing these lands is a collective effort. It is a privilege to work alongside local communities, partners and the public to help achieve the long-term health, productivity and protection of public lands.

Here in the Pacific Northwest, and across the country, our best work is accomplished by working with diverse partners and stakeholders — ranchers, environmentalists, sportsmen, local communities, schools and private industries.

Though our agencies have different missions, we share a common goal of managing public lands in a cooperative manner with you, the people who own them.

The future management of public lands requires cooperation over confrontation. In Oregon and across the West, there are countless examples of collaborative groups working together to achieve positive results.

One recent shining example was the work accomplished across agencies, states, counties and ownership lines to create and implement land-use plans that avoided a listing of the



Jamie Connell



Jim Peña

sage-grouse as endangered.

Managing public lands is sometimes challenging. There are a variety of uses, interests and opinions on how these lands should be managed, and finding balance is not without challenges.

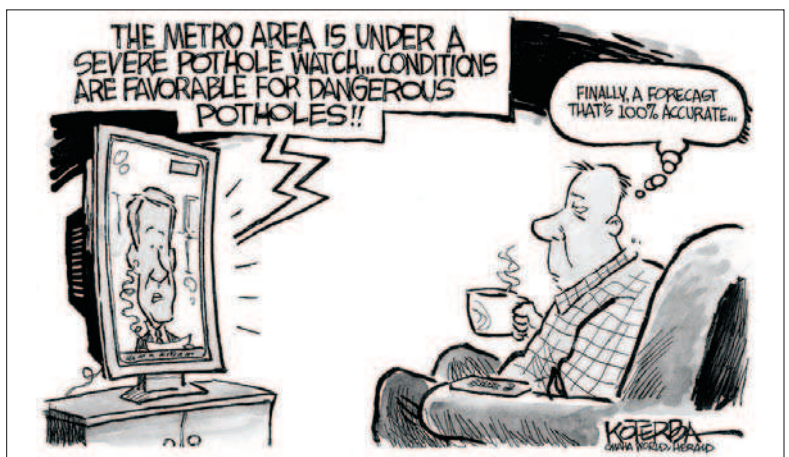
That is why it is crucial that we listen to each other,

find common ground and work together to find common-sense solutions. Individually and collectively, we are committed to these principles of listening, talking and working together to achieve the greatest good. We strive for these things in good faith every day.

Public lands belong to all Americans — they are yours to enjoy and participate in their management. That's one of the reasons public lands are so special.

We look forward to continuing our work with local citizens, communities and partners to manage public lands so we can ensure the special places we love can meet the needs of today and remain available for future generations to enjoy.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't act negatively out of high emotion

To the Editor:

My husband and I were raised in Grant County and hope to retire there one day. We have lived in many areas across the U.S. and still find Grant County one of the safest, most peaceful areas in the country. Many things I have read have made my blood boil to the point it would be easy to say some nasty things, but that would be playing into the adversaries' hands.

Many people with an ax to grind have written things to scare you into believing Sheriff Glenn Palmer is not acting in a wise or legal manner. Use your own knowledge to elect your officials. Be smart, people of Grant County, and use your voice by voting. Respect all that Sheriff Glenn Palmer has done for you by remaining respectful. Negative rhetoric is so hard to hear, but free speech is everyone's right, a right Sheriff Glenn Palmer respects and upholds. Let your emotion get you involved in every meeting, voting, write factual letters to the editor and County Court, unite your community and county, just don't fall into the trap of acting negatively out of high emotion.

Grant County needs strong, smart and stable leadership right now (not ones that carry picket signs to an event of opposing views). When my mother-in-law was sick and took a turn for the worst Sheriff Glenn Palmer was worried that my father-in-law would drive too fast trying to get down the slick roads of Canyon Creek, so he drove up and got him. Glenn and his wife sponsor a dinner each Christmas for people who have no family near to share that day with; that's the kind of person I challenge you to be right now. Each one of you can keep Grant County, Oregon, one of the great places to live; you have the power and the abilities to do your part. It is said the squeaky wheel gets the grease, but it is also said actions speak louder than words. Those who have falsely accused or write falsehoods for their own purpose cannot win if you stand unified.

Charity Boyer
 Moses Lake, Washington

Fire accountability?

To the Editor:

Recently, there was a letter to the editor about further investigation into what could be done to bring accountability and change to the awful destruction from the "let it burn" fires. Could it be true? Such a huge undertaking to confront the entrenched bureaucracy, especially when the buck gets passed until it becomes invisible, and no one is held accountable for awful, ridiculous decisions that impact us all with the devastation we have to live with for decades.

Every drive from Prairie City to John Day brings a feeling of anger to think of what was lost because of probably one person's call to not attack the fire up Canyon Creek when it was small. I realize that rules are to be followed, but clear at the top, there needs to be a change in policy, and the people that put them in place. Anyone can see that what is in place now is not working. Is there still hope? Can anyone be found who loves this land enough to go back to common sense? Kudos to anyone who takes the time to keep up the fight.

Mary Brown
 Prairie City

Blue Water Navy held up

To the Editor:

House Bill 969 and Senate Bill 681, both bills titled The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Act, are held up in the Veterans Affairs Committee because no dollar amount has been assigned, the cost to provide proper VA benefits. Without a dollar amount assigned to these bills, nothing will happen to provide VA benefits to veterans who are sick from Agent Orange exposure.

At this writing there are 301 members of the House in favor of passage and 37 members of the Senate in favor. This is well over the numbers of Congress needed to send the bills to the floor for a vote. This cannot happen without a dollar amount assigned.

The VA is attempting to stop passage of these bills. The VA's job and obligation is to help veterans in need, not hinder their obligation as set forth by law. The committees of both legislative houses may have to appeal to the Court of Appeals in D.C. to stop the VA from blocking any action in getting these bills an acceptable dollar amount.

Once this can happen, these bills will go for a vote. America is a free and sovereign nation. As such, we take on selfless obligations to help other countries in need. This is well and good; it is a part of what Ameri-

ca is about. However, what about our veterans who fight the battles to keep America free? Many come home sick and broken in need of help. When it comes to special veteran groups like the Blue Water Navy, Vietnam, the VA does not recognize them. A legislative bill must be passed to force the VA to care for this group of war veterans.

John J. Bury, U.S. Navy retired, Vietnam War veteran
 Media, Pennsylvania

Stop the witch hunt on Sheriff Palmer

To the Editor:

It's time to stop the witch hunt on Sheriff Glenn Palmer.

He's done a great job in the past and the present keeping Grant County a safe place to live. Let him do his job.

My husband and I attended the meeting on Jan. 26. I saw Sheriff Palmer there. He never took part in the meeting. He stood over by the wall and kept his eyes on the whole room, making sure there was safety between the picketers (including County Commissioner Chris Labhart, a county-paid official) and the people attending the meeting.

I never witnessed any heckling or threats from anyone. A gentleman I know personally that was standing among the picketers stated the same thing.

We've always had a feeling of safety while Sheriff Glenn Palmer has been in charge.

Sheriff Palmer and wife, Rose-Ann, have always went above and beyond to serve our county through community service, many of those using money from their pocket.

I hope everyone will remember all the good things Sheriff Palmer has done for our county this election by voting. Please keep his family in your prayers. They do not deserve such cowardly accusations.

Peggy Clark
 Monument

Who are the real terrorists?

To the Editor:

Now that all the armed protesters are gone from Harney County, many of which are in jail, one would think the siege is over. Steve and Dwight Hammond are in federal prison unjustly convicted as terrorists. The BLM will confiscate the Hammond ranch, when the \$400,000 fine is not paid. The 200 plus FBI agents and other armed agents that had no insignias that manned road blocks and interrogated and harassed American citizens can go home. The siege is over. Right?

C.J. Hadley, editor of Range Magazine, Spring 2016 issue, documents a government conspiracy to deprive Western ranchers of their property rights. In Hage v. United States 2010 Judge Robert C. Jones found a "literal intentional conspiracy to deprive the Hages not only of their permits, but also their vested water rights. This behavior shocks the conscience of the court." The government has yet to pay the Hages a \$14,000,000 fine.

Many Americans, myself included, do not agree with the armed takeover, nevertheless our Pledge of Allegiance ends with "liberty and justice for all." If justice and liberty are denied to the Hammonds, then justice has been denied to all. If justice was denied to Lavoy Finicum who was shot multiple times, hands up attempting to surrender, then Sheriff Palmer's courageous stand for the Constitution has been vindicated. Sheriff Palmer has earned the respect and admiration of Oregonians and Americans.

The press has yet to document that uranium is the real issue with the Hammond ranch. A 1956 Department of Geology Mineral Industries study "documents occurrence of secondary uranium mineralization ... in Harney Co." In September of 2011 uranium officials met with Burns officials. The Oregonian Jan. 8, 2012, documents: "Oregon Energy LLC hopes to mine 18 million pounds of Yellowcake uranium" near Burns. The New York Times in April 2015 documented, under the Hillary Clinton State Department, the United States "gave the Russians control of one-fifth of all uranium production capacity" in America. The same article documents the Clinton Foundation received over \$250,000,000 in contributions from uranium companies. Who are the real terrorists?

The Rev. Stuart Dick
 Irrigon

I will no longer travel to Grant County

To the Editor:

I grew up in Redmond and Prineville and have always considered the land east of the Cascades home. I have spent a lot of time

and money camping and hunting in Grant County as have my friends and family; No More. Your sheriff seems to believe that the federal land we enjoy is off limits to private citizens like us and should be the property of mining, logging, and ranching conglomerates to the exclusion of all others. If your sheriff doesn't want us there are we really safe? We have rescheduled our trips to friendlier turf.

Jim Dunnigan
 Portland

Today's differences similar to Colonial times

To the Editor:

The loyalists sympathetic to the British crown before America's founding are very similar to the federal loyalists today. So for the sake of being clear, I will now refer to those in the camp of big government and control of our forests by the feds as Tories.

Like the Tory of yesteryear, today's loyalist is comfortable in their servitude to the federal machine. Some running for sheriff and some in the County Court feel it isn't their job to interpret the Constitution, but it's their job to blindly follow the edicts laid out by the king. Their oath of office says, support and defend the constitution. It doesn't say defend a document you know nothing about. If elected by the people, you should educate yourself on the supreme law of the land.

History is repeating. The difference today is, we have the Constitution as our defense. Battle lines have been clearly drawn.

On one side, a group of citizens who believe public land and resources belong to all people. They believe over-burdensome restrictions placed on it by the feds would limit some from enjoying and sharing in what it has to offer. This group believes in the Constitution, and the limits that document places on the feds with regards to ownership of public land. This group sees value in a seasoned sheriff who understands and (interprets) the Constitution for the good of everyone.

The Tories, "Oregon Wild, The Sierra Club, Thousand Friends of Oregon, some bureaucrats at the top of the USFS and the majority of the Democrat party," believe the federal government knows best on how to manage land, and who should be allowed to use it. They're in favor of restricting some from using it in the name of preservation, even if it burns to ash. They place some users above others. They welcome a sheriff that's a lap dog for the feds. A sheriff who would gladly throw his fellow citizens in irons before he would offend the ruling class. After all, it's not his job to interpret the Constitution.

DS Edwards
 John Day

A failure of leadership

To the Editor:

Is it no wonder Grant County has the issues we do?

We have a County Court that is about as consistent as the weather in Eastern Oregon: Give it 15 minutes, and they will change.

They are a group of men that state they stand up for individuals of the county, except when they speak their mind, then they attempt to pass resolutions to silence those voices, or picket public meetings to harass concerned citizens into silence.

They want more timber coming out of the mountains, but in a rare sign of continuity, keep allowing the Forest Service to destroy the very roads that allow us to get timber out of the mountains.

They don't want outsiders addressing the concerns of the county, but allow Oregon Wild, Sustainable Northwest, Blue Mountains Biological Diversity Project and other outside influencers to peddle their influence, so long as friends of the court's projects are allowed to slide through with approval.

The only consistency in the Grant County Court is the consistency of making sure their friends know "the court has their backs," and that is a very small circle of friends.

Who's to blame? We all are, I am, each and every one of us that bought into the big talk and little action of these three men. So this is my challenge to each of you, think wisely in your votes this fall, because you're going to have a choice to make. Stick with the narrow view of the Grant County Court that champions having the back of a man like Harney County Judge Steve Grasty, or break a new path with men that really support you as individuals, because the crew we have now is leading us down a path of no return, with a dim future.

John D. George
 Bates