

**TIMBER**

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Predicted annual timber harvests across all three forests combined ranged from 47-243 million board feet in the original 2014 alternatives — though Beverlin said the Forest Service did not believe the alternative representing the upper end was sustainable. The next highest was Alternative E at 162 million.

Alternative E Modified increases the predicted annual harvest to 205 million, while meeting the non-declining flow requirement to sustain harvest volumes in perpetuity. Alternative E Modified-Departure — including a temporary suspension of the non-declining flow requirement — increases the harvest to 326 million for 20 years before shrinking to about half of that figure after the backlog of dense forest is treated.

Recent average harvests, from 2013-2015, have been 101 million annually, according to Forest Service documents, despite the fact the old plan from 1990 lists a predicted harvest volume of 599 million, because new rules — including a prohibition on harvesting trees larger than 21 inches in diameter — and legal challenges drastically reduced harvest volumes.

In the 1980s on the Malheur National Forest, the annual harvests were routinely great-

**Forest Plan Revision timber harvest by alternative**

(For Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman national forests. Recent harvest average, 2013-15: 101 million board feet.)

Existing alternatives	Predicted annual timber harvest (million board feet)	Timber jobs	All jobs*
B	87	650	3,737
C	47	288	2,822
D	243	2,040	5,413
E	162	1,330	4,496
F	107	838	3,909

New alternatives			
E Modified	205	—	—
E Modified-Departure	326†	—	—

\*Jobs from timber, range and ecosystem restoration. †For 20 years before reductions.  
Source: U.S. Forest Service Sean Hart and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

er than 200 million. However, while the 1990 plan lists a predicted harvest of 234 million for the Malheur, the average actual harvest from 1995-2014 was only 32.8 million.

The harvest volume on the Malheur has increased recently, to 60 million in 2016 and to a projected 75 million in 2017. These volumes actually exceed most of the predicted amounts from the original alternatives. Where Alternative E's predicted harvest for the Malheur was 56 million, the new Alternative E Modified is 84 million, and Alternative E Modified-Departure is 134 million.

Beverlin said the changes were in response to many comments received calling for

increases, not just from the timber industry.

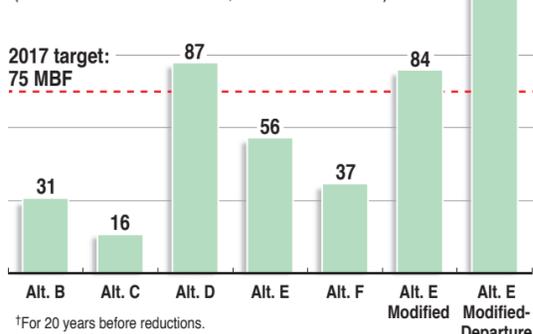
"We heard it from both sides of that issue," he said. "We weren't doing enough to cope with climate change. We weren't doing enough to cope with wildfires that we've seen. We weren't doing enough to sustain the local infrastructure."

One goal of the proposed increases is to improve forest resilience, or reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires and insect and disease outbreaks.

Matthew Rathbone, a silviculturist on the Blue Mountains Plan Revision Team, said in a public conference call, "We know we have high-risk forests. E Modified is meant to address that."

**Malheur National Forest timber harvest by alternative**

(Predicted annual harvest, million board feet)



†For 20 years before reductions. Source: U.S. Forest Service Sean Hart and Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

He said E Modified focused on treating the highest density areas most at risk. A Forest Service newsletter states the alternative would plan to increase thinning to 33 percent of the dense, dry upland forest within 20 years.

The departure alternative calls for "frontloading" the harvest to catch up on the backlog of growth, Rathbone said. It would increase thinning to 70 percent of the dense, dry upland forest. However, Rathbone said the harvest decline after 20 years would lead to a "boom and bust" cycle that could have a substantial negative impact on local economies.

Post-fire salvage guidelines were also updated in the new alternatives. Rathbone said, instead of an arbitrary distinction

mandating 50 percent of post-fire source habitat to remain unlogged, the new alternatives would allow officials to base post-fire salvage on desired conditions.

Rathbone said the new alternatives also exclude the rule preventing the harvest of any live trees larger than 21 inches in diameter, one component of what are known as the East-side Screens. Some large or old trees could be removed to meet management objectives, such as removing fire-prone grand firs in dense stands or reducing fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface.

"Clearly, we've seen a need to have more flexibility with old forest management," he said. "The diameter limit may be causing more

problems than it's actually solving."

Tom Montoya, supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, said on the call the predicted harvest levels are not commitments or targets but desires and goals. He said actual harvest levels will depend on many factors, some of which, such as budgets, are beyond Forest Service control.

Montoya said, while the plan will provide management guidance on a broad level, site-specific projects with separate public comment periods will move the forest toward the desired conditions. After the final environmental impact statement has been released, Montoya said Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Jim Pena will make the final decision on the plan, which may include any combination of the alternatives.

The Forest Service responded to many comments with the new alternatives, he said, including removing "designated routes" from the plan entirely and removing the 21-inch rule.

"For those that have been following the forest planning process ... you know better than anybody that forest plans are very complex documents," Montoya said. "We have been listening to you. ... As we move forward, we will roll out that (final environmental impact statement), and hopefully you'll see that your voices were heard."

**LOCAL ARTISTS DISPLAY TALENT**



The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Artists Jennifer Mooney of Canyon City and Mary Snyder of John Day look at a painting by June Shull of Prairie City Saturday at the 11th annual Community Art Show at the airport in John Day. The exhibit, with over 100 pieces on display, was open for visitors Friday and Saturday.

**GUNS**

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Boquist said similar processes already are in place in several states, among them Connecticut, California and Washington, where voters in 2016 approved a ballot measure containing it. He said the Washington law is broader than SB 719.

**Course of action**

On Feb. 16, 2016, Sethan Charles Sprague, Boquist's oldest son and a 31-year-old Navy veteran, took his own life.

Although Boquist did not mention his son, he did talk about the three Army veterans under his command who took their own lives after returning from Iraq. He said during his years in the House and Senate, going back to 2005, he has kept an index card on his desk.

"On that card are (the names of) the people I sent to die," he said. "There is not a serving general officer who sent more people to die than I have — not one," said Boquist, who leads the Senate Veterans' Committee.

"For 12 years, this Legis-

lature has struggled on what to do about veterans' suicides and veterans and suicide in general."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Oregon recorded a suicide rate of 19.3 per 100,000 in 2016 — and it is rising faster than the growing national rate.

No Democrat spoke other than Majority Leader Ginny Burdick of Portland, who closed debate and praised Boquist for his courage and integrity.

"By identifying signs that a person may be suffering trauma and temporarily separating them from their firearms, we can effectively protect veterans and others in crisis so that they can get the help they need," Burdick said.

**What opponents said**

Perhaps because a fellow Republican was its chief manager, Republican opponents refrained from harsh criticism.

Sen. Kim Thatcher of Keizer, one of two Republicans to oppose it in the Senate Judiciary Committee, complained it was too vague. Thatcher teared up in her closing remarks.

"I am not a veteran (pause) but my family has been touched by suicide,"

she said. "There is something that is just not addressable by legislation, and that is the unpredictability of the human mind."

"I have no doubt that this legislation brought forth was out of concern and caring. But it comes down to words on paper. I do not think it will make any difference."

Sen. Alan Olsen, R-Canby, also an Army veteran, said the real answer is an expansion of mental health services.

"We are the problem because we have not solved it," he said. "It looks good, feels good, but it does not help anyone."

Boquist said he agreed, but he took a political beating when he teamed up in 2013 with Senate President Peter Courtney, D-Salem, to secure more money for mental health through higher tobacco taxes.

He referred to incidents in April in Gresham and West Linn. In the April 12 incident in Gresham, police say the man shot his two daughters before taking his own life. On April 21, West Linn police shot a man dead in an incident ruled as a suicide.

Days ago, the Senate passed a bill requiring police to undergo training in how to avert suicide.

"That is unfortunately the training we have given them: Show up, talk the guy down, and if it doesn't work, use your Glock," Boquist said.

"But that is not what we need to be doing in this state."

**Reaction from groups**

The bill drew expected criticism and praise from the usual interest groups.

The National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action called the bill "unnecessary and goes far beyond existing law," but avoided personal references to Boquist.

Oregon Firearms Federation, which bills itself as a no-compromise group, described Boquist as a "formerly pro-gun Republican" and SB 719 as "one of the most dangerous pieces of legislation the anti-gunners have ever dreamed of."

There were other views.

"Today the Oregon Senate took an important, bipartisan step to making Oregon safer from gun violence," said Jenn Lynch, president of the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety. "Oregonians can work together to find effective solutions to make our communities safer."

Americans for Responsible Solutions, the gun violence prevention group co-founded by former Arizona Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly, offered this statement from Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese, member of the Oregon Coalition for Common Sense:

Reese said: "Throughout my career, I have seen how guns in the hands of individuals who are at risk of harming themselves or others can lead to tragedy. Today's vote by the Oregon Senate is a positive step towards giving law enforcement the tools we need to help people in crisis and make our state a safer place to live."

**Attention Grant County Veterans:**

**Did you know Grant County Veterans Services Officer is available to assist YOU in applying for all VA benefits you may be entitled to?**

See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information, located at Grant County Court House.

Open: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10 am - 4pm  
Appointment available at other times  
Call 541-575-1631

**Notice Grant County Taxpayers**

The third installment of the 2016-17 property tax is due Monday May 15th, 2017 by 5:00 p.m.

Payments may be made at the Tax Collector's Office at the Grant County Courthouse in Canyon City, or the payment may be mailed and postmarked no later than May 15th, 2017. Please remember that delinquent taxes accrue interest at the rate of 16% per year. If you have any questions, please call the tax office at 575-0107 or 575-0189.

PO Box 185  
Canyon City, OR 97820

**ELTRUM HISTORIC THEATER**

1009 First Street • Baker City • (541) 523-5439

BARGAIN MATINEE IN ( ) Adults \$7 ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY

MOVIE SCHEDULE MAY 5-11

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL. 2 PG-13  
Set to the backdrop of Awesome Mixtape #2, and continues the team's adventures as they unravel the mystery of Peter Quill's true parentage.  
FRI & SAT (3:45) 6:45 9:45  
SUNDAY (3:45) 6:45  
MON-THURS 6:45

BORN IN CHINA G  
Disney Nature documentary that follows the stories of three animal families in the wilds of China.  
FRI & SAT (4:10) 7:10 9:40  
SUNDAY 7:10  
MON-THURS 7:10

THE CIRCLE PG-13  
Tom Hanks & Emma Watson. A woman lands a dream job at a powerful tech company called the Circle, only to uncover its nefarious agenda.  
FRI & SAT (4:00) 7:00 9:35  
SUNDAY (4:00) 7:00  
MON-THURS 7:00

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

**Sunshine Teachers Needed**

We are looking for people who are interested in ministry opportunities, by becoming a member of the Sunshine teaching staff. You must possess varied qualities as listed in the job requirements, professional, spiritual and academic leadership skills. You must be willing to submit to a background check before being considered for employment. Ministry opportunity for staff positions can also be picked up at the church office.

Sunshine Christian School 521 E Main Street, John Day  
(541) 575-1895

**PUBLICATION FOR SONSHINE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Sunshine Christian School will be accepting pre-registrations for the 2017/2018 school year. Registration fee for students is \$75.00.

Pre School students must be 3 years of age before September 1 of the school year and able to attend to toileting without staff assistance. Their classes will be offered 2 days a week from 9-11am.

Pre-Kindergarten students must be 4 years of age before September 1 of the school year. Their classes will be offered 3 days a week from 9-11:30am.

Registration packets can be picked up at the church office, 521 E Main Street, John Day. The office is open Tuesday-Thursday 9am-3pm. For information call (541) 575-1895 or e-mail Trace at the church e-mail address, judy@johndaynazarene.com

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