

PLAN

Continued from Page A1

several references to the Eastern Oregon Counties Association, which will also submit an objections letter following an Aug. 23 meeting.

In the objection letter, the court cites comments it submitted to the Forest Service about the draft plan in August 2014, including concerns about using the best available science in support of grazing practices.

The court noted the Grant County Road Department paid more than \$70,000 toward the Cramer Fish Science Grazing Analysis, but the Forest Service failed to address the study's findings.

The court asked that the revised plan be withdrawn and that each of the three national forests "work independently with county government and local stakeholders" to develop separate land management plans.

Road systems on the national forest land should be "preserved for public safety, economic, cultural and recreational purposes," the court said in the letter, and all roads should remain open unless specifically closed after a comment period.

The court noted the "entirety" of a report by the Grant County Public Forest Commission was not addressed and should be implemented in the plan. The commission was established by voter initiative in 2002 and disbanded following a circuit court ruling in 2016.

In conclusion, the court noted that many Forest Service employees live and work in the local community and "are important citizens who raise us all up and make life better here." The court's criticism is focused on the general policies of the Forest Service nationally, not on the local Forest Service offices, the letter said.

Other comments

In their 2014 comments, the forest commission said the total land base in the forest plan was being "whittled down by almost endless exceptions, withdrawals and prohibitions."

Calling the draft plan "a major departure from the 100-plus years of management," which ignored legal and technical history, the commission said combining the three forests into one plan "sets a bad precedent."

Much of the science used in



EO Media Group/E.J. Harris

A multi-head radial saw cuts logs into blocks in the log utilization center at Boise Cascade's Elgin plywood mill.

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision changes under review

The U.S. Forest Service released its final environmental impact statement for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision in June, selecting Alternative E-Modified as its preferred alternative.

Item	Current (no change)	Alternative E-Modified	Percent change
Miles of road maintained annually	2,023	2,212	9.3%
Animal unit months, grazing	242,800	294,400	21.3
Timber volume (million board feet)	79	205	159.5
Annual forest restoration* (acres)	52,702	69,200	31.3
Jobs created†	1,647	2,820	71.2
Income† (millions of dollars)	\$54	\$113.5	110.2

*Tree thinning, treatment †Timber, livestock and recreation

Source: U.S. Forest Service

Capital Press graphic

the draft plan was out of date, the commission said, and many of the plan's standards and guidelines "are extremely restrictive and will severely limit if not prohibit much

active management."

Grant County Judge Scott Myers, who commented on the draft plan in 2014 as an individual, said he will submit objections on

his own. In his comments, Myers said the Forest Service should not acquire additional land because it "struggles to manage, effectively, the acreage in their inventory of responsibility now," and he called for "a more aggressive plan" for salvage logging.

Myers also noted that the draft environmental impact statement for the plan stated that it was unlikely additional wilderness would be needed, but the revised forest plan presented by Regional Forester James Pena in July calls for new wilderness areas.

The revised plan calls for recommending 70,500 acres of mostly roadless areas for designated wilderness.

This includes 23,580 acres for a new McClellan Mountain wilderness area, accessed by Fields Creek Road southeast of Dayville, and 2,990 additional acres for the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness.

A recommendation to establish a 6,139-acre Greenhorn Mountain wilderness area was withdrawn.

According to the draft record of decision, the revised forest plan also calls for increasing potential employment from 1,647 jobs currently to an estimated 2,820 jobs, increasing the timber sale program quantity from the recent average of 101 million board-feet per year to 205 million, thinning up to 33 percent of overstocked dry-upland forest types during the planning period, along with other treatments, and maintaining the current level of about \$4.5 million in income from recreation-related jobs.

SUICIDE

Continued from Page A1

While the highest suicide rate in the United States is among middle-aged white men, in Oregon suicide is the second leading cause of death among youths aged 10-24. Factors in youth suicides include prior attempts, depression, family discord, substance abuse, relationship problems, discipline or legal problems and access to firearms.

According to the 2017 Oregon Health Teens Survey, which combined results for Grant and Harney counties, 9.4 percent of eighth-graders and 6.6 percent of 11th-graders reported attempting suicide at least once.

Suicide statistics help professionals understand circumstances behind suicide ideation, attempts and successful completions, Lines For Life counselors Dave Dalton and Emily Moser told the forum participants.



The Eagle/Richard Hanners

Dave Dalton of Lines For Life addresses a comment during a suicide forum at the John Day Senior Center on Aug. 15 while coworker Emily Moser listens.

Firearms and jumping are the top two means for completing suicide. Pills take time, allowing friends or family members an opportunity to call for help. Ready access to firearms helps explain the high suicide rate

in Oregon, a state with high firearm ownership, and also why men have a higher completion rate than women.

Statistical trends

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion now regards suicide an epidemic, Moser said.

Experts have found some patterns in suicide numbers. Suicide attempts tend to peak on Mondays and fall away through the rest of the week, Dalton said, but major national events such as the 9/11 terrorist attack seem to temporarily pause suicidal ideation while family members and friends across the country reconnect.

Discussing the statistics leaves a "pit in my stomach," Moser said. Both she and Dalton have experienced suicide by family members. So did several members in the audience, which also

Suicide prevention resources

- Lines for Life at 800-273-8255 or text 273Talk to 839863
- Community Counseling Solutions at 541-575-1466
- David Romprey Oregon Warm Line, 1-800-698-2392
- Military Helpline: 888-457-4838 or text MIL1 to 839863

included three local pastors and numerous mental health professionals wanting to learn more.

Two in the audience said they had attempted suicide, a woman said her son committed suicide, another woman said her father committed suicide when she was 7 and another woman said her husband had committed suicide.

One of the messages Moser and Dalton had was to look to the positive. Even in their darkest hours, people contemplating suicide can be reminded of bright spots in their past, even small ones, Dalton said.

Ninety percent of people who have attempted suicide end up dying later in life of something else entirely, Moser said. Talking to people about their suicidal thoughts will not make the situation worse, Dalton said — a third of the people who call Lines for Life are calling for other people.

Warning signs

The timespan from recognizing warning signs to a suicide attempt can be very short, Dalton said. Signs include loss of a job, spouse or close friends. A person contemplating suicide might talk about unbearable physical or psychological pain or severe anguish. Some have already

been diagnosed for depression or have alcohol or drug abuse problems.

A person contemplating suicide might make terminal statements such as "I won't be around much longer" or "I don't know if I can deal with this any longer."

When asked about a person who cries wolf, making terminal statements but not doing anything for a long time, Moser noted that Lines for Life takes every call seriously.

Other signs include people who start giving things away and putting their house in order, or a change in behavior across the board. That could include sleeping more or increased agitation, a person who doesn't show up at work, even a messy teenager who suddenly cleans his room, Moser said.

"Don't discount a gut feeling," she said.

Friends or family members who recognize these signs need to lean in and communicate, but they will need to overcome the stigma associated with suicide. A person might feel shame or failure and be unwilling to talk, while a community that shuns a suicidal person can make the situation worse.

It's best to focus on positive things, Dalton and Moser said — the strengths of an individual and their surrounding community.



The Blue Mountain Eagle is seeking a full-time Administrative Assistant.

This is an opportunity to learn multiple aspects of our business by supporting the front desk, editorial and advertising teams. Successful candidates will need problem-solving and computer skills and the ability to handle multiple tasks at once. Must be accurate and detail-oriented, plus have strong customer service and communication skills. Driving and criminal background checks will be completed pre-hire. Benefits include Paid Time Off (PTO), insurances and a 401(k) Roth / 401(k) retirement plan. Send resume and letter of interest to EO Media Group, Attn: Human Resources, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048 or e-mail hr@eomediagroup.com.

ELTRYM HISTORIC THEATER
 1809 First Street • Baker City • (541)523-5439
 BARGAIN MATINEE IN (J) Adults \$7
 ALL FILMS \$6 ON TIGHTWAD TUESDAY
 MOVIE SCHEDULE AUG 24 - AUG 30

CRAZY RICHASIAN (PG-13)
 This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global bestseller, follows native New Yorker Rachel Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family.
 FRI-THURS (4:00) 7:00 9:35
THE SPY WHO DUMPED ME (R)
 Two best friends unwittingly become entangled in an international conspiracy when one of them discovers the boyfriend who dumped her was actually a spy.
 FRI-THURS (4:05) 7:05 9:40
THE MEG (PG-13)
 After escaping an attack by what he claims was a 70-foot shark, Jonas Taylor must confront his fears to save those trapped in a sunken submersible.
 FRI-THURS (4:10) 7:10 9:45

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

ATTENTION GRANT COUNTY VETERANS:
 Are you using or interested in learning about Choice Card Medical Care?
 See your Grant County Veteran Services Officer today for more information.
 Monday through Friday 10 am - 4 pm.
 * Call 541-620-8057 for an appointment *
 530 E. Main, Ste. 5, John Day, OR.
 Katee Hoffman