

Hammonds

Continued from Page A1

In July, U.S. District Judge Michael Simon issued an injunction that reduced how much grass the Hammonds' cattle can consume and restricting which areas they could graze.

The environmental plaintiffs have now filed a motion for summary judgment, asking the judge to vacate the Hammonds' grazing permits because their presidential pardons "did not alter the conduct, acts and behavior" that led up to the denial

of their grazing permits. "BLM's permit nonrenewal decision did not rely upon the Hammonds' arson convictions alone; it also relied upon conduct underlying the other counts for which the Hammonds did not meet the criminal standard of guilt but could be held civilly liable," according to the environmentalists.

The plaintiffs argue that BLM's reinstatement of the grazing permits violated the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, or FLPMA, which requires "satisfactory record of performance and substantial

compliance with federal regulations" that the Hammonds lack.

The agency also violated the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, by granting a "categorical exclusion" — known as a CX — that exempted the permit renewals from an environmental assessment or a more thorough environmental impact statement, according to the plaintiffs.

"The agency's unsupported conclusion that there are no potentially significant impacts to ecologically significant areas cannot justify use of the CX,"

the motion said.

The BLM should have analyzed the effects of renewed grazing on the greater sage grouse, rangeland health standards, invasive weeds and fire problems, the groups argue.

"Vacatur of an unlawful NEPA decision is vital because it forces the agency to make a new decision, after a public comment process, properly informed by full disclosure of the environmental baseline and effects of the proposed action," the motion said.

EO Media Group was unable to reach Dwight or

Steven Hammond, or the attorney representing the federal government in the lawsuit, as of press time.

In 2012, a federal jury convicted both the ranchers for igniting a 2001 fire that burned about 140 acres, while Steven Hammond was also found guilty of setting a 2006 fire that spread onto an acre of federal property.

The federal judge overseeing the case determined that the mandatory minimum five-year sentences for arson would be "grossly disproportionate to the severity of the offenses here" and ordered Steven Hammond to

spend one year behind bars, while his father was sentenced to three months.

After the Hammonds had completed their prison terms, however, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled they should have been sentenced to the full five-year minimum terms.

When the ranchers reported back to prison in January 2016, protests against the decision culminated in the occupation and standoff at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge that attracted nationwide attention.



Audrey Colson leaps into fun at Gleason Pool June 12.

The Eagle/Angel Carpenter

Pool

Continued from Page A1

come up with the right amount of loot, I guess you would say the value plus what they are willing to contribute, and put that towards design and feasibility for the relocation," Lundbom said.

M.G. Devereux, deputy director of the Oregon Parks and Recreation

Department, planned to visit John Day Oct. 1 to look at the property and continue negotiations.

The 2020 season will mark the end of the pool-operating contract with John Day-Canyon City Parks & Rec.

Parks & Rec representatives said they are still interested in the pool and want to be involved, but board member Russ Young clarified the current responsibility the organization has.

"We're just management of the pool, wherever the current location is or isn't," said Young. "(Parks & Rec is) not in negotiation for the failure or savior of the pool just because we need to renegotiate a 20-year-old contract."

Young said Parks & Rec is willing to manage a new pool, but a new contract will need to be negotiated.

Grant County Court will give the final approval on what plan voters will see next year.

Airport

Continued from Page A1

The pavement is unraveling at the north apron, which is causing rock pebbles to be blown toward hangers when single engine airtankers go to refill on retardant during fire operations.

"Those SEAT planes come in right in front of my hangar and turn and throw their nasty rocks," said Eva Harris, a hangar owner at the airport. "They go right under and through my hangar. ... Sometimes there's an inch or two of gravel stacked up in front of (the hangar doors)."

While the grant will go toward reconstructing the apron that is for public use, the Federal Aviation Administration deemed around 800 square yards just past the driveway of the hangars as private use.

The airport budget will provide \$10,273 for the required match for the \$950,000 grant. The county also agreed to provide \$40,000 from the general contingency fund to pay for the reconstruction of the private property that does not qualify for the grant.

The north apron project will begin during the construction season of 2020 and



Eagle file photo

Airport Manager Haley Walker

is expected to take no more than 30 days depending on the weather, Walker said.

The north apron is one of two big projects ongoing at the airport, which also received a separate federal grant of \$6.25 million to decouple the two runways from DOT with no match money needed. This grant will be awarded in April 2020.

HARVEST

RENTAL TRACTORS!

AVAILABLE NOW!



M7-172D

- 153 Gross HP† Direct Injection, with Intercooler Turbo Charger, Water-Cooled 4 Cycle Diesel Engine
- HighPerforming CCLS Hydraulics
- Mechanical Rear Remotes
- New 30x15 Semi-Powershift Transmissions with 5 Ranges and 6 Speeds



M6-141DT

- 141.4 Engine HP† 4-Cylinder Turbocharged Kubota Diesel Engine
- Grand X Cab Offers Greater Comfort & Visibility
- Intelli-Shift Transmission
- Tilt & Telescopic Power Steering



COME SEE JIM GIBBON AT
211 HIGHWAY 20 S • HINES, OR
541-573-1322 • 541-589-3877
plattequipment.com



† For complete warranty, safety and product information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the product operator's manual. Power (HP/KW) and other specifications are based on various standards or recommended practices. K1092-24-142478-5