

Surprise — grazing can reduce wildfire fuel load

The University of California Cooperative Extension has issued a timely study showing cattle grazing is an essential tool in reducing wildfire.

That won't surprise a lot of readers, particularly those who live near forest and rangeland overloaded with the fuel that feeds the wildfires now raging throughout the West. Too often, though, the people in charge of policy don't face that danger and have a hard time seeing the obvious.

The study, funded by the California Cattle Council, focused on conditions in the state of California, but the conclusions are relevant in Oregon, Washington and Idaho as well.

Grazing takes place in every county in California, except San Francisco County. Researchers say California's 1.6 million beef cattle graze 11.6 billion pounds of potential wildfire fuel each year.

Without grazing, the state would have hundreds to thousands of additional pounds per acre of fine fuels on the landscape. With that fuel load, this year's wildfires would be even more devastating. Researchers say cattle grazing is underutilized on public and private lands and targeted grazing should be expanded.

In the vast open spaces of the West they need to allow more cattle grazing, which has been shown to be an effective way to keep down cheatgrass and other weeds that burn hot and kill the ecosystem.

While targeted grazing can greatly reduce the threat of wildfire, it is not the answer in every situation. Critics argue with some merit that a headlong rush to expand grazing could do more harm than good.

But that it is not the answer in every case does not exclude grazing from being an answer in many cases.

As the climate becomes warmer and drier, the threat of fire will only grow. To keep that threat at bay, no tool should be excluded from the toolkit.

Grazing works, and where it will do good it should be expanded.



WHERE TO WRITE

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- **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
- **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: toccc1862@centurylink.net.
- **Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- **John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmtv@ortelco.net.
- **Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
- **Seneca** — P.O. Box 208, Seneca

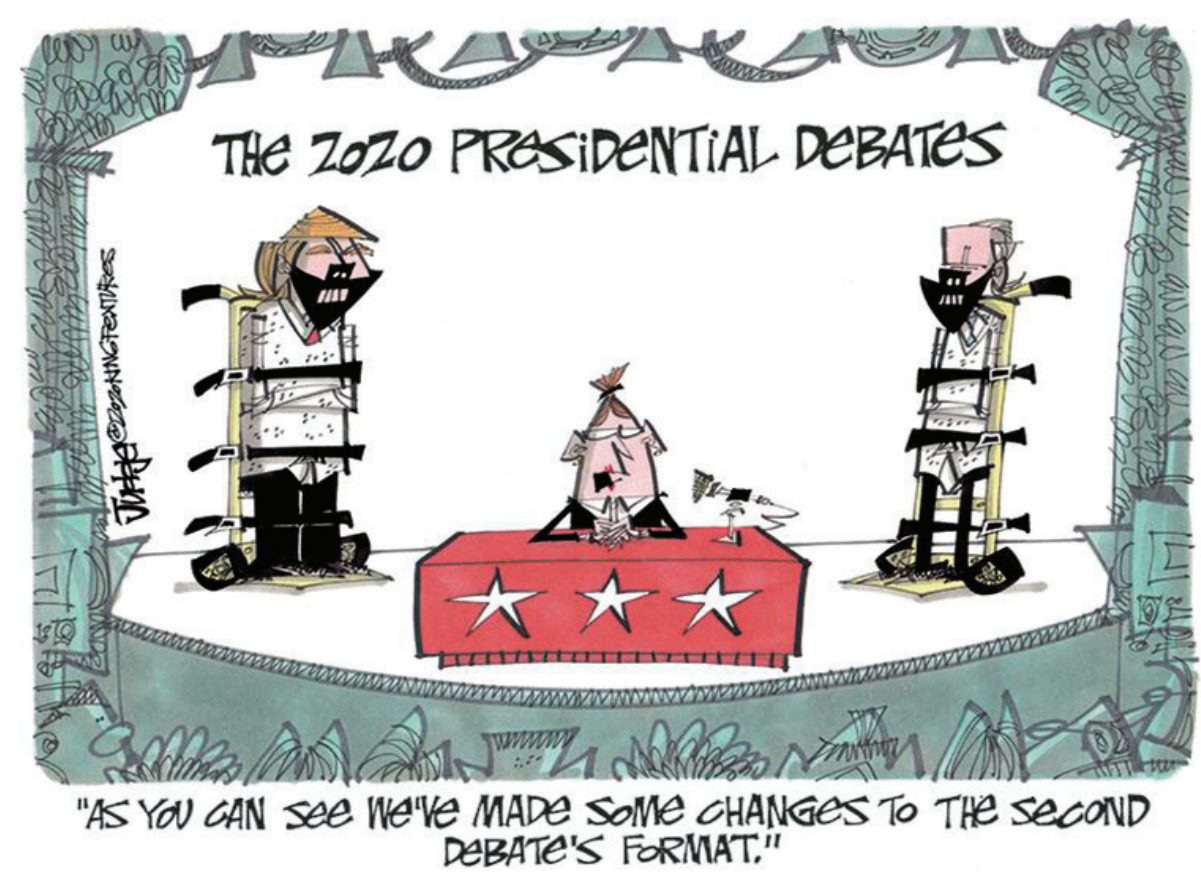
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SALEM

- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.
- **Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** – 900 Court St. NE, S-301, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1730. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/Bentz. Email: Sen.CliffBentz@oregonlegislature.gov.
- **Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale** – 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

‘I support Beth Spell’

To the Editor:
I support Beth Spell for Oregon House District 60. I wanted a choice in this race. After all, the incumbent walked away (walked out!) from his legislative duties during critical debates affecting our communities. That action left legislation for wildfire protection undone, after nearly reaching successful compromise between the timber industry and environmental advocates.
Beth has been endorsed by the Oregon Education Association and Oregon School Employees, because they know she recognizes education prepares our young people for jobs and life success.
I know Beth. And she will not bring adversarial politics to our state government. She will represent all of us. She will work on the issues that divide us in an effort to represent all of us.

Leslie Stillwater
John Day

‘John Lamborn for Grant-Harney circuit court judge’

To the Editor:
I am writing to enthusiastically endorse John Lamborn for Grant-Harney circuit court judge.
I was honored to serve as Harney County district attorney for 29 years. I had the privilege of working in the courtroom with two outstanding circuit court judges, Frank Yraguen and Bill Cramer Jr. Those two judges shared two attributes — a high level of professionalism and personal integrity. Judges must have a civil and professional relationship with the attorneys who appear before them. Personal conflicts impact the ability to evaluate facts and legal arguments in the impartial and unbiased way that our judicial system requires. It is absolutely critical for judges and lawyers to work collaboratively to ensure and enhance the dignity of the profession of law, thus furthering public trust and confidence in the system. Both Judge Yraguen and Judge Cramer demonstrated the ability to work professionally and civilly with all parties who appeared before them as well as court staff.
The Oregon State Police conducted a background investigation of Mr. Raschio as part of his unsuccessful attempt to be appointed to fill the vacancy created when Judge Cramer retired on Jan. 1, 2020 (https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hWr_BNeHcgevXGJltNlrVNNAQb8lggDo/view). That background investigation raises serious concerns about Mr. Raschio's ability to deal professionally with other attorneys and court staff. In fact, the background investigation lists four potential conflicts of interest for Mr. Raschio: Grant County District Attorney's Office, Harney County District Attorney's Office, Grant County Justice of the Peace and circuit court employees in both Grant and Harney counties.
More disturbing was the statement by Judge Cramer that he felt that Mr. Raschio had "withheld or misrepresented information to the court."
The citizens of Grant and Harney counties deserve a choice in this election to elect a judge who has demonstrated integrity and professionalism and will not bring personal conflicts of interest to the bench. John Lamborn is that choice. John Lamborn will uphold the legacy of Judge Yraguen and Judge Cramer that we have come to expect — professionalism, personal integrity and lack of bias and interest.
Please join me in writing in John Lamborn for Grant-Harney County circuit court judge.

Timothy J. Colahan
Hines

‘You can be both’

To the Editor:
Dear Grant County: It's true, I'm not from here. This fact has been pointed out a number of times as though the truth of it should eliminate my voice entirely or make my opinion invalid.
I grew up in rural, small-town Montana. I raised a pig for 4-H, trained a llama to tackle an obstacle course and spent much of my childhood picking wildflowers and exploring old mine shafts. As an adult, I worked to expand health care, including women's reproductive rights, in conservative, sparsely-populated, Eastern Montana.
I'm writing today to offer a possibility. You can be both. You can eat meat, own guns, drink whiskey and believe in empathy, equity and goodness. You could even vote for a Democrat. This is a both/and situation; the presence of one does not dismiss the other.
I know many who are from Grant County and many who choose Grant County. Those I hold close believe in community, inclusivity and taking care of our neighbors. These are the same values our ancestors likely wouldn't have survived without. And, as contentious as politics can be, these themes are interwoven in our humanity regardless of political affiliation. Democrats and Republicans came out for our peaceful protest in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, and ours had a bigger turnout per capita than New York City. People show up for each other, and our community cares about the well-being of others. These are the prominent themes in the small town I'm from and the even smaller town I chose.
There will always be loud outliers who claim this as false — those who thrive on hate, fail to meet the call of anti-racism work and live for inserting divisiveness into our lives or possibly just the comment section on Facebook. They are loud, but they are few.
It doesn't matter where you're from. It matters how you treat people. I belong here regardless of my rural roots. And you can vote for a Democrat even if it's your first time

and not lose your place.

Ashley Stevick
John Day

Write in John Lamborn for judge

To the Editor:
The circuit court judge position has been well-respected, with a well-run court serving Harney and Grant counties over the years. It has been run with law and order, and respect for the judicial systems for many, many years by our two previous judges, retired Judge Frank Yraguen and retired Judge William "Bill" Cramer Jr. The working relationships in the office amongst staff and the judge has always been professional. This is all part of a sound working team delivering the best service to our counties.
There was an opportunity to be appointed to this seat during this interim year following Judge Cramer's retirement. Please take this time to think about why or why not one of the candidates who put his name in for the appointment was not selected. There is a high degree of scrutiny that goes into the decision-making process at the state level. That non-appointment gave me concern. Without an appointment being made, we the people get to choose our next circuit court judge.
All voters should be aware, do their research and make an informed decision before marking the box or writing in a candidate's name.
I, for one, will be supporting and writing in John Lamborn as our next circuit court judge for Harney and Grant counties to continue the professionalism and integrity, which that office stands for.

Pete Runnels
Burns