

Santiam salvage logging a good plan for Oregon

The state of Oregon's plan to salvage the timber in a small part of the Santiam State Forest is a win-win both for the people who live and work there and for the people who own it — the taxpayers.

The state Department of Forestry wants to salvage the timber off 3,000 acres of the forest. That's about 19% of the portion of the forest that was burned during the Beachie Creek, Lionhead and Riverside fires last September and about 6% of the forest as a whole.

Many who live in the area remember those fires. Wind-driven blazes became blow torches ripping through the canyons and over the ridges. Before the fires were extinguished, hundreds of houses had been destroyed and thousands of people had been left homeless. Many are still living in temporary quarters as they pick up the charred remnants of their lives and livelihoods.

Comes now seven environmental groups that want to stop any salvage logging in the state forest. They went to court in Multnomah County — Portland — hoping to find a judge who will shut down the operation.

Upon reading their complaint, the groups acknowledge that "the vast majority of the burning occurred on tree plantations within the Santiam State Forest..."

Presumably, that means those trees were intended to be harvested sooner or later. Now that they have burned, the Department of Forestry only wants to get some value out of them for

the taxpayers before they rot or otherwise become worthless. It should also be noted that allowing those trees to rot would release greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide.

It's obvious some people are completely opposed to the timber industry. But trying to impose that opinion on everyone else all of the time seems a bit, well, unrealistic.

As a society, we need timber. Nearly all houses and apartments are built using at least some lumber. Innovative building materials such as mass plywood and cross laminated timber are just a couple of new ways to construct houses and buildings using this plentiful resource.

Better yet, trees are a renewable resource and climate friendly. They absorb mass quantities of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas — while they grow, and then sequester it when they are used to build houses and other structures.

No one is saying every square foot of Oregon — or anywhere else, for that matter — should be clear cut. Far from it.

All many people are saying is state and national forests represent a perfect opportunity for multiple use. Yes, recreation is one of those uses. So is habitat. But so is timber production.

The state Department of Forestry got this one right. The highest and best use of that burned state forest is to salvage those trees, maintaining their value, providing jobs for Oregonians and homes for everyone, including environmentalists.



GUEST COMMENT

Defending life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness

By Tim Smith

Gretchen Bates, Melodi Molt and all members of the Harney County Republican Central Committee put on an educational and informative program last Saturday, dealing with our current political mess.

Speakers Kevin Mannix (Mannix Law), Richard Burke (Western Liberty Network), Aoibheann Cline (NRA), Rep. Mark Owens (House District 60) and myself (Harney County for the State of Jefferson) focused on the current issues facing Oregon and especially Rural Oregon.

It was unfortunate that more Eastern Oregon people did not take advantage of this opportunity to become more informed and active.

I think the strongest theme on tap was the need and importance of developing and sustaining a local government and strong local conservative leaders to carry forward issues such as protecting our Second Amendment rights, fending off the radical attacks on our energy and businesses through the proposed cap and trade bills and allowing free enterprise to thrive in Oregon.

It was made clear that neither the state nor the federal government, as they are currently constituted, will protect the constitutional rights of the people of Oregon.

We have to build and sustain local government to its maximum legal sovereignty in all matters not given to the state or federal government.

In order to stand up to the abuses being cast upon us by the one-party rule in Oregon and in Washington, D.C., it is up to us locally to establish our lives and future!!

A few action items were emphasized:

1) Get and support good conservative people to run for every public office at the city and county level. State and federal government largesse is not going to make your life sustainably better!

2) Pay attention to and get active on the issues that affect your and your family's everyday life. One question, as always, was how do we inform and educate the general population about the truth and facts about the changes that are oppressing us in rural Oregon. One answer is to find those groups that are trying to educate and inform on those issues that are important to you, and either join them or follow and share their work and information. This is especially important in communities like Harney County where we are media challenged and have to count on the unreliable social media outlets to get and distribute our information.

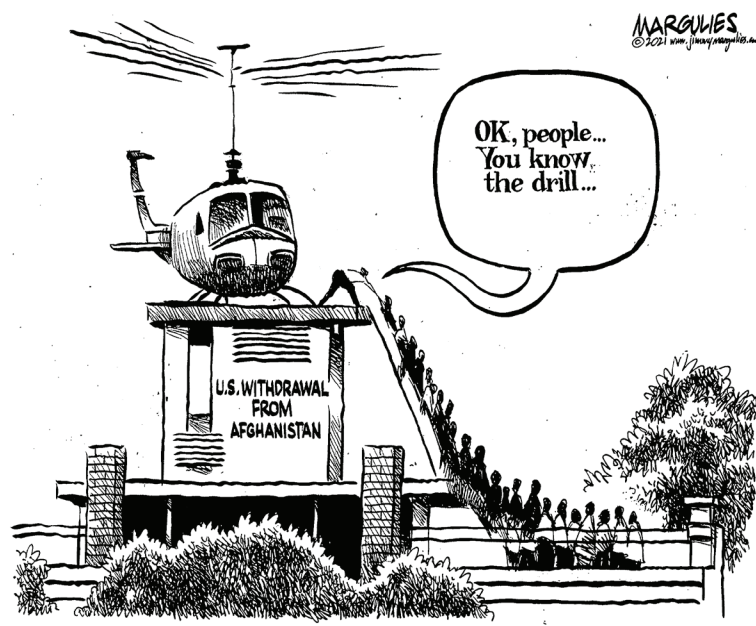
3) Consistently remind our local and state elected officials that they are hired by us to work for the people and not for the established government body. A strong and thriving community will always be able to support its government, but a dominating government body will always make it difficult for its people to survive. A government of, by and for the people will not perish, but a society of, by and for the government will surely fail!

4) Start or continue to do the things that are right for you and your business. At some point the current constitutional and judicial abuses in our faces will be brought to justice as long as we stand strong and continue to push back for a free and just constitutional republic!

5) We have a new sheriff, district attorney and circuit court judge, which gives us the potential to have these officers work for the interests of the people of Harney in a way not seen for some time. Make your needs and interests known to these public servants!

6) Contact all three members of the county court and let them know you support a strong and enduring Second Amendment sanctuary ordinance for Harney County!

Tim Smith is a member of Harney County for the State of Jefferson.



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.
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- **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.
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- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax:

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- **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, oregonlegislature.gov.

- **Sen. Lynn Findley, R-Vale** — 900 Court St. NE, S-301, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1730. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: sen.lynnfindley@oregonlegislature.gov.

- **Rep. Mark Owens, R-Crane** — 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. District address: 258 S. Oregon St., Ontario OR 97914. District phone: 541-889-8866. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: rep.markowens@oregonlegislature.gov.

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- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.
- **U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D** — 516 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: 202-224-5244. Email: wayne_kinney@wyden.senate.gov. Website: http://wyden.senate.gov Fax: 202-228-2717.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Number one COVID-19 sanctuary'

To the Editor:

We are number one! Congratulations to all in Grant County who made this achievement possible. We are leading everyone else in the race to become the designated COVID-19 sweet spot.

How, you may ask, did we

achieve such prodigious recognition? Well, it was not easy.

Firstly we had to embrace the antivax movement, even though President Trump announced on April 17 that the antivax push was a "deranged pseudo-science" (his words, not mine, I assure you).

We got over that hurdle only to be hit with the CDC propagandist Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the CDC, who tried to sway us with this: "Vaccinated people do not carry

the virus, they don't get sick, they do not spread the disease. That's not just in the clinical trials, it's also in real-world data."

But we persevered. We spurned the needle, we tossed the masks, we proudly shut our businesses down, we gladly closed our schools. We could not be tempted away from our lofty goal.

And we won! Number one COVID-19 sanctuary! Go team.

John Wolter
John Day

LETTERS POLICY: Letters to the Editor is a forum for Blue Mountain Eagle readers to express themselves on local, state, national or world issues. Brevity is good, but longer letters will be asked to be contained to 350 words. No personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person. No thank-you letters. Submissions to this page become property of the Eagle. The Eagle reserves the right to edit letters for length and for content. Letters must be original and signed by the writer. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Writers should include a telephone number so they can be reached for questions. We must limit all contributors to one letter per person per month. Deadline is 5 p.m. Friday. Send letters to editor@bmeagle.com, or Blue Mountain Eagle, 195 N. Canyon Blvd., John Day, OR 97845; or fax to 541-575-1244.



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