

A BLM nominee with ties to ecoterrorists

We add our voice to those who believe an enemy of livestock grazing with ties to ecoterrorists shouldn't lead the Bureau of Land Management.

Tracy Stone-Manning has been nominated by President Joe Biden.

The agency has a huge footprint in the West. It manages 247 million acres of federal public land, including 155 million acres used for livestock grazing. BLM oversees 18,000 separate grazing permits.

Stone-Manning has standard bona fides that set the hearts of environmental activists aflutter. She spent nearly four years with the National Wildlife Federation, serving as an associate vice president and a senior policy adviser. She served as director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. She led the Clark Fork Coalition, a conservation group dedicated to preserving the Clark Fork River Basin.

She is no fan of livestock grazing on public lands.

In 1992 she wrote in her master's thesis at the University of Montana, "Into the heart of the beast: A case for environmental advertising," that livestock grazing on public land "is destroying the West."

In a series of mock magazine advertisements, she made the case against a variety of things that she contends hurt the environment, including livestock grazing.

"It is overgrazed. Most likely, the grasses won't grow back, because the topsoil took flight," she wrote. "Worse still, the government encourages this destruction. It charges ranchers under \$2 a month to graze each cow and its calf on public land — your land."

Pretty standard piffle for environmental activists. But,

it appears she may have taken a more active role in radical environmentalism.

In 1989 she typed and mailed a letter for a former roommate, John P. Blount, anonymously warning the U.S.

Forest Service that 500 pounds of spikes had been driven into trees in a swath of Idaho's Clearwater National Forest set for harvest.

Blount later served 17 months in prison in connection to the spiking incident.

There is no evidence that Stone-Manning participated directly in driving the spikes. She maintains that she was never under criminal investigation. She was offered, and accepted, immunity from prosecution in 1993 in exchange for her testimony.

She clearly had knowledge of the incident, and was not immediately forthcoming despite the danger the spikes posed to loggers cutting the trees. Anything for the cause.

According to the Montana Standard, Stone-Manning addressed the incident in a state legislative hearing when she was nominated to lead the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

"I'm sure everyone in this room regrets things they've done in their early 20s, but we all accumulate lessons," Stone-Manning said at the time.

A youthful indiscretion? Hardly.

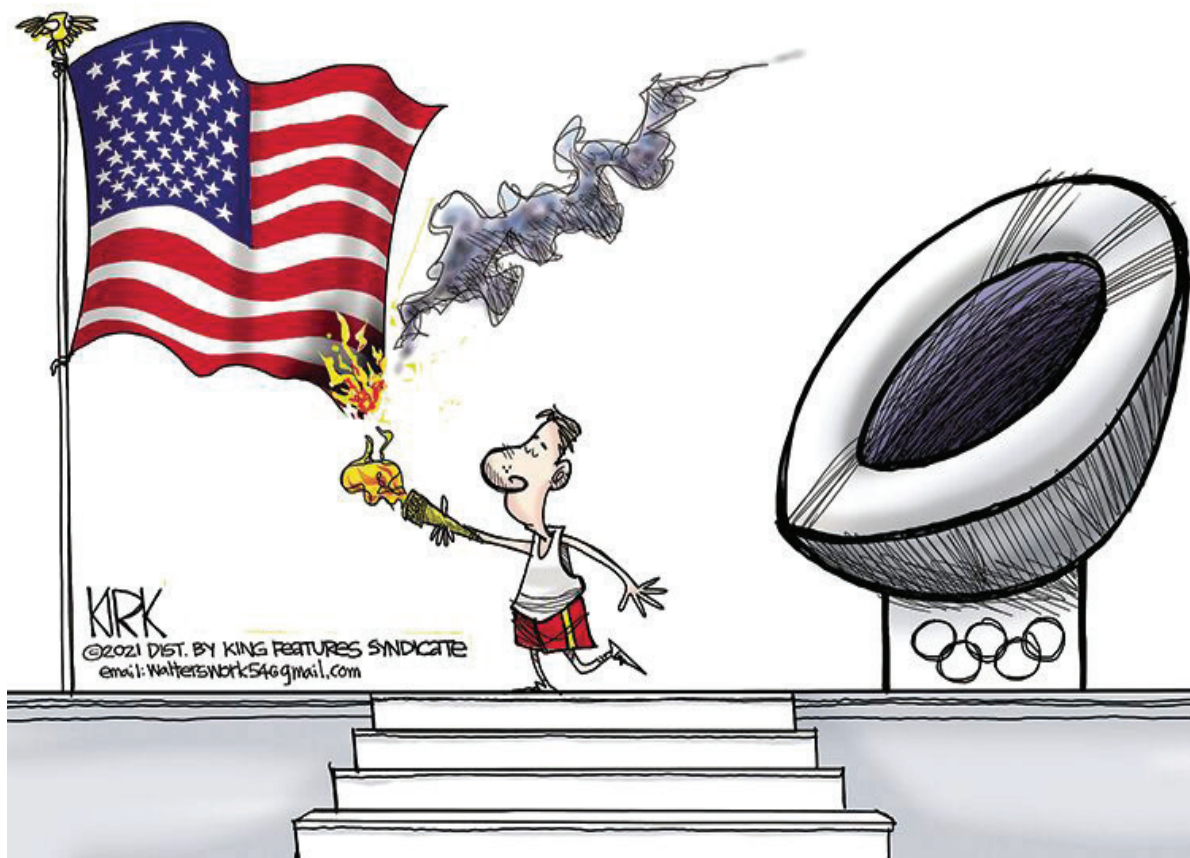
We agree with Bob Abbey, BLM's director during President Barack Obama's first term, who said her participation in the plot disqualifies her for the position.

"BLM needs a really strong leader," Abbey told the Daily Montanan. "To put someone in that position that has this type of resume will just bring needless controversy that is not good for the agency or for the public lands."



Tracy Stone-Manning

OLYMPICS RELAX PROTEST RULES FOR TOKYO GAMES



SHOOTING THE BREEZE

The backup plan

Maybe some of you didn't hear me at the far edges of the border of Grant County, but the noises I was making upon discovering the results of ODFW's 2021 big game hunts draw could not be confused with elation. I believe it sounded like some kind of combination of William Shatner exclaiming, "Khan!" in Star Trek II and the Wicked Witch of the west getting caught on the beach during a tsunami. Needless to say, like many of you, I got skunked. So did my wife, Emma, despite having a boat load of preference points. The anger, disappointment and frustration can last days or even weeks after getting this manner of news.

All is not lost, however. With lots of general season over-the-counter tags, Oregon hunters and huntresses can yet get a chance to take their favorite rifle for a walk in the woods. Unlike Eastern Oregon, the entire western side of the state is open for hunting blacktail deer via the general season. Some units have restrictions, but a perusal of the



Dale Valade

hunting regulations can steer you where to go. Be sure to take your poncho; it gets wet on that side of the mountain. There are also general season elk tags available —

some of which overlap the deer season permitting you the opportunity to hunt two species simultaneously.

Not interested? There are no general season deer hunts on the east side, but there are over-the-counter tags for both spike and cow elk. The spike-only hunts are located in the northeast corner of the state due to those units collectively providing home to the largest elk herds in the state. The general season cow tags are only good on select private land within the prescribed boundaries so make sure you have somewhere therein to go before buying the tag. Ask around, it may surprise you which landowners will say yes.

Aside from those opportunities,

there isn't much else one can do when they come up empty handed in the draw. Believe me, this isn't the first time it's happened to me, nor will it likely be the last. A good hunter should always have a backup plan. To think outside the box, several of our bordering neighbor states have over-the-counter non-resident deer and elk tags available. While you'll spend considerably more money to do so, hunting out of state is fun and very rewarding. In addition to more money, it will require additional planning and preparation. Only you can decide if they are worth the effort.

While I'm still reeling from the excrementary Father's Day gift I received from ODFW this year, I'm already working on my contingency plan and a few interesting gun projects as well. How about you?

Got a backup plan? Write to us at shootingthebreezebme@gmail.com!

Dale Valade is a local country gent with a love for the outdoors, handloading, hunting and shooting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'What misplaced priorities'

To the Editor:
I would like for any of my Democrat friends to explain why our Democrat House, Senate and governor would choose to spend \$100 million to provide free health insurance to illegal aliens rather than spend that money to help the thousands of veterans who are living on the streets. What misplaced priorities! What shameful action!

Ralph Goodwin
John Day

Use 747 supertanker for fires

To the Editor:
Here we are, at the beginning of what could prove to be worst wild-fire season ever, and the world's best firefighting tool sits unused and not ready to go because of decisions made by the U.S. Forest Service and states not to use it. Unfortunately, in 2002, two Lockheed C-130 Hercules airplanes crashed while fighting fires, one in California and one in Colorado. In 2004 the Forest Service made the decision not to use the large tanker firefighting airplanes, instead relying on helicopters and smaller planes. The supertanker would have really helped on these fires: The 2020 Oregon fires

burned 1,221,324 acres, killed 11 people and burned 3,000 buildings. At Canby, Oregon, in the middle of the day the streetlights and outside lights of businesses were on because of the darkness from the smoke.

On July 12, 2017, lightning started the Chetco Bar Fire, near Brookings, Oregon, and it burned 191,125 acres. In 2017 The Eagle Creek Fire near Cascade Locks, Oregon, burned 50,000 acres and most likely could have been put out quickly by the supertanker if it would have been used. There is a large fire burning at Mt. Shasta in California. Are we going to have to experience a disaster, like the building collapse at Surfside, Florida, before we realize that we need to prepare for these things ahead of time? When the fire is burning, it is too late to start preparing for it.

Bob Mattila
Brush Prairie, Washington

Library 'one of the most valuable offerings'

To the Editor:
I am excited to be able to return to our Grant County Public Library. The ladies there were very helpful during the pandemic closure/altering hours. With their guidance, my family was able to access scores of books that kept our sanity during these times. I was always excited when Chris would

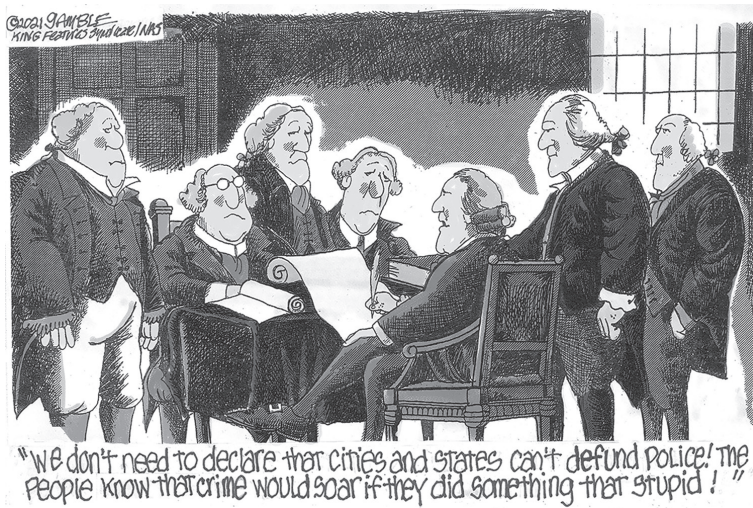
call to inform me a few more treasures were available. Being able to browse inside will open up even more book choices. This resource is one of the most valuable offerings Grant County provides as it helps so many families with education, information and fun.

Ryan McKnab
Canyon City

'Put some true leaders at the helm'

To the Editor:
It appears that the Blue Mountain Eagle has relaxed its stated policy "no personal attacks; challenge the opinion, not the person," as Judy Kerr made some very questionable accusations against my character. That's OK. Does anybody even listen to her anymore? I was tired of her rhetoric years ago. And yes, Judy, I do know what a quorum is. That is why several other elected officials, which I assume you are speaking about, may face recalls of their own by the time I am finished. Grant County citizens, if you are happy with the status quo and believe our county's leadership has led us in the direction of progress and prosperity, then don't sign the petition. If you are ready to make a change and put some true leaders at the helm, let's start at the top and go from there. Recall petitions are now circulating.

Josh Walker
Seneca



WHERE TO WRITE

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