

Virtual map shows thinning efforts

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As wildfires grow bigger and hotter across the West, the U.S. Forest Service faces a daunting task.

The agency has developed a 10-year strategy that calls for removing hazardous fuels across 20 million acres of national forests — and 30 million acres of federal, state, tribal and private land — to protect resources and communities.

It's a big job that will cost far more than the combined \$3.31 billion recently provided in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

To start, the Forest Service set aside \$131 million this year to treat 10 areas in eight Western states at high risk from wildfires, adding up to 208,000 acres. Officials debuted a virtual map Tuesday to track their progress, and show



Lane County/Contributed Photo, File
A fire tornado forms on the night of Sept. 7, 2020, near state Highway 126, also known as the McKenzie River Highway.

where the money is being spent. "With this (map), audiences across the country can see in real-time where

MORE INFORMATION

To access the Forest Service's online interactive map, visit:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a23d2e0cb7834d75bd-5f830ae51720d9/>

investments are being made to create safer communities and healthier, more resilient forests," said Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. "This work will meaningfully change how people, communities and natural resources experience risk from wildfire."

The initial project areas and budgets for fiscal year 2022 include:

- Central Oregon — \$4.5 million, 5,000 acres.
- Central Washington — \$24.6 million, 24,000 acres.
- Southwest Idaho — \$17.4 million, 18,000 acres.

- North Yuba (Calif.) — \$6.8 million, 4,500 acres.
- Stanislaus (Calif.) — \$21.8 million, 8,500 acres.
- Colorado Front Range — \$18.1 million, 10,000 acres.
- Enchanted Circle (N.M.) — \$6.6 million, 9,000 acres.
- Kootenai Complex (Mont.) — \$3.6 million, 900 acres.
- Prescott (Ariz.) — \$11.1 million, 28,000 acres.
- Four Forest Restoration Initiative (Ariz.) — \$12 million, 100,000 acres.

According to the map, the Forest Service has spent \$94.3 million, or 73% of its total funding. Two projects — North Yuba and the Four Forest Restoration Initiative — have come in over-budget, at \$7.2 million and \$15.5 million, respectively.

In its 10-year strategy, the Forest Service describes how wildfire risk has increased nationwide due to accumulating fuels, climate

change and expanding development in the wildland-urban interface, and calls for a "paradigm shift" in land management.

In 2020, 2017 and 2015, more than 10 million acres — an area more than six times the size of Delaware — burned nationwide. Nearly one-quarter of the contiguous U.S. is at "moderate" to "very high" risk from wildfire, with over half of that area in the West.

"Western states are living the reality of climate change every day, where record droughts and catastrophic fire threaten lives and livelihoods like we have never seen in our history," said USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack. "This new resource gives everyone a chance to see the real impacts of the on-the-ground work the USDA Forest Service and its partners have already done to protect the communities and the resources that are most at risk."

New streaming channel highlights Oregon

EO Media Group

Pamplin Media Group and EO Media Group have jointly launched a 24/7 TV travel channel filled with streaming video that highlights and promotes the wonders of Oregon. The channel is live today.

Called Rediscover Oregon, the channel focuses on Oregon-centric places and events one can visit and partake in. Video content includes stories from Astoria and the coast to Pendleton and Eastern Oregon. The channel features scenes from downtown Portland to downtown Bend, the Willamette Valley and Medford in Southern Oregon.

Rediscover Oregon includes locally produced videos by local content creators and social media influencers. Topics include Oregon escapes, tips on places to hike, mountain bike, ski and where to eat or find good wines and vineyards. It explores some of the hidden gems in Portland and other cities. Rediscover Oregon should be your first destination for when you want to get out and explore everything Oregon has to offer.



This streaming channel can be accessed via Roku, FireTV, AppleTV or other devices that plug in to your smart TV. Simply search for Rediscover Oregon. You can also go directly to the channel by going to rediscoveror.com.

"We hope this encourages Oregonians and visitors to fan out and explore our home state, to get a better understanding of what we have to offer and why people choose to live here," said Heidi Wright, chief operating office for EO Media Group and publisher of The Bulletin in Bend.

"Coming out of the pandemic, Oregon residents are eager once again to rediscover all the wonders in their own backyards. That makes this the optimum time to launch this channel and remind people why Oregon is a special place to live or visit," said Mark Garber, president of Pamplin Media Group. "Our partnership with

EO Media Group allows us collectively to promote every corner of the state."

The Rediscover Oregon channel will reach 1.84 million readers of EO Media and Pamplin Media Group weekly using all their media assets — print, digital, social media and email.

The launch of the channel was guided by Tasaka Digital, a strategy and product consulting firm based in West Linn. Guy Tasaka works with local media companies to create sustainable business models and next-generation distribution strategies.

The channel is still in the buildout phase and will eventually offer geographic segmentation so viewers can learn about their favorite regions of Oregon.

One of the goals of Rediscover Oregon is to partner with local content producers to highlight their videos about Oregon. Content producers can go to the CONTACT US page on rediscoveror.com to send an email about their videos and why they would be a good addition to the channel.

"Viewer feedback is important to us," said Garber. "We encourage all feedback to help us improve the quality of the channel."

Mt. Vernon-area couple found dead

Blue Mountain Eagle

MT. VERNON — A Grant County couple were found dead in their home west of Mt. Vernon on the morning of Saturday, Nov. 19, the Grant County District Attorney's Office announced in a news release.

Jack Kight, 80, and Elaine Kight, 76, each apparently died from a single gunshot wound, according to preliminary findings. Investigation appears to show that Jack Kight fired both shots, the news release said.

Next of kin have been notified.

The Grant County Sheriff's Office and Oregon State Police are investigating the incident with assistance from a forensics unit, crime reconstruction unit and additional detectives.

Sheriff Todd McKinley said the case remains under investigation and that an update will be released after all the evidence has been fully evaluated.

Anyone with information that might be helpful to the investigation is asked to call Grant County Sheriff's Sgt. Danny Komming at 541-575-1131.

"This, coupled with other recent similar tragic events in our community, has left us reeling," District Attorney Jim Carpenter said in the news release.

"Let's take the opportunity to reach out and lift those around us. Find ways to give and inspire hope to everyone in our sphere of influence."

Anyone experiencing an emotional crisis can call 988 to speak with a counselor.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

THURSDAY, NOV. 24 Community Thanksgiving dinner

• 1-4 p.m., John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St., John Day

Volunteers will dish up a free Thanksgiving dinner to all comers at the John Day Elks Lodge. The traditional menu will include turkey, ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, sweet potatoes, rolls, stuffing, cranberries and pies. Those who are disabled or homebound can call the lodge at 541-575-1824 to request deliveries. Leave a message with your name, address, phone number and how many meals you will need.

THURSDAY, DEC. 1 Senior Citizens Advisory Council meeting

• 11 a.m., John Day Senior Center, 142 NE Dayton St., John Day

The Grant County Senior Citizens Advisory Council will hold its quarterly meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

FRIDAY, DEC. 2 Carrie Young Memorial Dinner and Auction

• 5 p.m., John Day Elks Lodge, 140 NE Dayton St.,



John Day

The 30th annual Carrie Young Memorial Dinner and Auction will feature a donation-only dinner of spaghetti, salad and bread as well as live and silent auctions to raise money to provide Christmas presents and necessities to Grant County senior citizens and assisted living residents.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3 Blue Mountain Hospital Bazaar

• 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Trowbridge Pavilion and Keerins Hall, Grant County Fairgrounds, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day

Hosted by the Blue Mountain Hospital Auxiliary, this annual event will feature a wide array of holiday gift items, many of them hand-crafted. Lunch, pie and coffee will be available. A portion of the proceeds goes to support projects of the Blue Mountain Hospital District.

FRIDAY, DEC. 9 Holiday Showcase

• 6:30 p.m., Grant Union High School, 911 S. Canyon Blvd., John Day

This 24th annual event will feature special performances by Grant Union Gold and Body, Fitness & Dance.

SATURDAY, DEC. 10 Ugly Sweater Christmas Bazaar

• Monument Senior Center, 269 Main St., Monument

Wear an ugly sweater to be entered into a drawing. Tables are available at a cost of \$15. To reserve a table, call Jeanne Strange at 541-934-2001.

Timber Truckers Light Parade

• 6 p.m., Main Street, John Day

The annual parade of log trucks, big rigs and work vehicles decked out in festive holiday lights will begin at former Grant Western Lumber Co. site just west of John Day, then travel east on Main Street to Third Street Extension before looping back around to the Elks Lodge, where a chili feed and awards ceremony awaits the participants and their families. This year's theme is "Christmas Memories," and

entrants can sign up at the former Grant Western Lumber site from 2 to 5:30 p.m. The entry fee is \$10. For more information, call Leslie Traylor at 541-620-4032.

Do you have a community event you'd like to publicize?

Email information to editor@bmeagle.com. The deadline is noon Friday for publication the following Wednesday.



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Wishing you all the makings of a happy Thanksgiving.

We appreciate your business & support.



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