

In the Service



Joseph V. Taylor

Airman Joseph V. Taylor, son of Paul H. and Verrea S. Taylor of Lexington has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

During the six weeks of training the airman studied the Air Force mission organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an

associate degree through the community college of the Air Force. He is a 1987 graduate of Heppner High School.

Pvt. Richard A. Riehl

Pvt. Richard A. Riehl, son of Thomas A. and Helen M. Riehl of Heppner, has completed basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

He is a 1985 graduate of Heppner High School.

Frank E. Palmer

Airman Frank E. Palmer, son of Frank E. and Karen L. Palmer of Ir-rigon, has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

During the six weeks of training, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree through the community college of the Air Force.

He is a 1985 graduate of Riverside High School, Boardman.

Story Time

Nancy Welborn is the storyteller for the children's hour to be held at the library Thursday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m. The subject this week is "Valentines".

School Lunch Menus

February 15 - 19

Ione Schools

Monday-no school.
Tuesday-burritos, cheese sticks, celery with peanut butter, seasoned vegetables, dessert and milk.

Wednesday-fish nuggets, French fries, cole slaw, bread and butter, seasoned vegetables, fruit and milk.

Thursday-hamburger gravy over rice, carrot sticks, buttered peas, fruit, milk or potato bar.

Friday-vegetable soup, bologna or peanut butter and honey sandwiches, cheese sticks, pickles and crackers, dessert and milk.

HHS

Monday-no school.

Tuesday-potato bar/toppings, vegetable, fruit, milk or salad bar.
Wednesday-hot dinner sandwiches, vegetable, mixed fruit, milk or salad bar.

Thursday-brunch.
Friday-cook's choice.

RHS

Monday-no school.

Tuesday-ravioli and cheese, rolls and butter, corn, apples and milk or potato bar.

Wednesday-chickenwiches, tartar sauce, rice pilaf, green beans, peaches, milk and sandwich bar.

Thursday-spaghetti, French bread, green salad, cheese sticks, pears, milk and sandwich bar.

Friday-chicken nuggets, tartar sauce, spanish rice, spice cake, fruit salad and milk.

Sam Boardman

Monday-no school.

Tuesday-ham slices, potatoes and gravy, carrot sticks, fruit, cake and cherry topping and milk.

Wednesday-beef stew, hot rolls, jello and fruit, pudding and milk.
Thursday-turkey noodles, corn, cheese sticks, jello cake, fruit and milk.

Friday-burritos, refried beans, spanish rice, apples, cookies and milk.

AC Houghton

Monday-no school.

Tuesday-corn dogs, chips, green beans, cookies, fruit and milk.

Wednesday-beef stew, hot rolls, jello, fruit and milk.
Thursday-spaghetti, tossed salad, French bread, fruit and milk.

Friday-fishwiches, tater tots, waldorf salad, fruit and milk.

Obituary

Debra L. Bryant

Debra Lynn (Hug) Bryant, formerly of Boardman, died Sunday, Jan. 31, 1988 at Oregon City. She was 32.

Recitation of the Rosary was at Burns Mortuary Chapel in Hermiston. A funeral Mass was held at Our Lady of Angels Catholic Church in Hermiston with burial at Boardman Cemetery.

Mrs. Bryant, a secretary, was born in Hermiston April 1, 1955. She was raised in Boardman and had recently moved to Oregon City. She was a member of the Catholic Church.

She is survived by her parents, Delmer and Barbara Hug of Boardman; grandparents Gene and Stella Gurley of Irigoin and Eran Hug of Hermiston; son Joshua and daughters Dawn and Nicole, all of Oregon City; brother David Hug of Boardman; and sisters Pamela hug of Brogan and Julie Voorhees of Tigard. A brother, Brian, died earlier.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Heppner Police Report

The Heppner Police Department reports handling the following business during the past week:

Feb. 1: 12:07 a.m.-report of Child Abuse; 3:15 p.m.-False Alarm; 9:23 p.m.-report of Criminal Mischief; 11:34 p.m.-citation issued for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants.

Feb. 2: 3:16 p.m.-served Dog Citation; 9:20 p.m.-motorist assist.
Feb. 3: 2:22 p.m.-assist in Civil Disturbance.

Feb. 4: 8:55 a.m.-report of Worthless Document; 1 p.m.-report of Theft.

Feb. 6: 6:44 a.m.-citation issued for Violation of the Basic Rule 39 mph in a 25 mph zone; 6:55 a.m.-citation issued for Illegal Backing.

Feb. 7: 1:20 a.m.-citation issued for No Operator License; 5:15 p.m.-subject arrested on three warrants; 9:41 p.m.-report of Suspicious Person; 10:15 p.m.-assist Fire Dept.; 10:47 p.m.-report of Speeding.

THE PROPOSED FOREST PLAN WILL HAVE A SEVERE IMPACT ON WILDLIFE AND RECREATION/TOURISM

Last week this article documented the Proposed Forest Plan will strip the harvestable timber from the Heppner district in ten years if present trends continue. The watershed in like manner will be dangerously impaired by clearcutting of vital riparian areas. This article will document the equally severe impact of the Forest Plan on wildlife and the recreational/tourist economy and will demonstrate that the Forest Plan, if implemented, will devastate the economy of Heppner and Lexington - drying up millions of dollars of big game and tourist revenues. If the Proposed Plan is implemented the Heppner District forest in the year 2000 may well reveal the following: 1) A forest floor swept clean of firewood and down logs - 2) Deadly silence in the forest - especially no singing birds - 3) Widespread and increasing use of insecticides, herbicides, and rodenticides to control pests - 4) Limited entry by fee only into the National Forest - 5) Fee hunting - European style - for the rich only on lands surrounding National Forest - 6) A few remnant species of surviving wildlife animals - 7) Managed, policed tree farms of uniform size, spacing and type of tree - 8) Small patches of natural forest left, particularly along roads - 9) A rare glimpse of a once common big game animal.

The picture of Heppner would be much more dismal in the year 2000 if the forests are not sustained, the watershed is not conserved, and recreation, tourism, and hunting is not maintained and enhanced. This article will examine the impact of the Proposed Forest Plan on the wildlife and local recreational/tourist industry.

I. WILDLIFE IN THE FOREST - The Umatilla National Forest currently provides habitat for "324 species of vertebrate animals" (7 amphibians, 14 reptiles, 73 mammals, 201 birds and 29 fish species) (DEIS p. III-30). One of the responsibilities of the Forest Service is "assuring that the nation maintains a natural resource conservation posture that will meet the requirements of our people in perpetuity" (National Forest Management Act (NFMA) Sec. 2-6).

The Forest Plan has copiously documented the vital functioning unity and relationship of the forest habitat and living species. "Nearly 60 species of wildlife are heavily dependent on forest stands of over 120 years of age" (Proposed Plan p. 3-8). "Over 60 wildlife species are also dependent on dead tree (snag) habitat" (Proposed Plan p. 3-8). 179 species of vertebrate require dead and down woody material for habitat in the Blue Mountains (Thomas p. 79).

In summary, 324 wildlife species are dependent on all stages of forest growth and decay for habitat, food, cover, reproduction and water.

II. THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED FOREST PLAN ON THE FOREST HABITAT WILL BE:

1) "a reduction in the numbers and vigor of understory vegetation" (DEIS p. IV-33).

2) "a killing of understory vegetation, or the setting back of growth (by release activities, i.e. chemicals) which will decrease the overall diversity of the Forest" (DEIS p. IV-33).

3) "hiding cover for deer and elk is eliminated as timber stands are harvested" (DEIS p. IV-56).

4) "Reduced or lost soil productivity (compaction, displacement, puddling, surface erosion and mass wasting) is on an estimated 17,000 acres (in the proposed action)" (DEIS p. IV-8).

5) "Total roading will increase by 35% (DEIS p. IV-172).

6) "As timber harvest activities continue through time, a steady decline occurs in available thermal cover (required by big game)" (DEIS p. IV-56).

7) "During the planning period...available old growth will decline in the general forest areas due to timber harvest" (Proposed Plan p. 3-9).

8) "The potential populations of pileated woodpeckers, pine martens, northern three-toed wood peckers and other wildlife species will decline in direct proportion to the loss of old growth/mature tree habitat and the dead defective tree habitat" (DEIS p. IV-65).

III. THE NECESSITY OF DOWN WOOD IN THE FOREST - The Proposed Plan provides that "large dead and down woody material will be left at the rate of two per acre" (Proposed Plan p. 4-42). However, the Forest Service documents, "as wood becomes more valuable and less abundant, users have demonstrated they become more adept and efficient in their methods of retrieving wood from areas that are difficult to reach" (DEIS p. IV-66). Furthermore, the Forest Service documents that the dead and slowly decomposing woody material are a vital part of the forest ecosystem for mineral recycling, nutrient immobilization, nitrogen fixation, fire and wildlife habitat" (Thomas p. 79). This documentation only scratches the surface of the impact of the Proposed Forest Plan on the wildlife of the forest. The documentation of the Plan itself clearly demonstrates the Forest Service may legally be in violation of its governing responsibility and U.S. law. The bottom line is that there will be no wildlife habitat of any significance if the Proposed Plan is implemented.

IV. THE VALUE OF BIRDS IN THE FOREST - In Europe where all the forests have been removed and only intensively managed even-aged tree farms exist there is no wildlife. For example, in one Bavarian forest "some 400,000 bird boxes have been placed in an area (one third the size of the U.N.F.)" (Thomas p. 63). They must be constructed, installed, cleaned, and replaced periodically.

The Proposed Forest Plan neglects the value of birds in regulating and controlling insect outbreaks that have ravaged the Umatilla National Forest, such as the tussock moth, spruce budworm, and western pine beetle. The Forest Service documents, "dendroctonus (meaning tree killer) beetles, particularly the mountain beetles, have been the most dramatic tree killers on the forest" (DEIS p. III-43) yet fails to document that "birds help regulate spruce budworm populations at endemic levels, and regulation of western pine beetle and other beetles by woodpeckers" (Thomas p. 62).

In conclusion, the Proposed Plan illustrates a Forest Service policy that emphasizes timber harvests, road construction and economic gain yet admits "there is no unbiased evidence to indicate that yield of volume and value of all-aged stands is superior to that of even-aged stands" (DEIS p. IV-43). Again the Forest Service has only presented the argument in favor of even-aged timber management and neglected to warn the public about the adverse effects.

Even-aged timber management will produce European style tree farms in one of the most prosperous conifer forests known to man. In the Bavarian Forests of Germany even twigs less than one inch are gathered for firewood. If the people and municipal authorities allow this Forest Plan to be implemented, we will have our very own Bavarian Forest in our own Blue Mountains. The choice is yours and mine.

THE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED PLAN ON THE LOCAL RECREATIONAL ECONOMY

Is there an important economic value of the forest in terms of hunting, fishing, sightseeing, and outdoor recreation particularly in light of the documented recreational increased demand?

The impact of the proposed forest plan on the local recreational/tourist economy will be severe. The Forest Service documents a significant recreational use of the U.N.F. in the coming decades. For example: camping 34%, picnic facilities demand 29%, sightseeing 18%, hunting 28%, as well as increased demand for swimming, fishing, boating, hiking, horseback riding and snow opportunities (DEIS p. III-54,55). Increased user density of the forest is expected (57% increase in the planning period) (DEIS p. III-56).

Graph 6 illustrates it costs the Forest Service almost as much to sell our timber and build roads (over 100 miles in "proposed action") as the timber is worth. Once the timber is clearcut the recreational value is largely lost. To illustrate this point this article will examine four case studies:

1) WICKIUP TIMBER SALE - In 1977 a 3200 acre, mostly virgin, timber stand in the Heppner unit called Wickiup was scheduled for timber harvest. The U.S. Forest Service issued a lengthy environmental assessment report indicating 1) "The sale deemed necessary to provide a sustained yield of forest products to local industry"; 2) "possible adverse impact on the big game populations"; and 3) "this action will not cause any significant environmental impact" (Ward, Critical Review of Wickiup Timber Sale, April '80).

The documented results of the Wickiup timber harvest were: 1) "Rocky Mt. elk populations were reduced from 250-300 elk to 15-20 and the low number of animals used the sale area only under the cover of darkness"; 2) "recreational hunting days for elk alone were reduced from 1,560 to 805 from 1971 to 1979 and elk harvest from 98 to zero animals"; 3) "Potential hunter expenditures were reduced from \$148,000 to \$9,975 annually"; 4) "The EAR states that the only snags to be removed were those designated by the State Industrial Accident but salvage sales since the EAR removed most of the viable snags" (Ward, Wickiup Sale, April '80).

Glen Ward, Heppner Wildlife Biologist, concludes the analysis of the Wickiup sale: "I strongly feel that past Environmental Analysis Reports have been used to justify timber sales that had obvious adverse effects on most of the other resources values. Little or lightly acknowledgements of the adverse effects in the EAR justifies proceeding with the goal of obtaining the allowable timber harvest at the expense of other resource values" (Ward, Wickiup Sale, '80). Ward concluded that the "same discrepancies" would be revealed in every timber sale if the ODG had the man-power to monitor and inspect the impact of the timber harvest on the forest and wildlife.

2) THE SURVIVING ROADLESS AREAS - The RARE II process established the fate of the last six units of roadless left in the Heppner District (Hell's Half Acre, Texas Butte, Skookum, Potamus, Kelly Prairie and Bologna Basin - 52,000 acres). In 1981 this roadless area was established as multiple use because of lack of local public support for these wilderness areas. By 1988 only portions of three roadless areas remained. Hell's Half Acre, Kelly Prairie, and Bologna Basin are no longer recognizable in terms of the forest that once existed in these areas. The Forest Service has stated its attitude toward the recreational values of the last portions of roadless areas: "Due to its shape and the way the (Texas Butte, Skookum, Potamus - same definition for all three) area lies, the opportunity for a feeling of solitude, the spirit of adventure and awareness, serenity, and self-reliance do not really exist in this area" (DEIS Appendixes p. C-158, 166, 174). Why are these last roadless areas no longer of value for recreational, tourist or spiritual needs? "Roads and timber harvest activities on all sides present nonconforming sights and sounds to nearly the entire roadless area" (DEIS Ap. p. C-158). Therefore the Proposed Plan will remove from roadless classification those areas with harvestable timber.

3) THE COMING ELK CRISIS - The most controversial recreational issue involves the elk herd. One of the largest elk herds in the nation is found in the U.N.F. (DEIS p. S-2). However some serious problems are developing. Private landowners are increasingly complaining of elk damage to their land and crops. Not only are elk moving off public land, the quality of herd is also declining. In the Heppner district in 1952 the ratio of males to females was 16 to 100. By 1984 the ratio had declined to 7 per 100. In 1988 the ratio had further declined to 4 per 100 (Glen Ward, Heppner Wildlife Biologist, '88). According to Ward the dangerously marginal ratio of bulls has been caused by "the loss of cover due to timber harvest practices." An additional problem according to Ward is the back to back clearcut timber sales. "All the studies to date, emphasize that space between timber sales is necessary if you are to maintain an elk population - there will be none - so we can anticipate these animals will leave public lands and go to adjacent private lands where additional elk are not wanted." (Ward, July '84). Private landowners will be infringed upon to feed the elk and incur "damage of forage and cereal crops, the trampling and compaction of soils, damage to fences and other range improvements, and damage to irrigation ditches" (DEIS p. IV-72). These landowners, primarily Shirley Rugg, Jack Glavey, Terry Thompson and Dick Wilkinson, already provide extensive land for elk habitat and forage - available to the public for deer hunting to the considerable economic benefit of South Morrow County. To expect these landowners to feed and maintain the elk and deer so the forest can be intensively tree farmed is unfair and ethically unprofessional.

4) RECREATIONAL DOLLARS - The recreation dollars that will be lost due to removing vital recreational forest stands and mismanaging big game habitat for the purpose of maximum timber harvest is irretrievable.

The Oregon Dept. of Fish and Game established a gross economic impact per day for recreational activities in 1978. The economic impact per day for big game hunting at 1988 prices is \$10 for equipment and travel expenses. This figure has been substantiated by documented surveys of hunter expenditures (ODFG 1978).

The total number of Recreational Visitor Days (RVD's) for the U.N.F. in 1982 was 1,334,100. If we took the high value of \$10 and the low value of \$13 (for small game hunting) and established the median value at \$60 per day, the total economic impact to the state from the U.N.F. would be \$80,046,000 per year. The economic benefit to the local economies in Eastern Oregon would be over Twenty Million Dollars per year. The strategic location of Heppner and Lexington as gateways to one of the most accessible and productive forests in the Blue Mountains can be documented to be worth more than Five Million Dollars per year.

The documentation of this examination of the Proposed Forest Plan for the Umatilla National Forest supports the findings of Glen Ward. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Appendixes, Maps, and Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan are written for the express purpose of meeting minimum national legal requirements to justify proceeding with the maximum timber harvest at the expense of other resource values. In the case of the Heppner District of the U.N.F., the Proposed Forest Plan will eliminate the forest as we know it and irreparably cripple the local economy.

There is still time to conserve the remaining forest and develop the local recreational/tourist economy for the documented increased demand. Recreational costs are extremely low and the dividend is extremely high. The quality of life and the enhanced quantity and quality of water would indefinitely and consistently undergird the local economy. A smaller but sustained timber industry would give the local economy a balanced foundation between timber, agriculture and recreation. Without a forest, Heppner's economy cannot survive into the next century.

The local authorities (Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, City Councils, County Court, Tourist Committee) must plan for the future and take the necessary steps to conserve our most important resource - our Forest!

The forest can be conserved and still harvested. Uneven-aged timber management ("selective logging") has conserved the forests of America for nearly a century. Therefore to save our local economy this article proposes:

TEN STEPS TO CONSERVE THE HEPPNER UNIT FOREST

- 1) Re-affirm uneven-aged (selective cut) timber management
- 2) No "below cost" timber sales
- 3) Establish the sustained timber yield based on the limits set by the forest not the wants of government and industry
- 4) Maintain the remaining portions of the Texas Butte and Skookum roadless areas
- 5) Protect the headwaters of Butter, Willow, Rhea, and Rock Creek
- 6) Maintain 10 year average ('77-'86) timber harvest on sustained yield basis
- 7) Maintain county timber receipts at 10 year average ('77-'86)
- 8) Maintain timber jobs at 10 year average ('77-'86)
- 9) No fencing of riparian zones and diversion of road building funds into range building programs to support cattlemen
- 10) Protect remaining portions of Hell's Half Acre, Gibson's Cave, CCC diversion ditch and nature trails above Cutsforth Park

If you support the conclusions of this article, please write the the Forest supervisor expressing your support of the 10 steps to save the Forest before February 26. A copy of the letter should also be sent to the Governor's office, and Senators Packwood and Hatfield and to Rep. Bob Smith.

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The only manner in which the public can save the forest is to participate in the public review process. Letters to the editor and attending public meetings will also influence the outcome of our forest. Most importantly, local governing authorities must develop a plan to conserve the forest and water resources and develop and encourage the recreational/tourist economy.

1st Interstate prime rate decreased

First Interstate Bank of Oregon has changed its prime rate from 8.75 percent to 8.50 percent effective at the opening of business on Tuesday, February 2.

First Interstate Bank of Oregon's prime rate refers to the bank's publicly announced prime rate which is a base rate used to price some

loans. It may not be the lowest rate at which the bank makes any loan.

First Interstate Bank of Oregon is an affiliate of First Interstate Bancorp., the nation's eighth largest banking company with more than 1,100 domestic offices and over 30 offices specializing in international banking.



Photo by Joyce Hughes

Chad Skroch (24) Bears looks for an open pass while Trent Hughes (20) Tigers, plays tough defense. Tigers won 31 to 28.

Colt Basketball League Standings

	W	L
Eagles	3	0
Bears	2	1
Colts	1	2
Hawks	1	2
Tigers	1	2
Lions	1	2

Action Saturday February 5

Tigers 31	Bears 28
Lions 25	Colts 17
Eagles 22	Hawks 14

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Time change in Parenting series

The Morrow County School District will be hosting an important meeting of parents of exceptional children on Thursday, February 18, at 6:30 p.m., at the District Office, in Lexington.

Brenda Weygandt, Heppner Elementary school counselor, will lead a presentation on the topic "Positive Parenting: Building Your Child's Self Esteem."

Parents will have the opportunity to visit with teachers and with each other to share experiences, successes, and common problems.

Parents should contact local school ERC teachers for transportation to this meeting.

Refreshments will be served.

M.C.G.G. Customer Appreciation Day DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

Gary Kemp	Air Compressor
Bob Stevens	Chain Saw
Bob Jepsen	Tool Box
Jackie Culver	Coffeemaker
Frank Connor	Cover-alls
Amy Drake	Toy Tractor
Travis Bellamy	Toy Truck
Trevor Rhea	Toy Tractor



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