

EASTERN OREGON OUTDOORS



by Mark Baggett

For years, the issue of running livestock on public lands has been a veritable hotbed of debate, particularly when those lands are host to numerous wildlife. Here in eastern Oregon, one such controversy is the amount of impact public cattle grazing has on elk herds, and how much the two compete for food.

Public Grazing and Wildlife Studied at Starkey Project

At the Starkey Experimental Forest and Range on the Willowa-Whitman National Forest, answers are being sought to questions that have existed since the two species first shared the same range.

The 10-year, \$4-million "Starkey Project," a joint effort between the USDA Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, incorporates over 38 miles of deer, elk and cattle-proof fence that encloses 25,000 acres (about 40 square miles) of public forest land where researchers are studying the interactions of elk, deer and cattle and their reaction to man's usage of the land.

One study within the project, according to co-project leader Donavin Leckenby, an ODFW wildlife research scientist, is aimed at correcting an out-dated formula that equates the number of elk it takes to consume the same amount of forage as a domestic cow and her calf (AUM—animal unit per month).

"We are looking at several questions—some are totally new questions relative to here—about animal-unit equivalencies," Leckenby says. "Everybody agrees that they're inaccurate; this whole study is designed to make a better equation for allocating forage on public lands."

Leckenby cited a "classic example" as one which occurred several years ago when the elk herd within the Snake River unit was found to be doubling. With only a certain amount of forage per acre available, the land-management agency in charge of the area informed the cattlemen there that public grazing would have to be restricted to provide more forage for the building elk herd.

"That didn't set very well with the ranchers, who went straight to the Governor and had him and a bunch of other people come out and look at the situation," Leckenby said. "At the same time, the Department was looking at management objectives—numbers of elk. The key issue of the whole thing was how much forage (was available) and how to allocate it."

"The equation that's being used right now for allocating forage by AUM equivalencies is wrong—it's just flat-out wrong," Leckenby continued. "It says it takes 2.5 to 3 elk to make one AUM cattle. That's strictly based on body weight; it has nothing to do with the behavior of the animals—how elk won't eat in the same places that cows do all the time and visa-versa. The equation doesn't take those variables into account at all, but it was the equation used to come up with the modification of management objectives for elk in the Snake River unit. This is a perfect example of a situation where the new equation (when developed) could have said 'Hey, this is wrong.'"

The present equation, said to have been developed as far back as the early 1930s, was actually formulated under the rather unrealistic conditions of placing elk and cattle together in small pens and feeding them the same diet under the same weather conditions.

"And Lo and Behold, they ate in proportion to body weight," Leckenby said. "About 2.5 elk ate the same amount as a 1000-pound cow. But now turn them loose and let them do what they want to do, and it (the equation) doesn't hold any more, because they don't spend the same amount of time in the different habitats and they don't necessarily eat the same plants or plant parts."

Leckenby stressed the fact that the present study, which essentially allows elk and cattle to forage in areas of their choosing, will only provide needed accurate information about animal-unit equivalencies—it will not determine whether more cattle or more elk will be allocated for a given area, a decision that will ultimately be left up to the land managers.

When done properly, Leckenby views cattle grazing as a beneficial land-management tool.

"But it has to be a managed situation in a given system—and you follow through with that plan—and then they (cattle and elk) can benefit each other."

"And it's not just here," Leckenby said, "it's in Colorado and Utah—and Africa. Everywhere you go, you look at that kind of interaction with these different ruminant animals running around in the wild and, if you use them together, you get more production off the landscape than if you concentrate on one of them and say the other is a problem."

Court has hectic summer

The advertising and promotion of Morrow County and the Fair and Rodeo is a hectic and rigorous schedule the first two weeks of August for the Queen and Court.

Queen Nancy Bailey and her princesses Shawna Cash, Amy Greenup and Jodee Ashbeck are scheduled to talk on the KOHU Odds and Ends Program, broadcast live from McDonald's in Hermiston on August 2 at 9:30 a.m.

The court members will meet on July 26 for a rehearsal and speech preparation class with Jane Rawlins and Birdine Tullis at the Annex building at 3:30 p.m.

On August 8 the Queen and Court will travel to Kennewick, Washington to appear on the KNDU TV news with Jim Snyder interview-

listeners will tune in to KUMA Coffee Hour to hear the Queen and Court's interview with John Thomas, live from the Tapadera in Pendleton at 10 a.m.

Of course, the horseback appearances are mingled with the personal interviews and on August 12 the Queen and Court travel to Hermiston for the Umatilla Fair Parade. Umatilla is inviting the court to a Court breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Hermiston High School prior to the 10 a.m. parade. "We're going to squeeze in as many appearances as we can prior to our Fair and Rodeo and let all of those neighbors hear about our great Morrow County Fair & Rodeo," says Queen Nancy Bailey. "Everybody should turn out for our event here in Heppner," she adds.

Art classes to be offered at fair

Morrow County Creative Arts and Crafts has made plans to provide free art lessons for all school age children of Morrow County who wish to increase their knowledge of art.

Providing the instruction will be Darla Hanson of Hermiston. Darla has previously worked with children and taught Blue Mountain Community College classes in this area. All supplies will be provided by MCCA & C. Classes will be pencil-shading-shapes-drawing and a perspective drawing for older children, color mixing and experimenting, a watercolor painting and dough sculpture.

Sign-up will be Thursday morning August 17, starting at 9 a.m. Students may sign up for their

choice of classes at this time. Classes will be one hour sessions, starting at 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on August 17 and 18.

Classes will be held at the Morrow County Fairgrounds near the Dorm building.

If further information is needed or a student wishes to sign up for a class and is unable to make the Aug. 17 sign up period, please call Betty Mills, 676-5546 as the number of students per class is limited to 10.

M.C.C.A. & C. members hope to make this a positive experience for the young people of Morrow County. Anyone wishing to help in this endeavor by donating supplies like paper, brushes, or paints contact Cork Norene at 676-9656.

Crum's celebrate 50 years



Lou and Ralph Crum

Ralph and Lou Crum of Lone celebrated their Golden Anniversary with family and friends on June 17, 1989. A buffet reception including a program was held at the Lone Legion Hall.

Hosts for the anniversary celebration were the couple's children and grandchildren: Bonnie Peterson of Tempe, Arizona and her daughter Robin and son Rance; Jack Crum of Lone and daughter Holly; Bob Crum of Burns; Monty and Bev Crum of Prescott, Wash., and their children Robby, Camie and Steven; Kathy and Brian Hageman of Mesa, Arizona and sons Jeremy and Danny. Following the buffet luncheon the program was opened by Judy Osmin, a friend and Mayor of Lone.

A welcome was extended to family and friends of approximately 250 people. Dutch Strahm, Lou's brother from Phoenix, Ariz. was the MC for the afternoon. The special speaker was Rev. Raymond Kratzer of Yakima, Wa. accompanied by his wife Rosemond. Being the minister who married the couple, 50 years ago, Rev. Kratzer shared memories of the original ceremony performed on June 16, 1939 at the brides home near Arlington. By special request Rev. Kratzer again played two numbers on his saw, "Amazing Grace and I Love You Truly." Waneta

Sackett, Lou's sister from The Dalles, the original Maid of Honor was also in attendance. She witnessed the signing of the wedding certificate 50 years ago.

Kathy Hageman, the couples youngest daughter, presented to them, a memory book, a gift from the children and grandchildren. Grandson Jeremy Hageman played a medley on his saxophone, a tribute to his grandparents. Background musicians were Lois Smith on her violin, and Ramon Crum on the piano. The unique Photo Collage was put together by Ralph's sisters Inez Kegley and Charlotte Crum and niece Lois Smith. Ralph and Lou expressed their appreciation to everyone who attended and invited them to join them for the beautiful anniversary cake and punch from the punch fountain.

Ralph and Lou have farmed near Lone for 43 of their 50 married years, coming to Lone in 1946. They previously both lived near Arlington where they both graduated from Arlington High School. Ralph was sales and service man for Caterpillar Tractor Co. for many years. After they were married they lived at Wasco, Portland and during war years lived at Kinzua and Camp 5. They farmed at Blalock and Mikkalo before moving to Lone.

Produce stand open in Heppner



Tom Able Farms, located between Hermiston and Stanfield, have opened a vegetable stand in Heppner on the Heppner-Lexington highway beside Pettyjohn Building Supply and M & R Floor Covering.

The stand is operated by Amy Brownfield and is open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Fresh produce is brought to Hepp-

ner every other day and the vegetables are picked that morning.

Corn, cucumbers, Walla Walla Sweet onions and apples, to mention a few are available. Also, a specialty, International melons grown from seeds especially purchased by Mr. Able, will be available as they mature.

These products are grown without herbicides or pesticides.

Highway work has begun

The Oregon State Highway department will begin their repair work from Heppner to Ruggs the end of this week. The project will then continue from Eightmile to the Gilliam County Line.

The work is expected to take a month and travelers are advised that there will be pilot cars and they should expect a short wait while traveling throughout the construction.

1989 Home Ec prefair training held

What is Conference Judging? Does "Danish System" mean the judges are Scandinavian? Can an Animal Science Project member enter photography contests? Should a modeling participant take the "2 p.m. position" if the Fashion Show is at 7 p.m.?

The answers to these questions and many more were explained to 24 Junior and Intermediate Home Economics and miscellaneous project members and their leaders and parents at the 1989 Prefair Training, July 15, at the Morrow County fairgrounds. Educational Presentation included: "Introduction to Morrow County 4-H Fair Events,"

"Measuring Contests"; "Table Setting Guidelines"; "Winning Ways with 4-H Presentations"; "Classic Knots for Ties and Scarves"; "Getting ready for Style Revue"; and "Modeling Techniques".

Adult and teen leaders making presentations included: Chloe and Peter Pearson, Bridget McElligott, Becky Wagenblast, Jean Jepsen, Francine, Molly and Mikka Evans. Joyce Hughes was guest conference judge. Other 4-H & community volunteers included: Ann Spicer and Lea Calvert. Lana Schmidt of the Country Rose gave tips and suggestions for accessorizing "My Favorite Outfit" and "Style Revue" garments.

Morrow County 4-H members participating in the Prefair Training included: Peter Pearson, Bridget McElligott, Dan Myers, Sherri Garetto, Judy Jepsen, Jill Briggs, Joann Bingham, Jacob Tanner, Kelly Bond, Amy Gomez, Becky Wagenblast, Marc Orem, Kelly Morgan, Jory Crowell, Randy Scott, Becky Picknell, Alicia Tarnasky, Mandy Gutierrez, Philip Spicer-Kuhn, Amber Rollis, Trent Hughes, Michele Meakins, Marie Tworek and Dawn Sheirbon.

Volunteer involvement and support for the Home Economics Prefair enabled 4-H members to develop leadership skills, gain project knowledge and skills, improve decision making skills, be helpful to their community and learn to work cooperatively.

Justice Court Report

The Justice Court office at the courthouse annex in Heppner reports handling the following business during the past week:

Marguetha Kay Faver, Mill City: No PUC Permit, \$92 bail forfeited;

Marcie Lynn Stookey, Heppner: Careless Driving, \$77 fine;

John Wesley Ferrell, Heppner: Failure to Yield Right of Way, \$24 fine;

Virgil Lee Ricks, Springfield: Exceeding the Maximum Speed, 75 mph in a 65 mph zone, \$57 bail forfeited;

Richard Dean Baker, Echo-No: PUC Permit, No Truck License, \$60 fine;

Calvin Terrill Foster, Spray-No: Vehicle License, \$31 bail forfeited; Thomas Alan Smith, Pendleton: Flat Tire, \$13 fine;

David S. Smith, Elgin-No: Fire Extinguisher, \$57 bail forfeited.

LOOK WHO'S 28!

Happy Birthday Kim! Your Friend, Nancy



By Sunset

8X10 COLOR PORTRAIT Only \$1.99

All ages welcome Groups \$1.00 extra per person

SEARS Monday, July 31st 11:00 to 5:00

Friends and relatives of Mary and Steve Anderson are cordially invited to an informal reception in their honor, Saturday, August Twelfth, five o'clock to eight o'clock in the evening in the yard of the bride's parents, Fay and Gene Brown, 615 S. Maple, Heppner, Oregon.

ART AT THE FAIR

For All School Aged Children of Morrow County

—Sign up August 17th starting at 9:00 a.m. Class hours 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. August 17th and 18th.



—Classes are 1 hour sessions—Pencil-Shading-Shapes-Drawings and Perspective Drawing for the older children. Color-mixing and Watercolor Painting, also Clay Sculpture.

—All Classes held on the Morrow County Fairgrounds near Dorm Building.

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