

Ranchers understand environment

By David P. Price, Ph.D.

In today's world there are a great number of people who consider themselves "environmentalists". The difference between ranchers and most of today's self-appointed environmentalists is that ranchers truly understand the interplay between flora and fauna. They genuinely understand resource management. Urban environmentalists on the other hand, do not believe in intervention by man. Typically they believe that everything should be left to Nature.

Hunting or otherwise removing animals for slaughter is considered cruel. In reality, it is humane. Left on her own, Nature will control animal populations. But Nature is inexorably cruel. Nature controls animal populations through starvation, disease and predation.

Ranchers and other genuine land managers realize that you manage land for the flora, not the fauna. As the amount of forage declines, you must remove a portion of the animals. If you don't, overgrazing (and starvation) will result.

Urban environmentalists typically believe that overgrazing is a result of domestic livestock, not wildlife. That is nonsense. If you want to see overgrazing by wildlife, go to Yellowstone Park . . . where scores of elk and bison starve to death each winter. I once asked a wildlife biologist at Yellowstone how he could justify allowing those animals to starve. His reply? The carrion makes good feed for coyotes and bears. To me, and I am sure most ranchers, that type of thinking is "sick". A total lack of compassion for animals.

To the "back to nature" types, however, predation is the answer to population control. The reality is that weather, not predation is Nature's primary population control agent. During droughts, predator and prey alike starve to death. The only humane and ecologically sound policy is for educated principles of range and wildlife management to control animal populations . . . not the whims of nature.

Ted Turner, who has bought up enormous amounts of ranchland, is replacing conventional livestock with buffalo. The implication is that buffalo are a more ecologically sound alternative. While I have always had the greatest respect for Mr. Turner . . . the move to repopulate the West with buffalo is surely well intentioned, but is not based on sound principles.

The problem is that it has been reported Mr. Turner is tearing out all the cross fences. In essence, instead of practicing modern rotational grazing, he will be involved in old fashioned continuous grazing.

Knowledgeable range managers have long recognized that continuous grazing is not a viable system. No matter what the animal population, overgrazing will occur. The reason is that range forage must be cropped like hay. You let the animals graze it, and then remove them. The plant will then regenerate from energy reserves within the roots and crown.

Most range grasses require at least three to eight weeks in order to replenish the energy used up during regeneration. If animals are allowed to regaze before the energy reserves have been replaced, the plant will die.

In the 1800's buffalo roamed the West, and as a general rule they did not overgraze. They did not overgraze because there were no windmills or other developed water sources. Water, not grass, limited animal numbers. As areas were grazed down, buffalo had to move as much as a hundred miles for water. (There was little opportunity for grazing regrowth.)

The invention of barbed wire is often credited with the overgrazing of America. While that may be true, it was the advent of the windmill that allowed animal numbers to expand. Fences simply confined the animals and allowed regazing (overgrazing) to occur.

But while fences created the problem, they also can alleviate the problem. By concentrating animals and moving them in a timely manner, range condition can be restored (grasses replacing less desirable plants).

What the urban-environmentalist must also understand is the importance of water development in relation to wildlife. The windmills and other wells ranchers drill and maintain benefit wildlife as much as livestock. Because of water development, today we have more deer, antelope, elk, quail, turkeys, grouse, doves as well as nongame or non-native species such as chukars than existed during the 1800s.

Incredibly, even people within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) do not understand this. Incredibly, BLM wants to restrict water development on some federal lands. I am quite sure it is not the range conservation officers or other range scientists with BLM who want such changes. It is the seat-of-the-pants bureaucrats in Washington. It is time, I believe to let professional range managers make the decisions. It is also time for the public to realize that ranchers are their allies in the maintenance of wildlife populations. In addition to the invaluable water resources ranchers maintain, ranchers also put out supplemental feed. Armchair biologists often claim that wildlife does not need supplemental feed. That is totally and completely wrong. The mineral and protein feeds ranchers put out for their livestock are also consumed by wildlife and in some instances have a highly positive effect on their reproductive rate. Certainly the benefit is not as great as water, but it is significant. (Without water development, wildlife in many western states would only be about 1/3 of what it is today.)

Note: The author is a professional agricultural consultant who has done work for the U.S. Grains Council; in cooperation with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service; The Agency for International Development; The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; as well as private work throughout the world.

Births

David Jackson Struthers-a son David Jackson was born to Sarah and Joe Struthers of Clovis New Mexico on April 5, 2000.

He joins sisters Aubry and Rebecca and brother Bradley at home. His grandparents are Maynard and Edna Struthers of Hermiston and Carl and Geri Martin of Heppner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

2000 PRECOMMERCIAL CHAINSAW THINNING USDA FOREST SERVICE Umatilla National Forest Heppner Ranger District Morrow County, Oregon

On May 8, 2000, Heppner District Ranger, Andrei Rykoff, decided to implement the 2000 Precommercial Chainsaw Thinning on the Heppner Ranger District. Precommercial thinning is needed to improve tree growth and maintain vigor within 2079 acres of overstocked stands of seedlings and saplings 10 to 25 years old. Trees will be cut by hand using chainsaws. Trees less than 18 inches in height or greater than 7 inches DBH will not be cut unless they are deformed, are western juniper or infected with mistletoe.

The Decision Memo and associated project file are available upon request from the Heppner Ranger District, P. O. Box 7, Heppner, OR. 97836.

This decision is not subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215.8(a)(4). Published: May 17, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR A CM/GC

Morrow County Health District is requesting applications and qualifications for a CM/GC (Construction Manager/General Contractor), for the proposed C.T. Scanner and interior remodel project of Pioneer Memorial Hospital. The purpose of this request is to enable the District Board to receive information and qualifications to select a CM/GC to manage and construct the Interior remodel at Pioneer Memorial Hospital.

The conditions of the request are as follows: The contractor or key personnel must have Healthcare construction experience within the last 5 years, you must explain what the experience is and provide references of that experience, provide qualifications and resume of Superintendent, Project Manager and key personnel, list any similar negotiations and arrangements you have entered into and provide references, list any litigation, arbitration or any mitigation with any project within the last 5 years, state when you can start the project and estimate the completion of the project and the personal approach you will take to complete this project. The contractor is encouraged to visit the facility and view the scope of the project before submitting qualifications.

The District may invite selected Contractors to present their proposal and to answer questions during an interview. However, the District reserves the right to select a Contractor based only upon the submitted documentation. Morrow County Health District or its agents are not liable for any costs incurred in the preparation and submittal for a CM/GC. Submittals not providing the proper documentation may be disqualified.

Submittals for a CM/GC must be filed with Morrow County Health District, Pioneer Memorial Hospital, 564 E. Pioneer Drive, PO Box 9, Heppner OR 97836, addressed to Victor Vander Does, Administrator, Pioneer Memorial Hospital. All submittals must be received no later than 3:00 PM, Friday, June 2, 2000. The submittal must be received in an envelope marked, SUBMITTAL CM/GC. Qualifications and Proposals must be received on or before the date and time specified.

Morrow County Health District reserves the right to; reject any or all submittals in response to this request, waive or modify any irregularities in the submittals, consider any modifications received at any time, if it is in the best interest of the District and for the public.

To view the facility and for information regarding this proposal please contact Victor Vander Does or Gary Nolan at Pioneer Memorial Hospital, Heppner Or, 564 E. Pioneer Dr. or calling 676-9133. Published: May 17 and 24, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Heppner Police Dept. will hold an auction Wednesday, May 24, 2000 at 8:00 a.m. at the police department at city hall. The following items will be auctioned off: tires, bikes, toilet, TV, doors, desk and misc. items. Published: May 17, 2000 Affid

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS USDA Forest Service Umatilla National Forest Heppner Ranger District Morrow County, Oregon EQUINE CURVE TIMBER SALE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Heppner Ranger District of the Umatilla National Forest has completed an environmental assessment for the proposed Equine Curve Timber Sale in Morrow County, Oregon, T. 5 S., R. 28 E. The project would commercially thin approximately 8 acres and harvest approximately 120 hundred cubic feet of wood products.

This project is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.7.

To receive a copy of the environmental assessment, contact David Kendrick at (541) 676-9187 or at the Heppner Ranger District, P.O. Box 7, Heppner, OR 97836. Any written comments should be addressed to District Ranger Andrei Rykoff at the same address. Oral comments can be submitted by telephone at (541) 676-9187. The comment period ends June 14, 2000. Published: May 17, 2000

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MORROW

Probate Department In the Matter of the Estate of IRENE IRIS PERLBERG,

Deceased. No. 00 PR 009 NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS 1

Notice is given that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of the estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present it, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative at the offices of Kuhn, Spicer & Mills, 269A N. Main Street, P.O. Box 428, Heppner, Oregon 97836, or they may be barred. 2

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.

DATED and first published May 17, 2000

(s) William J. Kuhn, OSB No. 76207 Attorney for Personal Representative

Published: May 17, 24, 31 and June 7, 2000 Affid

CLASSIFIED ADS

.40 per word Card of Thanks: up to 100 words - \$5 Deadline: Tuesday at noon

CARD OF THANKS

Thank You: First to my sister Glenna and brother-in-law Bob for all they did for me while Jerry was in the hospital and what they did after Jerry died. God bless you both.

Elks and Pastor Jones for putting on the memorial and everyone who helped.

Frank, Jan, Helen, Pam, Dick and family for taking such good

care of my animals. Dan for mowing my lawn.

All the flowers, cards, prayers, money, phone calls.

Thanks to the hospital kitchen help for the food they sent home for my family.

God bless you all. Thank you, Sharon Brace 5-17-1p

Many thanks to my wonderful cast for a magical production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. I only regret that I won't be working more with this year's talented seniors; but we do have big plans for next year already.

Thanks also to the great community support we received, from grant donations from the radio raffle project and Booster Club to all those loyal fans who speeded from the park to the stage chased by thunder! We also appreciate all the support and encouragement from Ron Anthony and the staff at HHS. Finally, I give thanks to the one I pray to every day to help me genuinely love my students. It works.

Lea Mathieu 5-17-1p

The American Red Cross-Umatilla Chapter-Heppner Unit would like to thank each and every person who participated in the Red Cross Shelter Drill held during the CSEPP exercise on the 10th of May. The community and county as a whole were very supportive and this was truly appreciated. Special thanks to all the volunteers, Heppner High School principal Mr. Anthony, the custodian Mr. Morris and the cooks. Also, thank you to Jennifer Dilley for the backup communication, and to all the merchants for signing the agreements to help should an emergency occur. The exercise/drill was a great success. This was the first time Heppner has simulated opening a shelter.

As always, we are looking for more volunteers. Red Cross classes will be held in the near future. Please call local representative Glorine Wright at 676-9810 for more information. 5-17-1p

Campus Life would like to sincerely thank the following businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed prizes, food or sponsored a hole for the Campus Life 2-Person Scramble. Your help made the event a great success:

Tim Adams; Agape House; Bank of Eastern Oregon; Brian Burnside; Lea Calvert; Campus Life headquarters; Central Market; Peggy Connor; Devin Oil; Eagle View Driving Range; Echo Hills Driving Range; Jack Engles; Gardner's Men's Wear; Heppner Nazarene Church; Kathy Jones; Kari Keown; Klamath First Federal; Les Schwab; Morrow County Grain Growers; Murray's; Peps; Peterson's Jewelers; Shannon Rust; Van Marter & Kahl Insurance; Willow Creek Country Club, Dave and Rhonda Winters. 5-17-1c

What a wonderful surprise we had when a very "special" boy knocked on our door. He was so excited he wanted to be the first to tell our family we had won the drawing for the beef.

Thank you Lindsay's and Schwarz's for your generous donation. A very special thank you to our little friend, Tomas.

How fortunate we live in a community that lends a hand to our neighbors and friends in need.

Thank you! John and Sonja McCabe and Family 5-17-1c

HELP WANTED

Groundman - Columbia Basin Electric Cooperative is seeking a highly motivated individual to fill a new position of Groundman based out of the Heppner headquarters facility. This position will assist the line crews in all aspects of line construction and maintenance.

For application materials, contact: Columbia Basin Electric Co-Op at 171 Linden Way in Heppner or call (541) 676-9146 or request materials at cbectomw@oregonvos.net. Applications will be received at the Heppner office until 5 p.m. on May 12, 2000. EOE. 4-26-3c

Farm Job Opening

Immediate Employment

Excellent pay. Located in Morrow and Gilliam County. Diversified farming: dry land wheat and irrigated crops plus a retail/wholesale wheat seed operation.

We reward hard work and productivity. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. days, six days a week, \$22.00/hr starting pay.

We are a drug and alcohol free work place. Please send resume to P.O. Box 48, Lone, OR 97843. 5-10-2c

M & A Auto Parts in Condon is accepting applications for a full-time counter/sales position. 40+ hours per week. Wages \$10-\$12 per hour. Benefits include Medical Insurance, LTD and 401K Retirement. Applications due May 19. For more information or to receive an application call (541) 384-6000 or 1-800-574-3424. 5-10-2c

The Morrow County Clerk's Office is now accepting applications for a full-time Chief Deputy Clerk position. Office experience, including computer word processing skills, is required. Reception and filing skills preferred. Salary is \$1,741 per month plus excellent benefits. Contact Andrea Denton, Morrow County Courthouse, P.O. Box 788, Heppner OR 97836; phone (541) 676-5620. Applications due same address by 5 p.m., June 1, 2000. Morrow County is an equal opportunity employer. 5-10-2c

Morrow County Sheriff's Office Communications Officer

For an opening and to build an eligibility list - job requires typing, general office experience and ability to function in stressful situations. Duties include taking 9-1-1 calls, radio dispatching, teletype operation, working with word processing and computer files. Must be willing to work any shift. Office operates 24-hours a day. Pay starts at \$1837/month. 5-10-2c

Apply at Sheriff's Office, 325 Willow View Drive, Heppner, OR; phone (541) 676-5317. Return by closing date, Friday, June 2, 2000, 5 p.m.

Morrow County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, natural origin, sex, religion, age and handicapped status in employment or the provision of services. 5-17-2c

SERVICES

Linoleum, carpet and Pergo sale and installation. Free estimates. Call **Tim Hedman**, evenings, 676-9054. Licensed and bonded #78201. 1-5-tfc

Blu Blakeley Construction Commercial and Residential New Phone Number 1-541-989-8501 Lic #89458 See Business Directory Ad 3-8-tfc

Going on vacation? Need someone to take care of your pet? My house or yours? Please call 676-5733, ask for Tammy. 5-10-2c

House Painting: inside and out. Darcy and Deb, 676-9442 or 676-5658. 5-17-4c

RENTALS


RV space for rent. \$125/month, plus utilities. Quiet by the creek. 989-8404. Lots of shade trees, yard and garden spot. 4-5-tfc

Lanham Apartments: 1 bedroom, 1 bath, \$270/month. Water, sewer, heat and garbage paid. 676-5233. 11-17-tfc

For rent: nice 2 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide on large shady lot in Lexington. Garden spot, fruit trees, storage sheds, carport. \$425 month, garbage included. 676-9759. 3-29-tfc

For Rent: 2 bedroom house, Heppner, \$350 per month. \$125 security deposit. No pets. Call 567-7846. 5-17-1c

The Family of Irene Swanson



cordially invites you to attend an Open House honoring Irene on her 90th Birthday Saturday, May 27th 2-4 p.m. Heppner Elks Club Heppner, Oregon No gifts, please

Cards may be sent to:
Irene Swanson, Hermiston Terrace #108
980 West Highland Avenue, Hermiston, OR 97838