

Oregon Senate overturns wildfire regulations, restores local control to rural communities

SALEM, OR—Last week, the Oregon Senate passed Senate Bill 83, which repeals the state's wildfire hazard map created under Senate Bill 762 (2021) and removes the strict regulations that came with it.

Proponents of the bill say this is a big win for rural Oregonians who have fought against what they say are costly and unfair mandates.

"Today, we celebrate a hard-fought victory for rural Oregon," said Senate Republican Leader Daniel Bonham (R-The Dalles). "Senate Bill 83 repeals the most flawed and overreaching aspects of Senate Bill 762 from 2021, including the State Wildfire Hazard Map, while preserving the programs that genuinely protect property owners and reduce wildfire risks."

"I'm delighted to see Senate Bill 83 pass the Senate," said Senator Noah Robinson (R-Cave Junction). "Many of my constituents and thousands of Oregonians have made it

clear: they want the ability to protect their homes without being burdened by unfair regulations. Today's vote is a crucial step toward undoing the damage caused by this flawed policy and returning control to landowners."

"This has been years in the making. With today's overwhelming bipartisan support for Senate Bill 83, we are one step closer to undoing the harm caused by Senate Bill 762's wildfire map," said Senator David Brock Smith (R-Port Orford). "I want to thank the thousands of residents who raised their voices to make this possible, as well as my colleagues for their support. I look forward to seeing Senate Bill 83 move swiftly through the House and be signed by Governor Kotek, bringing much-needed relief to our communities."

SB 83 has moved to the Oregon House of Representatives for consideration. It currently sits in the House Committee on Climate, Energy, and Environment.

Umatilla National Forest firewood permits available May 1

Umatilla National Forest personal-use firewood permits will be available at Forest Service offices and through several local vendors beginning Thursday, May 1.

All national forests in Oregon and Washington offer personal-use firewood free of charge. However, a permit is still required to cut and haul firewood. The maximum limit for personal-use firewood on the Umatilla National Forest is 12-cords-per-household-per-year. Individuals that require more than 12 cords, or those wanting to sell firewood, may purchase a commercial or "charge" firewood permit for \$10 per cord with a \$30 minimum permit. Charge permits can only be purchased through a Forest Service office; please call ahead to arrange an appointment.

Vendors are issuing personal-use permits in 12-cord increments and may charge an additional processing fee up to \$2 for the permit. Locally, permits can be purchased at Heppner Mobil on Main St. or at the Heppner Ranger District office. A list of vendors is available on the Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla/permits/forest-product-permits.

Firewood cutters are required to carry an axe, a shovel, an eight-ounce capacity or larger fire extinguisher, and have their chainsaw equipped with an approved spark arrester when cutting wood.

Some areas on the Umatilla National Forest are still not accessible due to mud, snow or snow drifts. Forest visitors are asked to use extreme care to avoid getting stuck or causing extensive and illegal resource damage to the land and vegetation. Woodcutters are asked to:

Contact the local Ranger District office before heading out to make sure the area you're traveling to is accessible.

Avoid driving off roads and onto wet, unstable ground or fragile meadow environments to load firewood.

Be prepared! Pack additional food, water, clothing and other emergency supplies.

Let someone know your destination and estimated time of return.

Tribal members exercising their Treaty rights are

Morrow County students named to EOU dean's list

Twelve Morrow County students were among the 635 students Eastern Oregon University to the dean's list for the 2025 winter term.

Qualifying students achieve and maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale while completing a minimum of 12 hours of graded coursework for the term.

Students receiving the recognition were:

Heppner—Chad Doherty, Arts, Humanities & Soc Science, Politics/Policy & Public Admin; Paige Gerry, Education, Multidisciplinary Studies; Trevor Nichols, STM and Health Science, Biology; and Hailey Wenberg, STM and Health Science, General

Studies-Exploratory.

Lexington—Morgan Cutsforth, STM and Health Science, General Studies-Exploratory; Caden George, STM and Health Science, Chemistry-Biochemistry; Paul Lindsay, STM and Health Science, General Studies-Exploratory; and Eva Martin, Business, Agriculture Entrepreneurship.

Boardman—Lucas Dickens, STM and Health Science, General Studies-Exploratory; Adara Hasbell, Arts, Humanities & Soc Science, Anthropology/Sociology; and Rileigh Krider, Business, Accounting.

Irrigon—Aleida Cardenas, Education, Multidisciplinary Studies.

Over the Tee Cup

A "perfect spring day!" greeted the ladies who attended the Willow Creek Country Club ladies play day Tuesday, April 22. Taking the low gross of the field was Karen Thompson. Kris Lindner had low net of the field, while Carol Mitchell had least putts.

For flight A, Colleen Neubert had low net, Pat Dougherty had least putts and Carol Mitchell had KP.

For flight B, Shirley Martin and Betty Carter tied for low gross, while Martin had both the long drive and KP.

Museum volunteers needed

The F.A.R.M Foundation is looking for individuals with a little time on their hands who would be willing to volunteer at either of its museums—even if that time commitment is one or two days a month this summer.

Anyone who might be

interested is invited to a workshop on Monday, May 5, at 10 a.m. at the Heritage Museum by the Heppner library.

Anyone who is interested but can't attend may call Cherrie Clark at 541-667-7458.

The Gazette Puzzle Pop

Sharpen your mind with our Gazette Puzzle Pop! Weekly math, word, and local trivia from our five towns—no internet or phones allowed. Answers in next week's edition—grab a pencil and show off!

Farmyard Teaser

Level - Moderate

Q: You have 3 rabbits (4 legs each) and 5 ducks (2 legs each). You trade 2 rabbits for 4 chickens (2 legs each), but 1 duck flies to a neighbor's farm. How many legs are left on your farm?

Wordplay Whiz

Level - Easy

Q: I plant seeds that "sprout," but what's "seeding" my view in the field?

Morrow County Trivia Challenge

Level - Moderate

Q: What Morrow County town, was named after a visiting girl?

Answers from April 23rd edition

Number Pattern Puzzle

Puzzle: Sequence: 2, 5, 11, 20, 32, ...

Solution: 50

Wordplay Riddle

Riddle: What do you call a dinosaur that takes care of its teeth? (Hint: Think of a dinosaur name combined with a dental term.)

Answer: Flossiraptor

Question: In what year was Morrow County created from parts of Umatilla and Wasco Counties?

Answer: 1885

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