

Morrow County declares drought emergency

By Andrea Di Salvo
Morrow County has again declared a drought state of emergency, effective July 2.
While conditions in the county aren't that bad—yet—the decision was apparently prompted by individuals who had been approaching the Morrow County Board of Commissioners.
Commissioner Gus Peterson said he started getting calls in early June from concerned citizens, especially in the north end of the county.
“So this does not surprise me that we are at this point,” he said.
Morrow County Counsel Justin Nelson said he reached out to Kevin Payne at the Morrow County Soil

and Water Conservation District, and Payne supported the drought declaration.
In a letter dated July 1, Payne said about 35 percent of Morrow County is currently under a D1 (moderate drought) designation. The rest of the county is D0 (abnormally dry), as of June 24, per the U.S. Drought Monitor.
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts a 50 to 60 percent chance of above-normal temperatures through August, as well as a 33 to 40 percent chance of below-normal precipitation.
Payne said NOAA's drought outlook predicts all of Morrow County will experience either drought development or persistence between July 1 and Sept.

ODFW to host online meetings about 2026 Big Game Regulations proposals

SALEM, Ore.—ODFW will host a series of online public meetings in July with district wildlife biologists presenting proposed changes to next year's big game regulations and getting feedback.
Each meeting will include a presentation on 2026 proposed regulations, a Q&A and opportunity for public comment. Proposed 2026 tag numbers and regulation changes are available on the ODFW website. The main topic of the meetings will be potential changes coming for deer hunts in Eastern Oregon in 2026, an outcome of the new Mule Deer Management Plan adopted in 2024. Deer hunts in the region will be structured based on Deer Herd Ranges, not WMUs, to reflect mule deer biol-

ogy and allow for more accurate monitoring and management. This change will align hunting effort and associated harvest with Oregon's mule deer populations and management goals, improve monitoring of population trends, and allow for quicker management responses/accurate evaluation of management actions.
To learn more, visit the Eastern Oregon Deer Hunts page. <https://myodfw.com/articles/eastern-oregon-deer-hunts>
ODFW encourages people to use <https://odfw.wufoc.com/forms/2026-big-game-regulations-meetings/> to submit questions and comments in advance of or after the meeting. Questions can also be asked during the

30.
In addition to declaring the drought emergency, the commissioners approved a letter asking Oregon Governor Tina Kotek for an executive order declaring drought in Morrow County.
A drought declaration opens the way for potential aid to those financially affected by abnormally dry conditions, such as farmers and ranchers, among others. The county issued similar drought designations in 2024, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2018.
The board approved the declaration unanimously, though Peterson declared a potential conflict of interest in his role as a landowner and producer.

Teams meeting by using the chat feature.
Final 2026 Big Game Hunting Regulations are scheduled to be adopted at the Sept. 12 Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Ontario.
The meeting schedule is as follows:
Northeast Region (Pendleton/La Grande/John Day/Baker/Enterprise/Heppner) - July 10, 6 p.m. - 730 p.m.
Southeast Region (The Dalles/Prineville/Bend/Klamath Falls/Lakeview/Ontario/Hines) - July 16, 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
To join the meeting virtually go to the [odfw website](https://www.odfw.state.or.us/news/2025/07-Jul/070325.asp) and click on join meeting.
<https://www.odfw.state.or.us/news/2025/07-Jul/070325.asp>

Forest plan public meeting in Heppner July 14

Blue Mountains national forests Announce Forest Plan Revision 2025 public meetings

The first of a series of public meetings about newly revised land management plans for the Blue Mountains forests is planned for July 14 in Heppner. The meeting regarding the Umatilla National Forest will take place from 5-8 p.m. at the Gilliam and Bisbee Event Center, 106 E. May St.
The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service is revising the Land Management Plans for the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (Blue Mountains National Forests). As part of the process, the forest service is hosting a series of public meetings to bring awareness to the upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. These public meetings are scheduled this July 2025 to align well with the timing of the upcoming Federal Register Notice of Intent (NOI). They will be offered in person and virtually. As the plan revision effort transitions into the NEPA process, the forest service invites the public to attend informational public meetings about the important upcoming scoping period to occur July 2025.
The Blue Mountains National Forests aim to publish a NOI in the Federal Register to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and release a draft Land Management

Plan addressing the need to change from the 1990 Land Management Plans. The NOI will initiate a formal scoping period for the public to review the materials and provide input. Land Management Plans do not authorize any specific projects or actions on the ground but instead guide future decision-making on the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The meetings will cover the draft Preliminary Need to Change from the 1990 Land Management Plans, the development of the Preliminary Draft Land Management Plan, updates on the National Wild and Scenic Rivers review, the preliminary Species of Conservation Concern lists, and the review of lands that may have Wilderness characteristics, among other topics. Additional meetings for the Umatilla National Forest will be from 5-8 p.m. on July 15 at the Pendleton Convention Center and July 16 at the Columbia County Fairgrounds in Dayton,

WA.
The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website has the latest information including an estimated timeline of the process, public participation tools, public meeting calendar with virtual links, informational webinars, background information and more. Have questions about the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision process or want to sign up for the mailing list? Email the revision inbox at sm.fs.bluesforests@usda.gov or call 541-278-3716.

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Heppner MLS#: 639453591

SOLD!



SOLD!

Experience luxury living in this stunning home located in Heppner, Oregon. Built in 2016, this beautiful property boasts luxurious features such as heated bathroom floors, a central vacuum system, a water softener, and central air for ultimate comfort. 480 W Morgan St Heppner MLS#: 24057570



SOLD!

Discover this stunning 1,700 sq. ft. ranch-style home with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, perfect for families. Recently updated (2019-2024), it features a bright, open floor plan, paint, water heater, kitchen flooring, countertops, and appliances. MLS#:24589246 605 Pioneer Dr Heppner



SOLD!

This classic split level 2 bed, 2 bath home overlooks Heppner with a relaxing back deck and beautiful backyard. 1 car garage leads into the lower game room/office with bathroom. 140 S Gilmore St. MLS#:23505395



SOLD!

This cozy 1950s home, located in a peaceful community, offers a blend of classic charm and modern comforts. The 3-bed, 2-bath property features a finished basement with two bedrooms and a bonus room, perfect for extra space or an office. 285 W ARCADE ST Lexington MLS# 24676541



SOLD!

375W Union Ave, Heppner
This single family home, spanning 1641 square feet, boasts a spacious dining room and living room along with a family room 3 bedrooms,MLS#: 23224220375 375 W Union Heppner



SOLD!

This house is ready to go. Recently updated windows, kitchen and bathroom. Heat on demand water heater, new paint, fridge, washer, dryer and dishwasher. 485 W Morgan St. MLS#: 23328135



SOLD!

Charming 1900 Victorian Home in Heppner, Oregon – A Unique Opportunity! Step into history with this 1900 Victorian gem, located in the picturesque town of Heppner, Oregon. 195 N COURT ST Heppner MLS#:24426505



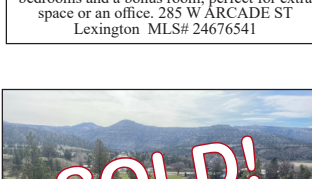
SOLD!

For sale: Prime commercial lot on Main Street, Main St MLS#: 23022056



SOLD!

Discover your dream home with this charming, well-cared-for classic traditional house. 4 bedroom 1 bath | 2314 sqft home featuring brand-new carpet with original wood floors beneath and beautiful woodwork throughout, this home blends timeless elegance with modern updates.MLS#: 24205860 220 W Center St. Heppner.



SOLD!

6 ACRES SPRAY, OR
MLS#: 785035852



SOLD!

Charming bungalow with 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom, nestled in a tranquil neighborhood. Spacious backyard ideal for memorable family gatherings. MLS#: 24241555 350 S Gilmore St. Heppner



SOLD!

Three bedroom, one bath home on quiet street in Heppner. Real wood floors and knotty pine walls give a warm and comfortable feeling when you walk inside. 335 W Union Ave, Heppner MLS#: 23228066



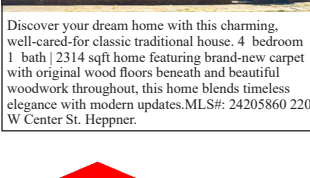
SOLD!

9.09 ACRES
Secluded mountain property! Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to own your own mountain property. 80844 Black Mountain Ln Heppner MLS#:23510132



SOLD!

593-Acres with CRP Income and Grassland. This 593-acre farm offers a unique blend of income potential and rural living. 58952 LIBERTY SCHOOL RD Heppner, OR 97836 MLS#: 24374787



SOLD!

Discover peace and seclusion on this expansive forty-acre parcel boasting a fully functional two-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin. Embrace the breathtaking views of the mountains from the upper level's reverse living 640 square foot great room. 80439 Black Mountain Ln Heppner MLS#:23425595



SOLD!

Beautiful 20-acre property in Eastern Oregon, zoned Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). Along Willow Creek Rd. MLS#: 24056686



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