

Nugget / May 2009

The Rocker Box

Bob Baldwin– President

Hey Club Members, Boy you sure missed a good jaunt to Nevada. If you weren't among the 25 that did go, we had a great time. Too much wind, not any Gold and last but not least, too much snow. We nearly had to buy tire chains to get out of Reno. But that's another story. The first few days were beautiful, shirt sleeve weather, gentle breeze, Great treasure hunting. Found lots of metal targets, just didn't find any gold. We did find a bunch of beautiful crystals and other precious things and took a lot of pictures. Thank you Joe and Rose for a wonderful trip. You are great host and hostess. Come to the meeting to find out more.

We still have people calling about the black sand separators. We sold one Monday and will sell another tomorrow, as we stop by Rita's Dredge shop. After dropping off the separator, Theo, Gaylen and I are off to Portland to copy pertinent information about old mining papers for the club's future use.

We have the Graves Creek outing on May 16th. We'll follow Bill Douglas around and he can point out the nuggets for us. Anyhow, Gotta go. Come to the meeting.

You're Prez,
Bullet Bob

Keeper of Records

Cecila Lattin– Secretary

North Bend Prospectors, Inc. minutes for April 2009.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 by President Bob Baldwin.

There were 77 people in attendance.

There were no corrections to the March minutes- Minutes were accepted as printed in the "Nugget".

Treasurer's report was read by Renee.

Gold shows report from Bob. Very successful, everyone had fun, and our club got good recognition from GPAA and all the other clubs that attended. Kudos for our great participation.

Motion was made to cancel the Squaw Fish outing due to the Winnemucca Trip. Motion was 2nd and passed.

October is the metal detecting outing. Looking for committee volunteers. The Roseburg club hid gold for their outing. We can do the same.

Our clubs web page is being run by Randy Waters. He's doing a great job. Check it out.

www.nbprospectors.com--- A BIG THANK YOU!

Motion was made to make Marv Repose a Life Time Member of our club- for all his work and contributions for the benefit of our club. Motion was 2nd and passed. Well deserved Marv. And Thank You again!

A big thank you to Farr's True Value Hardware, for giving us a good price for the materials needed for making "The Bullet Bob" Black Sand Separator Tables.

Kudos to the Broman Family (kids too) for all their help.

Mike Pothoff and Jim Harris were presented certificates of appreciation for the use of their outstanding shops for the building of the Black Sand Separator tables.

Laurel Broman announced that the Pelican Food Bank now has 2 box trucks to store and disperse food from. Thursday they will be at the Newmark Church of God Parking lot.

Bob then had all the people that worked at the gold shows to stand. It was a great club effort. Not

just a few doing all the work.

Thanks to Theo for the newsletter and Renee for helping to get through the stress of going to 3 gold shows.

Thanks to Oscar Johnson for his ingenuity of adding the sounds to the spinning wheel making it super successful.

Joe Holdman had another hand out for the Winnemucca Trip. He answered question and talked about the area. Looks like it will be a good turn out.

Gaylen Black had maps and talked about locator information for gold sand. This information is available for free to everyone, call Clark Nuemburg (971) 673-1540 tell him the Township/Range / Section that you are interested in.

Theo has acquired a free booth at the Cranberry Festival- Bandon in Sept. Good corner location at no cost because we are non-profit.

Bob would like us to have an "Equipment Swap Meet" for the club at a future date. Meeting was adjourned at 9pm.

Winners of the drawings were:

Door Prize- large vile.....Laurel Broman

Door Prize -small vile.....Robert Laskey

50/50- \$57.50.....Carolyn Trent

Nome Panning Bag.....Rick Lattin

DISCLAIMER

All opinions expressed in this publication are those of the author/s, and not necessarily those of the NBP, it's officers, board or members. NBP takes no responsibility for the information contained herein. **PLEASE use all information at your own risk.** The NBP reserves no rights to the contents, which may be copied at will, with due credit. Editor of the "NUGGET" is Theo Stanley and may be contacted at P.O. Box 307, Bandon, OR 97411 or at theojaybird@aol.com. Comments and articles are welcomed. Thank you!

MORE WILDERNESS COMING HR 980

The old Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA) is coming back with a new number. HR980, if passed, will designate 24 million acres of new wilderness in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Eastern Oregon.

The bill is scheduled to be heard on May 5th in front of the National Parks, Forests and Public Lands subcommittee. Please take the time to contact this committee. Fax the subcommittee pictures and testimony of how and why these areas are important to you and your family.

If this bill passes congress, you can say goodbye to multiple use!

Members of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands 1333 Longworth House Office Building (202) 226-7736

Fax: (202) 226-2301

Mr. Raúl M. Grijalva, Arizona, Chairman

Mr. Rob Bishop, Utah, Ranking Republican Member

Dale E. Kildee, Michigan

Neil Abercrombie, Hawaii

Grace F. Napolitano, California

Rush D. Holt, New Jersey

Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam

Dan Boren, Oklahoma

Martin Heinrich, New Mexico

Peter A. DeFazio, Oregon
Maurice D. Hinchey, New York
Donna M. Christensen, Virgin Islands
Diana DeGette, Colorado
Ron Kind, Wisconsin
Lois Capps, California
Jay Inslee, Washington
Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, South Dakota
John P. Sarbanes, Maryland
Carol Shea-Porter, New Hampshire
Niki Tsongas, Massachusetts
Pedro R. Pierluisi, Puerto Rico
Nick J. Rahall, II, West Virginia (ex officio)
Don Young, Alaska
Elton Gallegly, California
John J. Duncan, Jr., Tennessee
Jeff Flake, Arizona
Henry E. Brown, Jr., South Carolina
Louie Gohmert, Texas
Bill Shuster, Pennsylvania
Robert J. Wittman, Virginia

Members of congress far removed from the federally managed public land in Montana need to be educated and who better to do this than us. Many times, by putting a personal touch to a message, we all can make an impact on our lawmakers.

Oregon's water issues run deep

by Les Zaitz, The Oregonian

April 25, 2009

Jamie Francis/The Oregonian Pivot irrigation near Hermiston transforms desert into prime farmland. This water is pumped from the Columbia River (background). Extra water has been harder to get since hydrologists concluded farmers were pumping too much out of the ground.

Lobbyist Craig Campbell was chasing a favor when he phoned Gov. Ted Kulongoski in early 2007.

The eastern Oregon farming interests who hired Campbell wanted a private meeting with the governor.

Campbell once served on the governor's personal staff and knew Kulongoski would take his call. He dialed the governor's cell phone, and soon the executives and their high-powered lobbyists were face to face with Kulongoski.

Jamie Francis/The Oregonian Farmers in the Hermiston area looked to the Columbia River when limits on groundwater pumping were imposed, but they quickly ran into opposition from fish advocates and tribes holding treaty rights.

They were after one thing: water.

The fact that water would trigger such an adroit use of political access underscores an issue sneaking up on most Oregonians.

In a state that boasts about webbed feet, access to water is increasingly contested. The state estimates that in the coming years, demand will grow by 1.2 million acre-feet; we use about 9 million acre-feet now. Whoever controls the limited supply will control new housing and industry and how farming expands.

Water is measured in acre-feet -- the amount that covers an acre to a depth of 1 foot -- and gallons. Oregonians use about 70 million gallons a day to drink, bathe and cook. Portland uses 136 gallons a

day per person.

Every product made in the state, from canned peaches to silicon wafers, takes water.

The state lights up on power generated thanks to water.

And now fish have arrived as a demanding customer. Powerful interests from federal judges to national environmental groups insist that more water be left in rivers for fish. That means less water for some at a time when people are demanding more.

There's not much to divvy up.

In summer, every gallon of water in every stream is already claimed. Aquifers, vast underground reservoirs, are proving a less reliable source for wells, and no one's sure how much water is there.

"Every time we turn on a pump, we mine a certain amount of water," said Todd Jarvis, associate director of Oregon State University's Institute for Water and Watersheds.

Rationing is replacing Oregon's use-all-you-want tradition. The state restricts well use in 14 areas in seemingly water-rich western Oregon. In one, the Victor Point zone east of Salem, all new groundwater pumping has been barred. Eastern Oregon has nine restricted areas.

Haves, have-nots

The farm executives who met with Kulongoski two years ago know big money is at stake when the state cuts off water.

In the Umatilla Basin, farmers can grow about \$150 worth of wheat on an acre of dry ground. If they can get an extra foot or two of irrigation water, they can switch to peas or potatoes or mint worth up to \$3,500 an acre. Multiplied over thousands of acres in the basin, water can boost farm sales by millions.

"An extra foot of water is very, very valuable," said Chester "Chet" Prior, who owns Eagle Ranch near Echo.

That extra water has been harder to get since hydrologists concluded farmers were pumping too much out of the ground. The state overrode water rights dating back decades, ordering reduced pumping. South of Hermiston, farmers now get 10 percent of the groundwater they once were entitled to.

Oregon has a history of clashes between the haves and the have-nots.

"Water is up there with religion" in importance in settling the West, said John DeVoe. He leads the environmental group Oregon Water Watch.

Klamath County remains a poster child for what happens in modern water wars. The fight between fish and farmers got national attention, prompting intervention by then-Vice President Dick Cheney. For safety, federal scientists removed government plates from their vehicles before driving into the Klamath Basin.

Water issues also emerged in central Oregon, where the Deschutes River was running far too low to properly support fish. The exploding growth in the area was pushing out farming, and new developments required more water.

A coalition formed that included environmentalists, Native tribes, farmers, irrigation districts and cities. They agreed on a plan to restore flows to the Deschutes while allowing development to continue.

Under the regional solution, now a national model, farmers sold off water rights and cities embarked on ambitious conservation programs that sent more water to the river. A "water bank" helped trade water, substituting irrigation water for underground water, and allowing more water to flow to the Deschutes.

The prized Deschutes flows more fully than it has in years.

"We're not creating water. We're moving water around," said Tod Heisler, executive director of the Deschutes Water Alliance.

Umatilla Basin

In the northeast corner of the state, public officials faced their own water challenges. Initially, Umatilla County authorities proposed a moratorium on new home wells. That would freeze development, but telling people they couldn't have a well at home struck some as un-American.

"The guns started coming out. These were real fighting words," said Dennis Doherty, Umatilla

County commissioner in Pendleton.

Anticipating a big crowd, the Umatilla County Planning Commission moved its hearing on the freeze into the National Guard Armory in Hermiston. More than 500 people showed up for the October 2003 session.

Facing withering opposition, the county retreated. Instead, county officials decided to more thoroughly identify the water problem -- and then fix it.

An eclectic mix of local residents met as a task force month after month, learning about geology, hydrology and more.

Farmers watched the work with keen interest. The Umatilla Basin, stretching from the river plateaus at Boardman east to the rolling hills around Pendleton, provides some of the country's most productive cropland. Sediment deposits over eons left a soil suitable for many crops. "Just add water," farmers say.

And they have, cultivating more than 200,000 acres with water drawn from the Columbia River and tributaries or from wells tapping the deep water trapped in layers of basalt. The agriculture industry in the area devised the pivot irrigation system that spits out water in carefully measured doses. Farmers in the Umatilla Basin are considered among the most water-efficient on the planet.

But signs emerged in the 1960s that irrigation wells were taking water out of the deep aquifers more quickly than nature could put it in. In 1991, the state had a line around 63,500 acres of farmland and ordered immediate reductions in pumping. Farmers had to find a way to replace nearly 70 percent of the 190,000 acre-feet they had a right to pump.

Columbia River

The county's task force hoped to find a way to replace that water.

It was kept on task by Kent Madison, an innovative farmer from Echo. Madison's operation was hurt when the state ordered well reductions. He was better off than some, though, because he had rights to tap the Columbia River, the last farmer in the area to get such a right before the state put that source off limits.

Jamie Francis/The Oregonian Kent Madison of Madison Farms in Echo checks one of his irrigation ditches. The water from Butter Creek has irrigated the valley since 1865, but it usually dries up by mid-June.

Madison was convinced the river could solve the basin's water problems. He couldn't imagine that taking a fraction of the daily flow would do any harm.

But fans of fish thought otherwise. Key federal agencies have long insisted the Columbia River couldn't be touched from spring until fall, when fish were hatching and traveling. Another powerful force stood between Madison and the river -- the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla.

The tribes also insisted no harm come to the river, where they hold historic treaty fishing rights. Most leaders in the region understood there never would be a water deal if the tribes weren't part of it.

And those on the task force wouldn't be hurried. They had to boost water supplies in a way that would sell politically in the basin -- and in Salem. By all accounts, they surrendered personal ambitions for that grander goal.

"They were working together. They were doing the right thing for the right reason," said Doherty, the county commissioner.

The effort caught attention in Salem.

"It's powerful when you have all these interests sitting together saying, 'This is the direction we want to go,'" said Phil Ward, state Water Resources Department director.

The task force was struggling for solutions when a well-known utility executive asked for time on the agenda.

Steve Eldrige, general manager of the Umatilla Electric Cooperative, sat before the task force in January 2007.

Without warning, he laid out an elaborate and surprising plan to get more water.

Stunned task force members sensed trouble ahead. They were right.

For first time, Oregon looks to future of water supply

Oregon is one of only two states in the nation without a plan for the future of its water supply.

The state's power to control water dates back 100 years to a law that declared the public owned every gallon, no matter the source. The state took charge of handing out the right to use water, issuing certificates for years with little restraint. State officials gave away more water than existed.

They could do so because a water right, despite its name, was no guarantee. When water levels drop in a river, the last person to get water rights must step away, yielding to those who were first. That happens regardless of

who most needs the water. The calendar, not the state, dictates water use.

That explains why in a century of water management, the state Water Resources Department didn't plan for the future of Oregon's water supply. It's using the first-ever forecast of state water needs to change that. Alaska is the only other state without such a plan.

Leaders and organizations, many from the west side of Oregon, have banged the pans to draw attention to the state's looming water issues.

The Oregon Business Plan laid out an aggressive blueprint to better manage water, warning that factors such as climate change and more people will strain what we have.

"All of Oregon faces major challenges to its ability to supply safe, sustainable water services to agriculture, businesses and citizens," the Business Plan concluded last fall. The report was written by Gail Achterman, a Portland attorney and natural resources authority.

Separately, the League of Women Voters of Oregon examined the status of water for months. In its report in February, the league hoped the public would conserve and "protect our scarce water resources."

"A lot of people turn on the tap and don't think much about where it comes from," said Marnie Lonsdale, who helped lead the league study.

In 2007, business and environmental groups normally at political war set aside their differences. The groups told legislators that though they rarely agree about water, they were united in supporting a bigger budget for the state Water Resources Department. They testified that the agency is essential to "guiding Oregon through a time when the demands for water exceed the available resources and water is becoming critical to the long-term economic and environmental success of the state." The Legislature approved a modest increase.

State Sen. Jackie Dingfelder, D-Portland, who has worked on water issues in her legislative career, said every Oregonian must understand that demand will outstrip supply.

"With climate change and increasing demand, it's just a matter of time," Dingfelder said.

Oregon Legislative Update

By Tom Quintel

It would appear HB 2071, HB 2092 and HB 2844 recording fee bills may just be dead in the water. We are past the April 28th date most bills need to go to the other side of the legislature for hearings unless they make it to the full Ways and Means Committee and then they seem to fast track through the legislature on another path. Combined the three bills would have added another \$16.00 to every document required by Oregon statutes.

Thank you Oregon miners who took the time and effort to send email comments to committee members hearing the bills, as I believe it made some difference. As most of you know by now this TAX and SPEND legislature has raised fees/TAXES more this session than most all sessions in the past years. I was more than happy to testify against the three bills that did not go any further than their measure history shows. I would bet the same bills will be introduced in the next session.

HB 2092 archive bill has been introduced in two sessions now and will bet they are not going to quit on this one.

Have not heard about any legal challenges to our amendment in HB 2436 and since it is signed into

law we will not pay the \$15.00 for our annual proof of labor affidavit fee.. All new claims notices of locations, quit claim deeds including other mining documents will still require the extra \$15.00 fee to record.

Our next big challenge is with Oregon Water Resource Department now enforcing the Limited License requirement to divert water from a stream. Miners who run high bankers are now being monitored by state troopers and have the authority to confiscate your equipment if they tell you to pull your pump or stop diverting water from a stream by whatever ever means you are using to high bank. Water master can only tell you to cease and desist your water diversion without the Limited License. This license cost \$150.00 for up to 5 years if you request that time limit when applying. The license request takes two to three weeks to obtain as different state agencies need to approve your application. The permit is site specific to one stream only and every time you move your pump to another location on that stream they require \$15.00 for each point of diversion. This is getting crazy and most miners will choose not to purchase this Limited License, especially if you like to mine various stream locations in Oregon.

Art Sappington and Guy Michael's of Eastern Oregon Mining Association, Hal Anthony and me are looking at Federal and State laws to show OWRD their water diversion license does not apply to mining. Art Sappington had conversation with Brenda Bateman OWRD lobbyist regarding the Limited License requirement not applying to Oregon miners and is waiting for her response. Believe it or not OWRD SB 740 want to add another \$100.00 fee to the Limited License making it a \$250.00 permit and are requesting the same \$100.00 fee on all water certificates and water right permits in Oregon. We need to keep the pressure on OWRD or Oregon miners will be screaming about the high cost to obtain this permit or in some cases losing their equipment if they do not shut down when asked by a state trooper or possible sheriff deputy. I do hope all miners on my Government Affairs list sent emails to the Ways and Means Committee telling them not to support this EXTREME HIGH TAX BILL. If you did not then get ready to give more money to the OWRD bureaucracy and next session fees will just continue to go up again until miner will not be able to afford their permit. There could be allot good deals on used confiscated mining equipment going up for bid at state auctions coming from OSP evidence storage rooms.

Thanks for your continued support and remember to speak up before it is too late.

House Bill 2071

Introduced

HB 2071 Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed. (at the request of House Interim Committee on Revenue) (at the request of House Interim Committee on Revenue) -- Relating to recordation fees; providing for revenue raising that requires approval by a three-fifths majority.

01/12 (H) First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

01/12 (H) Referred to Revenue.

03/05 (H) Public Hearing held.

House Bill 2092

Introduced

HB 2092 Ordered printed by the Speaker pursuant to House Rule 12.00A (5). Pre-session filed. (at the request of Secretary of State Bill Bradbury) (at the request of Secretary of State Bill Bradbury) -- Relating to political subdivision public records; appropriating money.

01/15 (H) First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

01/20 (H) Referred to Rules with subsequent referral to Revenue.

03/20 (H) Public Hearing held.

House Bill 2844

Introduced

HB 2844 By COMMITTEE ON REVENUE (at the request of Association of Oregon Counties) (at the request of Association of Oregon Counties) -- **Relating to recordation fees.**

02/26 (H) First reading. Referred to Speaker's desk.

03/02 (H) Referred to Revenue.

Senate Bill 740

Introduced

SB 740 By COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES -- **Relating to water rights; declaring an emergency.**

03/04 (S) Introduction and first reading. Referred to President's desk.

03/11 (S) Referred to Environment and Natural Resources, then Ways and Means.

04/02 (S) Public Hearing held.

04/23 (S) Work Session held.

04/28 (S) Recommendation: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Ways and Means by prior reference.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE write or email these folks and say do not pass SB 740 before it is too late.

Membership:

Sen. Margaret Carter, Co-Chair-----**Democrat**-----sen.margaretcarter@state.or.us

Rep. Peter Buckley, Co-Chair-----**Democrat**-----rep.peterbuckley@state.or.us

Sen. Betsy Johnson, Vice-Chair-----**Democrat**-----sen.betsyjohnson@state.or.us

Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Vice-Chair **Democrat**-----
rep.nancynathanson@state.or.us

Sen. Alan C Bates-----**Democrat**-----sen.alanbates@state.or.us

Sen. Fred Girod-----Republican-----sen.fredgirod@state.or.us

Sen. Rod Monroe-----**Democrat**-----sen.rodmonroe@state.or.us

Sen. David Nelson-----Republican-----sen.davidnelson@state.or.us

Sen. Joanne Verger-----**Democrat**-----sen.joanneverger@state.or.us

Sen. Vicki L Walker-----**Democrat**-----sen.vickiwalker@state.or.us

Sen. Doug Whitsett-----Republican-----sen.dougwhitsett@state.or.us

Sen. Jackie Winters-----Republican-----sen.dougwhitsett@state.or.us

Rep. David Edwards-----**Democrat**-----rep.davidedwards@state.or.us

Rep. Larry Galizio-----**Democrat**-----rep.larrygalizio@state.or.us

Rep. Bill Garrard-----Republican-----rep.billgarrard@state.or.us

Rep. George Gilman-----Republican-----rep.georgegilman@state.or.us

Rep. Bob Jenson-----Republican-----rep.bobjenson@state.or.us

Rep. Betty Komp-----**Democrat**-----rep.bettykomp@state.or.us

Rep. Tina Kotek-----**Democrat**-----rep.tinakotek@state.or.us

Rep. Dennis Richardson-----Republican-----
rep.dennisrichardson@state.or.us

Rep. Chip Shields-----**Democrat**-----rep.chipshields@state.or.us

Rep. Greg Smith-----Republican-----rep.gregsmith@state.or.us

Oppose U.S. Senate effort to dramatically expand federal water regulatory authority

The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee will soon vote on legislation (S. 787) that would dramatically expand the regulatory reach of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Army of Corps of Engineers.

The so-called "Clean Water Restoration Act" (S. 787), introduced by Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisc.), will force the slow down or shutdown of many mining and other construction and development projects, leading to thousands upon thousands of job losses.

S. 787 will place virtually every body of water in America under federal jurisdiction, thus dramatically increasing already lengthy permitting delays, endangering projects that can create desperately needed new jobs. The bill also threatens the ability of state governments to manage their water resources, while imposing significant new unfunded mandates on state and local governments.

ACT now and urge your senators to oppose S. 787.
