

# Ranchers face loss of livestock, livelihoods in Washington fires



*Doug Grumbach, a fourth-generation Ferry County rancher, stands Wednesday in the charred Colville National Forest near the Canadian border, where the Stickpin fire killed 12 head of his cattle. This cow became wedged between two trees trying to flee the flames. (Tyler Tjomsland)*

By Erica Curless, Spokesman-Review

## Donations of cash, hay and feed sought

Volunteers from the Spokane region hauled 7 tons of hay plus cattle feed on a relief effort to Tonasket on Friday.

Additional donations are being sought, said Gerry Bozarth, spokesman for Greater Spokane Emergency Management. Cash donations can be made through 4-H at [4h.wsu.edu/foundation](http://4h.wsu.edu/foundation) or to the Fire Victims Fund at 2606 W. Pioneer Ave., Puyallup,

WA 98371-4998. Also, hay can be purchased for later delivery at North 40 Outfitters Store at 8307 E. Trent Ave. in Spokane. WSU's Spokane County Extension is participating in the relief efforts.

To donate hay or money to help Okanogan-area ranchers and animal owners, contact Laurie or Monte Andrews of Ag Tech LLC at (509) 422-1600.  
Mike Prager

### Fair canceled; special 4-H sale scheduled

Ferry County and Colville Reservation 4-H members will hold an emergency 4-H market animal sale 5 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Colville fairgrounds.

The auction will allow 4-H members to sell their market steers, pigs and sheep after Ferry County commissioners canceled the county fair in Republic because of fire danger. The Colville fairgrounds, 317 W. Astor Ave., donated the facility.

"We hope people from the area will help with bigger bids and donations to aid us in the recovery efforts," county extension Director Trevor Lane said in a news release. For more information, contact the WSU Ferry County Extension at (509) 775-5225

DANVILLE, Wash. – The burned carcasses blend into the scorched landscape, just more black and ash among the haunting outline of trees. "There she is," rancher Doug Grumbach says, pointing up the steep slope near his ranch. "It looks like she was trying to run and froze in that mode." The cow is now obvious: A perfectly shaped head, a body covered in skin that's become cured leather – taut and solid like a drumhead. She's upright, wedged between two burned trees, ribs exposed, a flurry of maggots working furiously. Her calf lies in a heap nearby.

Grumbach is silent. He rubs his jaw and points to another carcass farther up the hill on the grazing land in the Colville

National Forest, just south of the Canadian border. The land recently burned in the Stickpin fire.

Grumbach, like cattle ranchers across fire-ravaged north-central Washington, isn't sure of his total losses. The devastation includes not only body counts but hundreds of miles of fence, grazing land and water sources on his family's fourth-generation ranch. So far, he knows of eight dead cows and four calves, a loss of about \$35,000. Thirty more of his Angus herd is missing. In his corrals at home are a cow and several calves with burned hooves.

### **Livestock toll still 'a wild guess'**

For some ranchers, this is the second year of hardship – first stemming from drought and now another round of deadly fire.

Chris Bieker, of the federal Farm Service Agency in Spokane, doesn't know how many cattle died in the fires. There are places livestock owners haven't been able to get into because of fire and road closures.

“At this point, anything is just a wild guess,” he said. That's especially true about the numerous ranches located in the Okanogan Complex of fires in north-central Washington. Together, the Okanogan Complex has burned about 475

square miles and is considered the largest wildfire in state history.

Cattle production is Washington's fifth-largest commodity with about 1.1 million cows and calves valued at \$706 million in 2013, according to the Washington state Department of Agriculture. Behind wheat, hay is the state's second-most-productive field crop.

Bieker said the Farm Service Agency still is trying to process payments for lost livestock from last year's brutal Carlton Complex fires in the Methow Valley, which was until this year the largest wildfire recorded in Washington. More than 1,000 cattle burned along with 500 miles of fencing. Some fear this year's losses are worse.

Bieker added that it's important for ranchers to report their losses within 30 days, under the federal Livestock Indemnity Program – an often difficult task when they still are digging fire lines and trying to rescue cows. That program, part of the 2014 Farm Bill, allows cattle owners and others to recoup 75 percent of the market value of livestock that died because of “adverse weather.”



*(A burned-out logging road winds into the Colville National Forest near Frog Spring and Danville, Wash. Photo: Tyler Tjomsland/The Spokesman-Review)*

People across the state are collecting donations of money and hay to help the ranchers, who are rounding up cattle out of the burning forests and rangelands. When they find their livestock, the cows often have burned hooves and udders, and respiratory problems.

Grumbach used four-wheelers and horses to get some of his cattle. The ground was still hot from smoldering underground stumps and roots, and it singed the hair on his saddle horses' legs.

He called Twisp rancher Vic Stokes, past president of the Washington Cattlemen's Association, for advice on how to doctor the burned and sick cows.

Stokes lost about 230 cattle in the Carlton Complex last year, 60 percent of his herd. But the bigger loss was the generations of finely tuned genetics that helped produce the most-efficient cattle for his land – those with the right bone and muscle structure and birthing ability. Hardy cows that can live on the rugged hills and care for their babies.

“Our cattle are an extension of who we are,” Stokes said. “It’s confusing to somebody in downtown Seattle who thinks we’re just putting a hamburger on the plate. The genetic decisions my dad made goes back to 1940.”



*(A bird flies through burned-out trees on Wednesday in the Colville National Forest near Danville, Wash. Photo: Tyler Tjomsland/The Spokesman-Review)*

He said rebuilding his herd and replacing hundreds of miles of fence will take years. It may take three years to heal the grasslands. The drought doesn't help. Neither did the floods and landslides last fall, the product of heavy rain hitting the fire-scarred land. Stokes had to tediously remove 2,000 cubic yards of mud and debris from his fields.

### **Losses in Idaho, too**

Wildfire also has significantly impacted livestock in Idaho, where there are more cattle than people.

Mark Samson, state executive director of the USDA Farm Service Agency in Idaho, said he and his staff still are gathering reports on livestock losses in the Soda fire southwest of Boise and the Clearwater Complex fire around Kamiah.

In 2012, there were more than 2 million head of cattle and calves, with a value of \$2.7 billion, according to the Idaho Beef Council.

Thousands of head of cattle are grazed in the Soda fire area. During the fire, cattle were moved to a single location and have not been separated for a count by each producer.

However, one producer there lost as many as 50 head, Samson said, and 20 or more producers are affected by that fire. At least 27 wild horses died when they were caught in the Soda fire, according to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

Samson said he will soon visit with producers affected by the Clearwater Complex to learn about any losses.

So far, it appears the confirmed losses involve burned pasture and forage, he said.

### **Hay, feed donations rolling in**

Semitruck loads of hay donations are rolling into Okanogan, some going directly to ranchers who need to feed cattle they saved from the fires.

The Washington State University Extension Office for Spokane County, along with Greater Spokane Emergency Management and the American Red Cross, helped collect hay and feed donations Friday to distribute in Tonasket. Besides losing pasture, many of the ranchers lost hundreds of tons of haystacks. In some areas, there were already hay and pasture shortages because of drought.

Laurie and Monte Andrews, who run a feed and farm supply store that delivers to all the areas affected by fires in north-central Washington, are coordinating hay and money donations.

Laurie Andrews of Ag Tech LLC said social media is a blessing. Her phone rings from 6 a.m. to late at night. Besides donations, the couple are keeping some evacuated livestock on their property just north of the Okanogan County Fairgrounds. Some people have had to evacuate several times.

In Ferry County, the handful of people who evacuated horses, cows, pigs, chickens and rabbits to the fairgrounds must relocate – again. The North Star fire south of town is too close, about 3 miles as of Saturday afternoon.

The Ferry County Sheriff's Office is recommending that livestock relocate to the Colville fairgrounds. People in Republic, where firefighters outnumber residents, are

anxious. Many people are wearing face masks. Rumors are rampant.

“It looks like a bad war movie set,” said Jake Avenson, who was helping people with livestock at the fairgrounds.



*(Cherie Gorton, of Rural Resources in stands with elderly brothers, from left, Gary, Paul and Dennis Sorbo who refused to evacuate their low income senior housing apartment on Thursday, Aug 27, 2015, in Republic, Wash. Their sister, Mary, chose to evacuate and left the trio behind to head to a Red Cross Shelter and Grace Evangelical Church in Colville, Wash. Photo: Tyler Tjomsland/The Spokesman-Review)*

Leslie Young lives in Republic but evacuated three horses to the fairgrounds and was uneasy about the news of having to relocate.

“I’ve been sick to my stomach about this for a week,” she said, while feeding hay to her favorite paint horse, Gracie, Thursday evening.

Then, like many locals, she took a big breath of smoky air and turned positive.

“We’re going to get through this. Everyone pulls together in this town.”

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### ***Comments:***

**Skier** · 2 days ago

Wow. These folks livelihood is being destroyed and you all whine to make political points. Who are the lame ones here?

**memyselfandi Skier** · a day ago

These folks livelihoods are not being destroyed. The article points out that they will be compensated by a government program for the lost livestock. I didn't know that. I did know that they graze their cattle on public land at a subsidized grazing fee. I did know that they are compensated for livestock lost to predators, or at least to wolves. Government spends my tax money to support these folks, while they speak about being self made and independent. They take all the government hand outs they can get, but keep voting for the right wingers who deny support for education, jobs training, and so on. They decry the universities as being bastions of liberalism, but they accept the free extension service consulting that the universities provide.

Do they work hard? Yes, the bit below about sitting on their butts is just wrong. Have they been hit by misfortune in the current fire

situation? Yes. But other people get hit by misfortune, and don't have access to government programs to pay them for their damages. What about the waitress working in a diner who depends on tourists for her livelihood, and there are no tourists due to the fires. What benefits will she get? None.

The "poor farmers" and the "poor ranchers" are not the "poor" folks they are always crying about being. They live pretty well, at the expense of the rest of us.

**liz codoni** memyselfandi · 9 hours ago

One thing missing from all these miles of thread is that some ranchers love their land, care about their animals, particularly their breeding stock, as individual animals, and, money from the feds or no, they hurt (as in have human emotions just like the rest of us). We are not talking corporate outfits, we are talking individuals with "sweat equity" beyond most of your experiences . . . just sayin . . .

**scooter929** liz codoni · 4 hours ago

Thank god some one with a little compassion for what all these people have lost and/or are losing. thank you.

**scooter929** memyselfandi · 4 hours ago

Your head must be somewhere the sun doesn't shine...

**longday** memyselfandi · a day ago

"The article points out that they will be compensated by a government program for the lost livestock. " You always believe the simplistic reports in the news ??? It doesn't work that way. I highly suggest you go find where I posted the links to the UDSA (FSA) farm programs and study them... " I did know that they are compensated for livestock lost to predators, or at least to wolves." UH,, they don't.. here study..

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservatio...>

**Podgorney** longday · a day ago

You've posted those links before and made the claim that they show that ranchers don't get paid for livestock killed by wolves. I used to think that you just made a mistake but after seeing you do the same

thing repeatedly I've begun to have doubts as to your good faith. This is a quote from the first link you posted describing the "Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for Washington:"

**Livestock protection:** The plan provides a variety of nonlethal and lethal management measures - from technical assistance for landowners to lethal removal - to control wolves that prey on livestock. **The plan also establishes conditions for compensating ranchers who lose livestock to wolf predation.**

Ranchers get paid for livestock lost to wolf predation according to the very link you provided. Stop trying to mislead people longday, you just make the ranchers you're incompetently defending look worse.

**scooter929** Podgorney · 4 hours ago

Well, what you said is a perfect world. We aren't in a perfect world. Go ask the farmers, how many animals have died from (Wolves) and what compensation they have rec'd. .... Check with all the states with a wolf population.

Longday is stating the truth. They have to have proof the animal was killed by a wolf.... That's not counting the ones that never return to the barn.... Disappear totally. By the way, if a wolf kills your dog or horse or mule. you are pretty much out of luck. Doesn't happen often but there is no compensation. same as cougar, coyote, bear kill.... Those animals may be as big of a part of the farm as the cows or sheep..... It ain't black and white.

**tellnolie** Podgorney · 6 hours ago

actually the sentence states "Conditions for compensating".....that's a far cry from actual payment, first a death has to be found, second - death has to be confirmed as predation, 3rd, the payments have to be processed and are not full value of any animal at current costs, wolves often consume the whole animal, nothing is left for confirmation of kill, this has been witnessed, therefore 100's if not many more are never compensated, even on private tracts of land. NO ranchers aren't living high on the hog by losing valuable livestock

to these predators.

**longday Podgorney** · a day ago

The only misleading is your inability to continue reading all the rules and regulations from the link.

If the person who loses animals to predation does not follow the rules and regulations TO THE LETTER.. and if the State biologist doesn't agree it was a wolf there is NO Payment... Ranchers get paid for livestock lost to wolf predation according to the very link you provided." I didn't say they NEVER get paid.. what I did say is they have to abide by the all the rules including non-lethal, etc... krap and the specific rules when they do lose an animal.

IF you would just STUDY the ENTIRE Website I provided you might find some clarity.. or not.... :-)

**johnclarke Skier** · 2 days ago

Please, they are not being "destroyed" they literally can't fail.

**Podgorney johnclarke** · 2 days ago

Those ranchers graze their cows on federal land at below-market rates, the government hires range riders to keep the wolves at bay while they sit at home watching afternoon TV. They get paid if those wolves get to one of their cows. Now we learn they also get paid by the government when they are too lazy to pull themselves up off the couch to move those cows out of harms way during a wildfire. Then they all get together at the coffee shop to swap tall tales about their independence and rugged individualism while living in a county that has always taken more in tax revenue than it pays in.

Can't fail is right. What a racket.

**Shelalal Podgorney** · 2 days ago

Like all professions, there are good ranchers and bad ranchers. Fortunately the ranchers I know care about their livestock, are good stewards of the land and know how to turn a buck legitimately with wise business practices and careful planning. I have seen bad

ranchers whose activities would raise eyebrows anywhere. They make the news and should be allowed to fold.

**Podgorney Shelalal** · a day ago

I see no evidence of "good" ranchers, just a crowd of moochers with their hands out as they sponge off those of us who pay taxes to support their lucrative hobby. Unless and until you tell me specifically who are the "good" ones and who are the "bad," they're all bad in my book. If the "good" ranchers won't cull the herd of the "bad" ones, they are complicit in protecting their own.

(Good invocation of the "no true Scotsman" logical fallacy, BTW)

**Shelalal Podgorney** · a day ago

Bad ranchers are easy to spot, especially for anyone who has ever lived a rural lifestyle and it doesn't just include government subsidies. Most anyone can call some acres a ranch - you don't even have to have cattle. The worst I have seen include a couple of people with a few acres who overwork their land with too many cattle to adequately provide for their stock. The underweight horses roam in confines filled with rusting car bodies, uncared for and lacking in basic necessities for owning a horse-or donkey-or cow-or any animal. Their livestock aren't in much better shape and they are clueless about birthing reproduction practices. Their fences are not attended/repared and they wander onto roads. Barns are poorly constructed lean tos filled with junk and are useless for their purpose. I could go on and on.

Slaughterhouses know them by sight as good customers. Ironically the only thing substantial on the property to large sign declaring to all they have a ranch and a telephone listing. Puts a new meaning to "if you buy a hat-you can be a cowboy too".

**twobit Podgorney** · a day ago

Ok Pod you setting in some office spouting what they should have done. Now lets hear from you what they should of done. Start with how much warning and how much area they have to collect these cows. All so would like to see you going thru a fire rounding up panic stricken animals. I bet you grow all your own food too. Most pay for

crop or loss insurance too. But heck why worry about facts when you can complain. Why not complain about all the free Gov hand outs to welfare folks they don't have to work and some on three and four generations of never working. Why not complain about them. At least the farmers buy their own coffee.

**Podgorney twobit** · a day ago

*"Ok Pod you setting in some office spouting what they should have done. Now lets hear from you what they should of done."*

Sorry, that doesn't make sense.

*"Why not complain about all the free Gov hand outs to welfare folks they don't have to work and some on three and four generations of never working. Why not complain about them. At least the farmers buy their own coffee."*

Ranchers *are* "welfare folks" to borrow your colorful phrase, that's my point. And they are in most cases multi-generational "welfare folks" to boot, passing their government-subsidized lands and hobby from one layabout spawn to the next, while people who have to work for a living pay for it. Those counties with heavy concentrations of hobby ranchers don't carry their weight, they rely on the largess of Western Washington. When you point the finger at "welfare folks" you're pointing three fingers back at yourself and the tax-subsidized ranchers, whether you like it or not.

**johnclarke Podgorney** · a day ago

Odd. No one wants to dispute this post.

**Podgorney johnclarke** · a day ago

You'd hear the howling all the way to Port Townsend if the numbers ran the other way and Stevens County paid even a penny more in taxes than it received in benefits. The welfare citizens in Stevens, Ferry and Lincoln Counties ought to get on their knees every night and thank their maker for the hard working people in King County who, according to the map, get back only \$0.62 for every \$1.00 paid in taxes.

**printssubscriber** Podgorney · a day ago

Never going to happen. Ever. Hard working=rugged individualist=self made, self-sufficient and admirable. King County=liberal effete elite=candy-ass. Obumbs all. ;)

**johnclarke** Podgorney · a day ago

Word.

Well, at least like two of us get it. This truth exists nation wide.

**printssubscriber** johnclarke · a day ago

More than two, John. Whatev.

**johnclarke** printssubscriber · a day ago

Three.

**printssubscriber** johnclarke · a day ago

No one wants to discuss the Federal Livestock Indemnity Program either. Because. You know. Federal.

**longday** printssubscriber · a day ago

I already did pages ago.. you weren't paying attention...:-) :-)

**printssubscriber** longday · 21 hours ago

Yeah LD. I never pay attention. I forgot. Thanks for the reminder. You win. As always.

What did you want to win? Thread prize?

I'm sad and sorry for anyone who suffered any fire loss. Period.

That's a problem? And your passive aggressive emoticons suck. I'm not the first person to tell you that. Won't be the last.

**Mary Kirwan-Stevenson** printssubscriber · a day ago

So go ahead discuss it. How is it anywhere nearly as excessive as many of the huge corporate rebates,tax cuts, bail outs, Federal assistance to storm victims, many other Federal Assistance

programs? It states that reimbursement is for "excessive expenses". When predation occurs on private land and the land owner has no recourse for the losses. Yes, I did sign the petition in Yellowstone to reintroduce wolves. But, I did it with the acceptance that there is a cost for everything . I speak as someone who grew up in the midst of cattle country and logging. I am the first to acknowledge that these industries are not without their faults. But then show me one that isn't. To throw every rancher into the same pot as Bundy is way to vast of a generalization.

**printssubscriber** Mary Kirwan-Stevenson · 20 hours ago

You discuss it. I'm not throwing every rancher into the same pot as Bundy. Not my deal. But the folks around here who do (Matt Shea and crew) are unworthy of federal assistance, under the circumstances. They are hypocrites, squared.

**johnclarke** Mary Kirwan-Stevenson · a day ago

It's called "the cost of doing business".

But, wait. You are starting to make perfect sense. Are you saying that it's not right to judge people receiving government assistance. ?

**longday** johnclarke · a day ago

Aww... john,,, it's called being forced to feed the State's predators and not being reimbursed for their financial losses.

Tell you what you go buy 10 cows,, then feed the wolves yourself DEAL ??? :-) :

**tellnolie** Podgorney · 4 hours ago

" And they are in most cases multi-generational "welfare folks" to boot, passing their government-subsidized lands and hobby from one layabout spawn to the next, while people who have to work for a living pay for it." There is the single biggest LIE ever to be put in one these insignificant comment sections ever by a liberal hypocrite wolf loving POS. You couldn't keep up with any rancher's work any month of any year. A small % of Americans have any idea what real work is and none of them come from pavement lined skyscraper dwellings.

Crying shame that scum like you have nothing better to do in life than bash real working Americans livelihoods, whom feed the nation.

**Podgorney** tellnolie · 2 hours ago

*"Crying shame that scum like you have nothing better to do in life than bash real working Americans livelihoods, whom feed the nation."*

Feed the nation? You welfare ranchers can't even feed your own fat faces without a government handout either in the form of below market grazing fees, free range riders, and compensation for cows lost to natural wolf predation. Before you start calling working people names why not get a real job, pay your taxes, and pursue your cowboy-wannabe hobby on your own time?

**tellnolie** Podgorney · 41 minutes ago

Liberal progressives lie for anything that they perceive to further their socialist agenda, no matter the facts, no matter the reality. You scum lie and refuse to acknowledge that a greater number of Cattlemen Ranchers DO NOT graze on public land than do.

There is also NOTHING natural about wolf predation on PRIVATE property, but in Idaho we are allowed to kill wolves, 5 tags by rifle and 5 by trapping. Anyone need another tag, I'll go buy one and tag along!

It's pretty obvious you've never worked harder than folding panties!

**SmokeyBear** twobit · a day ago

If one cares not about the "livelihood" of all, including our wolves, why on earth should we care about theirs? Lessons learned.

**John Wallace** Podgorney · a day ago

You should be ashamed; kicking these people while they're down. In addition, these fires are largely the fault of a failed greenie agenda which stopped logging 30 years ago and limited the amount of public grazing, the result of which are unhealthy forests littered with dead and dying trees, and un-cropped grasslands. This is your fault as

much as anyone's and more.

**johnclarke** John Wallace · a day ago

Standard lie. First, logging on public lands is in fact at an all time high. Second, if you graze your cattle on public lands, then you takes your chances.

By the way, that gubmint that ranchers and farmers all complain about is in there fighting those fires.

**tellnolie** johnclarke · 3 hours ago

All time lie by johnieboy, logging is in fact at an all time low, hence all the shut down and disassembled mills across the Northwest, and all the logging companies out of business.

**printsubscriber** John Wallace · a day ago

That's regurgitated nonsense. No \*greenie\* halted logging in the Northwest. Clear-cutting perhaps. And logging roads in places where they don't belong -- contributing to erosion and inhibiting forest regrowth. These fires are...well gee...why don't we consult our learned Congresswoman on the subject. Shall we?

The agencies saddled with this duty don't have the money. And Republicans in Congress recently blocked consideration of emergency wildfire funds.

Yet Western homeowners represented by those very Republicans are clamoring: Put the fires out, now! So federal agencies will have to borrow from funds that had been set aside for fire prevention in order to smother the fires this time. The government is expected to rush to the scene after any big natural disaster — the impulse society at work...

We all share some of the blame; procrastination is part of our character of the moment. Still, if want to put a face on this inaction, you can look no further than the member of Congress whose district in Washington State is now choked by smoke and harassed by

flames — Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

She is part of the leadership of a Republican majority that is hostile to the point of negligence on the basic science of climate change.

Earlier this year, she complained that restoration work was not being done on 300,000 acres of the Colville National Forest (in her district) that are dying from beetle infestation. This is a huge problem. From Alaska to Mexico, billions of trees have died from an outbreak of bugs, “the largest and most severe in recorded history,” as the Forest Service called it.

The plague has been directly traced to climate change — with drought, stress and warmer winters making it harder for the trees’ natural defenses to fend off beetles. But the party of Cathy McMorris Rodgers will do nothing. It’s a hoax, this warming talk, until one of its manifestations is nipping at the cedar decks of her constituents.  
Timothy Egan, "Fools at the Fire"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/08...>

**John Wallace** printsubscriber · a day ago

The moratorium that started in the 1980s on logging NFs to supposedly protect the Spotted Owl was pushed by the greenies. In addition to not cleaning up the forests with logging, they also continued to fight fires. I spend a lot of time in the NF woods and they need logging badly but the ESA is stopping it. More of these types of fires will happen unless we start utilizing the resource and stop hurting dozens of species to supposedly save one. It's reactionary science and it doesn't work.

**johnclarke** John Wallace · a day ago

Funny how you fail to mention the weather changes causing this problem.

**John Wallace** johnclarke · a day ago

Before this year, there's been a 5-year cooling trend in WA. How often

do you mention that, John? One year does not global warming make.

**johnclarke** John Wallace · a day ago

Then why is logging on public lands at an all time high ?

<http://www.opb.org/news/articl...>

**tellnolie** johnclarke · 3 hours ago

Propaganda lie's!

**longday** johnclarke · a day ago

" by Tom Banse By Tom Banse KUOW | Aug. 9, 2007 10:07 a.m. | Updated: July 17, 2012 1:19 a.m. | Seattle, WA "

UH,, John... this article is 8 years old out of date..... and not accurate..

"Between 1974 and 2007, about 200,000 acres of private Oregon forestland were converted to other uses, mostly to low density housing. However, Oregon's loss was less than half the loss seen in Washington state over the same period.

" **Consequently, Oregon's timber harvest reached a modern-era low in 2009, the smallest harvest since the Great Depression in 1934.** By 2013, the harvest had rebounded to 4.2 billion board feet, roughly prerecession levels.

<http://oregonforests.org/sites...>

Now I'm sure if I were to spend a little more time reasearching,,, I would find about the same information about WA State's forrest.. :-)

**liz codoni** John Wallace · a day ago

Um, up the Joe, logged industry ground is going up, as well as the unlogged . . . bottom line, these fires are not about logged/pristine, grazed/ungrazed - these fires are fueled by the dryness - the ground, the fuel, the fricking air!

**Orphan** Podgorney · 2 days ago

If it were that simple wouldn't everyone be doing it?

**longday** Orphan · 2 days ago

True Orphan, if it really was that easy and flush with money,, everybody would be doing it,, fact is they ain't...

They sure whine like they think they know what their talking about though.. :-)

**Orphan** longday · 2 days ago

I am willing to bet dinner that he has never been around much less raised cattle. I am always amazed at how they want to regulate others when they know so little. Its a control issue for them, scary to say the least.

**haukyn** Orphan · 2 days ago

I am betting that he may have walked though the cattle barn at a county, then freaked when a cow tried to lick him.