

HARNEY COUNTY HISTORY PROJECT

AV-Oral History #439 – Side A/B

Subject: Susan Hammond – Steens Mountain Advisory Council Meeting

Place: Frenchglen, Oregon

Date: October 15, 2004

Interviewer: Tape recording of proceedings

SUSAN HAMMOND: I'm Susan Hammond, a private landowner on the mountain. I guess, forgive my scratch notes, but I just wrote them down as you guys were talking about them, they're not, all come together. The first thing that you were talking about was having the press release, and the government being responsible for advertising. As far as I can see, advertising for the Steens Mountain --- we have a problem, or I do in particular about the federal government using federal government personnel, and press releases and the like --- advertising the mountain. If we advertise the mountain, there is going to be more people up there than we anticipate, and more people than you or us or anybody else can manage for. And I think that is a critical thing.

Yesterday's tour I thought was very good. We have in excess of ten thousand acres on that mountain that look a lot like the land that we looked at yesterday. And it's losing its economic value to our ranch as we speak. We've tried to encourage cooperative management by fire for at least 15 years with the Bureau of Land Management, and it hasn't happened. We have called in several times to avoid things like liability and that

has even backfired. And so I don't know how much cooperation you're going to get from private property owners, unless we have some kind of cooperative management agreement, something that is landowner friendly. Liability is very scary and when the agency is fighting private property managers, for managing their land, progressively when the fire goes any place but right down the fence line it's not cool.

I don't know where Wanda went, but I'm not sure what she was talking about when she talked about the archeological information. But when she was talking, it came to me that the archeological information that we know about, or the archeological sites that we know about, are historic. And fire is historic, and I'm sure that any sites that we came upon would have been introduced to fire a lot of the times. And the roots in the plants that she talks about are all fire, or as far as I know, they are, they develop in fire.

I believe that the private landowners and the BLM should manage the land on the mountain with a priority of fire. Now the planning has fire being the priority, possibly transportation a little bit more, but if we put anything else as the priority over and above fire, there is the chance that fire will destroy it. And so why not start out with a clean slate, which fire gives us, and then deal with the other things.

Carla told me yesterday, and I'm --- this was just in conversation --- in the case of search and rescue I was asking her in regards to the man who was on the far side of the mountain who had to have air life come in, and then the national guard. That there was no method for billing those people, and that the BLM had to eat that cost. If we're, as an agency, if we can eat the cost for that kind of a thing, and can't eat the cost for progressive management on private land, it should slough over on to public land; there is

something wrong with that scenario. There should be a process for fire and cooperative management.

Carla also said --- it seems like I'm picking on him, not Carla --- the Ag Station had allowed us, juniper management things, the FWCD had a lot of juniper management things, and we talked about having a summit meeting for juniper management. Everybody should have a ... management.

Two months ago the Soil and Water Conservation tried to have a summit meeting for juniper management, and it just seems like the BLM is ... as far as I can see that is the road block in progressive management is juniper. Ag Station, FWCD, private landowners, everybody is, notice the value of the management of juniper, or the eradication of juniper. Juniper --- however you say it. But it is up to the Bureau of Land Management to create the profits that would be convincing to the landowner to participate. Because I think we've gone far enough over the other side, that that's not going to happen, unless you guys take the initiative.

Cooperative management, as somebody said, is an economical cost. It's a terrific cost to the private landowner, especially when they have to go over and above. There is no process for them to have input --- and to think that somebody would go forward with the private property priorities. And so they have a terrific cost, because they have to do everything two or three times to educate two or three different segments of bureaucratic people. And they don't have a general fund, or a banker. And so it's not in the economic picture for private landowners to do what the agency has done in the past.

Commercial fire projects is wonderful. In that the history of the watershed council, we've had a complete burn or a complete juniper acreage that was cut, and it was

intended to be burned the next year. And there was some people around town that wanted to come out and cut, get the useable firewood out of it, and the federal government wouldn't let us do that, because that was an economic use of the juniper, and that couldn't happen.

You guys need to, I think, deal with that before it happens. There should be economy put into the planning process on the mountain, in firewood, even commercial firewood gatherers, in preference to burning would be a benefit. That's all.

MAN: Thank you Susie. Ronda, do we have a podium? Not in the building or anything?

MAN: ...

MAN: I was just wondering if some people were more comfortable with one.

MAN: They're going to have to be uncomfortable today. There is one, but it's clear in there ...

MAN. Oh, okay, okay. Okay. Pauline Braymen.

PAULINE BRAYMEN: I brought my own podium.

MAN: You can move up to the table if you like.

PAULINE: Oh no, this will be fine. I'd like to introduce myself, since I have, this is the first meeting I have attended. I may have attended one at the very beginning of the process, but it has been a long time.

I'm a long time resident of Harney County. I was correspondent for the Oregonian for 14 years. I was editor of the newspaper for 15 years. An editor and publisher for, I don't know, 5 or 6 years. So during my career as a resident, and as a correspondent for the Oregonian, I've spent a lot of time on site with BLM, Malheur

Refuge, and other types of tours and groups and then doing stories. As editor of the Times-Herald those types of things were assigned to my reporter and unfortunately the editor sits in the office and directs traffic and doesn't write. So it is within a great deal of pleasure that I am now free-lancing with my own business and will be able to get out and do the fun things like I used to do.

I came away from the yesterday morning's tour just plain angry. Not at anyone, just angry because of the way things are. Angry that a project that started 12 years ago is still in the state of planning. That's nobody's fault, it's just the way things are. There is no blame attached to my comments. But we should have been touring the completed project that showed a thriving aspen grove community. Charlie made the comment yesterday that had they recognized, had he recognized what those little tiny junipers meant years ago, something could have been easily done about that then. Now we have a really terrible problem.

The argument could be made that juniper invasion is historically cyclical, and that sometime in the next millenium a catastrophic incident will wipe out the juniper and we'll restart the ecological process of grass and forbs. However there are so many examples of juniper forests now that I don't believe that it is a right thing to do to allow the Steens Mountain to become another Horse Ridge. If we want to see lots of juniper we can drive to Bend and you can see lots of juniper from old growth to tiny little ones coming. It seems such a waste to lose the aspen and the wildflowers that our biologists or botanists calls forbs, but to me they are wild flowers, from which the Steens has been long enjoyed.

My mother took us at an early age and took us throughout the county to gather wild flowers, and she became a photographer, to photograph them, identify them. And as a lay person probably has the most complete collection of photos of wild flowers in this area that can be seen. As a kid I didn't really think it was all that great. You know we rode long, hot dusty hours for a few minutes out running around in the sagebrush while Mom photographed a wild flower. But I see now the value of that experience, because I know what it was like when I was 10, and 15. I was almost 25 before I ever was on the Steens proper. We went around the base, but we didn't go up because the roads were too bad for my mom to, vehicle to travel. So I was about 25 when I went to Fish Lake for the first time. But since that time one of the great joys of, is to go and see the wild flowers in the spring.

I'm very concerned that the management of the Steens, as it is currently being done, that we're going to lose out. And I know you're all aware that Steens Mountain is a very special place --- a botanist --- I can't say the word --- yeah botanical. There are four geographic areas on the Steens. I think my mother used to tell me that there was no other place in the world, or few other places in the world where you could go to an area and find plants from four different geographical areas. Grass is wonderful, but it too has to be managed, or you will lose the forbs. So I'm concerned about that.

Wanda I want to direct these comments directly to you. Yesterday we stood on a place where at first glance, and I had the same thoughts as you did Jerry, gosh this piece of land is in trouble. And then the botanist pointed out that in the spring this is covered with biscuit root, and wild carrot and the other plants and forbs that were traditionally so important to the Paiute history. We don't want grass there; we want those things there.

I think that, that we really need to manage that mountain for the values that we treasure, and not let it be replaced with the juniper monoculture. I have been concerned for some time about what you see from the Loop Road. I drive through that area where, that was once aspen groves and now is juniper groves with a few dying aspen in it.

Carla spoke to the lack of staffing for inter-disciplinary planning, of having all of the components of staffing to study all the possible trade-offs that management would bring. So I think that is a valid concern, and that funding might be better placed, in place of interminable planning and knit-picking protests of hiring sufficient staff, and being allowed to take action. And I would also like to comment that for a long, long time, and I deserve this as a reporter, I have no economic interest in the Steens, although I am a cattle rancher. We have no public lands, all our operation is totally on private land, and no public lands involved. I'll admit to saying that sometimes I feel like you guys that have public lands are lucky, and have a little bit of advantage on those of us who don't. But I've observed over the years the philosophy or the accusation that the private landowner using the public lands is a bad guy. And that's not true. And the private landowners and the public land lessees that sit on this board have a very, very valuable history and input, and they need to be listened to. The old adage is that if you don't take care of the land, you lose your economic value is true. So why would you mistreat the land, and put yourself out of business?

I'm not advocating --- my comments are not directed at economic value. My comments are aimed at the protection and the continuing of a very, very special place and not allowing it to become something that historically, at least in our lifetime it has never

been. I don't see the value of it being a juniper monoculture, and it is fast heading that way. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

MAN: Thank you Pauline. Steve.

STEVE HAMMOND: Steve Hammond, local resident and rancher. I've been up here before and ... I've said a lot of things that ... that I hope is allowed to evolve, if not exploiting just a little bit. Carla is in a position to take a tremendous amount of criticism. She can handle that job quite nicely. I hope that the absence of our new area manager isn't any indication of what level of importance this committee is to him, or the success of this area is to him. It's too bad he's not here.

Pauline added to my list the environmental level of importance from a botanical standpoint. My list of priorities was fire, transportation, and recreation. Now she has added to that list a little bit. We'll get to prioritize those things as we go along. But what I don't see us doing, but I wish what is happening, is the BLM is still dodging around, and out there like a little bunny on a trail avoiding a coyote here and there, avoiding a pot hole here, and And in doing that they are not dealing with you guys, I don't think, in a fair manner. If they were dealing with you in a fair manner, they would be elevating you people to a level of higher importance, which I think you are, is more important than what they are allowing you to be. Meaning ... comments. ... allowing a level of, not particularly criticism, but a lot of the involvement for you people to feel, of some importance, the same way with fire. Not making a particular courtroom setting, but asking you people's approval of something.

George Trumbull comes to mind. If he would have felt like there would have been some significance for you people to have your say and him maintain ... It's too bad

that he didn't come in here. Ideally to me, he'd of came in here and said, "You know what guys, I'm going to maintain ... this is what I'm going to do, this is my plan, this is kind of my strategy in doing it." And you can bet your buck he has a legal strategy.

And on the same hand the BLM would have brought in Mark Armstrong, or Mark Sherbourne, whoever they feel the authority is, and said this is kind of our point on it. How do you guys feel about it? You're not a legal body, but what you say is very important. And if you don't think, that if you'd have said, "You know what George, we think you consider all these things and you've done a good job, and consider what you're going to do. But would you consider this?" I think George would have considered it. And if you would have said to the BLM, "You know what, I think you're on a low slippery slope." I think the letters that George are getting today may have been minimized. George is getting ... to the best of the BLM's ability. They are building a file on him, just like Ron is talking about today, of wanting to know a new area, a person coming in and wanting to know somebody's history, or somebody's reputation. The way they did that is by reading letters like Harley is writing to George Trumbull. The next area manager comes in, when they start making a property agreement with George Trumbull, they're going to know because of the BLM's documentation that he is somewhat of a wild card. He's in a unique position; he doesn't have permits to be considered. He's just a landowner out there enjoying the countryside.

They're also going to know from guys like me, what I have at stake. They're going to know I've got a permit, I got a ranch, I got access issues. And you know what, he wants to do some things progressively. We could hold this ... to the fire line, because of all these other issues. That's the reputation that I'm going to ... But if you guys were

in a position to somewhat be weeding some of these issues out, and dealing with them at our level. At our level, I'm locally here in Frenchglen. It's nice that you're here. This is where it happened. But you guys are going to have to take the initiative to invite these people in. When you're writing your transportation plan, when you're writing your recreation plan, when you're writing the fire management plan, you're all representing people that don't have the time to go up every day. You're weeding the audience out pretty quick. It's not anybody's fault, it's just what's happened, and I hope you all see it. When we're all gone, who do we have to talk to? You'll be talking back and forth about your own problems. That's the failure that I'm trying to --- I hope that is avoided. Is you guys getting here when part of the forum, and just talking about each other's problems. They're talking about whatever the BLM wants you to talk about. You've got to figure out how they open them up, to have people ---

Side B

STEVE HAMMOND: --- it's up to you guys to make the initiative to help guide me as a private landowner into your process and tell the BLM that you know what, there is a special situation. Thank you.

MAN (Tom): Thanks Steve. Charlie.

CHARLIE OTLEY: Thanks Tom. My name is Charlie Otley a rancher over in Diamond, and a landowner on Steens Mountain. I thought the fields yesterdays was good. I found out about this cooperative management there, more than what I've ever done before. I'm not going to go into that very deep, but it's been ... here about the cooperative management plan, but I would like to take it one stop farther and say the timing of this

cooperative management I think needs to be looked at very bad, very much. I don't think that it should be at the tail end of the thing, I should of think it was in the beginning. And I'll give you a for instance. Stacy talked about a cooperative management they had on down there. Nobody can make me believe Stacy was sitting in his house in the arm chair with his feet up on the stool, footstool, when all of that planning was done. I know Stacy well enough to know that he was down there in the beginning of that planning, instead of learning about it at the tail end of it. So I think the timing of the cooperation should be at the beginning. And there is some other things I want to bring into this.

Now I don't know where my cattle are going to go when we get into this cooperative plan. I don't know, I've heard by word of mouth that there is going to be over on the east side of the valley here, and right next to the bird refuge. I want to know how big the deal is, I'd like to know how the fences are, I'd like to know how the watering condition is for livestock. And how I'm going to get from there to my deeded land up on the mountain. And so selfishly I would like to know some of these things ahead of April 15th next year, or whatever time I'm supposed to be moving. It just seems to me like, and I'd like to have it in this committee on the record that they would ask the BLM to change their ... time of bringing this to me. Yesterday I got the idea that they would do all the planning and then bring it to me. And I'd like to be in on some of the planning, because it might not fit. I'm saying this for the people that don't know anything about running cows that are here. And you don't run cows month by month, you run them years by years, you've got to plan a long time ahead. And so that is the main reason that I feel like that this cooperative stuff should start at the beginning instead of them filling me in on the end of it.

And so I was a little perturbed yesterday because I hadn't known about this, and things. And they can --- we can sit down and discuss, then they can work out their stuff. And I think Carla understands this, but I just want it on the record that I think this thing should, the cooperative part of it should start at the beginning. With that I think that's about all I have to say. Thank you.

MAN: Thank you Charlie. Anyone else that wishes to speak that has not signed up? Then our public comment is concluded.

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WOMAN: ... because I've watched the Deschutes River just go to hell, until they finally did something about it. And when ... and you drive down off the rim ... where they all camped. And there are huge big boulders every so often, and they have beautiful petrified ... all over them. And behind every boulder is ... And whereas we're talking about ... and the possibility of making boot camps for the first time, ... up there on the mountain. Whereas you have some control over these camps, maybe ... try something different. And that would be to go for the ... machines that John ... for us, and requiring the group camp, the group camp that went through there, to do that. To get ... whatever they are, and have a little ... machine somewhere down in Frenchglen. And so it could be a sort of a small project ... make them available for other people who want to use them on the mountain. You could start by designing them, which would do away ...

MAN: ... Other comments on the Jordan property? Did everybody have a chance to look at those minutes? ... Gary.

MAN: ...

MAN: Other comments apart from George's?

MAN: ...

WOMAN: ...

MAN: ...

WOMAN: ... (Talking about outhouses.)

MAN: ...

WOMAN: ... (Talking about outhouses again.)

MAN: ...

WOMAN: ... by putting the outhouses in different places than people camped. It's totally worthless. And you just have this awful, awful ...

WOMAN: Outhouses were too far away.

MAN: I would agree, just what you said. The outhouses are too far away. Anybody that is over the age of 50, the benefits of the porta-potty became extraordinary. It generally is, we tried to advertise it in a magazine that subscribes to hunting paraphernalia, you won't sell many porta-pottys. So give it to the lady of the house, the choice of going out into the bushes, or using a porta-potty, you'll come home with a porta-potty. ...

MAN: ... fascinating discussion. ...

WOMAN: Alternatives other than a permanent ... Yeah, I like what I'm hearing. I don't know if Evelyn's been here for the whole day, I know Karen has, and we've been taking notes, and I've been listening to a lot of your concerns ... I'm going to ask them to look at the alternative, and as long as it is okay with Dan it makes it, common sense to either have some rental porta-pottys to put them in the campsite deal, or some opportunity ... Now we'd really love to work with ... figuring out something for those people that ...

MAN: Are we supporting of basically Mark's presentation yesterday of ... gates and restrictions on roads. And then our own concern is the waste disposal system used, and what we're saying is we encourage other than ... for a permanent toilet, to look at alternatives that are not from the ... Is that ---

MAN: I'm sorry. I've supposedly got a motion ...

WOMAN: It sounds like what I heard ...

MAN: Jerry.

MAN: Well everybody ...

MAN: ... what Jerry said earlier, and Stacy as well in regards to what the conversation Dan had with the Bureau, and had extensive conversations with you, right Mark?

MARK: Yes.

MAN: It's pretty much what you presented yesterday. Are these the things that Dan wanted, or are these the things that maybe you told Dan ... we're going to have a cooperative agreement with Mike, you think about this. Are these pretty much what he was okay with?

MAN: Based on the road closures, its pretty much Dan's idea. ... But then the ...

WOMAN: It's about the alternatives

MAN: ... So Mark, was he pretty concerned also with sanitation of the area up there ...

MAN: Yeah.

(People are too far from microphone to pick up what they are saying.)

WOMAN: ...

MAN: ...

WOMAN: ...

...

MAN: ... a couple things that you guys this afternoon, one is the matter of access near Home Creek in Catlow Valley. I'd like to start with further discussion that we kind of had ... on the East Side of the mountain. And just prior to that ... is going to come in and

offer to BLM free non-development easements on these three parcels. Just to kind of remind you, Mann Lake is about a mile south of here. Okay so we're on the East Steens.

This parcel is ... (Tape stops)

MAN: Take a couple more questions, we've about run this to death I think, all right.

WOMAN: I've got one question. Talking about ... the hospital district, the levy, would there have to be a new ambulance district formed, or would you, could you tack that on to the hospital, current hospital district levy?

MAN: We haven't had legal advice there. There are several areas ... you could just increase the hospital levy, and possibly ... and save that now specifically for the ambulance. Then you'd have a separate ambulance levy within the health district probably. But I don't have any specific legal advice ...

MAN: Aaron.

MAN: I'd just like to clarify something, I guess it comes from being a 911 ... for many years. 911 does not have the ... district, ... no communication department, and is supported by ... And 911 ... along with the Burns Police Department, Fire Department, City of Hines, Tribal, Harney County, and the Forest Service pays some, the BLM pays some, everybody pays their fair share ... And through cost of living, cost of equipment, those things have roughly increased ...

MAN: ... I just wanted to clarify it, you have some new council members ... and for the Otleys ...

MAN: Thank you Dave. I think we're going to ... to a conclusion here if we can. Any other questions, does anybody have anything else that you want to bring before the council tonight? If not, we stand adjourned.

MAN: ...

MAN: Okay, well that's what I just asked you.

MAN: I apologize for ...

MAN: Okay, two things. On the airport project, it looks like the federal funding is going to be late coming in. We have until March the 15th, and then we --- and that's when the prices are good for. That's when the three months are up. The bids were supposed to be good for three months. Because of the federal congressional funding, it's slow, they're haggling, but, so we're not sure if the money is going to get in, in time. If it does, there are a couple things that our engineer asked us to do in the council. Assuming that --- number one they wanted us to award the project to the low bidder, pending federal availability of funds. So what that means is, if the federal funds are released, then we can act post haste at signing a contract with them and moving ahead with the project.

MAN: I thought we'd done that.

MAN: Pardon?

MAN: I thought we'd done that.

MAN: No, we didn't, we were holding off waiting for these funds. Now what we're doing is, I'm requesting that the council award the funds to Harney County Gypsum, and I will read off the amounts of the bid, as the low bidder, pending the federal availability of funds. Harney County Gypsum was a \$1,467,155.38. Harney Rock and Paving was \$1,493,580.19. Wildish Standard Paving was a \$1,789,073.72. And Perock Brothers was \$2,234,369.00. So the low bidder was Harney County Gypsum at \$1,467,155.38. I ask the council to approve the award pending the federal availability of funds.

MAN: ...

MAN: Second.

MAN: Any discussion? All in favor raise your right hand. What proposed, will carry.

MAN: Another item, in a way also is a housekeeping item to move this thing ahead as quickly as possible if the federal funds become available, that we ask that the council pre-approve the signing of the grant offer fee, because 90% of this project is federal grant money. Once this money comes down the pipe, we're going to have to find, we're going to have to find the grant award. It's been requested that we pre-approve signing that grant offer pending the federal financing of that project. The federal funds becoming available for that project.

MAN: What project ...

MAN: The airport project.

MAN: Okay.

MAN: 90% of that is FAA moneys.

MAN: My suggestion there is what I know about federal funding at this time. We better jump on the ... while we can.

MAN: So I would ask the council to pre-approve the signing of that grant offer, if the money becomes available before the deadline, March 15th.

MAN: March?

MAN: May 15th, I apologize.

MAN: ...

MAN: Yes.

MAN: ...

MAN: Yes. We would have to have --- whatever we have is a 10% match, that's what they're going to give us.

MAN: ...

MAN: Yes.

MAN: ...

MAN: Well no, we are committed to spending \$25,000 of ... money, that we ...

MAN: What's your pleasure, gentlemen?

MAN: ...

MAN: If this money comes down the pipe, we're going to do a project. And the city of Burns is committed to spending \$25,000 that's in a .. of airport money for this project.

MAN: ...

MAN: It represents a portion of our match. Our match amounts to a hundred and twenty-five, thirty-five, \$65,000 ... A hundred thousand was state lottery money that we were awarded, and we've actually already spent it. \$25,000 of it is ours out of the general ... reserve. \$10,000 of it is a state aeronautics grant that we will be, should be awarded here shortly. And \$40,000 of it is what is going to be before the state legislature tomorrow.

MAN: ...

MAN: Of our own money, would be twenty-five.

WOMAN: ...

MAN: We have money in the general equipment reserve account for the airport, we'd be using that money.

MAN: From the motion that you made ... is to sign the grant when the grant becomes available.

MAN: Yes.

MAN: When the grant is funded.

MAN: When the grant --- if the federal funds comes through, before May the 15th, we will --- I want pre-approval to sign the grant offer, so that we, that the process can proceed. It's either that, or when the federal funds become available, then we wait for the next council meeting, and then get the approval, and by then we will have missed the window of opportunity. After May the 15th, the prices that we have on this job, the bid, they're no longer good.

MAN: ...

MAN: And so we --- no, there are all kinds of scenarios that can happen.

MAN: So this would lock in the bids.

MAN: It would lock in the bid, assuming the federal funds become available before May 15th. Yes. There is another question. Rick.

MAN: When is the next city council meeting? Is it the 9th?

WOMAN: The 10th.

MAN: The 10th. But the grant can be funded on the 3rd.

MAN: Okay. But it doesn't have to be awarded or anything done until the 15th. So you have until the 10th to make that --- not have to do that until the 10th, if it is not here by the 10th, is that correct? If it would show up on the 11th, you want the approval to take care of it without having to ---

MAN: I suppose, I suppose that if it was that big of a deal, than yeah, that's possible.

MAN: ...

MAN: ... I mean it is something that we all expect to be coming down the pipe, we know it's going to happen. It's something that we've progressed so far, that we asked for these bids on. 10% match against 90% federal money, we've gone out for a bid on, we know what's going to happen.

MAN: Do we have a motion?

MAN: You said \$40,000 ... state legislature has promised.

MAN: Yes.

MAN: If you don't get that then, then is the city of Burns committed to \$65,000?

MAN: No, what would happen is that we would scale the project back to what we could afford to do.

MAN: Any further discussion? All in favor of the motion, raise your right hand. The poll is so carried.

MAN: Last item I have is, I was approached about the senior all night party. And I would ask that a request, by request, that the city council donate to the all night party. We have money that is set aside for donations, recognition, and donations.

MAN: ...

MAN: Pardon me.

MAN: ...

MAN: We budgeted \$5,000, no a \$1,000, and we've spent \$55.00 as of March 31st. I would remind the council on a budget ... so we don't get carried away.

MAN: Well, I'd like to make a motion. ... I was just going to say that I'm opposed to us donating, donating the citizen's money, I don't think that's why we have the tax money is to make donations in any shape.

MAN: ...

WOMAN: ... Is it because an alcohol and drug free party is ... participate in that party, not be out on the street drinking, carrying on ... And every year they go out for donations to help fund the party so that the kids have food and non-alcoholic beverages, and prizes and all that kind of stuff.

MAN: Games and prizes.

MAN: It's a good place for them on that night, there is no question about that.

WOMAN: It is.

MAN: Its been very successful the last eight, nine years. ...

WOMAN: ...

MAN: For the new council members we have, we have taken that money in the past and that was the money that supposedly we would be paid for coming to council meetings. Individual council meetings, and put it into the pot for these things to --- like the baseball ... little league ... senior parties, and stuff like that. We felt that that was a good, kind of a public thing. ...

MAN: Chuck, I'll ... for him.

MAN: I know it is only a few dollars, but where do you draw the line? You start taking ... organization. I remember when I was a kid ... I support my kids, you support yours. (Laughter) Nobody ... I hear a lot through the years, personally, but I'm not so sure I should have the authority to do some of the ...

MAN: I'll give some of the kids \$20 of my ... I am, I said I'll give \$20.

MAN: I meant ...

...

MAN: ... Okay, let me expand a little bit. Just recently there was a school that wanted to go, or a class that wanted to go to the zoo in Portland. I think they were about 5th graders, I'm not sure. They started this --- they hadn't left yet. ...

MAN: Chuck, could we do that after the meeting?

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: My point is they only needed \$1,700 for all these kids, and the parents to go to take them to the zoo in a bus. It was a school project, but the school would not pay for one dime. Not even the bus driver, they had to pay for fuel, mileage, the whole ball of wax. The county court, they approached the county court and asked them for a couple hundred bucks. They said no, ... I'm not so sure that ...

MAN: The county court did exactly what you did, because that is when I got hit for \$25 bucks. And it ended up ... \$350 bucks.

MAN: Well, I ...

MAN: \$20, I had to pay.

MAN: You know another way to look at that is, we're providing a safe environment for a bunch of high school kids to go and enjoy themselves. We're keeping them safe, we're keeping the streets safe, and I don't think it is going to kill us to cough up a few extra bucks.

MAN: That's true. ...

WOMAN: ...

MAN: I understand. I think the citizens ought to pay for it. I think the parents ought to pay.

MAN: One quick comment, my money you're talking about, I think a small donation for that ... to have money in your budget, and you can give that, as far as I'm concerned, and I'll say that maybe the things you're getting out of the budget ...

MAN: You have some reference to ...

MAN: Program, who you will, and what the criteria needs to be before we donate ... in the next year.

MAN: How much of that is your money?

MAN: I think \$50 bucks would be ...

MAN: I think ...

MAN: That's the only money that you're going to get ...

MAN: Okay, is there any more discussion on this? Kelly, any feeling on that?

MAN: I ain't got no kids, ...

MAN: Well then you don't have the expense that we do.

MAN: Well give away your money as a taxpayer.

MAN: All right, I'll give you my \$20.

MAN: It's the tax payers money, the \$50 bucks. I should give the taxpayers money?

MAN: Well why don't you make it \$200 ...

MAN: I make the motion the city of Burns provide \$50 for the senior class party.

MAN: No more discussion. All those in favor raise their right hand. Opposed? Anything else? Anything from anyone else? Anything from department heads? We're adjourned.

(END OF TAPE)

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