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Fish protection increased

By Bob Egelko
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—A federal appeals court ordered the government Wednesday to increase protection for fish before licenses are renewed for two hydroelectric dams on the McKenzie River east of Eugene.

Environmental groups and wildlife officials from both the state and federal governments had argued that water diversions from the Waltherville and Leaburg dams were threatening the river's dwindling populations of wild chinook salmon and bull trout.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals rejected their requests to require a broad review of the dams' environmental impact but ordered the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to adopt protective measures proposed by the federal agencies charged with pro-

tecting fish and wildlife.

The most important measures will require the commission to delay construction of new diversion dams at Waltherville until fish screens are in place, and will reduce flows into power canals if too many fish are still being killed, said attorney Kristen Boyles of the Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund.

She represented the conservation groups American Rivers, the Pacific Rivers Council, the Oregon Natural Resources Council, WaterWatch of Oregon and Friends of the Earth.

Boyles said it was also important that the court required the dam-oriented FERC to defer to the findings of federal wildlife agencies that certain types of protective measures for fish were needed. FERC had argued that it had the final say.

"When you've got expert biological agencies, the National Ma-

riner Fisheries Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service, saying these are things that have to be done so that fish can get through and by those structures, FERC can't rewrite them," Boyles said.

Donald Haagensen, lawyer for the Eugene Water and Electric Board, which operates the dams, declined comment, saying he had not seen the ruling.

Waltherville, built in 1911, is about 10 miles east of Springfield. Leaburg, built in 1930, is another 15 miles upstream. They provide about 6 percent of EWEB's electricity by diverting water out of the river, into canals and through turbines.

FERC renewed their licenses for another 40 years in March 1997, subject to some protective measures, including increased flows in the river and construction of a new fish ladder.

No change in Reagan's health

By Jeff Wilson
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former President Ronald Reagan is in slow decline from Alzheimer's disease, but there has been no sudden change in his condition, Nancy Reagan said Wednesday in an effort to put to rest rumors that he is near death.

"The rumors are absolutely false," Nancy Reagan said in a statement read to The Associated Press by the Reagans' spokeswoman, Joanne Drake.

"President Reagan suffers from Alzheimer's, a progressive disease. However, there has been no dramatic change in his condition that would be cause for the alarming rumors that we are hearing," Mrs. Reagan said in the statement.

"We hope that people would be more sensitive than this to the situation."

Rumors about Reagan's health have been swirling for weeks.

A U.S. News & World Report item, published Mon-

day, quoted unidentified sources as saying Reagan representatives have talked about logistics for a state funeral.

Then on Tuesday, an e-mail on Reagan followed some redistributed versions of the California Senate Republican Caucus briefing that is sent out daily by state Sen. James Brulte, a Republican from Rancho Cucamonga.

"Rumors from newsrooms are that Ronald Reagan's health is fading and he is on a 36-hour death watch," the e-mail said.

A staffer in the office of state Sen. John Lewis, an Orange County Republican, had sent the e-mail to the same group of people to which she redistributes the briefing and "one of the people who got that assumed that it came from us," Brulte said.

While the rumors spread through California GOP circles late Tuesday, Reagan was enjoying a scoop of sorbet outside Brentwood's Haagen-Dazs ice cream shop, manager Abbas Malik said. A Secret Service agent purchased the treat.

Maps

Continued from Page 1

Synthesizing Computer Aided Design (CAD) databases and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) with graphics software, the

campus-mapping program enables a host of departments and service providers to access accurate, information-rich maps detailing everything from a build-

ing's plumbing system to a breakdown of the tree population on campus.

"By using a diverse number of tools and data formats we are able to solve a wide range of multi-disciplinary problems and provide better and more extensive service to the University community," Meacham said.

The project deals with the integration of GIS, map publishing, facilities mapping and architectural applications. As they are being used currently, the maps permit varied departments such as planning or grounds maintenance to geo-reference aspects of the campus in more precise ways and complete repairs or remodels more efficiently.

Meacham noted that the mapping system is unique in that each department that shares the technology has an active role in its development, as the applications are tailored specifically for each.

"It's a user-driven or bottom-up approach," he said. "The people using it are also part of its evolution."

Participating University offices that currently utilize the mapping technologies and are instrumental in continued improvements to it are facilities services, publications, admissions, athletics, housing, network services, telecommunications and public safety.

Since gaining the recognition the award merits, Meacham said he's received a number of calls from other universities around the country interested in information sharing to develop similar projects of their own.

"Winning recognizes that ours is a valid approach," Meacham said. "We had a vision and a direction, and now the tools have evolved to make it feasible."

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