

SEE THE ANNUAL SEED & ROW CROPS SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

# Capital Press

The West's **Ag** Weekly

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015

★ VOLUME 88, NUMBER 11

WWW.CAPITALPRESS.COM

\$2.00



## BREEDING FOR A DIFFERENT BREW

Photo submitted

Idaho Falls grower Matt Gellings loads malt barley on March 5 for transport to Anheuser-Busch to use as seed. Gellings would be interested in planting all-grain malt varieties, which are a recent emphasis of barley breeding programs, if there's a market and a slight premium.

## Wash. preps case for drought advisory

### Most watersheds falling below drought benchmark

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

LACEY, Wash. — Washington officials are preparing to declare a drought emergency, reviewing water supply forecasts and lining up money to make the most of every drop.

Officials from state agencies, cities, tribes and irrigation districts met Tuesday for a comprehensive review of 62 watersheds.

More than half, 33, were marked down as likely this summer to have less than 75 percent of their normal water supplies, the benchmark for a drought declaration.

Only seven watersheds, all in the northeast, were chalked down as, for now, safe from drought. They are the Methow, Lower Lake Roosevelt, Upper Lake Roosevelt, Middle Lake Roosevelt, Upper Lake Roosevelt, Kettle and Pend Oreille.

The other watersheds went down as too close to call — either because of a lack of information about snow and river flows or because conditions were hovering around the 75 percent mark.

Many watersheds facing drought have received above average rainfall over the winter, but warm temperatures have made snowpack a fraction of their normal levels.

“We have a lot of areas in the state, based on snowpack conditions, forecast to have flows significantly below normal, even in some places reaching extreme conditions,” the Department of Ecology’s drought response coordinator, Jeff Marti, said.

Marti presided over Tuesday’s meeting of the Water Supply Availability Committee. He planned to present the review Wednesday to state agency directors. The directors will talk about the hardships a drought might bring and make a recommendation to Gov. Jay Inslee.

Turn to DROUGHT, Page 12

## Breeders work on malting barleys specifically for craft brewers

By JOHN O’CONNELL  
Capital Press

Domestic malt barley varieties just weren’t bred with small craft brewers such as New Glarus in mind.

Like most craft brewers, Dan Carey, brewmaster at the microbrewery near Madison, Wisconsin, uses only malted barley, also known as malt, as a carbohydrate source for his recipes.

But the vast majority of the malt available was developed to meet the specifications of the mass-production brewing giants that dominate the domestic beer market. Their beers, mainly Pilsner lagers, typically involve adding carbohydrates from rice or corn to supplement the malt — a practice known as adjunct brewing. Because most U.S. malts were developed to be mixed with those non-barley starches, their characteristics pose challenges for craft brewers, who use only malted barley in their all-grain process.

For example, a slightly higher protein level in the malt aids in the fermentation of the mass-produced adjunct beers, but in malt-only brewing the extra protein can make fermentation too vigorous and hurt the taste. In addition to lower-protein malts, craft brewers also prefer malts that lend a richer flavor to their beer.

No longer, however, will the craft beer sector be overlooked by the malt-

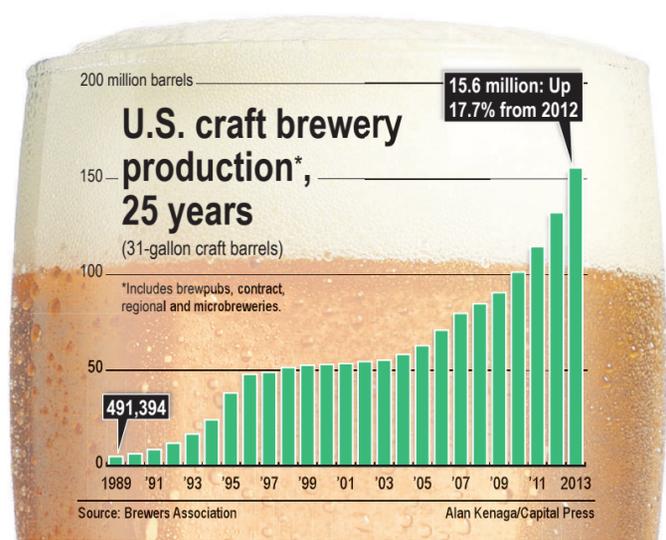


Photo submitted

Dan Carey, brewmaster with New Glarus Brewing in Wisconsin, brews a batch of beer. Carey recently tested some barley varieties developed in Aberdeen, Idaho, for all-malt brewing.

ing industry. As the number of craft breweries continues to grow, barley breeders are placing a greater emphasis on meeting their needs. Chief among them is developing low-protein varieties of barley.

“We’re asking that there be a fork in the road,” Carey said. “It’s great that they continue to breed for the large brewers, but we also need a second (malt) type for small brewers.”



### Barley guidelines

In early 2014, the American Malting Barley Association and the Brewers Association adopted guidelines for all-malt brewing, also called all-grain brewing. The guidelines, which provide targets for barley breeders and malting companies, call for malted barley with protein levels a percentage point lower than that of malt developed for blending with rice and corn and with up to one-third less free amino nitrogen. The free amino nitrogen supports vigorous fermentation but at excessive levels may contribute to spoilage or off flavors.

“Crafts have grown and have become part of our organization, and they are having input,” said AMBA President Mike Davis.

The Idaho Barley Commission acknowledged the increasing importance of the craft industry when it led its first craft brewery-specific tour of southeast Idaho barley country in 2014.

Barley breeding programs, including those at the USDA Agricultural Research Service facility in Aberdeen, Idaho, and at Oregon State University,

Turn to BREEDERS, Page 12

## County in Washington may sue to stop grizzly restoration

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

OKANOGAN, Wash. — Okanogan County commissioners are exploring the possibility of a lawsuit to prevent the U.S. Department of Interior from restoring grizzly bears to the North Cascades.

“We think we have uncovered enough of where they did not follow procedure and process. They’re no different than their commander in D.C. running rogue with his pencil and phone. Yes, Obama,” said Jim DeTro, Okanogan County commissioner.

The county was talking to state legislators in Olympia about its options after the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held open houses in Winthrop on March 3 and in Okanogan on March 4 to help them determine whether to take an active role in grizzly restoration. It could include moving griz-

zlies into the North Cascades from other places in the U.S. and Canada.

Commissioners strongly oppose restoration and say a majority of county residents do. Ranchers, back country horsemen, ATV users, hobby farmers and rural residents don’t want another apex predator to worry about, DeTro said.

About 100 people attended the open house in Okanogan, he said.

“It’s a very, very disgruntled public. They’re not happy with the process. It was set up so you really couldn’t comment. It’s divide and conquer. They diffuse the situation as best they can so they can check the box when they go back to wherever they go and say, ‘Yes we had a meeting in Okanogan County,’” DeTro said.

There was no general forum for oral presentations by federal employees or

Turn to BEARS, Page 12



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Monte and Judy Olson, East Wenatchee, at right, listen to Hilary Cooley of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service talk about grizzlies at the agency open house in Wenatchee, Wash., March 5.

**CASCADE**  
FARM and OUTDOOR

598 N. Wilbur Ave., Walla Walla  
www.cascadefarmandoutdoor.com

# SHOP AND SAVE

Don't miss our Harvest Choice Special Values.  
Save on all your Farm and Outdoor needs!

Find these deals in our March 5 ad, online or pick one up at the store.

