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HETCH HETCHY

Latest lawsuit doesn't target ag, group says



By TIM HEARDEN
Capital Press

A view of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Granite rock formations in the Hetch Hetchy area of northwestern Yosemite National Park, May 15, 2011. Photos via Wikimedia Commons

SAN FRANCISCO — The group that filed a second lawsuit against this city's operation of the Hetch Hetchy reservoir in Yosemite National Park isn't proposing that the city instead try to take its water from agriculture, its executive director said.

Restore Hetch Hetchy, whose 2012 San Francisco ballot proposal to consider draining the reservoir and returning the valley to its natural state was soundly defeated, last week filed suit in Tuolumne County Superior Court claiming the city's operation of the reservoir violates the state constitution.

The petition alleges the reservoir that provides water for an estimated 2.5 million San Francisco Bay area customers violates

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This photograph, taken in the early 1900s before the O'Shaughnessy Dam was constructed, shows the Hetch Hetchy Valley and the Tuolumne River, looking east. Wapama Falls is on the left, Kolana Rock on the right.



"We are not advocating taking or buying water from agriculture. But paying ag districts to recharge groundwater when possible is certainly on the table."

— Restore Hetch Hetchy executive director Spreck Rosekrans



Courtesy of ODFW
A pup of the Wenaha wolf pack is seen howling during summer 2014 in Wallowa County.

Ranchers unhappy with wolf delisting delay

Conservation groups push for greater numbers

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Livestock ranchers and farm groups approached the April 24 meeting of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission with a clear mindset: Oregon's rapidly-growing wolf population has increased to the point that gray wolves can be removed from the state endangered species list.

Given the emotion and politics of the issue, however, they didn't necessarily expect a decision that day. The commission, facing a crowd in which delisting opponents were the majority, asked ODFW staff to come back with information beyond the 64-page biological status review they had in front of them.

The commission wanted more information on the options of delisting wolves in the eastern half of the state, in the entire state, or taking no action. It may be September before staff reports back.

The state's wolf plan calls for beginning the delisting process when the state has at least four breeding pairs for three consecutive years. Oregon reached that standard at the end of 2014, when eight

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Washington irrigators look for water

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

SUNNYSIDE, Wash. — The Eastern Washington irrigation district that stands to be most severely impacted by the 2015 drought wants to lease water, but it may not find any available.

With growers beginning

to sacrifice apple orchards and hop fields, the board of the Roza Irrigation District in the Lower Yakima Valley voted April 27 to lease water at \$500 per acre, said Scott Revell, district manager.

The board set no limit but estimates spending about \$1.2 million of its \$3.5 million in reserves to lease 5,000 acre-

feet of water, most likely from the Sunnyside Valley Irrigation District, with half of the cost reimbursed by the state, Revell said.

However, Jim Trull, SVID manager, said he would bring the matter to his board as soon as possible.

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Crews build a \$26 million, 35-acre water reservoir for the Roza Irrigation District north of Sunnyside, Wash., on March 26.

Dan Wheat
Capital Press

THIS WEEK IN THE CAPITAL PRESS



Volunteers, sponsors make Ag Fest a success

Hundreds of volunteers joined sponsoring businesses and 4-H and FFA members to help Oregon Ag Fest educate thousands of children about ag.

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State funding in question for junior livestock show

Money may not be available next year to pay premiums to youth for the animals they raise.

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