

Jewell unaware of any plan to designate Owyhee monument

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Addressing a question hard on the minds of southeast Oregon residents, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said during a congressional hearing March 1 that she knows of no plans to designate an Owyhee Canyonlands national monument.

Responding to a question from Rep. Greg Walden, who represents Eastern Oregon, Jewell said the concept was brought up by Keen Footwear of Portland.

“It’s been kicking around, it’s one of the things people have recommended to us,” Jewell said.

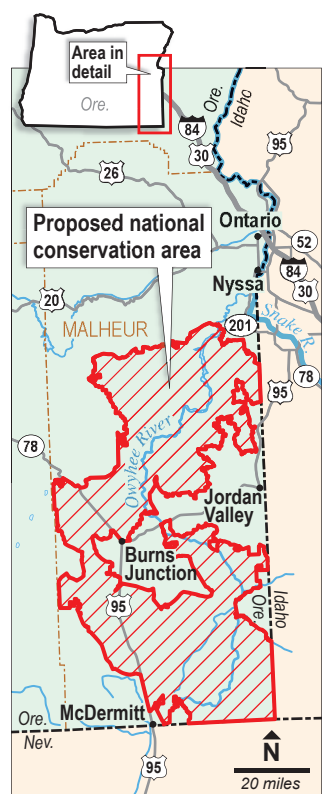
But she said the Interior Department, which includes the BLM and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has held no community meetings or discussions about the idea.

“People haven’t been actively in my office asking about it,” Jewell told Walden.

Walden asked if there has been any coordination between the White House and Department of Interior on the issue.

“Not that I’m aware of,” Jewell replied.

The Bend-based environ-



Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

mental group Oregon Natural Desert Association, backed by the Keen Footwear, has proposed a 2.5 million acre Owyhee Canyonlands wilderness and conservation area. Critics say the area is bigger than the Yellowstone, Yosemite or Grand Canyon national

parcs and would cover 40 percent of Oregon’s Malheur County.

Local opposition is strong. Opponents believe designation would prohibit or severely restrict grazing, mining, hunting and other recreation. Proponents have said traditional land uses will be allowed, but opposition leaders say they don’t believe them.

Opponents worry President Obama will establish the wilderness and conservation area under the federal Antiquities Act, which can be done by presidential order and does not require approval of Congress.

In February he designated three such monuments in the California desert: Mojave Trails National Monument, Sand to Snow National Monument, and Castle Mountains National Monument. They cover almost 1.8 million acres.

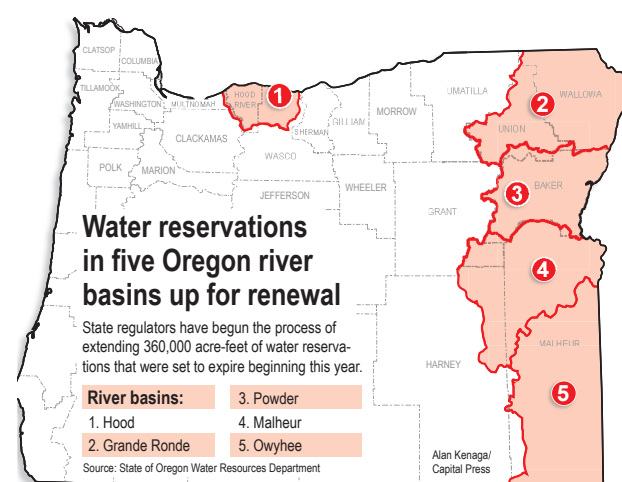
Walden and others believe an Owyhee Canyonlands designation would be economically and socially harmful to an area still reeling from the armed takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Walden has called upon the administration to ease tension in the rural West by backing away from the proposal.

On other topics, Walden thanked Jewell for her support of collaborative sage grouse conservation work but said it was frustrating that an environmental group filed a lawsuit over the work. Habitat conservation agreements signed by ranchers and other private landowners were credited with helping keep the Greater sage grouse off the federal endangered species list.

Walden also asked about local reimbursement for costs associated with the 41-day occupation of the wildlife refuge. An analysis by Oregonian/OregonLive estimated the cost in law enforcement presence, school closures, supplies and other items at \$3.3 million.

“Because this was a federal facility, and because most of the people who were there were not from Harney County, let alone from the state of Oregon, I do hope the federal government will help figure out a way to help cover some of the local costs,” Walden said.

Jewell said she’s uncertain how the reimbursement question would be handled. “So that’s certainly something that we’re happy to have dialogue on, but I don’t know what the rules are,” she said.



Water reservations in five Oregon river basins up for renewal

State regulators have begun the process of extending 360,000 acre-feet of water reservations that were set to expire beginning this year.

River basins: 1. Hood, 2. Grande Ronde, 3. Powder, 4. Malheur, 5. Owyhee

Source: State of Oregon Water Resources Department

Oregon regulators renew first water ‘reservations’

Environmental group argued for expiration of reservation

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

SALEM — Oregon’s water regulators have renewed the first of several water “reservations” across the state over the objections of an environmental group.

When Oregon lawmakers established minimum in-stream flows to protect aquatic life nearly 30 years ago, they also “reserved” water in five river basins to allow farmers and others to develop new water rights for economic development.

Farmers in those basins — Grande Ronde, Hood, Malheur, Owyhee and Powder — only claimed a small amount of the reserved water available, largely due to a lack of awareness and funding, as well as environmental obstacles.

Reservations totaling nearly 360,000 acre-feet were set to expire between 2016 and 2020, but the Oregon Department of Agriculture has petitioned for their renewal now that new funds have been appropriated for water storage during recent legislative sessions.

During its most recent meeting, the Oregon Water Resources Commission agreed to renew about 26,300 acre-feet reserved in the Burnt River, which represent roughly one-third of the reservations for the Powder Basin.

The Burnt River Irrigation District hopes to store some of the reserved water in spring for release in summer to irrigators who currently aren’t receiving their full allocation of water, said Wes Morgan, the district’s manager.

WaterWatch of Oregon, an environmental group, argued that the commission should have either allowed the Burnt River reservations to expire on March 8 or extended them for fewer than 20 years.

Contrary to instructions from the commission, the Oregon Department of Agriculture did not submit regular “progress reports” on the water reservations, which is a “fatal flaw” in the process for renewing them, according to WaterWatch.

WaterWatch also argued that the reservations shouldn’t be extended until a dispute over in-stream water flows in the Burnt River was resolved.

Despite these complaints, the commission on Feb. 25 voted 6-1 to renew the Burnt River reservations for 20 years.

Commissioner Jeanne LeJeune, a former City of Portland employee and consultant, said she voted against the proposal because the ODA should be expected to “play by the rules.”

LeJeune also said that ODA was “irresponsible” by conducting outreach efforts about the water reservations without doing its “basic homework.”

The Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Water Resources Congress, which support renewing the water reservations, defended the ODA during the meeting, arguing the agency didn’t submit progress reports due to a lack of dedicated staff and funding.

Government investments in water storage that were anticipated during the inception of the reservations never materialized, said April Snell, executive director of the Oregon Water Resources Congress, a group representing irrigation districts.

During those years, the ODA was subjected to repeated budget cuts, Snell said.

Farmers also faced hurdles to building new storage, such as compliance with the Endangered Species Act, said Mary Anne Nash, public policy counsel for OFB.

Meanwhile, no harm came from the water reservations, she said. “There really is no downside continuing to set aside the water for future development.”

Lawmakers mull fighting fire with fire

Washington House unanimously embraces bill

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — Legislation to give state land managers more flexibility to permit controlled burns in Central and Eastern Washington is catching on, a policy that may emerge from the state’s worst-ever million-acre wildfire season.

House Bill 2928 seeks to slip past obstacles to intentional blazes by relaxing air-quality rules that apply to other types of outdoor burning.

The bill passed the Democratic-led House 97-0 on Feb. 16 and received a hearing Feb. 24 from the Republican-led Senate Natural Resources and Parks Committee.

The bill’s sponsor, Rep. Joel Kretz, R-Wauconda, told the committee that forests that were once naturally thinned by fire have grown choked with brush that fuels catastrophic wildfires.

“Smokey Bear did way too good of a job for a hundred years,” Kretz said.

HB 2928 falls short of making wholesale changes in how



Courtesy of Washington Dept. of Natural Resources

A firefighter works on a grass fire in this Washington Department of Natural Resources file photo from 2007. The state House has passed a bill authorizing DNR to permit controlled burns even when air-quality standards may not be met.

the state uses controlled burns to prevent uncontrolled wildfires. But it would authorize a “pilot project,” in which the Department of Natural Resources would work with local groups in counties especially hard-hit by fires.

HB 2928 would create a new category of outdoor burning — “forest resiliency burning.”

DNR would be allowed to issue multi-day permits for for-

est resiliency burns in areas not in attainment with state or federal air-quality standards.

The burns couldn’t be canceled unless DNR and the Department of Ecology agreed the fires caused serious air-quality problems.

DNR has cautioned about running afoul of the federal Clean Air Act. The state manages smoke under a plan approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

DNR estimated that revising the plan to allow for forest resiliency burns would cost \$1.5 million.

Since then, Kretz’s bill has been amended. It doesn’t specify how many acres would be burned, though the area couldn’t be “at a sale” as a way of forcing the state to review a federally approved plan.

Kretz said there will be smoke, whether from controlled burns or wildfires. “No smoke is not a choice,” he said.

The bill has the support of diverse groups such as the Washington Farm Bureau, Nature Conservancy and the Washington Public Employees Association, which represents DNR firefighters.

House Democrats included \$800,000 in their budget proposal to conduct the burns.

Okanogan County rancher Scott Vejraska told senators that he saw the difference forest thinning made in places last summer as wildfires swept through Eastern Washington.

“It did create a safe haven for cattle and everything else, deer, you name it,” he said.

Timber companies are asking for a provision to allow land to be logged before it’s burned.

Better nutrition helps bees mitigate pathogen presence

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Ramesh Sagili, Oregon State University’s honeybee researcher, has long believed nutrition is key to fighting off colony collapse disorder, the mysterious ailment that wipes out hives and threatens crop pollination.

So when he and graduate student Cameron Jack carried out a study in which sets of bees were given various levels and a variety of pollen,

they expected a logical result. They assumed the bees that received the most wildflower pollen — a source of protein — would be best able to stave off parasites that weaken bees.

That turned out to be true: Bees fed a high-pollen diet had a higher survival rate. But, surprisingly, they also had higher rates of a pathogen called *Nosema ceranae* — the opposite of what the researchers expected. They thought better-fed bees would have lower infection rates.

“Even though (*Nosema*) spore intensities were higher in bees that received more pollen in their diet, the bees in these treatments had greater survival, which appears to be counterintuitive,” the researchers said in a study published in *Journal of Insect Physiology*.

Better nutrition, they concluded, allowed the bees to compensate for the effect of



Courtesy of Lynn Ketchum/Oregon State University

OSU honeybee researcher Ramesh Sagili, right, believes nutrition is key to solving the riddle of colony collapse.

the pathogens. They survived longer, and examination showed they had higher levels of protein in the head glands that produce food for larvae.

Many observers worry a mono-crop diet may weaken bees as they feed on only

Sagili said the study raises questions about the use of antibiotics, used by many beekeepers to control the *Nosema* pathogen. Broad-spectrum antibiotics may be causing other problems for bees, such as disrupting the gut structure that helps them digest food.

Sagili said beekeepers have asked him whether they should stop using antibiotics, and he urges a cautious approach. Large-scale keepers, who transport thousands of hives to pollinate crops up and down the West Coast, can’t afford the risk of halting antibiotic use all at once. He suggests trying it with 5 percent or 10 percent of hives and monitoring what happens.

one crop at a time while doing their pollination work each year, beginning with almonds orchards in California and working north as other nuts, fruit and berries come in season. Sagili said a “polyfloral” diet provides better nutrition for bees; some keepers give bees a break from mono-crop work to forage naturally and add variety to their diet.

The research work at OSU began in June 2014. Bees for the study were taken from “sister queen” colonies to control any variation in *Nosema* infection that might be attributed to genetics of the bees. They were divided into five groups, fed varying amounts of wildflower pollen, then exposed to the *Nosema* pathogen.

LEGAL
SECRETARY OF STATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING
Oregon Department of Agriculture, Plant Program, Administrative Rules Chapter #603, Sue Gooch, Rules Coordinator, (503) 986-4583.
Adopt: OAR 603-055-0200;
Amend: OAR 603-055-0100.

RULE SUMMARY: House Bill 3362 from the 78th Oregon Legislative Assembly-2015 Regular Session, Section 2 requires amending ORS 602.090 and amending the apary registration fee rule to add annual fees for each beehive for beekeeper with more than five beehives. Hearing date: March 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Location: Agricultural Building, Conference Room D, 635 Capital Street NE, Salem, OR. Last day for public comment is March 22, 2016.

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 3/7/2016. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
AMC FLEET SERVICES
8981 HUFF AVE. NE, BROOKS, OR 97819
VIN=1FVNASY97KP367302
Amount due on lien \$7,230.42
Reputed owner(s) PRECISION SEED CLEANERS INC, SUMMIT LEASING INC, WESTERN SEED FARMS

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 3/7/2016. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
AMC FLEET SERVICES
8981 HUFF AVE. NE, BROOKS, OR 97819
VIN=1NKEL29X8KJ375591
Amount due on lien \$6,381.84
Reputed owner(s) PRECISION SEED CLEANERS INC, SUMMIT LEASING INC, WESTERN SEED FARMS

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AMC FLEET SERVICES
8981 HUFF AVE. NE, BROOKS, OR 97819
VIN=1FTWW31P65EB28730
Amount due on lien \$4,608.43
Reputed owner(s) PAUL JOSEPH KLOFT SPRINGLEAF FIN SERV

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PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 98
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 3/7/2016. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
DISCOUNT TOWING & RECOVERY
3750 MAINLINE DR. NE, SALEM, OR 97301
VIN=WDBUF65J43A084891
Amount due on lien \$5,913.00
Reputed owner(s) TWYLA RENEE BOWMAN THE HUNNINGTON NATIONAL B

LEGAL
In accordance with Sec. 106 of the Programmatic Agreement, AT&T Mobility plans to upgrade an existing telecommunications facility at 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97301. Please direct comments to Gavin L. at 818-898-4856 regarding site SA06.
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