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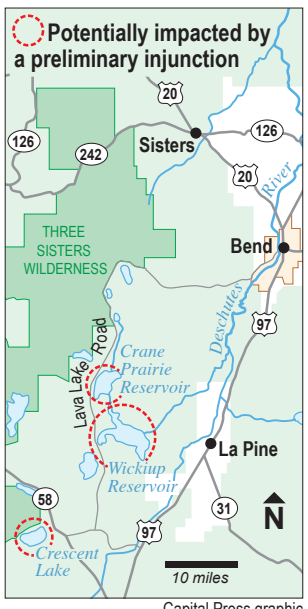
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Judge denies injunction to protect spotted frog

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

EUGENE, Ore. — A federal judge has rejected a request by environmentalists to drastically modify how water in several Central Oregon reservoirs is managed.

U.S. District Judge Ann Aiken said the environmental groups failed to show that such a preliminary injunction was justified to protect the threatened Oregon spotted frog.

"It was a very difficult burden for you and I don't believe you've met it," she said at the end of an oral argument hearing here March 22.

At the outset of the hearing, Aiken warned an overflow crowd "right off the bat" that she planned to deny the request.

While holding oral arguments is appropriate in a case of this magnitude, Aiken told environmentalists not to expect a "big surprise" at the conclusion of the hearing.

"You have a long way to go to persuade me," she said.

The Center for Biological Diversity and Waterwatch of Oregon claim that water management at the Crane Prairie, Wickiup and Crescent Lake dams must be drastically altered to protect the threatened Oregon spotted frogs from further population declines.

"You have a long way to go to persuade me," she said.

During oral arguments the two groups asked Aiken for a preliminary injunction that would restore flows in the streams and rivers on which the dams are located to more natural levels.

However, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and several irrigation districts countered that the frogs have adapted to water conditions in the 70 years since the dams were built, so a sudden disruption in how they're operated will likely injure the species.

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CATTLE



"It's a significant amount of land. It's the heart-and-soul of the whole tri-county economy. It's a big deal."

Justin Hedrick, Stevens County Cattlemen's Association president

IN THE

COLVILLE

Ranchers fear national forest could become off-limits to grazing

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Cattle have grazed in the Colville National Forest in northeast Washington state for more than a century, but ranchers fear their livestock could soon be forced off the land.

Coming their way is a new plan to guide forest managers for the next 15 years. Though it doesn't cancel specific activities such as grazing, the directives under consideration include broad mandates to protect streams, plants and trails from cattle.

The agency asserts that grazing may continue at current levels, but the plan says that in some areas grazing may be less intense and increase ranchers' operating costs.

Members of the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association, whose members graze cattle in the national forest, describe the plan's layers of regulations as "confusing and arbitrary" and would make grazing there impractical. The group says the proposed requirements are unnecessary and unrealistic, including those that would keep cattle away from water.

"You'd have to keep pushing cows out of every little draw," said the association's president, Justin Hedrick, whose family has grazed cattle in the national forest since World War II. "It's unattainable."

The Forest Service has adopted a policy of only responding in writing to submitted questions about the plan, citing the need to keep the plan from being mischaracterized.

However, Colville National Forest spokesman Franklin Pemberton did say the plan will not end grazing and that forest officials plan to meet soon with ranchers to discuss their concerns.

At stake is the viability of cattle ranching in this region of Washington state and other parts of the West, where management and transportation plans are under revision for millions of acres of national forests and other federally owned lands.

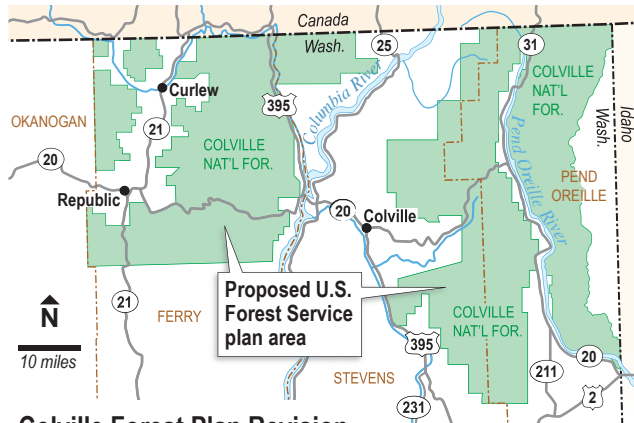
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"It seems (the Forest Service is) very accommodating to livestock, and we need better protection."

Randi Spivak, public lands director for the Center for Biological Diversity



Photos courtesy of Colville National Forest



Colville Forest Plan Revision

The U.S. Forest Service will take comments on the plan until July 5.

To learn more, go to: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/colville/plan-revision (or colvilleplanrevision.publicmeeting.info/)

Submit a comment electronically: 1.usa.gov/1pxhiFq

By email: colvilleplanrevision@fs.fed.us

By mail: Colville Forest Plan Revision Team, 765 S. Main St., Colville, Wash. 99114



Source: USDA Forest Service

Alan Kenagal/Capital Press

ABOVE: Cows graze in the Colville National Forest in northeast Washington. A cattlemen's association says proposed changes to how the Forest Service manages the 1.1 million-acre forest will effectively end grazing.

TOP PHOTO: The proposed plan says in some areas of the Colville National Forest grazing may be less intense and increase ranchers' operating costs.

Food companies bend to GMO labeling pressure

Farm groups fear consumer alarm, added costs of labeling

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Recent decisions by food manufacturers to label genetically engineered ingredients indicate the industry is bending to activist pressure regardless of political and legal battles, experts say.

General Mills, which sells about \$17.6 billion worth of food items globally, recently said it will begin labeling U.S. products

containing genetically modified organisms, or GMOs.

Earlier this year, the Campbell Soup Co., which has worldwide sales of \$8 billion, said it supported mandatory GMO labeling in the U.S. and would label such ingredients even if such a federal standard is not established.

These announcements have come despite the failure of ballot initiatives requiring GMO food labels in Oregon, Washington,

California and Colorado. A labeling law passed in Vermont, set to take effect this year, is facing a challenge in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

"Campbell's and General Mills are saying, 'It's hopeless to fight this. Let's get ahead of the curve,'" said Tom Gillpatrick, executive director of the Food Industry Leadership Center at Portland State University.

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Courtesy of General Mills

General Mills headquarters, in Minneapolis, Minn., is seen June 2014.



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