

Proponents: Klamath dam pact beneficial

By **TIM HEARDEN**
Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — Proponents say an updated plan to remove four dams from the Klamath River doesn't skirt the U.S. Constitution or leave out opportunities for public debate.

In their first announced public meeting since announcing their plan last month, officials from Oregon, California and the federal government said it's perfectly appropriate to seek dam removal approval through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

"In my opinion, we're not trying anything new here," California Department of Fish and Wildlife director Charlton Bonham said during the March 16 hearing at the state Environmental Protection Agency headquarters. He added the FERC process for removing dams has existed since the 1920s.

Richard Whitman, natural resources adviser to Oregon's Gov. Kate Brown, said no interstate compact is being made to set up the "non-federal" entity that would take control of the dams from owner PacifiCorp and handle their removal.

"It's easy to get confused about this entity," Whitman said. "That corporation is an independent corporation that is not an instrument of the states of Oregon or California."

He also said the state is willing to help farming and ranching communities in Klamath County, where Commissioner Tom Mallams contends the dams' removal would cost the county as much as \$500,000 in annual revenue and take away local jobs.

Mallams, who attended the meeting, said he would like to see a settlement that resolves water issues in the Klamath Basin but wants the county "left whole."

The exchanges came amid a sometimes contentious afternoon of haggling over language in the 133-page "agree-



Tim Hearden/Capital Press

Don Gentry, chairman of the Klamath Tribes, makes a point during a March 16 meeting on a new proposal to remove four dams from the Klamath River. The meeting was held at the California Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Sacramento.

ment in principle" announced Feb. 2 by PacifiCorp, the states of Oregon and California and the U.S. Departments of the Interior and Commerce. The new agreement was reached after Congress failed to authorize the original Klamath Basin water-sharing agreements by the end of 2015.

The March 16 meeting was attended by representatives from most of the 42 original signatories to the 2010 agreements as well as critics, who in recent weeks have accused dam-removal proponents of meeting in secret and claimed the private entity created under the new plan would still need congressional approval.

The latter argument is based on a legal opinion issued in late January by Oregon Legislative Counsel Dexter Johnston, who opined the private entity amounted to an interstate compact that must be authorized by Congress under the Constitution. But Whitman said Johnston's opinion was based on language from the original agreements and not

the new pact, which the Oregon Department of Justice has assured him is legally sound.

"The amendments we're discussing today are an agreement to a private party to handle removal of its dams," he said.

The meeting began as a veritable rehashing of a more than decade-long debate over dam removal, as public officials given a chance to make opening statements argued in favor of or against the idea. Grace Bennett, chairwoman of the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, argued removing the dams is unnecessary to help fish and would expose area residents to risks from the built-up sediment and loss of flood control and water supply.

"This is our livelihood, this is our watershed, this is our home," Bennett said. "For two decades, the county government has worked with landowners and water users to improve fish habitat and water quality in a successful effort to reverse the last century's trend of declining salmon runs."

WDFW drops rural land buys as counties complain

Payment freeze puts property purchases on ice

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has dropped plans to buy a ranch and riverside grasslands in Eastern Washington, signaling the agency's increasing sensitivity to complaints that state land purchases rob taxes from rural counties.

WDFW had identified 5,542 acres of Lincoln County rangeland and 2,560 acres in Walla Walla County along the Touchet River as among 10 properties it might pursue in 2017.

Both pieces of land have been used for agriculture, though are not currently in production, according to WDFW.

They were the largest parcels

on WDFW's newest list of possible additions to its million-acre portfolio. The department prized the properties as recreational areas and wildlife havens.

County commissioners in both counties, however, protested. The commissioners said taking land out of private ownership strains county budgets because the state pays less to support county services than taxpayers.

County unrest has been building since the Legislature in 2011 revised the complicated formula for calculating payments in lieu of taxes, commonly referred to as PILT.

As a result, WDFW's payments to counties declined by 53 percent, according to a report by the state Department of Revenue.

Walla Walla County Commissioner Jim Johnson said WDFW's plan to buy land along a 3.5-mile stretch of the Touchet River for conservation and recreation was sound, but the county can't afford to

lose more taxable land.

"It just continues to reduce our revenue," he said. "At some point, if the payments are restored, we can look at some of these things differently."

The point may have been moot for the Walla Walla County land. The land's owner has decided the property is not for sale, WDFW Lands Division Manager Clay Sprague said.

Nevertheless, the department would have abandoned its pursuit because the county was opposed, he said.

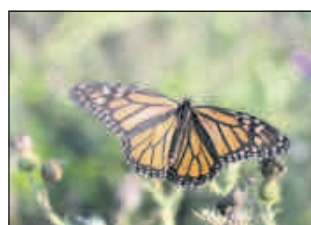
"We are trying to form good solid partnerships with all the counties," Sprague said. "PILT is such a charged issue right now in the Legislature, we want to get it solved."

Lawmakers reworked PILT during an economic downturn and hard budget times. Since then, state revenues have picked up, but legislators face other demands for money, including an order by state Supreme Court to spend more on education.

Monarch lawsuit has GMO implications

Environmentalists claim biotech crops reduced habitat

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press



Courtesy of Elizabeth A. Sellers, USGS Environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for not making a final decision whether to list monarch butterflies as endangered or threatened within 12 months of finding such a listing may be warranted, as required by federal law.

A new lawsuit claims the prevalence of crops genetically engineered to withstand glyphosate herbicides is responsible for the decline of monarch butterflies.

The battle over monarch butterflies has been brewing since 2014, when several environmental groups petitioned federal wildlife regulators to list the species as threatened or endangered.

Later that year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found there's substantial scientific evidence that such a listing may be warranted, but the agency did not arrive at a final conclusion within 12 months as required by the

Endangered Species Act.

Two of the groups that filed the petition — the Center for Food Safety and the Center for Biological Diversity — have now asked a federal judge to order the Fish and Wildlife Service to make a decision within a reasonable timeframe.

The plaintiffs argue that

widespread spraying of glyphosate has eliminated much of the monarch's milkweed habitat, contributing to a 90 percent population decline since the 1990s.

While farmers sprayed for milkweed prior to the commercialization of genetically engineered crops, environmentalists say that glyphosate is more effective at killing the plant's roots, preventing it from regenerating.

Biotech and pesticide industry supporters fear the emphasis on monarch butterflies signals that opponents of genetic engineering hope to use the Endangered Species Act as a weapon against such crops.

One possibility suggested by environmentalists is requiring farmers to plant reserves of crops that aren't resistant to glyphosate, where milkweed could recover and provide habitat for monarchs.

"As agriculture intensifies towards high yields and quality, Agriculturalist will have to expand their concepts and appreciation of Balanced Nutrition" -Dr. Thomas Yamashita, Plant Pathologist

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<p>JD 8450, 8561 hours, 4WD, PQ trans., 3 pt., 1000 PTO, 3 remotes, duals..... \$24,000 Bonners Ferry OH002302</p> <p>JD 6115D, 4453 hours, Canopy, MFWD, Power Reverser, 2 remotes, 3-pt, 540 PTO.....\$35,000 Central Point BH021916</p> <p>JD 8770, 7369 hours, 4WD, 3pt., PTO, 24 spd, Trelleborg 850/55R-42 duals, 5 remotes..... \$75,000 Tangent OH001367</p> <p>JD 6125M, 1967 hours, open station, MFWD, H340 loader, 2 remotes, 18.4-34 rear tires..... \$72,000 Donald DA77805</p> <p>JD 5115ML, 526 hours, Low profile, ROPS, MFWD, 3 rear remotes, 540 PTO..... \$52,000 McMinnville 483050</p>	<p>Case IH 535, 2600 hours, 4WD, PS trans., 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, bareback, leather seat..... \$170,000 Walla Walla 483050</p> <p>Case IH Puma 125, 1,927 hours, Prem. cab, MFWD, IVT trans., 3 remotes, single rear tires..... \$63,900 Hillsboro L11706</p> <p>JD 6170R, 1427 hours, cab, MFWD, IVT, loader-ready, 710-38 single rears, 3 remotes... \$135,000 Madras DD008813</p> <p>Case IH 5TX500, 2612 hours, Prem cab, 4WD, Ballast package, 1000 PTO, 520/85R-42 triples..... \$162,000 Salem E0104137</p> <p>Case IH MX125, 1,274 hours, Std. cab, MFWD, PS trans, dual PTO, 16.9-38 singles..... \$63,250 Madras E09936</p> <p>Steiger Bearcat, cab, Cummins 400 conversion, 3 remotes, 20.8-34 duals..... \$7,500 Four Lakes 2456</p> <p>Case IH 125PRO, 1,198 hours, Prem. cab, PS trans. & creeper, 3 remotes, 18.4-34 singles. \$64,500 Donald E03159</p>	<p>JD 8400, 9924 hrs, cab, MFWD, rebuilt trans & PTO, 650-42 duals, 3 remotes..... \$55,000 Harrisburg 3071</p> <p>JD 5085M, 6528 hours, ROPS, MFWD, Power Reverser trans, loader, new tires all around..... \$35,000 Donald BJ316657</p> <p>JD 8450, 7160 hours, 4WD, cab, PQ trans., bareback, 4 remotes, duals..... \$20,000 Tekoa OH004249</p> <p>Case IH 435, 4485 hours, consignment, 4WD, PS trans., 5 remotes, bareback..... \$131,247 Donald 7F108048C</p> <p>JD 6125R, 380 hours, premium cab, IVT, MFWD, headland mgmt., dual PTO, 3 remotes..... \$105,000 Salem 795991</p>
COMBINES	COMBINES	COMBINES
<p>JD 670R, 280 hours, small grain, Rahco 18% 4-way leveler, 615P BPU platform..... New lower price \$390,900 Tangent 765553</p> <p>JD 5670, 1045 hours, small grain, Hilco 28% leveler, Prodrive, 24.5-32 tires..... \$400,000 Moscow C0755421</p> <p>JD 9650STS, 3112 hours, sm grain, 18% Hilco leveler, grass seed combine, 914P BPU..... \$118,000 Salem 05700523</p> <p>JD 9870, 1389 hours, sm grain, level land, 650/85-38 duals, straw spreader..... \$189,900 Four Lakes B0741568</p>	<p>JD 9660WTS, 2859 hours, small grain, spike tooth cyl., straw chopper, chaff spreader, 800-32 tires..... New lower price \$125,000 Walla Walla OA078927</p> <p>JD 9770STS, 3688 hours, small grain, level 635F platform and cart, 4WD, 520-42 duals..... \$189,000 Colfax A0736737</p> <p>JD 1670, 1127 hours, small grain, MacDon BPU platform (grass seed combine)..... \$184,900 Donald OA084501</p> <p>JD 9770STS, 3079 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, 630R platform and cart..... \$225,000 Colfax 05730470</p> <p>JD 5680, 962 hours, 28% Hilco leveler, 24.5-32 duals, MacDon harness, chaff spreader..... \$415,000 Tekoa D0756086</p> <p>JD 9870STS, 2335 hours, 35% Rahco leveler, 4WD, 635F platform with cart..... \$289,000 Colfax 05730229</p> <p>JD 5680, 602 hours, 35% Rahco leveler, 650/65R-38 duals, 4WD, Powergard Ext. Warranty..... \$445,000 Colfax D0765184</p>	<p>JD 9660WTS, 1892 hours, small grain, level land, MacDon PW? BPU platform. New lower price \$135,000 Madras OA078924</p> <p>JD 1670, 1917 hours, small grain, rasp bar, Autotrack ready, straw chopper, 615P BPU platform..... \$165,000 Tangent OA082615</p> <p>JD 1670, 1127 hours, small grain, MacDon BPU platform (grass seed combine)... New lower price \$179,900Donald OA084501</p>
<p>JD 690, 350 hours, small grain, 28% Hilco leveler, 24.5-32 duals, 4WD, Countour Master..... \$500,000 Moscow D0765122</p>	<p>JD 660, 129 hours, Vari Stream rotor, small grain, premium cab, G53 equipped, Autotrack ready..... \$359,900 Donald 05730229</p>	

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