

# EPA

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"I can't give you an exact date, but I can assure you that EPA also was distressed about the use of the money and the tone of that campaign," McCarthy said.

According to EPA records, the agency directed the Swinomish tribe in 2011 to select a consultant to "develop a campaign strategy."

The tribe hired Strategies 360, which the EPA directed to "test and refine" messages. The tribe kept EPA informed as Strategies 360 developed the campaign over the next several years, according to EPA records.

Efforts to contact the tribe were unsuccessful. A fisheries commission spokesman declined to comment.

Gerald Baron, director of the farmer-advocacy group Save Family Farming in northwestern Washington, noted EPA didn't criticize What's Upstream until members of Congress began asking questions two weeks ago.

"My concern is EPA is trying to shift the blame for something they approved," he said.

What's Upstream grew from a regional dispute into a national issue April 5 when Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., described What's Upstream billboards as "malicious."

The tribe has since removed the billboards, which were in Olympia and Bellingham. The What's Upstream website and Facebook pages remain active.

"I do know the most egregious tone was reflected on billboards. That will not be reimbursed," McCarthy said.

Baron said the website's imagery and claims are worse than the billboards.

"The billboards were the most publicly visible and got farmers upset and got the most attention, but I don't think they were the most egregious," he said. "The website is false and malicious."

Environmental groups involved with What's Upstream have stood by the campaign.

"The main gist of this has been to educate the public," Trish Rolfe, director of the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, said Tuesday. "Agriculture pollution is a concern. We all need to work together to find solutions."

Although the website remains mostly intact, a "Take Action" link has been removed. The link allowed people to send form letters to state lawmakers urging mandatory 100-foot buffers between farm fields and waterways.

The EPA said earlier it concluded the link did not violate prohibitions against using EPA funds to lobby because the letter and website did not support or oppose specific pending legislation.

The website discloses EPA's financial support, but the letter to lawmakers generated by the website does not.

In December, the GAO found that EPA engaged in "covert propaganda" because it used social media and conservation groups' websites to spread messages in favor of the new Waters of the United States rule without acknowledging the agency was the author.

"The fact that the 'Take Action' link is off doesn't change things," Baron said. "It's still a political campaign aimed at influencing legislators and influencing public opinion in preparation of influencing legislation."

In a letter Monday, the inspector general for the EPA, Authur Elkins, told two U.S. senators that his office will look into three grants to the fisheries commission totaling \$20.5 million.

The fisheries commission receives grants from the EPA for fish projects in the Puget Sound.

The EPA money that supported What's Upstream came from a \$3 million grant awarded to the fisheries commission.

Elkins said his office will probe whether the money was properly spent and whether any of it must be paid back.

The EPA, tribe or fisheries commission have not answered how much has been spent on What's Upstream. Reports the tribe filed with the EPA suggest at least \$570,000 had been spent on the campaign through the end of September. The tribe is due to file another report this month.

# Dryland wheat off to a good start in E. Idaho

By JOHN O'CONNELL  
Capital Press

Soil moisture was ideal when Kendall Jones planted his dryland wheat last fall, and the Raft River, Idaho, farmer believes spring showers have further helped the crop progress.

"My dad was saying, 'We've been farming there for 40 years, and this is probably our best-looking crop,'" said Jones, who planted about 7,500 acres of dryland winter wheat. "It's thicker, and it's almost closed rows already. It's ahead of what it usually is at this time of year."

Dryland farmers throughout Eastern Idaho say they're pleased by the growth and condition of their fall grain crops, which enjoyed strong germination thanks to ample soil moisture, and soil conditions also look good for planting spring grain.

A possible damper on this season's dryland grain outlook is that certain crop diseases, such as stripe rust, also thrive in the cool, moist conditions that have replenished soil moisture.

Jones said he's starting to see a bit of stripe rust — a fungal disease spread by spores — in his fields, but the extent of the infection isn't yet evident.

Soda Springs area dryland growers Sid Cellan and Scott Brown say their fall grain has emerged with minimal winter kill, and good moisture established a strong stand.

"What wheat we've got that's up looks really good," Cellan said.

Brown said good soil moisture should help his spring crops germinate as well, and more storms are in the forecast.

In Arbon Valley, dryland farmer Hans Hayden applied



John O'Connell/Capital Press

Twain Hayden plants spring wheat on April 18. Hayden said he has a good stand of winter dryland winter wheat thanks to ample soil moisture in the fall, and soil moisture is again good for spring seeding.



John O'Connell/Capital Press

Twain Hayden checks his seeding depth after planting spring wheat on April 18. Hayden said he has a good stand of winter dryland winter wheat thanks to ample soil moisture in the fall, and soil moisture is again good for spring seeding.

humic acid to melt snowdrifts that lingered in his fall wheat fields to reduce the likelihood of snow mold. He had far less winter kill than expected.

"There's a lot of good dry-

land winter wheat in the state of Idaho because everybody has got moisture," Hayden said.

Hayden applied products

in the fall to control aphids and protect against barley yellow dwarf, which appears to be widespread this season.

University of Idaho Extension cereals pathologist Juliet Marshall said the recent moisture should help crops infected with barley yellow dwarf outgrow damage, though test weights will still likely be down. She's also seen rampant stripe rust infections in Brundage soft white winter wheat and recommends growers plant spring wheat varieties with resistance to stripe rust.

Complicating matters for dryland fall wheat growers, Marshall has seen several cases of wheat streak mosaic virus, which is exacerbated by dry and hot conditions that may surface later in the season. Marshall said wheat

streak mosaic symptoms are similar to barley yellow dwarf, and she's seen several wheat samples that have tested positive for both diseases already.

Some good news for fall wheat growers is that May futures prices have rallied recently, with hard red winter contracts out of Kansas City rising a quarter to \$5.44 per bushel from April 11 to April 19. Kansas State University Extension agricultural economist Dan O'Brien suspects the rally may be short-lived but attributes the gains to a weakening dollar, rumors of lower stocks in India and an "accumulation of short positions," involving investors who borrow commodities from a broker to sell on the open market and make a profit by buying it back for less when the price drops.

## U.S. Senate passes Yakima water measure

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

The Yakima River Basin enhancement bill has passed the U.S. Senate as an amendment to a bipartisan energy bill.

The bill passed the Senate on a vote of 85 to 12 on April 20. The Yakima amendment was sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash. A companion measure was introduced in the House in early March by Republican Reps. Dan Newhouse and Dave Reichert.

The bills authorize the first 10-year phase of a 30-year plan to improve the water supply in the Yakima Basin for farmers, conservationists and residents. It includes water conservation and ecosystem restoration, additional water storage and construction of fish passage at Cle Elum and Rimrock reservoirs.

Lake Kachess water storage would be improved and decisions will be made

on expanding the capacity of Bumping Lake and building a new Wymer reservoir between Ellensburg and Selah.

The Senate bill provides \$92 million for a Cle Elum pool raise, groundwater recharge, Wapato irrigation upkeep and environmental compliance efforts.

The Senate action was lauded by the state Department of Ecology and others who have worked to enhance water supply from the Yakima River. It was criticized as "bad policy" by conservation organizations and some residents of Lake Kachess, one of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs serving Yakima Basin irrigators.

Opponents say the plan costs more than \$4 billion with no revenue offsets and exploits water above encouraging stewardship. Opponents include Yakima Citizens Coalition, Friends of Lake Kachess and Friends of Bumping Lake.

## USDA

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These replies, as well as USDA planning documents for the updated regulations, have caused GMO critics to doubt that its new biotech rules would be stronger.

Up until now, the agency hasn't regulated crops due to their noxious weed potential, which the updated rules are intended to change.

Freese of the Center for Food Safety said he's concerned the definition of "noxious weed" will be construed so narrowly by USDA as to exclude all but the most prolifically spreading plants.

"The gap is only going to get bigger unless we change their course," he said.

The Center for Food Safety would prefer if the USDA had a "simple trigger" for exercising its regulatory author-

ity, based on whether a crop was made with biotechnology, Freese said.

However, the agency has insisted on limiting its jurisdiction to plant pests — and now noxious weeds — because it doesn't want to imply that biotechnology is more risky, he said.

Another question is whether USDA will actually complete any changes to its biotech rules, or if the current process is mere "window dressing," said Doug Gurian-Sherman, director of sustainable agriculture for the group.

The Bush administration also proposed updating the USDA's biotech regulations but they were left unfinished and eventually scrapped by the Obama administration, he said.

Now, the Obama administration plans to propose its own regulatory overhaul less than year before a new U.S. president takes the reins, Gurian-Sherman said.

## Used Inventory Specials

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TRACTORS	TRACTORS	TRACTORS
<p><b>JD 8970</b>, 7936 hours, 4WD, PQ trans., bareback, 4 remotes, 20.8-42 duals..... .....\$57,400 Harrisburg OH001147</p>	<p><b>JD 9300</b>, 9631 hours, 4WD, PS trans., bareback, 4 remotes, 710-38 duals..... .....\$59,900 McMinnville 40643</p>	<p><b>JD 6125R</b>, 380 hours, premium cab, IVT, MFWD, headland mgmt., dual PTO, 3 remotes..... .....\$105,000 Salem 795991</p>
<p><b>JD 8450</b>, 8561 hours, 4WD, PQ trans., 3 pt., 1000 PTO, 3 remotes, duals..... .....\$24,000 Bonners Ferry OH002302</p>	<p><b>Case IH 535</b>, 2600 hours, 4WD, PS trans., 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, bareback, leather seat..... .....\$170,000 Walla Walla 108988</p>	<p><b>JD 5085M</b>, 6528 hours, ROPS, MFWD, Power Reverser trans., loader, new tires all around..... .....\$35,000 Donald BJ316657</p>
<p><b>JD 8770</b>, 7369 hours, 4WD, 3pt., PTO, 24 spd, Trelleborg 850/55R-42 duals, 5 remotes..... .....\$75,000 Tangent OH001367</p>	<p><b>Case IH Puma 125</b>, 1,927 hours, Prem. cab, MFWD, IVT trans., 3 remotes, single rear tires..... .....\$63,900 Hillsboro L11706</p>	<p><b>NH TC34</b>, 461 hours, open station, MFWD, hydro trans., 240TL loader, R4 tires..... .....\$16,235 Walla Walla A04485</p>
<p><b>JD 8285R</b>, 5321 hours, Prem cab, IVT trans., ILS axle, 800-38 duals, 4 remotes..... .....\$154,900 McMinnville B0043978</p>	<p><b>Case IH MX125</b>, 1,274 hours, Std. cab, MFWD, PS trans, dual PTO, 16.9-38 singles..... .....\$63,250 Madras E09936</p>	<p><b>JD6125M</b>, 1967 hours, open station, MFWD, H340 loader, 2 remotes, 18.4-34 rear tires..... .....\$72,000 Donald DA778051</p>
<p><b>JD 9630</b>, 1638 hours, 4WD, PS trans, 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, bareback, auto track ready..... .....\$235,000 Hillsboro 18528</p>	<p><b>JD 6330</b>, 350 hours, open station, MFWD, PQ trans., 2 remotes, 480-38 rear singles..... .....\$66,000 Donald CF741792</p>	<p><b>Case IH MAX140</b>, 3420 hours, premium cab, MFWD, 16x16 trans., 3 remotes, L750 loader..... .....\$71,500 Hillsboro 9BE02185</p>
<p><b>JD 6330</b>, 350 hours, open station, MFWD, PQ trans., 2 remotes, 480-38 rear singles..... .....\$66,000 Donald CF741792</p>	<p><b>JD 8520</b>, 6700 hours, cab, ILS axle, PS trans, 4 remotes, F&amp;R duals..... .....\$130,000 Harrisburg OP002681</p>	<p><b>KUBOTA M135X</b>, 2288 hours, cab, MFWD, partial PS trans, dual PTO, 3 remotes, 520-38 rear singles..... .....\$46,000 Tangent 50481</p>
COMBINES	COMBINES	COMBINES
<p><b>JD 5670</b>, 1045 hours, small grain, Hillco 28% leveler, Prodrive, 24.5-32 tires..... .....\$400,000 Moscow C075421</p>	<p><b>JD 9660WTS</b>, 2859 hours, small grain, spike tooth cyl., straw chopper, chaff spreader, 800-32 tires..... .....\$125,000 Walla Walla OA078927</p>	<p><b>JD 9870STS</b>, 2335 hours, 35% Rahco leveler, 4WD, 635F platform with cart..... .....\$289,000 Colfax 05730229</p>
<p><b>JD 5690</b>, 350 hours, small grain, 28% Hillco leveler, 24.5-32 duals, 4WD, Countour Master..... .....\$500,000 Moscow D0765122</p>	<p><b>JD 9660STS</b>, 3079 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, 630R platform &amp; cart..... .....\$225,000 Colfax 05730470</p>	<p><b>JD 9660WTS</b>, 1892 hours, small grain, level land, MacDon PW7 BPU platform..... .....\$135,000 Madras OA078924</p>
<p><b>JD 9650STS</b>, 3112 hours, sm grain, 18% Hillco leveler, grass seed combine, 914P BPU..... .....\$118,000 Salem 05700523</p>	<p><b>JD 9770STS</b>, 3688 hours, small grain, level 635F platform and cart, 4WD, 520-42 duals..... .....\$189,000 Colfax A0736737</p>	<p><b>JD T670</b>, 1917 hours, small grain, rosp bar, Autotrack ready, straw chopper, 615P BPU platform..... .....\$165,000 Tangent OA082615</p>
<p><b>JD 9870</b>, 1389 hours, sm grain, level land, 650/85-38 duals, straw spreader..... .....\$189,900 Four Lakes B0741568</p>	<p><b>JD T670</b>, 1127 hours, small grain, MacDon BPU platform (grass seed combine)..... .....\$179,900 Donald OA084501</p>	<p><b>JD 5660</b>, 129 hours, Vari Stream rtr, small grain, premium cab, G53 equipped, Autotrack ready..... .....\$359,900 Donald 765336</p>
<p><b>JD 5670</b>, 280 hours, small grain, Rahco 18% 4-way leveler, 615P BPU platform..... .....\$390,900 Tangent 765553</p>	<p><b>JD 5680</b>, 962 hours, 28% Hlco Leveler 24.5-32 duals, MacDon harness, chaf spreader..... .....\$415,000 Tekoa D0756086</p>	<p><b>JD 5680</b>, 602 hours, 35% Rahco leveler, 650/65R-38 duals, 4WD, Powergard Ext. Warranty..... .....\$445,000 Colfax D0765184</p>

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