

ODA plans for both budget cuts, increases

Spending depends on fate of corporate tax measure

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

PENDLETON, Ore. — Oregon's farm regulators are simultaneously planning for substantial budget cuts and increases due to the state's uncertain revenue future.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is anticipating a total budget ranging from roughly \$103 million to \$124 million in the 2017-2019 biennium, depending on whether voters approve a corporate tax increase in November.

The agency's budget for the current biennium is about \$111 million, which means it faces either a 7 percent reduction from its current level, or a boost of nearly 12 percent.

ODA is scrambling to plan for either scenario, as are other state agencies, because Gov. Kate Brown must complete her proposed budget for the next biennium by Dec. 1. — just weeks after the Nov. 8 election.

"We're all kind of schizophrenic right now," said Katy Coba, ODA's director, during the Sept. 13 Oregon Board of Agriculture meeting in Pendleton, Ore.

State agencies have been asked to submit proposed budget cuts due to a large expected rise in state spending on the Public Employee Retirement System, as well as higher healthcare costs, said Coba.

However, the state government is also preparing for the possibility that Measure 97 passes, she said.

That ballot initiative would raise roughly \$3 billion a year by imposing a gross receipts tax of 2.5 percent on certain corporations.

Under the \$124 million budget request, ODA would hire multiple new employees focused on food safety inspection, agricultural water quality, information services, human resources and public records, among other investments, Coba said.

Positions would be cut from those and other programs, including confined animal feeding operations and insect pest prevention, under the \$103 million scenario, she said.

Much of ODA's budget is derived from fees on different types of farms and other companies who have a good understanding of what service reductions will entail, Coba said.

The situation is more complicated when dealing with the portion of the budget that comes from state general funds, which aren't directly funded by the same agricultural constituency that receives ODA services, she said.

Idaho water users concerned over water right application

By **JOHN O'CONNELL**
Capital Press

RIRIE, Idaho — Water users involved in a 2015 water call settlement aimed at stabilizing Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer levels are concerned about a pending application to irrigate new farm ground in the region.

Only one party filed an objection, which was later withdrawn, during the allotted time period to protest Century Holdings LLC's March 3 application for a 2016 water right on Willow Creek, the stream that's dammed to form Ririe Reservoir north of Idaho Falls.

But parties involved in the broad Surface Water Coalition water call settlement — including Twin Falls Canal Co. and Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc. — say the application flew under their radars, and they would have protested had they known about it in time.

"I think the question is, 'Should the state of Idaho be developing new ground when every year there's going to be a curtailment order to shut acres down?'" asked IGWA Executive Director Lynn Tomimaga.

Century Holdings has applied to divert 20 cubic feet per second of stream water to irrigate 1,712 acres now farmed on dry land.

Natural flows would have been in priority in the Snake River tributary for at least a couple of weeks during 10 of the past 26 years, according to the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

The applicant plans to supplement its water right with a long-term storage lease from Enterprise Canal Co. and would build a pump station to divert water from Willow Creek into a pressurized pipeline.

"The intent would be to divert storage water, inject it into Willow Creek and take water out of Willow Creek as an exchange, below the point where they would divert for their irrigation," said Jeff Peppersack, IDWR's chief of the Water Allocation Bureau.

Peppersack said IDWR is reviewing the application and a decision should come within "the coming weeks."

Peppersack said the water right lies outside a broad area of the Snake Plain in which a moratorium on new consumptive water development has been in place since 1992.

"It's been uncommon to have any large applications, especially when you've got other people who are cutting back in order to stay within their (recent settlement) agreement," said Lyle Swank, watermaster for the district that includes the Upper Snake Plain.

Efforts were unsuccessful to reach the applicant and its attorneys with Holden, Kidwell, Hahn & Crapo.

However, in a letter to Swank, attorney Robert Harris said Enterprise prefers to lease the water in the upper valley, rather than to IGWA for mitigation downstream, and he questioned the district's neutrality on the project.

Glyphosate-resistant tumbleweed discovered in NE Oregon

Russian thistle, known as tumbleweed, can spread quickly

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

Farmers in Northeast Oregon have discovered three infestations of glyphosate-resistant Russian thistle, also known as tumbleweed, Oregon State University researchers have confirmed.

Multiple growers in several counties reported instances glyphosate failing to kill tumbleweed last summer, which led OSU researchers to collect samples, germinate seeds and spray the offspring with the herbicide.

Last week, Judit Barroso, an OSU weed scientist, confirmed that three of the tumbleweed populations were glyphosate-resistant.

Tumbleweed, an iconic Western weed, spreads seeds prolifically when it dries out and tumbles across the landscape. Weeds develop resistance when individual plants survive spraying and then multiply.

"The resistance is going to spread really fast, so we need to convince growers to control these weeds in a different way," Barroso told members of the Oregon Board of Agriculture during a Sept. 12 meeting in Pendleton, Ore.

However, alternatives to glyphosate have serious drawbacks.

Tillage is one option, but it can cause erosion, Barroso said.

Herbicides other than glyphosate are often more expensive, while paraquat — which growers have recently begun using on the weed — is more toxic to humans, she said.

"The wheat grower doesn't have a lot of room (financially) to spend on weed control," she said.

While unfortunate, "herbicide resistance is a matter of time," Barroso said.

Glyphosate usage is common in the region partly due to the popularity of no-till farming, which involves seeding wheat directly into the earth without first plowing it.

While the system greatly reduces erosion, growers rely on glyphosate to suppress weeds that would otherwise compete with their crop.

Conventional farmers also use glyphosate to control weeds in their fields, said Gregg Goad, a retired farmer near Pendleton who attended the meeting.

"It's the frequency that



Judit Barroso, the OSU weed scientist who confirmed three infestations of glyphosate-resistant Russian thistle, or tumbleweed, in Oregon's Morrow County, speaks at a Sept. 12 Oregon Board of Agriculture meeting in Pendleton.



A tumbleweed sits in a Southern California lot. Courtesy South Coast Air Quality Management District

you use the compound that really raises the likelihood of resistance," he said. "It was a good compound for an awful lot of things, so it got used frequently. But with that frequency, it became ubiquitous in the environment and that selected for glyphosate resistance."

Barroso said she initially hoped that the tumbleweed infestations reported by

farmers were not reacting to glyphosate because dust and drought had impeded the herbicide's function.

While that may have been the case for other instances of tumbleweed surviving glyphosate sprays reported to OSU last year, the offspring from three locations in Morrow County clearly were resistant, she said.

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<p>JD 5670, 1061 hours, small grain, Hilco 28% leveler, Prodrive, 24.5-32 tires.....\$350,000 Moscow C0755391</p>	<p>JD 9650, 3112 hours, small grain, 914PU platform, small wire concave.....\$49,000 McMinnville O5685800</p>	<p>JD 9650STS, 3145 hours, sm grain, 18% Hilco leveler, grass seed combine, 914P BPU.....\$120,000 Salem O5700523</p>
<p>JD 5690, 350 hours, small grain, 28% Hilco leveler, 24.5-32 duals, 4WD, Countour Master.....\$530,000 Moscow D0765122</p>	<p>JD 9870, 1389 hours, Level Land, small grain, 650/85-38 duals, straw spreader.....\$209,000 Tekoa 80741568</p>	<p>Case IH 9230, 536 hours, Hilco 27% leveler, small grain, no platform.....\$430,000 Tekoa YEG224449</p>
<p>JD T670, 1917 hours, small grain, conventional cylinder, straw walkers, 615P BPU platform.....\$165,000 Tangent OA082615</p>	<p>JD 9770, 3688 hours, small grain, level land, 635F platform and cart.....\$189,000 Colfax A0736737</p>	
<p>JD 9760, 2767 hours, Rahco 18% sidehill leveler, duals, 4WD, straw chopper, contour master.....\$167,000 Tekoa O5715882</p>	<p>JD 5680, 1002 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, no platform \$463,300 Colfax 755718</p>	

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