

# Capital Press

The West's Ag Weekly

Paint the paper Pink!

Join us throughout the month of October as we focus on Breast Cancer awareness, education & prevention

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2016

★ VOLUME 89, NUMBER 42

WWW.CAPITALPRESS.COM

\$2.00



**"OUR FARM IS REQUIRED TO REDUCE BY 7 PERCENT, AND WE FEEL LIKE WE CAN EASILY SAVE 25 PERCENT."**

**STEVE SHIVELY**  
Farmer from  
Mud Lake, Idaho

## A BETTER WAY TO IRRIGATE

John O'Connell/Capital Press

Steve Shively, a Mud Lake, Idaho, farmer, inspects his low elevation sprinkler application system on his pivot. Shively said LESA has enabled him to more than meet the requirements for groundwater users to reduce water consumption under the terms of a water call settlement.



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Emails released to the Capital Press indicate that the What's Upstream campaign specifically tried to influence the Washington Legislature, bolstering arguments of its critics that the campaign should have registered as a grass-roots lobbying organization.

## What's Upstream timed EPA-funded campaign to sway 2016 Legislature

Organizers touted 'robust six-month campaign'

By **DON JENKINS**  
Capital Press

What's Upstream backed off a plan to use Environmental Protection Agency funds to run a ballot initiative to restrict farming around waterways, but was allowed to spend federal money on advertising to influence the Washington Legislature, according to newly available EPA records.

The EPA accepted plans to air radio ads during the 2014 legislative session and launch a new website and related advertising campaign to coincide with the 2016 session, according to the records, released in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the Capital Press.

What's Upstream organizers, including the lead group, the Swinomish Indian tribe, introduced the EPA-funded website with an email dated Dec. 2, 2015.

The website was a makeover of an earlier version of [whatsupstream.com](http://whatsupstream.com), adding a link to facilitate a letter-writing campaign to state lawmakers urging them to mandate 100-foot buffers between farm fields and waterways.

"We are pleased to announce that we have revamped our website and, starting today, are relaunching a very robust, six-month public information campaign — just in time for the start of the 2016 legislative session," the email stated. "Please note that the website includes a tool where concerned residents can send a message to their legislators urging action on this critical but neglected issue."

Besides the tribe, the letter was signed by the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Spokane Riverkeepers and Western Environmental Law Center.

The campaign stemmed from an EPA grant awarded in 2011 to the fisheries commission and "subawarded" to the tribe for "public outreach" on Puget Sound water-quality issues. The Legislature took no action to mandate buffers.

Turn to EPA, Page 14

## Idaho settlement fuels growth of LESA, a new method for watering

By **JOHN O'CONNELL**  
Capital Press

**M**UD LAKE, Idaho — Growers on the Eastern Snake River Plain will remember 2016 as the year a tight water supply got even tighter.

Many were forced to reduce the amount of water they use for their crops, enter costly leases to offset their impact on a declining aquifer — or leave some of their land fallow.

But a few farmers, including Steve Shively, say they have found a way to stretch their water supply without sacrificing their crops.

The Mud Lake, Idaho, grower is a pioneer in the use of low elevation sprinkler application, known by the acronym LESA. It's an irrigation method developed by University of Idaho and Washington State University researchers specifically for the Pacific Northwest.

Under the terms of a monumental 2015 water call settlement with senior surface water coalition members, irrigators who pump groundwater from the aquifer must reduce their water consumption by a total of 240,000 acre-feet per year.

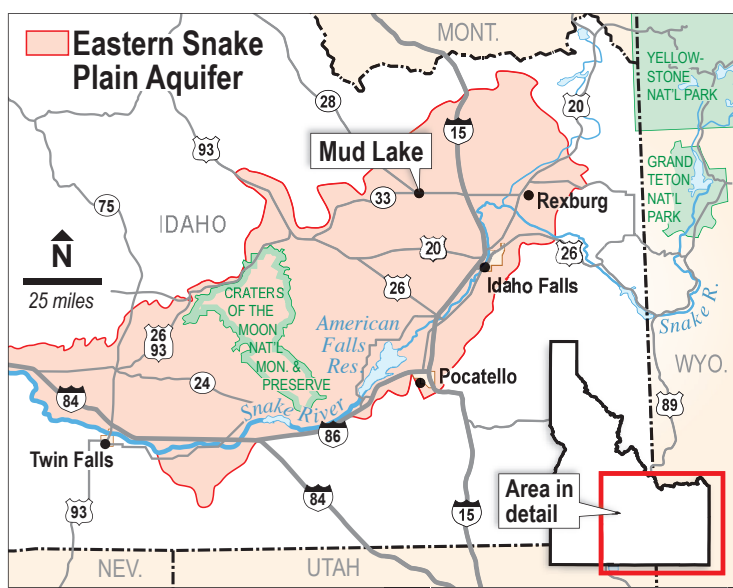
One acre-foot covers an acre of land with water 1 foot deep — about 325,850 gallons of water.

For them, the massive settlement translates into a cutback in irrigation water by an average of 12 percent for every groundwater irrigator in the region. The exact amount varies by the farmer's groundwater right priority dates.

At a time of basement-level commodity prices, the settlement was a potential double-whammy for many farmers: Less irrigation water would mean lower yields for crops that were bringing lower prices.

Shively, however, said switching to the LESA irrigation method has simultaneously saved water and boosted his farm's yields.

Turn to LESA, Page 14



Alan Kenaga/Capital Press



Courtesy of Howard Neibling, University of Idaho

A manifold is attached to the gooseneck of a pivot irrigation system in preparation for a LESA demonstration in Idaho's Treasure Valley in 2013.

## Change is watchword as another boutique winery sells

California based Jackson Family Wines purchases fourth Oregon vineyard since 2013

By **ERIC MORTENSON**  
Capital Press

Jackson Family Wines' latest purchase continues a trend of big corporate players entering Oregon's wine scene, but observers aren't worried the newcomers will dilute the industry.

Jackson Family, based in Santa Rosa, Calif., and perhaps best known

for its familiar Kendall Jackson label, is buying WillaKenzie Estate winery in Yamhill, Ore.

The company has purchased at least four Oregon properties since 2013, and earlier this year spent \$4.6 million for two buildings at the bankrupt Evergreen International Aviation campus in McMinnville. Jackson Family

Wines reportedly plans to develop a winery on the Evergreen property.

Jackson Family is an international wine company, with operations in Chile, France, Italy and Australia in addition to the U.S.

In Oregon, Jackson Family has snapped up the Zena Crown, Gran Moraine and Penner-Ash vineyards

and wineries over the past three years.

Mike McLain, an Albany, Ore., real estate broker who specializes in vineyard properties, said Jackson Family's Oregon investment is impressive. Depending on location, raw Willamette Valley vineyard ground sells for \$10,000 to more than \$40,000 per acre, he said. He emphasized Jackson Family is not his client.

Turn to WINERY, Page 11



**Pacific Northwest  
AGIE**

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST AG INDUSTRY EXPO**

**NOV. 9-10, 2016**

• **TRAC CENTER** •

**PASCO, WA**

[washingtonagnetwork.com/pnw-agie/](http://washingtonagnetwork.com/pnw-agie/)

PRESENTED BY:




SPONSORED BY:



