

Washington

Inslee: Irrigation-minded GOP should rethink stance on carbon tax

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press



Washington Gov. Jay Inslee

OLYMPIA — Washington Gov. Jay Inslee said Jan. 5 he hopes the chance to fund major irrigation projects will soften Republican opposition to a carbon tax, though two high-ranking GOP senators signaled that it's unlikely.

Inslee, speaking at a forum hosted by The Associated Press, said a carbon tax could provide money for ambitious water projects.

The projects include increasing water supplies for Eastern Washington farmers in the Yakima Valley and Odessa Subarea, and controlling flooding of farms along the Chehalis River in Western Washington, he said.

"This is very important to many places across the state. Places represented by Republican legislators," he said. "I hope people will consider that."

Inslee has made climate change a signature issue. Lawmakers, however, have rejected his previous proposals to tax carbon to encourage businesses to curb emissions and to raise revenue for state government. The proposal has failed to pass either the Democrat-led House or the Republican-led Senate.

Legislators also have been unable to identify a way to ensure completion of ambitious water-related projects such as the \$4 billion, 30-year Yakima Basin plan. Lawmakers have been funding major projects piecemeal in two-year budgets.

Yakima Valley Sen. Jim Honeyford proposed a state-wide property tax two years ago to raise billions of dollars for water projects. He said in an interview Thursday that he hasn't been enticed to support a carbon tax.

He said he doesn't think other Republicans will be, either.

"I think the chances are slim and none, and slim just got on the bus to get out of

town," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Mark Schoesler, speaking earlier at the AP forum, said voters showed what they thought of a carbon tax by rejecting Initiative 732 in November. That proposal, he said, was sweetened with tax cuts to offset the expected increase in fuel and heating costs.

"The voters had their say just two months ago," said Schoesler, R-Ritzville. "A sugar-coated version didn't do very well."

Legislators convene Monday for a 105-day session and have been ordered by the state Supreme Court to increase K-12 education spending.

Lawmakers likely won't identify a long-term source of money this year for water projects, Honeyford said. "I think with the issues we have this session, the chances are probably pretty small."

The property tax proposal in 2015 proved unpopular. A House task force failed to come up with an palatable option for the 2016 Legislature to consider.

The governor's office estimates a carbon tax on power plants and importers of natural gas or petroleum would raise \$1.9 billion the first year. The tax would increase each year.

Inslee proposed putting \$1 billion the first year into education and setting aside \$250 million for water projects. Other funds would go to renewable-energy projects and carbon-cutting programs, such as incentives to drive electric cars.

At Inslee's direction, the state Department of Ecology has set a carbon cap on manufacturers and oil refineries. The Washington Farm Bureau and other groups have sued to overturn the cap.

DNR approves Stemilt Basin sale

By **DAN WHEAT**
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — The state Board of Natural Resources has approved the sale of 1,275 acres of Department of Natural Resources land in the Stemilt Basin, south of Wenatchee, to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for \$1.95 million.

The board did so at its regular monthly meeting, Jan. 3. The Fish and Wildlife Commission is expected to act Jan.

13. Before closing the sale, DNR will grant a utility easement over Section 16 of the land to the Mathison family enabling it to expand cherry operations on its land that neighbors oppose.

Jerry Gutzwiler, the Wenatchee Sportsmen's president, said he and another member planned to testify against the easement at the board meeting but didn't go because of illness and weather.

Gutzwiler and other members of the community group Stemilt Partnership have supported the sale of Sections 16 and 22 by DNR to WDFW to preserve the land for wildlife and recreation. However, many of them oppose the easement saying agricultural development on the Mathisons' Section 17 will disrupt wildlife. The area is a migratory path for the 6,000-head Colocum elk herd.

The Mathisons, owners of

the large Wenatchee tree fruit company Stemilt Growers, unsuccessfully tried to buy or lease Section 16 in the past from DNR for cherry expansion.

DNR said it will use the money from the sale to buy replacement property elsewhere that is more conducive for producing school construction revenue.

DNR sold two other sections of land in the same area to WDFW in 2013.

Industry to air concerns about herbicide-resistant weeds

Listening session set for Jan. 24 in Pasco, Wash.

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

Concerns about the increasing number of cases of herbicide-resistant weeds have prompted the industry to hold seven listening sessions across the country to look for answers.

The only Pacific Northwest meeting will be 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Jan. 24 at the Red Lion Conference Center in Pasco, Wash. The listening session is limited to the first 160 registrants.

"Specialists who are managing weeds are throwing their hands up," said Ian Burke, associate weed science professor at Washington State University. "We're really sort of out of options. We need industry, stakeholder and grower input to chart a path forward."

Burke said he's documented dozens of new types of herbicide resistant weeds in recent years, calling it a "widespread" problem in the Pacific Northwest.

"We don't produce a Roundup Ready crop on a widespread basis, but we're working on new cases of Roundup resistant weeds because we use a lot of Roundup," he said.

Glyphosate herbicide is the active ingredient in Roundup.

For example, Russian thistle in fallow areas can some-



Courtesy of Oregon State University

Herbicide resistance in weeds will be the topic of a Jan. 24 listening session in Pasco, Wash.

times harden under hot summer conditions and not absorb herbicide like it would under optimum conditions, for one example, said Jim Fitzgerald, executive director of the Far West Agribusiness Association in Spokane.

"They may get sick but they

don't die, but in that process, they develop some resistance," he said.

"None of these herbicide companies profit when one of their products becomes obsolete due to resistance," Burke said.

It's important that the Pa-

cific Northwest perspective be represented when discussion leads to new policy, Burke said.

"Ideally, we want to get to a place where everyone wins," he said. "Where we can apply the latest science to manage herbicide resistance in a way growers can make the income they need over the short term, and make them more sustainable in the long term."

It takes roughly 10 years to develop and gain approval for new chemistries, Fitzgerald said.

"Look what's going to happen in the next 10 years as far as chemical resistance," he said. "It's tending to the need that's right here in front of us in the next few years."

Ignoring the problem could lead to more weeds developing resistance, Fitzgerald said.

"This is sort of an intervention before there's any kinds of mandates or requirements," he said.

Workshop offers ways to deal with 'natural risk'

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

A Jan. 20 workshop in Spokane will help small-scale farmers and ranchers deal with "natural risks" posed by wildfire and drought.

"We want to answer questions specific to their property and not just spew out a lot of theory, have them listen or take notes or watch endless Powerpoints," said Gloria Flora, executive director of Sustainable Obtainable Solutions in Colville, Wash., and a former U.S. Forest Service supervisor.

The workshop begins at 9 a.m. at the Enduris Training Facility in Spokane.

The program will help small-scale farmers and

ranchers make management changes to address the risks of drought and wildfire, Flora said.

The changes are designed to be affordable and increase water storage on the soil and vegetation, Flora said.

The workshop demonstrates ways to provide fire breaks or barriers and distribute water through the landscape to increase its resiliency.

"We're focusing on the physical design and structure of the property," Flora said. The workshop uses holistic and permaculture principles, including prevailing wind patterns and how neighboring property owners are managing their land.

"From what direction is your greatest risk?" Flora said.

"In permaculture, as we like to say, the problem is the solution. If you have a problem, how are we going to solve it in a way that actually brings benefit instead of another liability?"

Programs are available to help farmers make adjustments, Flora said.

"We want to connect people with their landscape in a way that helps them understand it better, and we want to help connect people with the resources out there that can help them implement positive change," she said.



SAGE Fact #137
No-Till Farming reduces erosion on hilly ground and enhances soil structure. Targeted seeding and fertilizing reduce the amount of seed and fertilizer used which save money and fuel by eliminating plowing.



Visit the SAGE Center Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Find us on:
 
101 Olson Road - Boardman, OR 97818
(541) 481-7243
www.visitsage.com

2-1/#6



Your Way On The Parkway!

CAPITOL CHEVROLET IS YOUR TRUCK HEADQUARTERS

START YOUR YEAR OFF STRONG



189

TRUCKS IN STOCK!

2855 Maple Ave. NE
Salem, Oregon

800-888-0591



FIND NEW ROADS™

VIEW OUR ENTIRE INVENTORY OF NEW & PRE-OWNED MODELS AT

capitol-chevy.com

See dealership for details. *Art for illustration only * Subject to prior sale. Prices do not include license fees, title fees and \$100 Doc fees. Click for details. All financing on approved credit, with Tier 1, 2 with 700 and above credit rating. All sale prices on in stock units only. Expires 1/31/17

2-1/#7



WESTERN PACKAGING

Your Future is Our Future...





WE SPECIALIZE IN BULK BAGS!

<p>BAGS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Bags • Fertilizer Bags • Feed Bags • Potato Bags • Printed Bags • Plain Bags • Bulk Bags • Totes • Woven Polypropylene • Bopp • Polyethylene • Pocket Bags • Roll Stock & More! 	<p>HAY PRESS SUPPORT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hay Sleeves • Strap • Totes • Printed or Plain • Stretch Film (ALL GAUGES) <p>WAREHOUSE PACKAGING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stretch Film • Pallet Sheets • Pallet Covers 	<p>LOCATIONS:</p> <p>Albany, Oregon (MAIN OFFICE) Ellensburg, Washington</p> <p>CONTACT INFORMATION:</p> <p>Phone: 855-928-3856 Fax: 541-497-6262 info@westernpackaging.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; color: red;">CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!</p>
--	---	---

www.westernpackaging.com

2-1/#5