

## Washington

## Late wildfire damages apple orchard

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

WENATCHEE, Wash. — A Foreman Fruit Co. orchard sustained an estimated \$50,000 to \$100,000 in damage from a 1,100-acre wildfire northwest of town on Nov. 1. It was the latest fire in the season of any size in the area in recent memory.

Some apple trees in the 100-acre Panorama Orchard were seared, probably damaging buds of next fall's crop, but the more significant damage is labor and materials needed to remove numerous partially burned, 100-foot-tall poplar trees that were wind breaks on the orchard's edges, said James Foreman, company manager.

"We'll have to take them down this winter because they're a safety hazard. We don't want them falling into the orchard when workers are working," said Foreman, son of company owner Dale



Firefighters spray water on hot spots along burned fenceline and poplar trees on the edge of Panorama Orchard northwest of Wenatchee, Wash., on Nov. 2. A wildfire burned 1,100 acres, mostly grassland, the day before.

Foreman, a Wenatchee attorney. Dale Foreman is a former state House majority leader, state Republican Party chair-

man, candidate for governor and Washington Apple Commission board chairman.

Firefighters watered hot

spots along the poplars on Nov. 2. Eduardo Sanchez and another orchard worker were loading empty apple bins on a

truck, the harvest of Autumn Glory apples having finished the day before the fire. Sanchez estimated half a mile of 8-foot-tall deer fencing is damaged or destroyed.

Fence replacement is about \$16,000 to \$26,000 per mile, depending on terrain, James Foreman said. Some irrigation pipe might also be damaged.

Foreman said damaged poplar trees will have to be tipped away from the orchard when cut and removed before the fence is replaced, as they are inside the fenceline. He will have to decide whether to maintain a wind break with new trees, he said.

"Standard orchard (insurance) policy doesn't cover deer fencing, so unfortunately I don't expect any claim to help us out," he said, estimating damage at \$50,000 to \$100,000.

Foreman and 10 workers helped fight the fire on the orchard edge.

The fire was first reported at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 1. It started on the shoulder of U.S. Highway 2/97 just west of the town of Monitor, about five miles northwest of Wenatchee.

The cause was determined to be sparks from a passing vehicle, possibly from a broken tail pipe or trailer chains dragging, said Phil Mosher, chief of Chelan County Fire District 6 in Cashmere.

"The big issue was the grass and sagebrush component of fuel and wind and percent of slope. The wind just took it and ran it up the slope. It was blowing 20 mph on top the ridge," Mosher said.

Ten firefighters, three brush trucks, an engine and one tender were on the initial attack.

"The big challenge was resources because summer resources had been released and a house fire in East Wenatchee was tying up firefighters," said Rich Magnussen, Chelan County Emergency Management spokesman.

## Sandison 'optimistic' U.S., Canada will renegotiate Columbia River Treaty

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — The director of Washington state's agriculture department says he is optimistic the U.S. and Canada will be able to successfully renegotiate the Columbia River Treaty.

"We're pretty close on a lot of things," said Derek Sandison, director of the state Department of Agriculture and former director of the state Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River. He spoke Nov. 2 during the Columbia Basin Development League annual meeting.

The 60-year-old agreement is designed to coordinate flood management and optimize hydropower generation by Columbia River dams.

Under the treaty, the U.S. paid Canada \$64 million to construct three dams in British Columbia in exchange for 8.94



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press  
Derek Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, said he expects movement on renegotiating the Columbia River Treaty.

million acre-feet of assured flood storage.

In 2024, assured storage converts to "called-upon" and "effective use" storage. The U.S. would first have to make effective use of its reservoirs for flood control before calling on Canada to store snowmelt, drawing down the dams to make as much flood volume as possible, Sandison said.

"That's an arrangement we're not particularly fond of," he said. "You're hammering

U.S. reservoirs in the hopes that your March forecast is right and there will be water late (in the) irrigation season to make up what you've pushed out to the ocean."

As part of the Canadian entitlement, Canada receives 50 percent of the power generated downstream. Sandison said the treaty uses an outdated formula that doesn't factor in modifications made in 1993 to address the Endangered Species Act and protected fish.

U.S. and Canadian negotiators agree the Canadian entitlement is too high, Sandison said.

"They don't want any more than they're entitled to," he said. "That's what they said, I take them at face value."

The regional recommendation on the U.S. side called for a recalculation of the power entitlement to reflect the actual value, re-establish some level of assured flood control and fully consider the ecosystem.

## Stakeholders seek funds for bridges in canal widening project

Consultant to study costs, scope

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — Stakeholders are seeking millions of dollars in federal support to help widen or replace 10 bridges that cross an Eastern Washington canal system that is part of a massive expansion of the Columbia Basin Project.

Of the 17 bridges on the East Low Canal system, five are adequate, Melissa Downes, technical project lead for the state Department of Ecology's Office of the Columbia River, said during the Nov. 2 Columbia Basin Development League annual meeting.

The East Columbia Basin Irrigation District has already replaced the Leisle Road

bridge and increased the capacity to convey water under the Calloway Road bridge. The Leisle Road Bridge cost \$732,000 and the Calloway Road Bridge cost \$797,000, Downes said.

Ten remaining bridges need modification or replacement.

The East Low Canal is being widened as part of an effort to replace wells with water from the Columbia River. Nearly 700,000 acres within the federal Columbia Basin Project are irrigated. The league supports completing the 70-year-old project by bringing river water to the remaining 300,000 acres.

The stakeholders will seek federal funding for the 10 bridges, owned by the state or the counties.

"Bridges are a little bit different than the water conveyance system," said Mike Schwisow, director of govern-

ment relations for the development league. "They're not a canal, a siphon or something that carries the water. They're part of the regional transportation system, so they have a little different characteristic. ... But all of them need to get fixed in order for us to finally fully develop this project."

The bridges are "pinch points" on the canal system limiting water flow, said Stephen McFadden, director of the Adams County Development Council.

The stakeholders are seeking grants from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery and Infrastructure for Rebuilding America for the bridges, and employing a consultant to conduct cost-benefit analyses and outline the scope of work to replace the bridges, McFadden said.

## Scientist: Weed control needs refinement

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

WENATCHEE, Wash. — Management of invasive plant species is still too much like surgery by bludgeon instead of scalpel, says Dean Pearson, research ecologist at the U.S. Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station in Missoula, Mont.

"We're getting good at taking out the target weed but not much good beyond that. Better restoration tools is where the big need is right now," Pearson said in his keynote address at the Washington State Weed Association's 67th annual conference at the Wenatchee Convention Center, Nov. 1.



Dean Pearson

Pearson said he's found 168 studies of the management of invasive plants with only 38 of those looking at what happened

beyond the weed.

"In those 38, we found 96 percent suppressed the target weed, so that's success. But the primary response to the control was secondary invasions, 89 percent of the time by a noxious invasive weed. That's not what we want to see happen," he said.

The key in handling invasive plants with herbicides is aiming to get to a place of surgical precision with minimal disturbance to the ecology, or pushing it in the right direction, he said.

Broadcast reseeding is the most cost effective restoration tool but effectiveness is like a lottery because weather plays a big role, he said.

Invasive plants can alter an ecosystem for a long time, Pearson said. He showed pictures of a Missoula hillside in the early 1970s with Balsamorhiza, Lupin and Paintbrush and a picture of the same area drastically altered by Knapweed 30 years later.



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- Back by Popular Demand: Wed. Evening Dine Around Oregon. Tickets available online.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14**

**Meetings:** Oregon Farm Bureau Luncheon (by invitation)

**Training:** CORE No registration required - 2 to 4\* credit hours (Repeated Thursday)

● 10:30-11:30AM • Andony Melathopoulos; **Going Soft on Pollinators and Hard on Pests** (1 CORE)  
This session will have an easy-to-apply set of rules to help you judge how to apply pesticides with minimal impact to pollinators.

● **Lunch Break**

● 11:30-12:30PM • Janet Fultus; **Worker Protection; Standards Update** (1 CORE)

● 1:30-3:30PM • Andy Steinkamp; **Practical Sprayer Calibration** (2 CORE)

Covers the importance of sprayer calibration, sprayer calibration methods and dry bait calibration methods. It will cover step by step examples using basic math. There will be a best practices discussion and time for questions. Does not cover specific controller brands and operations.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

**Meetings:** Pennington Seed Growers Breakfast (by invitation)

**Training:**

● 10:30-12:15PM • CPR/AED/ Standard First Aid Training (advanced registration required): CPR: Participants will review and practice emergency procedures that prepare responders to act in breathing and cardiac related emergency situations with adults and children (ages ~ 12+); AED - Automated External Defibrillator: Training will offer device tech info, preparation, and operation. Participants will be trained on how to use the AED for adult and pediatric victims.

● 1:30-2:45PM • **Standard First Aid:** Participants will review skills to recognize and respond to sudden illness and emergencies. Training will culminate with skills practice and testing. Certification awarded upon completion. \$30 for CPR/AED/First Aid Training; \$15 for First Aid Training only

● 1:00 - 3:00PM **Forklift Certification Training:** Includes classroom, workbook, written knowledge check verification with scheduled practical driving evaluation immediately following. Proof of successful completion of course, knowledge check and practical driving evaluation provided within 7 days. Program and equipment provided/donated by Pape Material Handling and OVERTON Safety Training. Class size limited to 50 people. Advanced registration required online at [www.wvaexpo.com](http://www.wvaexpo.com). This class is free with paid admission. Class size limited to 50 people.

**Dine Around Oregon - Back by popular demand!**

● 5:00pm - 8:00pm: **\$12 Admission in advance online at [www.wvaexpo.com](http://www.wvaexpo.com) (or at the door while tickets last.)** Ticketed progressive, hearty dinner event featuring food and products from Oregon. 4-6 serving stations throughout the Expo. Enjoy Oregon beef, lamb and cheese, produce, wine and brew!

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

**Training:** CORE training — Repeated from Tuesday, November 15th, 2016

● 10:30-12:30PM • Andy Steinkamp; **Practical Sprayer Calibration** (2 CORE)

Covers the importance of sprayer calibration, sprayer calibration methods and dry bait calibration methods. It will cover step by step examples using basic math. There will be a best practices discussion and time for questions. Does not cover specific controller brands and operations.

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