



Associate Press File

The Bonneville Dam on the Columbia River near Cascade Locks, Ore. Its lock is among several on the Columbia and Snake rivers that will be closed to river traffic for repairs and maintenance starting March 3.

Locks on Columbia, Snake rivers to close for repairs, maintenance

Capital Press

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will conduct routine annual inspections, preventive maintenance and repairs at all navigation locks on the Columbia and Snake rivers during March.

The Walla Walla District dams with navigation locks include McNary Dam near Umatilla, Ore.; Ice Harbor Dam near Burbank, Wash.; Lower Monumental Dam near Kahlotus, Wash.; Little Goose Dam near Starbuck, Wash.; and Lower Granite Dam near Pomeroy, Wash.

The Portland District operates The Dalles, Bonneville and John Day dams and navigation locks on the Columbia River.

All locks in the inland navigation system will close to recreational and commercial river traffic at 6 a.m. March 3.

Lower Monumental, Ice Harbor, McNary and Bonneville locks are scheduled to reopen at 11:59 p.m. Sunday, March 18.

Lower Granite, Little

Goose, John Day and The Dalles are scheduled to return to service at 11:59 p.m. on March 25. The additional days at those dams are necessary to perform non-routine work that will require more time to complete than the typical two-week routine maintenance outage.

The non-routine work includes gate structural repairs, navigation lock concrete repair and equipment repair or replacement.

In the Walla Walla District, work may require the temporary suspension of vehicle crossings at Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams on the lower Snake River in Washington to accommodate activities during the lock maintenance outage. The public will be notified about closures, if possible, in advance, but the crossing is still subject to closure at any time.

Travelers should call 1-888-DAM-INFO (1-888-326-4636) well in advance of arrival for the current dam-crossing information.

Oregon farmers say retiring research station director will be sorely missed

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

ONTARIO, Ore. — A search committee is being formed to find a replacement for the retiring director of Oregon State University's Malheur County agricultural experiment station.

Area farmers say it won't be easy to replace Clint Shock, who has held the position since 1984 and helped the agricultural industry address some of its toughest issues over the decades.

"Clint, in my opinion, has done more for the agricultural community in Malheur County and adjoining areas than anybody has ever done in the past," said Jerry Erstrom, a farmer and member of the local weed and watershed council boards. "I won't say he can't be replaced but it's going to be tough. We're going to really miss him."

During his time as director of the research station, Shock has led research on onions, potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa and poplars as well as water quality, erosion control, plant nutrition and the use of soil water sensors.

He helped pioneer the use of drip irrigation and developed improved methods to irrigate onions, conducted research that resolved local concerns about groundwater contamination from nitrates and herbicides, and developed methods to reduce the potato dark-end disease.

He also developed alternative crops for Treasure Valley farmers, which included new production methods for native wildflowers used in re-vegetation projects.

"Clint has been the cement of the industry at the experiment station for a long time," said Malheur County Onion Growers President Paul Skeen. "Losing Clint is going to be a big deal."

Skeen said one of Shock's biggest



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Clint Shock, left, who is retiring as director of Oregon State University's agricultural experiment station in Malheur County, speaks with a farmer Feb. 6 during a retirement open house hosted by the Idaho and Oregon onion growers associations.

accomplishments was research that addressed the agricultural water provisions in the Food and Drug Administration's new produce safety rule. The research showed that the bulb onions grown in the area are not at risk of being contaminated by irrigation water containing even large amounts of bacteria.

That research led to FDA revamping the produce rule's agricultural water standards in a way that benefits all produce growers in the nation affected by the rule, Skeen said.

Shock was honored by the region's farming industry last week during the Idaho and Oregon onion associations' annual joint meeting.

Shock told Capital Press that during his research career, he learned that rather than staying only within his area of

expertise, it was more important to work on whatever issues the community needed to be addressed, even though that often meant getting far out of his comfort zone.

"Rather than stay within my training or what I've been prepared to do, I've tried to do what the community needed to do in agricultural science," he said. "Every real problem with growers seems to be complex and laps off into different fields, so every one is an adventure."

Shock also said he learned that any solution that has an economic benefit to it will get picked up by industry.

"That means that if you have some problem that you need to solve, if you can find some way that will provide an economic benefit to someone, then it will get adopted," he said.

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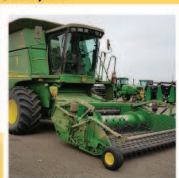
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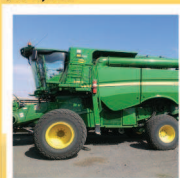
Premium Cab, Small wire concave, vari stream rotor, JD 615P BPU platform, 1,263-hrs, #D0755608
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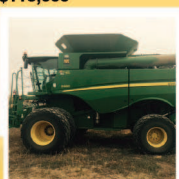
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Courtesy USDA

A new University of Idaho Extension course, March 16 in Sandpoint and March 17 in Hayden, helps new landowners learn how to manage small, rural acreage.

New UI Extension course will help landowners manage small, rural acreage

Orientation course includes info on growing crops

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

University of Idaho Extension will offer a one-day program to help owners of small rural acreages manage their land.

"Ten Acres and a Dream" will be March 16 in Sandpoint and March 17 in Hayden.

Topics to be covered include living on the land; homesteading infrastructure; growing fruits, vegetables and other crops on small acreages; working with county government; raising large and small livestock and managing pastures on small acreages; and Idaho panhandle forestry and landfalls. Three UI volunteers will also share their rural Idaho living experiences.

The new program was the idea of the Master Forest Stewards, according to UI Extension.

The stewards were interacting with many landowners new to a rural setting, said Chris Schnepf, extension educator for forestry with UI Extension in Coeur d'Alene.

"Even simple things like, 'How do you make contact with your neighbors?'" he said. "Sometimes you live in a rural area and someone pulls up in a pickup, some landowners are a little suspicious ... or when you get out of the car and there's nobody there, kind of shout something out. Basically the idea is making your presence known, not just surprising somebody in their backyard. People move out to rural settings for a variety of reasons. One of them often is privacy."

Program enrollment is limited to 75 participants per session. Pre-registration is encouraged, no later than March 9. A \$15 registration fee includes resource materials and refreshments.

"My gut instinct is we're probably going to go to max capacity and end up repeating it down the road in differ-

ent locations," Schnepf said.

Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai and Benewah counties collectively have more than 1.5 million acres of private lands, 47.5 percent of all lands in those counties, according to UI Extension.

Schnepf said the program will emphasize how to do right by the land, managing weeds and creeks, and addressing a wide variety of different visions for landowners.

"Giving them a little bit of traction for making those things a reality," he said.

For registration questions on the Sandpoint session, contact the University of Idaho Extension office in Bonner County at (208) 263-8511. For registration questions on the Hayden session, contact the University of Idaho Extension in Kootenai County at (208) 446-1680. Registration forms can also be downloaded at www.uidaho.edu/extension/forestry/calendar

The program is co-sponsored by UI Extension and the Idaho Department of Lands.