



Washington State University officials and Paul Allen, center, celebrated the ribbon cutting of the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health in 2012.

WSU remembers Paul Allen as friend, 'legendary donor'

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

Washington State University's leaders remember Paul G. Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft, philanthropist and community builder, for his contributions to the university and to improving human health worldwide.

Allen died Oct. 15 of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was 65.

In 2010, the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation donated \$26 million to help create the Paul G. Allen School for Global Animal Health at WSU. The school is unique among other global health programs because it focuses on the health of animals as a way to improve the health of humans and the environment.

Guy Palmer, founding director of the school and now senior director of global animal health for WSU, presented the concept to Allen in 2010.

The project combined three areas of interest for Allen — his connection to the university, his passion for science and his connection to communities in eastern and southern Africa, Palmer told the Capital Press.

"It was a coming together of those three things in a fairly unique way that would be very difficult to replicate," Palmer said.

The school would provide updates regularly of their activities to Allen and his staff.

"It's not like he wrote a check and then walked away from it," Palmer said. "He really remained very interested in the progress of it."

For example, the school examined what happens when rural livestock owners incorporated vaccines into their animals' production. They produced more milk,

Palmer said, but the household income from the higher productivity translated directly into increased expenditures for girls' education.

"He just loved that," Palmer said of Allen. "This was the resource those individuals had and how they translated that into these broader societal gains was what really interested him."

WSU and Allen were also working to develop Rabies Free Africa, a program to eliminate human deaths due to rabies on the continent in 12 years. About 30,000 deaths each year are due to rabies. Half of the victims are children, Palmer said, calling the deaths "completely preventable."

The program includes vaccinating dogs and providing medical access to victims.

"Paul Allen was a man of great compassion and vision," WSU President Kirk Schulz said in a press release. "He understood the power of philanthropy to improve the human condition in this country and around the world."

"We are extremely saddened to hear of the loss of our friend and legendary donor to Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Paul Allen," said Bryan Slinker, dean of WSU's veterinary college, in the press release. "We extend our greatest sympathies to his family and friends both here and abroad."

Some people might see the school being named after Allen through an "egotistical" lens, Palmer said, but nothing could be further from the truth. The university can recruit more faculty because of Allen's name on the school, he said.

"It also carries his name forward, and we're delighted that that will happen," Palmer said.

Ocean temperatures rise, boosting odds of El Nino ahead

Weather condition portends mild winter

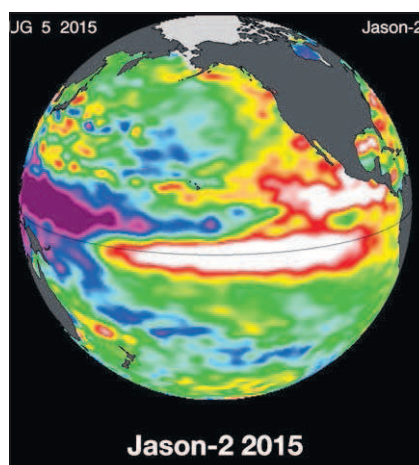
By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Pacific Ocean temperatures are rising along the equator, a signal that winter likely will be warmer than normal in the Northwest.

Federal climatologists peg the odds that an El Nino will form in the next couple of months at 70 to 75 percent, a 5 percent increase since mid-September. The warm ocean should influence late winter weather, but El Ninos historically have had little effect on snow accumulation in Washington before Jan. 1, State Climatologist Nick Bond said Monday.

"Here's hoping that holds true to form, and we get reasonably wet and cold weather in the mountains pretty soon," he said.

The Climate Prediction Center revised its El Nino outlook on Oct. 11. The federal agency reported that surface temperatures



NASA via AP

This false-color image provided by NASA satellites show warm Pacific Ocean water temperatures from the strong El Nino that brought North America large amounts of rainfall in 2015.

rose across the Pacific during the previous four weeks and that warmer water spread over a larger area.

Winters are generally warm and dry in the northern tier of the U.S. during an El Nino. The last two El Ninos formed in back-to-back winters, 2014-15 and 2015-16.

In some years, such as 1995 and 2007, El Nino prevailed, but snowpacks in Washington were already above average by Jan. 1, according to an analysis by Bond. In other El Nino years, snowpacks were below average at the end of the year.

"I was surprised by how little effect there was," Bond said. "It's almost completely negligible before the first of the year."

The 2014-15 El Nino was particularly notable. A "snowpack drought" was followed by a hot and dry spring and summer, combining to cause one of the most severe droughts ever in Washington. This year, however, ocean-surface temperatures just off the coast are not as warm.

"That's one thing we have going for us," Bond said. "We don't have a really warm ocean off our coast."

Washington lands commissioner rolls out \$55M fire plan

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

A two-year \$55 million spending plan would dampen destructive wildfires by thinning forests and enlarging the Washington Department of Natural Resources firefighting force, Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz says.

Speaking at the department's helicopter hangar in Tumwater, Franz outlined the budget request she will present to state lawmakers early next year. She was joined by Rep. Tom Dent, R-Moses Lake, who praised the package and said wildfires have scorched the earth in his agriculture-rich district.

"It might be four, five, six years before that ground recovers," he said. "We call that a 'moonscape.' We have a couple of those in my district, and it's awful to see."

The proposal responds to a string of severe fire seasons, which the department blames on climate change and past "inade-

quate" forest management. The plan Franz presented was in addition to the \$65 million the department will seek to cover the cost of fighting fires in the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. DNR anticipates the \$16.5 million lawmakers previously approved will be far too little.

The department estimates wildfires will burn nearly 350,000 acres this year. Although fewer acres will burn than in some recent years, the state has had about 1,700 wildfires, the second-most in state history, according to the department. About 39 percent of the fires have been in Western Washington.

Smoke made some summer days hazy west of the Cascades. Dent said the smoke gave west-side legislators a whiff of what's become typical on the eastside.

"We had east winds so it blew smoke to the westside, so folks over here got to experience what we've been experiencing for decades," he said.

The package includes a \$17

million request from the capital budget to thin overgrown forests by logging or controlled burns. The department has a goal of thinning 1.25 million acres in Eastern Washington over the next 20 years.

The other \$38 million would come from the operating budget.

The details of the proposal are:

- \$12 million to turn 30 seasonal firefighter jobs into year-round positions. DNR now has 43 full-time firefighters. The new firefighters would plan fire-prevention forest projects during the winter. The money also would fund a \$100,000 study on improving telecommunications for firefighters in rural areas.
- \$6.25 million to add two firefighting helicopters. DNR currently has seven helicopters.
- \$5.76 million to create a forest health division within DNR. The division would split from the department's wildfire division.
- \$4.86 million to employ

350 prison inmates to fight fires, plant trees, thin forests and work in kitchens in fire camps. The DNR already deploys inmates. The proposal is to put 80 more in the field, according to the department.

- \$4.26 million to assist private landowners with reducing wildfire danger. The money would create three new positions and transfer 13.5 positions from the capital budget to the operating budget.

- \$2.2 million to add five full-time employees who will train firefighters to battle wild-land fires.

- \$1.94 million to add seven employees to educate the public about preventing fires.

- \$724,240 to assign two employees to manage contracts and grants for forest projects on federal lands.

- \$234,200 for a half-time position to lead a team of DNR geologists, hydrologists and foresters to assess the danger of floods and landslides after wildfires.

Water infrastructure bill includes provisions for Klamath Project

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

Farmers and ranchers in the Klamath Basin will benefit directly from a massive federal water spending bill that authorizes more than \$6 billion to improve the nation's ports, dams, harbors and other infrastructure.

Tucked into the America's

LEGAL

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces a meeting of the Washington State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) on Thursday, October 25, 2018 from 9:30am to 11:30am. This meeting will be held by teleconference. For more information, contact Nick Vira at 360-704-7758.

Water and Infrastructure Act of 2018 is a section that deals specifically with the Klamath Project, a sprawling 200,000-acre irrigation system that serves more than 1,200 family farms and ranches in southern Oregon and northern California.

Congress passed the bill on Oct. 10, which includes up to \$10 million annually for the Klamath Project to help agricultural producers withstand water shortages and improve efficiency.

Scott White, executive director of the Klamath Water Users Association, said the money could pay for pumping groundwater or idling farmland during drought years — like the basin experienced in 2018 — or project improvements like lining irrigation canals to prevent water loss.

"If we have \$10 million to use for addressing (water) supply versus demand on an annual basis, then during good water years we could be using that

money for ways to improve our efficiency and make those drought years that much easier," White said.

The Klamath Project already faces a strain on water supplies to balance the needs of farms with the needs of endangered fish species. Earlier this year, the Klamath Tribes sued the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service to hold more water in Upper Klamath Lake for endangered shortnose and Lost River suckers.

Meanwhile, the Yurok and Hoopa Valley tribes also successfully sued government agencies to send more water down the Klamath River to wash away a salmon-killing parasite known as C. shasta. The lawsuits delayed the start of the 2018 irrigation season by several months, making it harder for farmers and ranchers to know what to plant ahead of time.

White said provisions in the America's Water and Infrastructure Act were originally part of the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, a \$1 billion long-term agreement that would have also included the removal of four dams on the lower Klamath River. The KBRA failed to pass Congress before expiring in 2015.

Three years later, White said they are pleased to see lawmakers take action.

"It's not going to solve all the issues here, but it's a good start," he said.

In addition to the \$10 million in drought relief, the bill also makes it easier for farmers to convey groundwater through the Klamath Project canals during water shortages, and instructs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to recommend ways the basin can reduce electricity costs, which in some cases have ballooned by 2,000 percent over the last decade.

FLAT CARS- THE BETTER BRIDGE

- Lower Cost • Custom Lengths up to 90'
- Certified Engineering Services Available
- Steel Construction

Contractor License # 71943

P.O. Box 365 • 101 Industrial Way, Lebanon, OR 97355

Office: 541-451-1275
Email: info@rfc-nw.com
www.rfc-nw.com

Rick Franklin Corporation

WESTERN PACKAGING

Your Future is Our Future...

WE SPECIALIZE IN BULK BAGS!

BAGS:

- Seed Bags
- Fertilizer Bags
- Feed Bags
- Potato Bags
- Printed Bags
- Plain Bags
- Bulk Bags
- Totes
- Woven Polypropylene
- Bopp
- Polyethylene
- Pocket Bags
- Roll Stock & More!

HAY PRESS SUPPORT:

- Hay Sleeves
- Strap
- Totes
- Printed or Plain
- Stretch Film

(ALL GAUGES)

WAREHOUSE PACKAGING:

- Stretch Film
- Pallet Sheets
- Pallet Covers

LOCATIONS:

Albany, Oregon (MAIN OFFICE)
Ellensburg, Washington

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Phone: 855-928-3856
Fax: 541-497-6262
info@westernpackaging.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE IS OUR TOP PRIORITY!

www.westernpackaging.com

2018 SAFETY & STEWARDSHIP SEMINARS

Tuesday, Nov. 6
Red Lion Hotel
Pendleton, Oregon

Wednesday, Nov. 7
Holiday Inn
Springfield, Oregon

Thursday, Nov. 8
Holiday Inn
Willsonville, Oregon

Oregon and Washington — 9 credits approved!
Landscape Contractors Board and California relicensing credits pending.

Who should attend: Public and private pesticide applicators, commercial applicators or consultants, landscape contractors, pest control operators, and apprentice applicators.

Register by Oct. 25 for the best rate!
Online registration is open now.

Seminars each day from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

More info at: www.oacfa.com/seminars.html

OACFA OREGON AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS ASSOCIATION