

Oregon counties win \$1 billion timber case against the state

By The Associated Press

ALBANY, Ore. — Jurors on Wednesday found in favor of 14 counties in their \$1 billion lawsuit against the state over revenue from logging on state lands.

The counties had claimed breach of contract, saying the state did not harvest enough timber over two decades, depriving the counties of revenue.

There was no immediate reaction from the state, whose attorneys had said the counties wanted to allow clear-cutting of forests and don't care about endangered species.

Fourteen counties in Oregon claimed in the lawsuit that the state deprived them of revenue for decades by limiting logging in state forests.

Attorneys for the state countered that the counties wanted to allow clear-cutting of forests and don't care about endangered species.

The case focused on three words — “greatest permanent value” — and what they meant when they were written into law 80 years ago.

Lawyers for the counties say it meant maximizing revenue from logging. Attorneys for the state argue that it includes other factors such as recreation and habitat.

The law stemmed from a time decades ago when private lumber companies descended on Oregon and clear-cut forests. Instead of paying taxes, the companies left counties to deal with the land in a practice known as cut and run.

The counties didn't have the resources to restore the land. So, during his 1939 inaugural address, Gov. Charles Sprague urged the Legislature to pass a bill allowing the state to designate the land as state forests, grow back the trees and manage the land “to secure the greatest permanent value” and share revenue with the counties.

The law enabled the state to adopt about 1,000 square miles — roughly the size of Rhode Island — from 15 counties that receive 64% of the logging revenues. One of the counties declined to join the lawsuit.

The counties claim the state breached the contact in 1998 when it adopted a rule defining greatest permanent value to mean healthy, productive and sustainable forest ecosystems that provide a social, economic and environmental benefits to the people of Oregon.

Attorneys for the counties made it clear they want the trees treated as a commodity to be exploited.

Wildlife fence aims to keep wolves out of Oregon ranch

Environmental group KS Wild helps fund project

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

PROSPECT, Ore. — Ted Birdseye has tried seemingly everything to keep the wolves out of his ranch in southwest Oregon.

Fladry, guard dogs and even inflatable dancing tube men — similar to those seen at used car lots — have all failed to keep the predators at bay, Birdseye said. Now a \$46,000 wildlife fence might be the last hope for protecting his cattle in an area where gray wolves remain listed as a federally endangered species.

Crews finished installing the 5-foot-tall, 3-mile-long fence on Nov. 4, wrapping around 276 acres of pasture at the Mill-Mar Ranch about 35 miles north of Medford. The property borders the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, home of the Rogue Pack, which has at least six known wolves as of 2018.

Made from recycled steel posts spaced 90 feet apart, with eight strands of high-tensile electric wire running between 1-inch fiberglass rods, Birdseye said anything that touches the fence “is supposed to get the shock of its life.” It is powered by a 3-foot-by-3-foot solar panel and battery.

“My big concern is I just hope it works,” Birdseye said. “If it doesn't work, I don't know what the other options are.”

Birdseye bought the Mill-Mar Ranch near the small community of Prospect roughly four years ago.



Tim Trainor/University of Oregon

Crews finished installing a 5-foot-tall, 3-mile-long wildlife fence at Mill-Mar Ranch in southwest Oregon on Nov. 4 to keep wolves from preying on cattle.

The sixth-generation rancher has been frustrated by the Rogue Pack repeatedly attacking and killing his livestock and pets, including eight calves and two guard dogs.

Whereas the state can authorize shooting wolves that meet the definition of “chronic depredation” in Eastern Oregon, the animals are still listed as endangered and managed by the feds west of highways 395, 78 and 95.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has worked extensively with Birdseye to set up non-lethal deterrents such as flashing lights, alarm boxes and fladry — lines of rope strung up along fences with red flags that flap in the wind, intended to scare away wolves.

Defenders of Wildlife, a non-profit environmental group, also

donated two neon green and yellow waving tubes to stand guard over Birdseye's cattle in February. Yet the Rogue Pack keeps coming back, he said, with the latest incident in March where the wolves took down a 5-month-old, 400-pound calf.

In response, Birdseye decided to build a more sturdy wildlife fence around the entire pasture. The project received a \$25,000 grant from the USFWS, as well as \$15,000 from the Jackson County wolf depredation compensation committee.

Counties are awarded money from the Oregon Department of Agriculture's Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program for non-lethal deterrents.

A second environmental advocacy group, the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, or KS Wild for short, also launched a GoFundMe campaign to raise \$6,000 for the fence, which it accomplished over three weeks in June.

Joseph Vaile, who until recently served as executive director of the Ashland-based group, said the Mill-Mar Ranch is at a crossroads of wolf movement in the region.

What's more, Vaile hopes the effort will show that ranchers and conservationists can put their differences aside and work to come up with solutions to protect wolves, while ensuring that producers can keep their operations profitable.

“It's something that we need to do a lot more of, I think,” Vaile said.

State, tribes roll out plan to rear salmon on Washington farmland

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Some 15,000 acres in southwest Washington, much of it farm and forest land, would be converted into salmon habitat at a cost of up to \$1.1 billion under a plan presented Monday by two state agencies and two tribes.

Flooding land would help repair damage in the Chehalis River basin that began in the 1850s as settlers farmed, logged, mined and built roads, according to a report co-authored by Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, the Quinault Indian Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation.

Climate change, population growth and the conversion of land into “high-value fruit crops” are identified as further threats that could make spring chinook salmon — important to orcas — extinct by

the end of the century.

“This bleak outlook demands urgent attention, but it also presents historic opportunity,” the report states.

The Chehalis River basin, 2,700-square miles primarily in Lewis and Grays Harbor counties, has some of Western Washington's most productive farmland. Almost half the land along the main stem of the Chehalis River is agricultural.

Lewis County farmer Dave Fenn said the region's farmers are nervously watching the push to convert agriculture land into fish habitat.

“The most productive acres are along the river,” he said. “When you start taking too much land out of production, it has consequences for the people who live here.

“Things agriculture can do to help fish and that don't destroy agriculture, I'm sure a majority

of farmers are interested in, but it has to work for all involved,” Fenn said.

Salmon in the basin are not endangered, but the state agencies and tribes say aggressive steps are needed to keep it that way.

The plan envisions a three-phase approach to increasing habitat, at a cost of between \$550 million and \$1.1 billion. Much of the money would be spent on buying land or easements from willing property owners.

If carried out, the plan would be expected to increase the basin's capacity to produce spring chinook salmon and other fish.

By 2080, the basin could be producing approximately 2,100 spring chinook a year, compared to the current 1,700, according to a chart in the report.

If nothing is done, fish “face a grave future,” according to

the report, as climate change and human activity degrade the environment.

Potential spring chinook production could be expected to drop to 500 a year by 2080, according to the chart. More exact numbers were not available Monday.

“The Chehalis basin is one of the state's only major river systems with no salmon species listed as threatened or endangered,” Emelie McKain, the basin's aquatic restoration manager for Fish and Wildlife, said in a written statement. “We want to keep it that way by restoring and protecting their habitat.”

The basin has a history of flooding. Dairy farmers in the basin lost hundreds of cows to rising water in 2007. Ecology is studying the environmental effects of building a flood-control dam on the Chehalis River.

ATTENTION ALL FARMERS!

I have developed the world's best soil nutrient!

One of God's greatest gifts to me is a tremendous curiosity and love for the soil. My formal and informal education have taught me so much about soil types, the structure, physics, chemistry, and biology. All life on this earth comes from the soil, water, and sun. **Most disease comes from an imbalanced soil.** Since the two advent of chemical fertilizers and genetic engineering (byproducts of the World Wars) **industry has focused only on greater yields and has neglected the most important part of our foods and feeds, NUTRITIONAL CONTENT.**

Our overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides has imbalanced our soils, killed the micro life, and depleted what is most critical to life, **minerals and trace minerals.** My research has shown that soils and plants need those missing nutrients to perform their best. Soils respond to my product like a sick child responds to chicken soup, so I've named this product **Chicken Soup For The Soil®.** Now it is true that other companies have blended quality additives for the soil, **amino acids, ancient seabed deposits, sea solids, soluble seaweed, organic acids like humic and fulvic, alfalfa** and other **herbal extracts.** However, the most important factor of our product is a discovery I made while blending these ingredients...

I made a **serendipitous discovery** of how to react these individual ingredients into an homogenous product that **will not wash out of the soil.** We call the tiniest colloidal droplets of Chicken Soup **“micro clusters.”** We don't call our product organic or natural, although it is carbon bound (which is the true definition of organic) and all of our ingredients are **naturally sourced.** *We call it “biologically correct” because our product stimulates the life in the soil and supplies all the nutrients commercial fertilizers neglect.*

A healthier soil ecosystem will help you grow higher quality crops that have **more color, better taste, less disease** and bug infestations, a longer shelf life, and increased nutritional value. Chicken Soup For The Soil® is **non leaching, non toxic,** and contains everything the soil microbes need to proliferate and feed the plant. **There is nothing else like it.**

Our factory in Idaho has the ability and capacity to manufacture this product in quantities for agriculture and packaging capability for the home and garden markets. Watch for it at your local home and garden store or send inquiries to **DrJimZ.com.** You will not regret it.

Thank you for your business!

Jim Zamzow

Dr. Jim Z

Chicken Soup for the Soil

Perfect For Agricultural Use
Hemp, Apples, Pastures, Almonds, Grapes, etc.

Best Natural Fertilizer On Earth

- Grow higher-quality fruits and vegetables with more color, better taste, and less bug infestations and disease.
- Contains all the elements in the periodic table (sea nutrients, amino acids, humic, fulvic, and other herbal extracts).
- All natural, toxin free, and bioavailable.
- Non-leaching formula / nutrients accumulate over time.
- Perfect for Gardeners, Growers, and Farmers.

64oz Jug
\$29.95
+ FREE SHIPPING

*Makes up to 128 gallons with 1 tablespoon per gallon.

Commercial Quantities Available
(Barrels, Totes, and Tankers)

208-602-2844
www.DrJimZ.com/FARM

5154403-1