

Asian giant hornet, a nemesis of honeybees, appears in Washington

By **SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN**
Capital Press

BLAINE, Wash. — As if life wasn’t hard enough for the honeybee, things just got worse with the appearance of a new hornet that can decimate hives.

While honeybees in North America face many foes such as lethal varroa mites, a new nemesis buzzed onto the scene in Washington state — an invasive species capable of killing honeybee populations, reducing crop pollination and stinging humans.

The pest is the Asian giant hornet. According to entomologists, it is indigenous to Asia, where it has many names: commander wasp, yak-killer hornet and tiger head bee.

The hornets are distinguishable by their yellow heads, long bodies and three-inch wingspans.

The hornets prey on other insects, feeding pulped bugs to their larvae.

Where similar species of hornets are established in Europe, they have wiped out 30% of beehives, reduced honey production by two-thirds and dramatically slashed crop production due to lack of pollination, according to Washington State Depart-

ment of Agriculture public engagement specialist Karla Salp.

A typical Asian giant hornet is five times the size of a honeybee and can kill up to 40 bees per minute, according to Tim Hiatt, a commercial beekeeper and member of the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

“No one knows what triggers it, but sometimes they literally go into slaughter phase, decapitating bee after bee and eating their bodies,” said Salp. “It takes 20 hornets to kill an entire hive in one to six hours.”

Probable sightings

The first Asian giant hornet sightings recorded in the U.S. were Dec. 8 by a resident of Blaine, Wash., just south of the state’s border with Canada. They had previously been confirmed at three sites in British Columbia.

Since then, WSDA has received 80 new sighting reports, three of which they deem probable. One was from a Bellingham beekeeper.

“Since these hornets are normally dormant in the winter, it’s unusual to find them active this time of year,” said Salp. “It’s probably because the winters are milder here,

Asian giant hornet facts

Binomial name: *Vespa mandarinia*

Origin: Eastern Asia

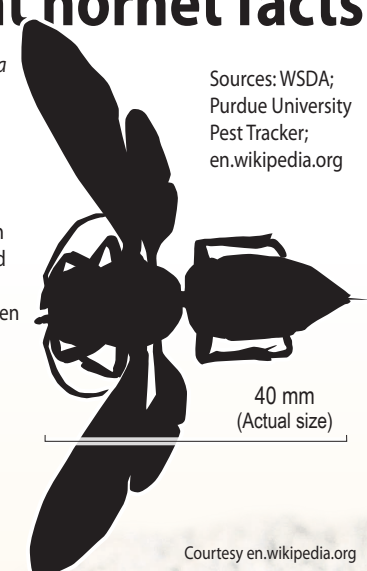
First observed in Washington: December 2019

Appearance: Adults are large — more than one and a half inches in length — with a light-orange head and prominent black eyes, a black thorax, and a mostly black abdomen with narrow yellow accents.

Diet: Insects; they can decimate honeybee hives.

Behavior: Nesting in the ground, they are most active July through October and typically dormant over winter months.

Sting: They have a large stinger with venom that contains a neurotoxin. Anaphylactic shock and cardiac arrest can occur in those allergic to bee stings, although multiple stings can be fatal to anyone.



40 mm (Actual size)

Courtesy en.wikipedia.org

Sources: WSDA; Purdue University Pest Tracker; en.wikipedia.org

Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

so they’re surviving better. It seems the Pacific Northwest is their ideal environment.”

Hitchhiking hornets

All it takes to establish a new colony is one mated female, said Salp. And to invade a new location, a queen hornet just needs to do a little hitchhiking.

“Honeybees are mobile,”

said beekeeper Hiatt. Bees are shipped across the U.S. to pollinate crops. Three-quarters of all managed beehives are shipped to California in February to pollinate almonds.

At the border, California Border Protection Stations, or as Hiatt calls them, “bug stations,” inspect for pests. In summer, finding stowaway hornets would be easy, said

Fish and Wildlife Commission to let public in, this time

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will allow the public to attend four committee meetings Thursday at which commissioners will talk about hatcheries, wolves and other issues.

The committees will meet back-to-back the day before the commission convenes Friday and Saturday for its regular meeting, which must by law be open to the public.

In contrast, the committee meetings are open at the consent of commissioners, and future committee meetings could be closed to the public, according to the commission.

Commissioner Kim Thorburn, chairwoman of the Wolf and Wildlife committees, said Monday there may be times commissioners will close meetings to hear from department employees and “argue about science and that sort of thing.”

“I’m sure there would be public interest, but it would hinder our ability to do the work,” Thorburn said.

Study: Removing Snake River dams would cost economy, environment

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

A new study finds that the costs to farmers and the region’s economy if the four dams on the lower Snake River were removed would average roughly \$76 million a year.

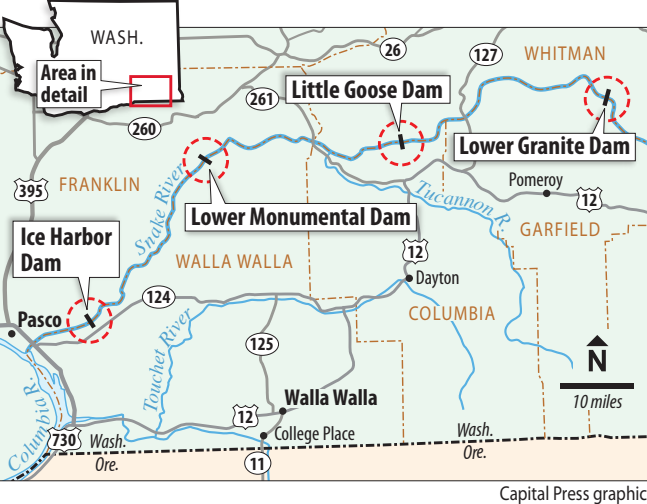
That equals as much as \$2.3 billion over the next 30 years, according to the study, which was commissioned by the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.

Some of the estimated costs are in the form of higher expenses for farmers and others would be for building and maintaining roads, railroad facilities and storage facilities. The overall impact on the region’s economy is also factored in.

“Rather than an opinion poll, this study relies on existing data...,” association executive director Kristin Meira told the Capital Press.

The association commissioned economic consultants FCS Group to develop the study to offset misinformation about the value of the Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite dams to the region’s economy.

The association wanted to provide a full picture of the impacts that would be felt if the dams were removed, particularly in the transportation sector, Meira said.



The study doesn’t include the cost of breaching the dams.

Information in the study comes from government agencies, commodity commissions and ports.

“We don’t create new data here,” Meira said. “We simply evaluate the data and determine what it means for the Northwest if the dams were to be removed. ... This is actual data with regard to the value of commodities that move and how much transportation costs.”

According to the study:

- Removing the Snake River locks would cause diesel fuel consumption to increase by nearly 5 million gallons per year as barges were replaced by less efficient trucks and railroads. Carbon emissions would increase by more than 1.2 million tons a year, the equivalent of putting 181,889 more passenger cars on the road.
- Transportation and storage costs for wheat, the dominant crop in the region, would likely increase from 40 cents per bushel to 60 to 80 cents per bushel with dam breaching, according to the study. That would cost the region’s farmers an additional \$18.9 million to \$38.8 million a year.
- Expansion and maintenance of highways, railroads and grain elevators would cost more than \$1.6 billion. At least 201 additional unit trains and 23.8 million miles of additional trucking would be needed annually.

Barges produce fewer emissions than any other form of cargo transportation, Meira said. The association found the carbon impacts of shifting to trucks and rail “pretty stark.”

“It’s hard to picture being concerned with climate change and being

in favor of dam breaching — they just don’t go together,” she said.

Idaho Wheat Commission board member Joseph Anderson, of Genesee, said in a statement that he would share the study’s results during a workshop in Clarkston, Wash.

The public can comment until Jan. 24 on a draft stakeholder report on dam breaching funded by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee’s office and the legislature.

“As this study shows,

the Snake River dam system is the most efficient option for transporting goods such as wheat, generating renewable energy via hydropower and preventing flooding in the Pacific Northwest,” Anderson said. “While removing or breaching the Snake River dams will not increase salmon numbers with any certainty, there would definitely be negative impacts on people, including growers.”

The waterways association’s report will be part of the information provided to the governor along with the stakeholder report, said Tara Lee, deputy director of communications for Inslee’s office.

Meira said the association hasn’t found any upside to removing the dams, related to either the environment, transportation efficiency or safety.

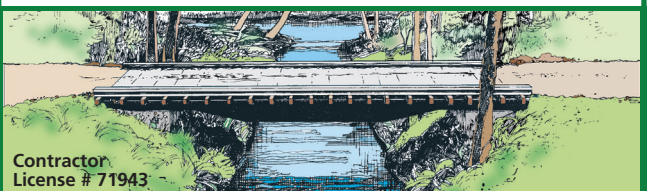
“We haven’t identified any net benefit to removing the dams,” she said.

LEGAL

TRUSTEE’S NOTICE OF SALE Loan No: 286394 T.S. No.: NR-51579-OR Reference is made to that certain deed made by, BRIAN J NEWRONES AND AMY L. NEWRONES, AS TENANTS BY THE ENTIRETY as Grantor to AMERITITLE, as trustee, in favor of MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC “MERS” SOLELY AS NOMINEE FOR EQUITY ONE, INC., ITS SUCCESSORS AND/OR ASSIGNS, as Beneficiary, dated 3/26/2003, recorded 3/21/2003, in official records of Marion County, Oregon in book/reel/volume No. 2095 at page No. 309, fee/file/instrument/microfile/reception No. XX (indicated which), covering the following described real property situated in said County and State, to-wit: APN: R63582 Lot 46, WATERFORD ADDITION,, City of Keizer, Marion County, Oregon. Property Commonly known as: 1376 Wisdom Avenue Northeast Salem, OR 97303 Both the beneficiary and the trustee have elected to sell the said real property to satisfy the obligations secured by said trust deed and notice has been recorded pursuant to Section 86.735(3) of Oregon Revised Statutes: the default for which the foreclosure is made is the grantor’s: The balance of principal and interest which became due on 4/1/2018, along with late charges, foreclosure fees and costs any legal fees or advances that have become due. Monthly Payment \$1,168.08 By this reason of said default the beneficiary has declared all obligations secured by said deed of trust immediately due and payable, said sums being the following, to-wit: The sum of \$124,841.38 together with interest thereon at the rate of 7.25 % per annum from 9/1/2011 until paid; plus all accrued late charges thereon; and all trustee’s fees, foreclosure costs and any sums advanced by the beneficiary pursuant to the terms of said deed of trust. Whereof, notice hereby is given that Darren J. Devlin, Esq., the undersigned trustee will on 2/24/2020 at the hour of 10:00 AM, Standard of Time, as established by section 187.110, Oregon Revised Statutes, at AT THE HIGH STREET ENTRANCE TO MARION COUNTY COURTHOUSE 100 HIGH STREET NE, SALEM, OREGON County of Marion, State of Oregon, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the interest in the said described real property which the grantor had or had power to convey at the time of the execution by him of the said trust deed, together with any interest which the grantor or his successors in interest acquired after the execution of said trust deed, to satisfy the foregoing obligations thereby secured and the costs and expenses of sale, including a reasonable charge by the trustee. Notice is further given that any person named in Section 86.753 of Oregon Revised Statutes has the right to have the foreclosure proceeding dismissed and the trust deed reinstated by payment to the beneficiary of the entire amount then due (other than such portion of said principal as would not then be due had no default occurred), together with the costs, trustee’s and attorney’s fees and curing any other default complained of in the Notice of Default by tendering the performance required under the obligation or trust deed, at any time prior to five days before the date last set for sale. TRUSTEE’S NOTICE OF SALE In construing this notice, the masculine gender includes the feminine and the neuter, the singular includes plural, the word “grantor” includes any successor in interest to the grantor as well as any other persons owing an obligation, the performance of which is secured by said trust deed, the words “trustee” and “beneficiary” include their respective successors in interest, if any. Without limiting the trustee’s disclaimer of representation or warranties, Oregon law requires the trustee to state in this notice that some residential property sold at a trustee’s sale may have been used in manufacturing methamphetamines, the chemical components of which are known to be toxic. Prospective purchasers of residential property should be aware of this potential danger before deciding to place a bid for this property at the trustee’s sale. Darren J. Devlin, Esq 5677 Oberlin Drive Suite 210 San Diego, CA by Darren J. Devlin (IF5# 17905, 01/08/20, 01/15/20, 01/22/20, 01/29/20)

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