



Joseph Haerberle
Marcey Clark, a crew leader at Owyhee Produce, gestures toward a field at the family farm straddling the Oregon-Idaho state line.

HOW CLIMATE

HAS CHANGED NW FARMING

Some impacts are more subtle as water supplies, temperatures and growing seasons vary

Editors Note: Fifteen years ago, the Capital Press and its sister publications at EO Media Group published a landmark series of stories on climate change. This month we begin a new series, Climate Changed, that will revisit many of the sources we talked with then and look at what has happened in the intervening years.

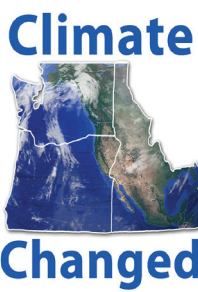
By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

Pat Dudley and her husband, Ted Casteel, began growing winegrapes more than 40 years ago in the Eola-Amity Hills of Oregon's lush Willamette Valley.

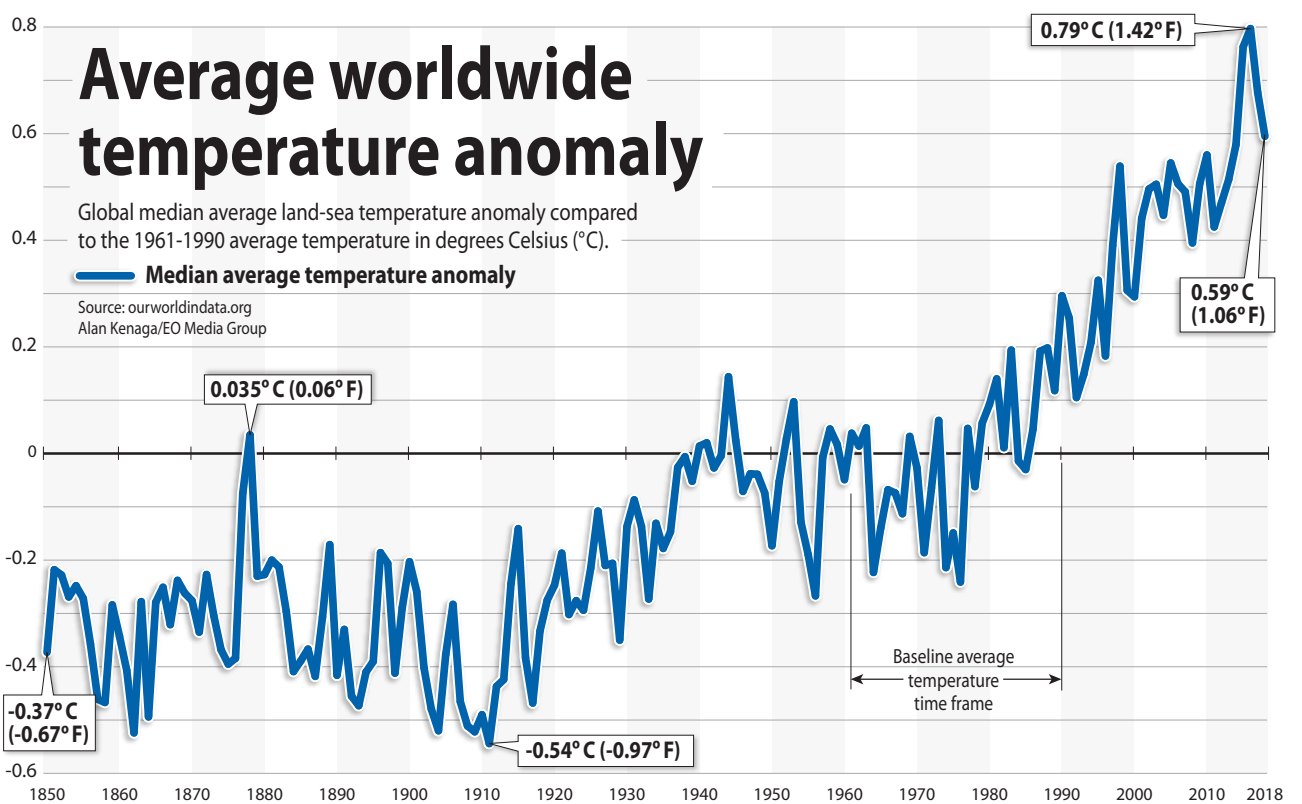
About 50 miles southwest of Portland, their vineyard lies in the direct path of the Van Duzer Corridor — a low point in the Oregon Coast Range where cool winds from the Pacific Ocean travel inland, creating the perfect climate for producing Pinot noir grapes.

While most grapes used to make red wine varieties prefer warmer weather, Pinot noir is a notable exception. Lower nighttime temperatures in the Eola-Amity Hills help to keep the fruit fresh, imparting higher acidity and lower alcohol content by comparison.

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Climate Changed



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press
Farmer Bill Case of Albany, Ore., points to the North Santiam River, which abuts his farmland in this Capital Press file photo. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has settled a lawsuit against Case that accused him of unlawfully reinforcing the river bank.

Oregon farmer must pay EPA \$100,000 penalty

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

To settle a federal Clean Water Act lawsuit, an Oregon farmer must pay a \$100,000 civil penalty, remove two rock embankments and convert an 18-acre field into a forest.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency initially filed the complaint against farmer Bill Case of Albany, Ore., four years ago, alleging he'd unlawfully reinforced the banks of the North Santiam River to prevent erosion.

The federal agency claimed that Case had created rock

levees along about 770 feet of the river in 2009 and another 1,000 feet in 2012 and 2013 without obtaining a Clean Water Act permit, which subjected him to penalties of up to \$37,500 per day.

Case said the rock embankments were necessary to keep sediment from polluting the river and to prevent floodwaters from eventually eroding his 50-acre field.

"What they're doing is totally eroding into the river. All this pollution is exactly what the EPA does not want," Case said of removing the embank-

ments. "This is absolutely polluting the river, totally."

Case argued that he'd relied on advice from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the embankments wouldn't fall under Clean Water Act jurisdiction as long as they were built outside the river.

"It was all approved by the Corps in the first place and we got witnesses to that," he said.

However, in 2018, a federal judge ruled there was "ample evidence" that Case had broken the law by working below the river's ordinary high water mark.

While the farmer had provided "sufficient evidence" of relying on government advice and being unaware of the need for a Clean Water Act Permit, the judge said Case was still liable for violating the statute because he hadn't shown the government had deliberately misled him.

Case said he's still troubled by the ruling.

"I don't know how that can be when the government tells you what to do and you do it," he said.

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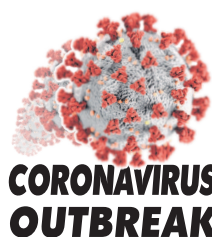
No end in sight for lifting state stay-home orders

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Restrictions on daily life may continue for many months and won't be totally lifted until cases of COVID-19 steadily fall and states are able to test, treat, track and quarantine more people to keep the virus from rebounding, according to officials in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California.

States have yet to fully quantify the scale of the task. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said state officials are still learning how fast hospitals are going through masks, gowns and gloves. "We honestly don't know how much PPE (personal protection equipment) capacity we need," she said.

Idaho Gov. Brad Little on Wednesday extended his state's stay-home order until at least April 30, though some retailers can reopen immediately if they offer curbside pickup. The governor said he expected more businesses to reopen next month, providing they can keep workers and customers spaced apart.



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

"I hate to tell people to be patient in these trying times, but that's the message," he said. "I gotta do what I gotta do for the good of the people of Idaho."

States have exempted agriculture from orders that have shut down businesses deemed "non-essential." The lockdowns, however, have caused widespread job losses rippling through the entire economy and changing consumer demands.

INSIDE
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Brown and California Gov. Gavin Newsom presented Tuesday what they called state-specific "frameworks" for reopening the economy and rolling back bans on social gatherings. Both declined to set numerical goals or timelines.

The governors said preconditions to rescinding their respective indefinite stay-home orders included being able to test people who showed symptoms, track down their contacts and isolate the sick. "It's not going to be easy, and it's going to take longer than we want," Brown said.

Washington Gov. Jay Inslee's chief of staff, David Postman, said Tuesday that the state didn't have specific bench-

marks. "I wouldn't expect us to say, 'When we hit this number, this will happen.' It's not that easy," he said.

The three West Coast governors, all Democrats, announced Monday they were forming an alliance to coordinate their responses to the coronavirus. The pact, however, had no immediate effect. State officials said they would come out with their own plans to guide their actions.

Little, a Republican, said he's interested in what the other states are doing, but added, "we are vastly different than those three states on the West Coast."

According to the University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, demand for hospital beds in Washington and Idaho have peaked, and will peak in California on April 17 and in Oregon on

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