

Washington Fish and Wildlife a firm 'no' on solar proposal

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has dug in against a proposal to build a 2,390-acre solar-power plant close to the state's largest collection of greater sage grouse.

More studies won't change the department's opposition to the Badger Mountain Solar Energy Project, as proposed by Avangrid Renewables, said Michael Ritter, Fish and Wildlife's lead on solar and wind projects.

Fish and Wildlife aired its concerns several months ago and recently reinforced them to the state's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

"We keep reiterating the

same thing," Ritter said.

Avangrid proposes to build the 200-megawatt solar plant near East Wenatchee in north-central Washington on mostly agricultural land leased from private landowners and the Department of Natural Resources.

A Spanish company, Iberdola Group, owns Avangrid. Iberdola describes itself as one of the three largest renewable energy companies in the world.

Avangrid is currently doing an in-depth environmental study. The state Attorney General's Office, assigned to be lawyer for the environment, warns that not building the solar plant could worsen climate change.

Fish and Wildlife, supported by environmental



Getty Images

Male sage grouse.

groups, has spotlighted the threat to the greater sage grouse. The bird is not federally protected, but Fish and Wildlife lists it as an endangered state species.

An Avangrid spokesman said in an email Thursday that the company as committed to working with stakeholders to address concerns.

"In siting and designing

the project, Avangrid Renewables has taken a thoughtful and transparent approach to avoid impacts to natural resources," the spokesman said.

Greater sage grouse assemble in two places in Washington. The largest gathering is about five miles from Avangrid's proposed project. Sage grouse have been known to come closer. Fish and Wildlife suggests Avangrid find another site.

A recent survey found 28 male greater sage grouse on Badger Mountain. Males are easier to count because of their showy style. A solar-power plant close to the lek could be the end of greater sage grouse in Washington, Ritter said.

"It's their last stronghold,

and it ain't much of one," he said. "You don't know how the disturbance will change the landscape."

Seattle-based Conservation Northwest said Fish and Wildlife already has presented enough evidence to block the project and warns breaking ground likely will cause the bird's extinction in Washington.

Assistant Attorney General Megan Sallomi, counsel for the environment, said the environmental study should probe the project's impact on greater sage grouse and other wildlife.

She also said the site council should consider whether the project will reduce greenhouse gases by displacing energy from fossil fuels.

As an alternative to

approaching counties, energy developers can apply to the site council, which is made up mostly of Inslee administration officials. The council makes recommendations to Gov. Jay Inslee.

East Wenatchee is the largest city in Douglas County. In a letter posted May 5 on the site council's website, county commissioners said the solar project conflicts with local land-use laws.

"The project represents a large-scale, industrial development in a rural area of Douglas County, which already exhibits a desired mix of residential and agricultural uses that is the foundation of our custom and culture," the three commissioners stated.

Most of Idaho's water supply still tight despite wet April

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

Idaho still faces tight water supplies and potential shortages even after last month's unusually wet, cool weather in much of the state.

"Despite the welcome increases in snowpack and total precipitation since April 1, the water supply likely will remain constrained this irrigation season," the Natural Resources Conservation Service said in a May 1 report. Water users "should prepare for a short irrigation season and possible curtailments."

Total irrigation demand can reflect crop mixes, conservation practices, weather at different stages of the growing season and other factors.

Erin Whorton, hydrologist and water supply specialist with the NRCS Snow Survey in Idaho, said the start of irrigation deliv-



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Ridenbaugh Canal in southeast Meridian, Idaho. Most Idaho irrigation systems will be short water this year, the Natural Resources Conservation Service estimates.

ery in April combined with reduced snowmelt runoff slowed reservoir fill rates.

NRCS said peak snowpack is either below normal or well below normal in all basins. Reservoir volume carried over from last irrigation season is below normal. Streamflow forecasts improved slightly from last month, when some snow fell at high elevations and cold weather slowed runoff.

Streamflow through July is expected to be above normal in the north and below normal in the rest of the state. But how much runoff makes it to streams and reservoirs depends on how quickly the remaining snowpack melts.

NRCS said the Climate Prediction Center's outlook

though July calls for warmer and drier weather than usual. Drought is expected to persist. The U.S. Drought Monitor reports about 82% of Idaho land is experiencing moderate to extreme drought.

Total precipitation from Oct. 1 to April 30 is above 90% in many basins. Those with the lowest include Weiser, Big Wood and Henrys Fork-Teton at 88%, Payette at 89%, Boise at 91%, Snake River above Heise at 92%, and Salmon at 93%.

Reservoir storage in southwest Idaho is 84% of normal in the three Boise River reservoirs, 95% in Cascade and 74% in Mann Creek.

In the central mountains, storage is 32% of normal at Magic Reservoir, 85% at Mackay and 96% at Little Wood.

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2013 AUDI Q5 UT
VIN = WA1FAFP8DA051990
Amount due on lien \$1455.00
Reputed owner(s)
KELLY PITTAM & JESSICA HILL
ONPOINT COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 MAZDA CX3 4D
VIN = JM1DKFB70L1469970
Amount due on lien \$1555.00
Reputed owner(s) CHRISTINE DENISON & KAYLA PATTULLO
OREGON COMMUNITY C.U

LEGAL
STATE OF OREGON
OREGON ALFALFA SEED COMMISSION P.O. BOX 688
ONTARIO, OREGON 97914
NOTICE OF ALFALFA GROWERS COMMISSION HEARING PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
TO: ALL OREGON ALFALFA SEED GROWERS

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to ORS Chapter 604, Section 14, Oregon Laws 2003, on Tuesday June 7, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. at the Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission Office, 168 Wellsprings Dr, Ontario, Oregon 97914.

The hearing will be upon a proposed budget for operation of the Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission during the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

At these hearings, any producer of alfalfa has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for public inspection, under reasonable circumstances, in the office of each county extension agent in Oregon.

Interested persons may comment on the proposed budget in writing to the Commission business office, address above. Comments to be received by June 1, 2022.

For further information, contact the Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission business office; P.O. Box 688, Ontario, Oregon 97914, telephone 541-881-1335. TDD 503-986-4762.

Curt Sisson, Chairman
Oregon Alfalfa Seed Commission
May 8, 2022

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 DODGE CVN VAN
VIN = 2C4RDGBG4R222885
Amount due on lien \$1555.00
Reputed owner(s)
TIZIA LEE ROBBINS
ALLY FINANCIAL

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2013 TOYT PRIUS 4D
VIN = JTDKN3DU2D5627428
Amount due on lien \$1555.00
Reputed owner(s)
KIRA MARIE PARAGON
BOEING EMPLOYEES C.U

LEGAL
The Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission will hold a public hearing to approve the proposed 2022-2023 fiscal budget. The hearing starts at 2:00 p.m. June 1, 2022 and will be held via Zoom Video Conferencing. Any person wishing to comment on the budget is welcome to do so either orally or in writing. A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection at osweetcherry.org. Contact julie@osweetcherry.org by 5:00pm May 30, 2022 to request a link for the video meeting and/or to submit a written comment. Please include your name and farm/industry in your emailed requests.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Oregon Sheep Commission Budget Hearing
In accordance with ORS 576.416, the Oregon Sheep Commission will hold the 2022-2023 Budget Hearing via video conference on Wednesday, June 1, 2022. Public comments on the proposed budget will be accepted beginning at 3:30 pm. Regular Commission meeting will follow comment period. Interested sheep producers may join the meeting by conference call:
Call-in Number: 1-253-215-8782
Meeting ID 859 9441 1264
Passcode 808283
To access the meeting via Zoom, please contact the OSC office by phone 503.364-5462 or info@oregonsheepcommission.com and request a link. Copies of the proposed budget are available on the Commission website: https://oregonsheepcommission.com/news/ or may be requested from the OSC office. Written comments may be submitted by e-mail or mailed to the OSC office: 1270 Chemeketa Street NE, Salem, OR, 97301. Please direct requests for accommodation of persons with disabilities to the OSC office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/19/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
A-1 TRANSMISSION
3653 SILVERTON RD NE SALEM, OR
2001 FORD ST
VIN = 1FDAF56F21ED68207
Amount due on lien \$9125.00
Reputed owner(s)
RAFAEL RANGEL

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2008 TOYT TUNDRA PK
VIN = 5TFBV54108X039734
Amount due on lien \$2135.00
Reputed owner(s)
RYAN MALIN DOUGLASS
INROADS FEDERAL C.U

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2016 HONDA CRV LL
VIN = 5J6RM4H77GL015814
Amount due on lien \$1435.00
Reputed owner(s)
JAMES & TERUKO SHIRES
FIRST TECH FEDERAL CREDIT UNION



George Plaven/Capital Press

Each room at Wafla's farmworker housing facility in Mt. Angel, Ore. has two beds, with 45 total beds available.

Wafla unveils first farmworker housing facility in Oregon

By **GEORGE PLAVEN**
Capital Press

MT. ANGEL, Ore. — A former dormitory on the campus of the Benedictine Sisters monastery in Mt. Angel, Ore., will provide housing for seasonal guestworkers as Willamette Valley orchards, vineyards, hop yards and nurseries grapple with mounting labor shortages.

Wafla, formerly the Washington Farm Labor Association, began leasing the building earlier this year from the Catholic Community Services Foundation. It is the organization's first housing project in Oregon, with three others in Washington — Yakima, Mesa and Okanogan.

Members of the community attended an open house on May 5, which also served as an introduction for new Wafla CEO Enrique "Rick" Gastelum, who was hired April 25.

As domestic farm labor becomes more difficult to find, Gastelum said more producers are turning to the federal H-2A program, which provides temporary visas for agricultural workers from places like Mexico

and Central America.

The number of H-2A visas issued by the U.S. Labor Department has grown every year since 2013, reaching approximately 258,000 in 2021. More than 90% of these seasonal guestworkers come from Mexico, with 3% from South Africa, 2% from Jamaica and 1% from Guatemala.

Gastelum said 30,000 H-2A workers were brought into Washington last year to help cover the industry's labor needs. While that number was not nearly as high in Oregon, he said producers are starting to feel the pinch.

"It's creeping up," he said. "They've got crops that need to get planted, and need to be produced. ... We want to keep food production here local."

However, to use the H-2A program farms must be able to provide housing that meets strict health and safety requirements. Wafla estimates it costs farms \$12,000 to \$15,000 per person, per bed to build their own housing, making it unaffordable for many small to mid-size businesses.

The dormitory in Mt. Angel was a perfect fit,

Gastelum said, since it already had the space and facilities necessary to qualify for H-2A housing. There are currently 45 beds available, with two beds per room, though Gastelum said occupancy could increase as Oregon's COVID-19 rules for workplace housing are loosened.

The building also has a communal kitchen, restrooms and enough showers to meet the minimum standard of one for every 10 workers.

Javier Garcia, a fellow H-2A worker from Mexico, will serve as the "field ambassador" for Wafla, living at the dormitory. Field ambassadors provide support to the other workers, Garcia said, explaining the rules and "what it means to live and work in the U.S."

If there is enough interest in the facility from local farms, Gastelum said Wafla may discuss long-term lease options or possibly buying the building and making farmworker housing permanent.

"We're always looking for these types of facilities that are turn-key," Gastelum said. "This is a great looking place."

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 FORD FUSION 4DR
VIN = 3FA6P0RU7KR259668
Amount due on lien \$1435.00
Reputed owner(s)
NICO BEARS WINSOR
ALLY BANK

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2015 NISS JUKE LL
VIN = JN8AF5MVXF561615
Amount due on lien \$1555.00
Reputed owner(s)
CYNTHIA MARGARET NEWMAN
BAXTER CREDIT UNION

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 TOYT CAM 4D
VIN = JTNB11HK0J3046408
Amount due on lien \$1415.00
Reputed owner(s)
KATHERINE & MICHAEL KELLY
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 CHEV COL PU
VIN = 1GCPTE1XH1221464
Amount due on lien \$1435.00
Reputed owner(s)
MICHAEL D BENEDICT

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2015 FORD XPL UT
VIN = 1FM5K8D81FGA34796
Amount due on lien \$1555.00
Reputed owner(s)
VAUGHN & MARCEEN RAMSEY
OREGON STATE CREDIT UNION

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2015 ACURA RLX 4D
VIN = JH4KC1F98FC000507
Amount due on lien \$1455.00
Reputed owner(s)
ZACHARY WAYNE SALISBURY
CARVANA LLC

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 FORD FUSION 4D
VIN = 3FA6P0LU3HR287825
Amount due on lien \$1455.00
Reputed owner(s)
BEYA KALALA & GRACE G BEYA

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/16/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2014 KIA OPTIMA 4DR
VIN = 5XGGM4A77EG343626
Amount due on lien \$1555.00
Reputed owner(s)
> DALANA SUE SEWELL
CAPITAL ONE NA

LEGAL
PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87
Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 05/23/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2021 TOYOTA SNA SV
VIN = 5TDKRKEC2MS072141
Amount due on lien \$1435.00
Reputed owner(s)
JINGWEI ZHU