

going after Oregon's wolf population that would have undermined the state wolf plan. Legislators did pass a bill that would compensate ranchers for livestock lost to wolves and created a \$100,000 fund for counties to deal with attacks on livestock by wolves.

Also in the \$100,000 range was the money that legislators approved to keep California sea lions away from Oregon salmon during fishing season. Salmon might fare better this year when it comes to predators — bald eagles apparently prevented 7,000 Caspian terns from nesting and reproducing this year, according to Bird Research Northwest. Terns (rather than dams) have been blamed for declines in salmon populations.

Finally, also on the greener side, Oregon's landmark bottle bill was updated, adding new beverage containers and opening the possibility of higher deposits. Mandatory inspections of boats for invasive species were approved and, with the exception of the spiny dogfish, it will be illegal to sell or possess shark fins (and thus make shark fin soup) after Jan. 1, 2012. — *Camilla Mortensen*

## IS LEED BOGUS?

A green building rating system widely used in Eugene for government buildings and in awarding tax breaks is under fire as

bogus for failing to consider urban sprawl.

The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program of the U.S. Green Building Council gives ratings up to Platinum level for "green building."

The city of Eugene increasingly uses the LEED ratings to gauge the environmental impact of new government buildings and in granting tax breaks under its MUPTE exemptions for new multiple-unit housing.

But the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) faults the ratings for giving top "green" awards to car dependent locations where the energy used in driving eclipses the energy saved by the energy efficient construction.

NRDC Director of Sustainable Communities & Smart Growth Kaid Benfield cites research demonstrating that "a home in an urban location will save more energy than one located in an outlying area, even if the suburban house has advanced green building features and the occupants drive hybrid cars."

Benfield writes on his blog, "even an ordinary building in a highly accessible, urban location is better for the environment than most anything that goes up in a greenfield."

Benfield cites a top LEED award two years ago to *Arbor South Architecture's* SAGE home in Eugene as a bad example. He faults the home for its car dependence, located on a dead-end street in North Eugene far from a bus stop and stores.

Benfield has been working with the LEED program for years to reform its ratings to give more weight to less car dependent and more walkable, bikeable and busable locations. But he said the LEED group is only "inching in that direction" with a pilot program.

Last month the widely respected Victoria Transport Policy Institute weighed in with a report adding to the pressure for LEED reform. The report detailed how new LEED transportation standards could work and called for building locations in bikeable, walkable neighborhoods with nearby stores and frequent transit services and for separately charging for worker and resident parking. — *Alan Pittman*

## FEATHERS: HAIR COOL OR HAIR CRUEL?

Ever since singing sensation Ke\$ha put feathers in her hair, a trend has emerged across and country and here in Eugene that has left fishing shop shelves empty and fly fisherfolks pissed off. Fashion-crazed women (and some guys) are running off with all of the feathers. But instead of being attached to a lure, these feathers are being woven into hair or are dangling from earrings.

The real issue is where all of these feathers, called "hackle," are coming from. You can't have a feather without a bird — or in this case, a rooster.

These roosters are bred to create the perfect long, thin, flexible feathers with a black-speckled pattern called "grizzly" that fly-tying fishers — and now trendsetters — lust after. And it's not as easy as just plucking one of these beautiful feathers and letting the rooster go back on its merry way. After living a year of a life that may not even go beyond a cage, these roosters are skinned for their pelts — particularly the "saddle hackle" that adorns their backsides.

And much to the roosters' dismay, this feathery trend doesn't seem to be going anywhere. Gwynne McLaughlin, owner of Studio Mantra Hair Salon, where hot pink grizzly feathers are the most popular, says more than 100 women — and a few men with longer hair — have requested these feather extensions since last spring.

These feathers "are a unique way to add flair to your hair without a big commitment," she adds.

So, what about the roosters' commitment?

"Animals are killed for our food all the time," McLaughlin says. "That bothers some people and not others."

Lin Silvan, founder and executive director of Eugene's Veg Education Network (EVEN), which works to promote education about the vegan lifestyle, said, "Animals are not here for us to eat or wear or use. If one must spend time preening, braid your hair with beads or ribbons and let the birds keep their feathers."

Studio Mantra, along with many other salons, uses feathers from Whiting Farms in Colorado, one of the largest producers of hackle for the fly fishing industry, and coincidentally for the feathery realm of the fashion industry. According to company reports, Whiting Farms harvests more than 1,500 roosters per week — most roosters don't survive the process.

Silvan points out that this cruel practice is self-serving, inflicting pain on an animal purely for vanity's sake.

"The important thing to remember is that we can choose" whether or not to use these feathers, Silvan says. "It takes the same amount of energy to choose compassion as it does to choose cruelty." — *Kendall Fields*



Ke\$ha

### LANE COUNTY SPRAY SCHEDULE

• **Western Lane County:** Seneca Jones Timber Co. plans to do aerial applications of Glyphosate, Imazapyr, Metsulfuron Methyl and MSO on 144 acres in five locations in T19S 08W Sec 20 and T20S 06W Sec22 near Gillespie Corners. See notice 2011-781-00500.

Compiled by Jan Wroncy, Forestland Dwellers: 342-8332, [www.forestlanddwellers.org](http://www.forestlanddwellers.org)

### The Draft 2012-2015 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) is now available for public review.

- There will be two local opportunities for the public to comment on ODOT's 2012-2015 Draft STIP.
- The STIP is the Oregon Department of Transportation's short term capital improvement program, providing project funding and scheduling information for the department and the state's metropolitan planning organizations.
- It is a four-year program developed through the coordinated efforts of the department, federal and local governments, area commissions on transportation, tribal governments, and the public.

#### Public review opportunities are:

<b>ODOT Offices</b> 644 "A" Street McLane Conf. Room Springfield, Oregon	Wednesday, July 13, 2011 4-5 pm (Open House) 5:30 pm (Public Hearing)	Open House; and as part of the regular meeting of the Lane Area Commission on Transportation (Public Hearing)
<b>Coburg Fire Station</b> 91232 North Coburg Rd Coburg, Oregon	Thursday, July 14, 2011 11:30 am	Part of Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Committee meeting (Public Hearing)

Residents unable to attend the open house or public hearings can comment online at: [http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/STIP/2012-2015\\_STIP.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/STIP/2012-2015_STIP.shtml)



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