



A small portion of the East Sand Island cormorant colony can be seen from a bird blind.

EO Media Group file

Cull: Audubon Society of Portland has challenged the killing

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be killing birds on the island through August. The goal is to reduce the colony from about 14,000 breeding pairs to 5,600 pairs by 2018.

The Audubon Society of Portland has challenged the killing in a federal lawsuit that argues the corps is ignoring the biggest threat to salmon, hydro-electric dams on the Columbia. Conservation director Bob Sallinger called on the corps

to allow independent observers on the island so the public can know how the killing is being carried out, and to call off the killing until the lawsuit has run its course.

“The idea of turning the largest cormorant colony in the United States into as shooting gallery and killing cormorants on the nest is a low point in terms of recent wildlife management efforts,” Sallinger said.

Winters said Wildlife Services personnel are focusing on

portions of the colony where eggs have yet to hatch, so as not to create a situation where chicks are left without parents to feed them. Numbers of how many birds have been killed and eggs oiled to prevent them from hatching are to be posted on a corps website on Thursdays each week.

He added the corps has a contract with people who are verifying the culling is being done in accordance with the environmental impact statement.



A double-crested cormorant rests atop of nest of eggs in the colony on East Sand Island.

EO Media Group file

Ketcham: Nine other finalists received scholarships from local businesses

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Gouge, who started the competition last year, said he got the idea from an auto dealer friend in Ohio who holds a similar contest at his Hyundai dealership. He lets schools create the criteria for students to earn tickets through academic and extracurricular involvement to increase their chances of winning the car.

“It gives them an incentive to do well,” Gouge said.

The nine other finalists who didn’t win a car got \$250 to \$500 scholarships from local businesses, including Teevin Bros., Mini Mart convenience stores, Fultano’s Pizza, Clatsop Distributing, Remax River & Sea and Lektro.

For more information, visit <http://astoriaford.net/driven/>

Bill: There is no limit if there is DNA evidence

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Sperou, 64, was pastor at a Happy Valley church. He was convicted in connection with only the youngest of the seven victims, who all chose to go on the record. The statute of limitations barred his prosecution on crimes involving the others, including Watson.

Watson and others favored an extension to 20 years — or even no limit.

“But it was not the statute of limitations that failed them,” said Thomas Sermak, executive director of Public Defender of Marion County Inc., in opposing the change. “The system failed them in other ways.”

The proposed 12-year limit would apply to four first-degree sex crimes: Rape, sodomy, unlawful sexual penetration and sex abuse.

The House bill mimics the change that lawmakers made in 2005, when victims of sex crimes under age 18 have until age 30 to seek prosecution.

Oregon most recently in-

creased its statute of limitations for rape and other serious sex crimes in 1989, when lawmakers raised it from three to six years. There is no limit, however, if there is DNA evidence available.

The current deadline puts Oregon among the states with the shortest periods, according to the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. About 40 states set it at 10 years or longer, and 28 of them have no limits.

Longer still?

Sen. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene, the Judiciary Committee chairman, described the 12-year limit as a stopgap pending a review of the limitations for first-degree sex crimes. He said he seeks a recommendation that lawmakers can be prepared to act on in the 2016 session.

Challenged by Danielle Tudor, a 1989 rape victim who told her story in the Portland Tribune



Sen. Floyd Prozanski

on Feb. 10, Prozanski said the review is not a “smokescreen” to head off legislative approval of a still-longer limit.

“I feel we have to go through a deliberative process and ensure that we are doing right,” Prozanski said.

Brenda Tracy, a 1998 rape victim who went public with her own story in the Portland Tribune and other media, talked about a previous rape that occurred when she was 9 and a third-grade student in Salem.

The perpetrator was the boyfriend of a babysitter, but Tracy said she told her mother about it only after her family moved away.

“I remember feeling my whole world was going to change once I told my mom what happened,” Tracy told the senators.

It did — but when she reported it to police, nothing happened.

“At 12, I did not know what the statute of limitations meant,”

she said. “I only heard nothing was going to be done. We all pretended it didn’t happen and I never spoke about it again until recently.”

Tracy said she represented only herself.

Tudor’s perpetrator was Richard Troy Gillmore, who was convicted in a different case and has been in state prison since 1987. Tracy’s four perpetrators were arrested but never indicted.

Gail Meyer, lobbyist for the Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, said several lawyers from the group met with Tracy and Tudor in an effort to understand each other’s perspectives.

“We just did not know how to find middle ground,” said Meyer, whose group now opposes any change.

“We see an unfortunate truth: All allegations of sexual assault do not look the same. Some simply are not true.”

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