

North Head Lighthouse set for major repairs

State provides \$1.3 million for next phase of restoration

By KATIE WILSON
EO Media Group



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This 2009 photo of the base of North Head Lighthouse shows substantial time- and weather-related damage suffered by the iconic structure, which will soon see an upswing in exterior restoration work.

CAPE DISAPPOINTMENT, Wash. — Money is now in place to continue much-needed repairs to a popular tourist destination and an important historical structure on the Long Beach Peninsula — though not as much money as Washington State Parks would like.

The department requested \$2.3 million to move into the next phase of work on North Head Lighthouse in Cape Disappointment State Park near Ilwaco, Wash. Instead, state parks received \$1.3 million.

Now, what they hoped to accomplish in only two phases — phase one was recently finished this spring — will be split into three, said spokesperson Virginia Painter. The funds received from the state's 2015-17 capital budget, which provides money for various infrastructure improvements, will go toward stone masonry repair and replacement at the base of the lighthouse tower as well as

throughout the lighthouse and other rooms. Since the parks department received less money than anticipated, project managers are working to re-scope the project, and will need to request more money in the next biennium to complete the next phase, Painter said. There could be another

phase of work after that to complete repairs and rehabilitation to the surrounding grounds, she added.

Still, the money will bring them a long way. North Head Lighthouse celebrated its 117th birthday June 6, and is one of the few such structures to still have most of its outbuildings intact.

Phase one work, which began this February and wrapped up at the beginning of June, replaced and restored damaged metal work throughout the lighthouse and painted its red roof black, the same color it would have been over a century before when it was operated by the Lighthouse Keepers.

The parks department has made other improvements to that portion of the park. Last year, contractors widened the narrow North Head Lighthouse Road, which leads to the lighthouse, improved the parking lot and carved out a paved multiuse trail through the trees parallel to the road.

Drought reduces hydroelectric output

By ZANE SPARLING
Capital Press

SALEM — A drought doesn't just mean less water. It also means less power.

On the Columbia and Snake rivers, where infrequent rains and an almost nonexistent snowpack have led to parched waterways and dangerous fire conditions, the amount of hydroelectric energy generated by government dams has dropped by almost one-third.

Through May of last year, 23 dams on the Columbia and its major tributaries produced 8.59 million megawatts of power, according to data from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

This year, during the same timeframe, the dams generated just 5.78 million megawatts.

"Water is our fuel on the hydro system, and there's just less of it," Bonneville Power Administration spokesman Joel Scroggs said. "We're prepared to handle

'When you're dependent on the weather, there's always a lot of uncertainty.'

— Joel Scroggs

Bonneville Power Administration spokesman

the dry year and we're hopeful that we'll see more water. Otherwise we'll manage accordingly."

The BPA, a federal agency in charge marketing electricity produced by the dams, provides almost 35 percent of the power in the region.

The system's portfolio includes major producers such as the Dalles Dam on the Columbia, where the water flow has dropped to roughly 145,000 cubic feet per second, from 235,000 cubic feet this time last year.

That's primarily due to the lack of snowfall, according to Bill Proctor, chief of hydrologic engineering and power for the northwestern division of the Corps.

It's not the snow you see on peaks — that sort of glacial ice is around all year. Instead, Proctor said, rivers are fed by runoff, usually rain or melted snow. And while precipitation fed the Pacific Northwest river system in the spring, the lack of snowfall at lower elevations has created the second worst runoff situation here in the last 55 years.

So on the Snake, one of the Columbia's major tributaries, streamflow has dropped to an estimated 25,000 cubic feet per second, compared to a normal flow of 54,000. It's expected to stay that way through the end of the summer.

Both the Corps and the BPA

say the drop in power production won't lead to an immediate rate increase for consumers and businesses.

"The BPA doesn't change rates every day," Proctor said. "Their purchase price doesn't affect your price today. But the rates you're paying now will affect the rates in the future ... when (the BPA) recalculates rates."

Karl Kanbergs, team leader for the reservoir control center, agreed.

"When resources are scarce, the price goes up. That's true for anything."

Scroggs, the BPA spokesperson, said the agency sets rates every two years. He said a prolonged, multiyear drought is a possibility, not a certainty.

"I don't think we want to play with hypotheticals. We're concerned with managing the system right now," he said. "When you're dependent on the weather, there's always a lot of uncertainty."

Warrenton triplex damaged in fire

The Daily Astorian

A Warrenton triplex was substantially damaged Monday night after catching fire.

The Warrenton Fire Department responded to the structure fire at 9:52 p.m. near the 92000 block of Whiskey Road.

"The upper half of the triplex was fully involved," Warrenton Fire Chief Tim Demers said.

No injuries were reported from the fire since the residents were out of the triplex.

One of the residents initially came home and saw a small fire near the outside deck. She ran inside to grab her dog, then called 911.

The fire apparently started from smoking material in the triplex, Demers said.

Nearly half of the triplex was damaged from the fire, including smoke and water damage.

"There is some significant smoke damage to all of the structure," he said.

Fire crews stayed on scene for a while to overhaul material and mop, Demers said.

Highway 26 to close for demolition work

The Daily Astorian

The Sunset Highway, U.S. 26, is closing in both directions Monday night for demolition work on the west side of the Helvetia Road overpass.

Single-lane closures begin in both directions at 8 p.m., with full closure in place by 10 p.m. All lanes are reopening by 5 a.m. Tuesday.

Both eastbound and westbound travelers will be directed onto the Brookwood/Helvetia off-ramps and the on-ramps leading back to the highway.

The U.S. 26 Northwest Brookwood Parkway/Helvetia Interchange project will improve traffic flow and safety in the interchange area. Project elements include:

- Constructing a new westbound U.S. 26 to southbound Brookwood Parkway exit loop ramp.

- Reconstructing the westbound U.S. 26 entrance ramp from Northwest Helvetia Road.

- Widening the Northwest Brookwood Parkway overcrossing to accommodate additional northbound and southbound lanes over U.S. 26.

- Extending the right-turn lane from northbound Brookwood Parkway to the eastbound U.S. 26 entrance ramp.

- Adding sidewalks and bike lanes within the interchange area.

For information, go to <http://1.usa.gov/1M8kvnS>

Man injured after jump from Youngs River Falls

The Daily Astorian

A man suffered a broken back, broken ankle and trauma to his head after jumping from the Youngs River Falls south of Astoria Sunday afternoon.

Olny-Walluski Fire and Rescue, Lewis and Clark Volunteer Fire Department and Medix responded to the scene at about 6 p.m. Sunday.

The crews assisted bystanders who pulled the man to shore and kept him on his back.

"It took quite a few of us to get him up the hill," Olny-Walluski Fire Chief Ron Tyson said.

The man, who has not been identified, was lifelifted to Portland.

Tyson said the Youngs River Falls are deceiving and more shallow than people realize.

"If they don't jump out far enough they hit a ledge," he said. "I've seen a lot of broken arms and bumps to the head."

Tyson said he would like to

see signs near the falls warning people about jumping. Signs have been posted in the past, he said, but are often pulled down.

"We would like to get something that would be a little more permanent," Tyson said.

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We will be celebrating **Paul Rodriguez's** birthday and memorializing his life at the Iredale Inn on **July 18, 2015 from 3-7 p.m.**

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The family would especially like to thank Brook, Paul's Hospice caretaker, for her excellent work and loving care; the staff of Hospice for the constant, attentive treatment; and the Caldwell's Luce-Layton Funeral Home for making the arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please send a donation to The National Colon Cancer Foundation.

Consult a PROFESSIONAL

Q: What is the advantage of buying produce at Astoria Sunday Market?

A: Produce and fruit tastes so much better when buying from our local and regional farmers. The vegetables and fruit have a chance to ripen naturally and you get to meet the growers. We have five primary farmers here the full season and about eight others that are here as product ripens.

Q: Does our medical practice NEED to upgrade from Windows Server 2003?

A: Yes. Using Windows Server 2003 after July 14 puts you out of HIPPA compliance. We can help. We are experienced with transitioning medical or dental practices to current Windows Server technologies. We back up your data, install your new equipment and make sure you are satisfied. Installation can often be done over a weekend, so your practice continues uninterrupted. Call for a free consultation.

Q: If I want to purchase upper line appliance brands, like Wolf, Sub-Zero, Asko, Dacor, Bosch, Thermador, Miele, Electrolux, etc., is there any local resource available for either the sales or the service of these premium brands?

A: Yes! At Roby's Furniture and Appliance we carry all of the most popular premium brand names in appliances. We have the combined buying power of five store locations along with our membership in one of the nation's largest appliance buying groups. It means not only will you find the brands that you want, but the service support to back them up....all available locally.

Q: Chew holes on the new leaves of my rhododendrons late last summer indicted they had root weevils. Is this a good time to apply beneficial nematodes to my plant's roots?

A: Yes, nematodes work best after the soil temperature has risen to 55 degrees. Soil warmth triggers the rhododendron root weevil to rise closer to the surface, making it an easier meal for the nematodes. Apply the nematodes after sundown or early in the morning to avoid sunburn. Water them in well and they will go to work for you. They also work for fleas, European crane fly, strawberry root weevil and other pests. Be sure to let the water de-chlorinate by drawing it 24 hours prior to adding the live nematodes. We have a good supply of them at Brim's and will assist you if you have further questions.

Q: I can't afford regular dental care. Are there some resources available to me?

A: We have third party financial groups that we work with, Care Credit, Lending Club, or your personal bank may offer low interest loans. Dentistry itself is not necessarily expensive, neglect and abuse are. Call to consult with us on your options.

Q: Does The Daily Astorian have a Seaside office?

A: Yes it does, located at 1555 N. Roosevelt Dr. on Highway 101, between Stop 'N Go and the Human Bean. Office hours are 8-5 p.m. Monday-Friday. We are here to help with any of your Daily Astorian, Coast Weekend, and Chinook Observer, Seaside Signal, Cannon Beach Gazette and Coast River Business Journal needs. Need assistance with advertising or placing an ad in south county? Give me a call at (503) 791-6615 so I can help you get "more reach at the beach."

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