

# Staffer sues Rosenblum, key employees for racial profiling

## Civil rights director files claim

By PARIS ACHEN  
Capital Bureau

The Oregon Department of Justice's civil rights director is suing Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and other department employees for subjecting him to racial profiling.

In a federal lawsuit filed Wednesday, Erious Johnson alleges special agents identified him as a "threat to police" based on a threat assessment performed with a software program that examined social media postings.

In addition to Rosenblum, the suit names as defendants Deputy Attorney General Frederick Boss, Chief Counsel Darin Tweedt, Special Agent in Charge David Kirby and Special Agent James Williams.

The lawsuit claims that

in September 2015 Williams used a software program called Digital Stakeout to search terms, including the Twitter hashtag, "#blacklivesmatter," in the Salem area. That search produced an image of Johnson and prompted Williams to download Johnson's entire Twitter account, according to the lawsuit.

A post on Johnson's account containing lyrics to a rap song by Public Enemy and an image of the group's logo led Williams to believe Johnson presented a threat to police, the lawsuit states.

Williams shared his concerns with Kirby, who was his supervisor. Kirby consulted Tweedt, who recommended a written assessment. Boss approved the written assessment. After Williams prepared the assessment, he submitted it to the department's counsel for review.

Johnson alleges that investigators never attempted to contact him or independently verify information, which



Pamplin Media Group

The civil rights director of the Oregon Department of Justice has sued Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and other members of the department for subjecting him to racial profiling.

was a violation of department policy. He didn't learn of the assessment until about two weeks after Boss and Rosenblum received the report.

According to the suit, Wil-

liams had no reasonable suspicion of a crime, and was not involved in a criminal investigation when he performed the original assessment.

Johnson claims the defen-

dants violated his First, Fourth and Fourteenth Amendment rights. He seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages and attorney's fees.

The Attorney Gener-

al's Office issued a statement Wednesday noting that Rosenblum has replaced staff members involved in the digital search of Johnson's tweets and taken steps to help prevent racial profiling. She fired Williams last summer and demoted Tweedt in January. Kirby left his post in May to become operations integrity director of Privateer Holdings in Seattle, according to his LinkedIn page.

Department of Justice employees also will be required to undergo cultural competency and implicit bias training, beginning next month, said Kristina Edmundson, a department spokeswoman.

The attorney general still considers Johnson "a valued member of her inner circle staff, as he serves as her outreach director to diverse communities throughout the state," Edmundson said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

# More Pacific Coast hatchery salmon could receive protections

## Genetically similar to their wild cousins

By KEITH RIDLER  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Federal authorities want to add more hatchery-raised fish to the 28 Pacific Coast salmon and steelhead stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The National Marine Fisheries Service in a document made public last week said 23 hatchery programs could produce fish genetically similar to their wild but struggling cousins and should have the option of receiving federal protections.

The agency recently completed a five-year review required for listed species and plans no changes to the threatened or endangered status for the salmon and steelhead populations found in California,

Oregon, Washington state and Idaho.

The review included 330 hatchery programs. About half of those are already involved in boosting listed salmon and steelhead populations. Other hatchery programs are intended to produce large numbers of fish for anglers.

The document proposes eliminating five of the hatchery programs from Endangered Species Act listings, meaning there's a net increase of 18 programs.

The 23 proposed programs are mostly in Oregon and Washington, but there are some in Idaho and one in California that involves the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery and its efforts with winter-run Chinook salmon in the Sacramento River.

Scientists say the net increase of 18 programs is part of a trend among fisheries managers of using locally adapted fish with the goal of

producing fish more able to survive in the wild.

"There's been considerable research on this and we generally understand that hatchery fish do not survive in the wild as well as wild fish," said Rob Jones of the National Marine Fisheries Service. "But we have gotten much better at understanding how to narrow that gap and produce hatchery fish that have a better and better chance at surviving in the wild."

Several watchdog environmental groups involved with salmon and steelhead and watershed ecosystems declined to immediately comment, citing the complexity of the federal proposal.

But Sara LaBorde, executive vice president of the Wild Salmon Center, gave an initial assessment.

"It seems like some of this language is housekeeping and some of it may have long term policy implications," she said in a statement. "At this point,

it's important for all of us to read the notice and understand it fully."

Conservation groups, in general, are concerned that an overreliance on hatchery fish could cause further declines in wild fish runs and additional degradation to the watersheds wild fish need to survive.

The watersheds themselves include dams needed to produce energy, control floods and provide irrigation. Other activities such as timber harvest and road construction can also cause problems for migrating salmon, Jones said, and the hatcheries are intended to mitigate for those losses.

Salmon and steelhead runs are a fraction of what they were before modern settlement. Of the salmon and steelhead that now return, experts say, about 70 to 90 percent originated in hatcheries.

Public comments on the federal proposal are being taken through Dec. 20.

# Feds release recovery plan for Snake River salmon, steelhead

By KEITH RIDLER  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Federal officials say changes in how dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers are operated are needed to improve migratory conditions for protected runs of Snake River Chinook salmon and steelhead.

A proposed recovery plan released Thursday by the National Marine Fisheries Service also says habitat needs to be improved in tributaries where fish spawn and

in the Columbia River estuary where young fish transition to ocean life.

Officials say the Snake River and its tributaries in Idaho, Oregon and Washington state at one time supported more than half of the Columbia River basin's summer steelhead and more than 40 percent of the spring and summer Chinook salmon.

But in the 1990s the runs were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

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