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ONE DOLLAR



DEBATE SPILLS OVER THE DAMS

Jesse Tinsley/The Spokesman-Review

A man fishes for salmon in the Snake River in October above the Lower Granite Dam in Washington state. There is a renewed push to remove the Lower Granite and multiple other dams on the Snake River to help wild salmon runs.

Locals get their opportunity to comment on the future of dams

By EDWARD STRATTON
The Daily Astorian

Supporters of the removal of four dams on the Snake River rallied at Astoria's Suomi Hall Monday before attending the last of 16 public scoping meetings organized by federal agencies to gather public comment on the future operation of the Columbia and Snake Rivers hydroelectric dam system.

The scoping meetings have been organized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bonneville Power Administration and the Bureau of Reclamation, tasked with gathering public comment and developing alternatives on how to operate the system.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The federal agencies are taking public comment on the dam system through Feb. 7. Submit comments and find more information at www.crso.info; email comment@crso.info or send comments by mail to: CRSO EIS, P.O. Box 2870, Portland, OR 97208-2870. After public scoping ends, the agencies will develop alternatives and draft an environmental impact statement, expected in late 2019 to early 2020.

INSIDE

Environmentalists want dam work halted. **Page 2A**

In May, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon ruled the current salmon recovery plan violated the Endangered Species Act by not doing enough to protect 13 listed Columbia River Basin species of salmon and steelhead. It was the fifth such plan to be rejected.

Simon's predecessor in the case, Judge James Redden, said after stepping down that the four Snake River dams — Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite — should be removed to help struggling salmon species.

Simon stopped short of such a pronouncement, but said the government needed to look at more aggressive approaches to help struggling salmonids, including removal of the dams. The four dams on the Snake River provide about 5 percent of the Pacific Northwest's hydropower, along with barge transport for agricultural products between Lewiston, Idaho, and the Columbia.

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Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Joseph Bogaard, executive director of Save Our Wild Salmon, speaks to a crowd at Suomi Hall on Monday in Astoria. Save Our Wild Salmon hosted an informational session before a public scoping meeting on Columbia and Snake River dams.



Danny Miller/The Daily Astorian

Dioniscio Y. Abing, representing the Chinook Nation, speaks during a gathering organized by Save Our Wild Salmon Monday at Suomi Hall in Astoria.

'Since the erection of the Snake River dams, I have witnessed the end of ... commercial canning in Astoria.'

Dioniscio Y. Abing

a self-described adopted member of the Chinook Nation who worked in the former Bumble Bee Cannery on Pier 39, said during the rally at Suomi Hall

Clatsop killer up for parole

District attorneys oppose release

By AMY FRAZIER
KOIN 6

PORTLAND — In 1976, George William Nulph kidnapped and murdered a woman in Cannon Beach. He was let out of prison about 10 years later and then raped women in Portland.

Now Nulph, who has spent the last 30 years in prison, is set for a parole hearing Tuesday.

The 64-year-old convict argues he's no longer a threat to the community and should be released. But district attorneys representing Clatsop and Multnomah counties are fighting to keep him locked up.



George William Nulph

The first case

In 1976, Frances Christians — the mother of two young children — was on her way home from work in Cannon Beach when Nulph kidnapped her, sexually assaulted her and shot her to death execution-style.

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Counties pushed to exit forest class action

Lawsuit seeks funds for change in policy

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Bureau

Fifteen Oregon counties must soon decide whether to opt out of a class action lawsuit seeking \$1.4 billion for allegedly insufficient logging in state forests.

As the Jan. 25 deadline approaches, a coalition of environmental and fishing groups is urging counties and the taxing entities within them — including school and fire districts — to exit the litigation.

The North Coast State Forest Coalition, which represents the seven organizations, hopes to send a message that counties and taxing districts see state forests as more than just "piggy banks," said Chris Smith, the coalition's coordinator.

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Former chief, fire district reach agreement

Lawsuit had alleged civil rights violations

By LYRA FONTAINE
and R.J. MARX
The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — The legal dispute between former Fire Chief Mike Balzer and the Cannon Beach Rural Fire Protection District is over.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Paul Papak in Portland dismissed Balzer's civil rights lawsuit against the fire district on Wednesday.

"It's fair to say the parties came to an agreement," Judy Snyder, the attorney representing Balzer, said Monday. "I would say that Mr. Balzer is pleased with the resolution."

'Personnel matter'

Balzer was fired in October 2015 in what the fire district's board described as a "personnel matter."

Records showed that Balzer, who earned more than \$100,000 in annual salary and compensation, was faulted for "poor leadership" in a performance evaluation.

Balzer challenged the fire district and individual board members in a lawsuit that claimed his federal due process and free association rights were violated. In a court filing, Balzer argued that the fire district made false statements "for the sole purpose of embarrassing and humiliating" him and fired him without a hearing.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

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Mike Balzer served as fire chief from 2012 to October 2015.



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