

Cormorants: Corps halted killing of birds

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According to an update Army Corps spokesman Karim Delgado received Tuesday, the Corps has seen no new nesting efforts on the island as of June 14. Last year, after abandoning thousands of nests and eggs, cormorants did not return to East Sand Island until the end of June.

Since finalizing a management plan in 2015, the Corps, which manages the East Sand Island birds, has secured permits to kill adult double-crested cormorants and destroy nests each year with the goal of cutting the massive colony in half by 2018, reducing predation on runs of threatened and endangered juvenile salmon. Last year, the agency's contractors killed nearly 3,000 adult birds and destroyed 1,092 nests.

Now, conservation groups say it is clear the Corps' activities are harming the largest known breeding colony of double-crested cormorants in the world. But the Corps blames bald eagles for this year's exodus and says the cormorants could still return and successfully raise chicks before the breeding season ends.

The Corps has halted any killing of the birds until it is clear if the colony will re-establish itself on the island.

Last year, double-crested

cormorants abandoned approximately 8,600 nests, but later returned to the island and established 3,900 new nests — numbers high enough that the Corps, which had suspended culling activities, resumed killing birds in October.

They ended the season with more nests than they would have if culling had gone ahead as planned, Delgado said.

"It's possible still with this year that the same thing could happen again," he said.

Eagles

Bob Sallinger, conservation director for the Audubon Society of Portland, sent a letter to Robyn Thorson, regional supervisor for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on June 13 requesting that, in light of this year's dispersal, she immediately revoke the permits the agency issued to allow cormorants to be killed on and around East Sand Island.

"It's very possible that the combination of eagle predation activity and lethal control activity being conducted by the federal agencies are acting in a cumulative manner to put pressure on this colony," Sallinger wrote.

"While the colony may have been able to withstand the pressure of eagles alone," he continued, "the added impacts of pervasive shooting, egg oiling and other elevated human activities has significantly increased

the scope, scale, frequency and intensity of threats to the cormorants."

The only reply he got was an acknowledgment that the agency had received his letter, he said today.

He had spoken with the agency before he sent the letter. "And they indicated that they planned to do absolutely nothing," he said. "They are leaving it entirely up to the Corps to determine whether or not to resume killing birds."

In his opinion, this is an abdication of their oversight role.

The Corps reported in April that eagles were disrupting early nesting attempts on East Sand Island. A whale carcass dumped at nearby Sand Island in early May in an effort to draw bald eagles away from the colony attracted up to 40 eagles. Crews worked to remove dead trees from East Sand Island that eagles could use as perches.

By May 1, the cormorants had established 258 active nests on the Astoria Bridge, a number that would only continue to grow. Delgado said there are approximately 600 nests on the bridge now, 100 more than last year. Thousands of cormorants have been spotted roosting there over the past month, but within historic levels, Delgado said.

Nest-building and breeding behavior among double-crested cormorants wasn't recorded on

East Sand Island until mid-May when the Corps counted an estimated 5,422 of the birds and 997 nests from aerial imagery.

On May 19, only a few days after this count, the Corps says bald eagles scattered the cormorants, driving them away from the island.

"Clear photographic evidence and real-time observation from blinds show bald eagles played a significant role in the dispersal of cormorants," the Corps reported in a timeline of events.

Population

According to the Corps, the double-crested cormorant colony on East Sand Island — that in 2013 included 14,916 nesting pairs — accounts for more than 40 percent of the entire Western population.

At this point, Fish and Wildlife, which monitors the overall population, does not have concerns about the Western cormorants. There are an estimated 76,306 breeding pairs total for the Western population, according to the agency's 2016 evaluation.

"Looking at that broader population level, we know that it's common for populations of cormorants to fluctuate and kind of ebb and flow," said Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Miel Corbett.

"The role of East Sand Island is a little bit less than originally assumed," she said.

Graduate: 100 Astoria grads applied for program

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The promise

Oregon Promise debuted this year, subsidizing tuition at the state's 17 community colleges for recent high school and GED graduates after federal financial aid and other scholarships were accounted for. The program offered up to nearly \$3,400 a year, the average annual tuition at community colleges.

Lloyd Mueller, Clatsop Community College's director of financial aid, said the program locally paid \$99,914 in tuition and fees for 61 students over the past year. Four students using the program earned academic transfer degrees this year, he said, while a fifth earned a certificate to become a medical assistant.

Karna said that most terms, she only paid \$40 to \$60 out of

pocket per class after financial aid. She is working two jobs over the summer, before moving in the fall to attend Portland State, where she expects to get more financial aid — and start taking out student loans.

"It's very amazing that this program exists," she said. "I never thought there would be something that could help me out this much. It really did seem like a miracle in my life. It was there when I needed it the most."

'Biggest advantage'

Local high schools have pushed as many students as possible to apply for Oregon Promise, regardless of their plans.

"I think the biggest advantage that it gives students is if they're wanting to dabble in



Katherine Karna

college," Beth Frausto, a counselor at Astoria High School, said. "If they know they can enroll in college and they have minimal cost, they're more likely to try community college."

Of the 124 Oregon Promise-eligible Astoria graduates this year, Frausto said, 100 applied for the program, with 85 meeting the minimum 2.5 GPA requirement. Statewide, more than 6,800 recent high school graduates used the Oregon Promise program over the last academic year. Endi Hartigan, a spokeswoman and policy specialist for the state's Higher Education Coordinating Commission overseeing the program, said the state funded \$11.7 million in tuition over the past year.

As more recent high school

and GED graduates enter community college, usage of the program is expected to increase. The higher-education commission has requested \$39.7 million to fund and expand the program over the next two fiscal years, which Gov. Kate Brown also recommended in her proposed budget for the coming biennium, along with \$151 million for the Oregon Opportunity Grant helping low-income students. But the funding level for such programs amid the state's efforts to fill a \$1.4 billion revenue shortfall is up to the Legislature.

"Certainly by the time the 2017 legislative session adjourns we will know the funding levels for the Oregon Promise, but we do not have a prediction as to when that vote will be taken," Hartigan said. "We plan to send notifications to student applicants in August."

TV LISTINGS

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

Evening listings WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY EVENING												JUNE 21	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs	Speechless	Modern Family	Amer. Housewife	To Tell the Truth (N)		KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	The Goldbergs	Speechless	Modern Family	Amer. Housewife	To Tell the Truth (N)		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel
4	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Big Shots "Forever Young" (SP) (N)		Carmichael (N)	Superstore	This Is Us "The Pool"		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show
5	KOIN	(6) KOIN Local 6 (N)	Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Undercover Boss		Criminal Minds "Profiling 202"	Code Black "Sleight of Hand"	Code Black "Sleight of Hand"		KOIN 6 News (N)	(35) Colbert
6	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	Evening News (N)	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	Undercover Boss		Criminal Minds "Profiling 202"	Code Black "Sleight of Hand"	Code Black "Sleight of Hand"		KIRO News	(35) Colbert
7	KGW	(8) KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)		Live at 7 (N)	Inside Edition	Big Shots "Forever Young" (SP) (N)		Carmichael (N)	Superstore	This Is Us "The Pool"		KGW News (N)	(35) Tonight Show
8	KRCW	(9) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Modern Family	Modern Family	Arrow "Penance"		Legends of Tomorrow "Abominations"	News at 10 (N)	Two and a Half		Two and a Half	Met Your Mother
9	KOPB	(10) Journeys in Japan	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Big Pacific "Mysterious" (N)		Great Yellowstone Thaw (N)	Nature "Dolphins: Spy in the Pod"			Earthcaster	
10	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News (N)		Family Feud	Family Feud	Chef "Feeding the Lifeguards" (N)		The F Word "Episode Four" (N)	10 O'Clock News (N)			News (N)	2 Broke Girls
11	KPDZ	(13) (5:00) MLS Soccer Por/MIN (L)		Portland Timbers	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	Family Guy	Family Guy		American Dad!	Cleveland Show
12	KCPQ	(13) Modern Family	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Chef "Feeding the Lifeguards" (N)		The F Word "Episode Four" (N)	Q13 News at 10			Q13 News	Simpsons Pt. 1 of 2
13	KIRO	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Wrecked	Wrecked	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Conan (N)	
14	KJZO	(22) Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Pre-match	MLS Soccer Orlando City SC at Seattle Sounders FC (L)			Post-match	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory		Two and a Half	Two and a Half
15	ESPN2	(29) NCAA Baseball		MLB Baseball New York Mets at Los Angeles Dodgers Site: Dodger Stadium -- Los Angeles, Calif. (L)					SportsCenter			SportsCenter	
16	ESPN2	(30) DRL Drone Racing		NBA Draft Preview		SportsCenter		SportsCenter	NBA Draft Preview			30 for 30 "Four Days in October"	
17	NICK	(31) The Loud House	Henry Danger	Henry Danger	The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDicky	Full House	Full House	Full House		Friends	Friends
18	DISN	(32) Jessie	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Bizaardvark	Stuck in Middle	Andi Mack	Bizaard/ Bizaard.	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	K.C. Undercover	Bunk'd	Jessie
19	FAM	(34) (5:40) *** Grease (78) Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing, John Travolta.		(20) *** The Devil Wears Prada (2006, Comedy) Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, Meryl Streep.		(10) *** The Heat (2013, Comedy) Melissa McCarthy, Michael McDonald, Sandra Bullock.		Little Women: LA (N)		*** The Watch (2012, Comedy) Vince Vaughn, Ben Stiller.		The 700 Club	
20	FMC	(35) (5:50) ** The Heat (13) Melissa McCarthy, Michael McDonald, Sandra Bullock.		Little Women: LA "Warrior Dash"		Women (N) / (10) Women		Little Women: LA (N)		LW Atlanta "Monie Gets Married" (N)		Women (N) / (10) LittleW.	
21	LIFE	(36) Little Women: LA "Fierce Fight"		MLB Baseball Detroit Tigers at Seattle Mariners Site: Safeco Field -- Seattle, Wash. (L)		The Ultimate Fighter (N)		UFC Knockouts		Post-game	MLS Soccer Orlando City SC at Seattle Sounders FC		
22	ROOT	(38) Mariners Access	MarinersPre-game	The Ultimate Fighter "Killahaw"		TUF Talk (N)		UFC Knockouts		The Ultimate Fighter		TUF Talk	UFC Tonight
23	F51	(39) The Ultimate Fighter	"Killahaw"	*** Pitch Perfect (2012, Comedy) Brittany Snow, Rebel Wilson, Anna Kendrick.		South Park	South Park	South Park	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle (N)	Lip Sync Battle	Pitch Perfect (12, Com) Anna Kendrick.	
24	SPIKE	(43) (4:30) Dirty Dancing Patrick Swayze.		(25) South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	The Daily Show (N) @midnight (N)	
25	COM	(44) (4:15) Futurama	(50) Futurama "Bender Gets Made"	America's War on Drugs "Gangs, Prisons and Meth Queens"		America's War on Drugs "Heroin, Terrorists and Kings of Pain" (N)		America's War on Drugs "Heroin, Terrorists and Kings of Pain" (N)		America's War on Drugs		America's War on Drugs	
26	HIST	(45) (5:00) America's War on Drugs		Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)		(05) Storage Wars	(35) Storage Wars
27	A&E	(46) Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)	Storage Wars (N)		(05) Alaskan Bush People	
28	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Alaskan Bush People "Field of Dreams"		Alaskan Bush People "One for All" (N)		Alaskan Bush People (N)		(05) Homestead Rescue (N)		(05) Alaskan Bush People	
29	DISC	(48) Alaskan Bush People	"Field of Dreams"	Alaska Troopers "Highway Hijinks"		Alaska State Troopers "Hairy Threat"		SouthJustice "Under the Influence" (N)		Year Million "Beyond the Cosmos" (N)		Alaska State Troopers	
30	NGEO	(49) Locked up "I Am Not a Terrorist"		*** Bad Boys II (2003, Action) Will Smith, Jordi Mollà, Martin Lawrence.		*** Rambo (2008, Action) Julie Benz, Matthew Marsden, Sylvester Stallone.		*** Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (11) Jude Law, Robert Downey Jr.		Christley Knows	Christley Knows	Christley Knows	Christley Knows
31	TNT	(50) Bones "The Bullet in the Brain"		Chopped "Star Power: Grand Finale"		To Be Announced		To Be Announced		Cooks vs. Cons "Burrito Incognito"		Cooks vs. Cons "Lunchbox Bonanza"	
32	AMC	(51) (5:00) Fury (2014, War) Logan Lerman, Shia LaBeouf, Brad Pitt.		Buying and Selling "Escape to the City"		Property "Fixer-Upper for Dog Lovers"		Brother vs. "Party-ready Decks" (N)		House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	Property Brothers	
33	USA	(52) Christley Knows	Christley Knows	Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014, Action) Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor, Mark Wahlberg.		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Fargo "Somebody to Love" (N)		(15) Fargo "Somebody to Love"	
34	FOOD	(53) Chopped		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		Anderson Cooper 360		Anderson Cooper 360		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon	
35	HGTV	(54) Buying and Selling	"Escape to the City"	Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight		The Five		Hannity		Tucker Carlson Tonight	
36	FX	(56) Movie	Transformers: Age of Extinction (2014, Action) Nicola Peltz, Jack Reynor, Mark Wahlberg.	Jay Leno's Garage "Space Age"		Jay Leno Garage "The Essence of Cool"		Leno Garage "Original and Unrestored"		Jay Leno's Garage "California Cruisin'"		Paid Program	Paid Program
37	CNN	(57) Anderson Cooper 360		Housewives "Black Out and Get Out"		Real Housewives (N)		Housewives "Regency Reunion" (N)		Then and Now "Being Rich" (SF) (N)		WatchWhat (N)	Real Housewives
38	FNC	(58) The Five		*** This Is Spinal Tap (84) Michael McKean.		(45) *** Freaks (1932, Horror) Olga Baclanova, Roscoe Ates.		*** Eating Raoul (82, Comedy) Mary Woronov, Paul Bartel.		*** Eating Raoul (82, Comedy) Mary Woronov, Paul Bartel.		(45) Withnail and I	
39	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank		*** Zombieland (2009, Action) Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Woody Harrelson.		**** John Wick (14, Action) Adrianne Palicki, Bridget Moynahan, Keanu Reeves.		Blood Drive (N)		Death Race 2050 (17) Manu Bennett.		Death Race 2050 (17) Manu Bennett.	
40	BRAV	(63) Real Housewives "Two Weeks Notice"		Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments
41	USA	(64) (5:00) Harold and Maude Ruth Gordon.		Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments
42	TCM	(66) (5:00) Harold and Maude Ruth Gordon.		Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments
43	SYFY	(65) *** Zombieland (2009, Action) Jesse Eisenberg, Emma Stone, Woody Harrelson.		Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments
44	RFD	(62) Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Women's Rodeo	Equestrian Nation	Total Team Roping	Rural Eve. News	The Final Spin	WesternSport	Cowboy TV	Cowboy Moments	Product Showcase	

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