

Coal export terminal gets water-quality approval from Oregon

PENDLETON, Ore. (AP) — Oregon environmental regulators have ruled that proposed coal export terminal on the Columbia River meets state and federal water-quality standards, but the project still faces an adverse ruling from another state agency and questions about its economics in a slumping coal market.

The state Department of Environmental Quality issued a water-quality certification Tuesday to the proposed Coyote Island Terminal at Boardman, The East Oregonian reported.

The terminal would receive coal arriving by rail from Montana and Wyoming and put it on barges. Downriver, the barges would be offloaded at another terminal, and the coal put on oceangoing vessels, bound for Asia.

Shipments to the Boardman terminal could total 8.8 million tons a year.

The state land department has rejected a permit for the project, saying it could interfere with tribal fishing rights. An appeal hearing is scheduled for December.

Critics have questioned whether the project would break even on a \$242 mil-

lion investment, given slumping coal markets overseas. Last year, the Australian company Ambre Energy sold its North American coal assets to Resource Capital Funds, a private equity firm in Denver, after failing to draw other investors.

The Department of Environmental Quality issued what's called a 401 Water Quality Certification that the terminal would meet state and federal water quality standards, so long as the developer meets a long list of conditions. For example, the terminal would have to be shut down and appropriate agencies notified if a water-quality problem leads to dead or distressed fish.

Environmentalists have fought the terminal, one of several new proposals for moving fossil fuels from the interior of North America for use on the West Coast or Asia.

The state of Wyoming is prepared to borrow \$1 billion to pay for coal exports from the Northwest, and Wyoming and Montana are backing the appeal of the decision handed down by the Oregon Department of State Lands.



Photo by Bruce Ely/The Oregonian, staff

THE PORT OF MORROW in Boardman, Ore., where Australia-based Ambre Energy proposed a coal export terminal called the Morrow Pacific project to send 8.8 million tons of coal annually to Asia.

Local "Bikefest" event promotes bike-friendly ideas for Goldendale

By **AKASHA SPINO-BYBEE**
For The Goldendale Sentinel

Goldendale has suffered many economic losses in its time, from the timber industry coming to a swift halt to the aluminum plant shutting down, Goldendale's economy has steadily declined. Thankfully, innovation lies in the mind of a local man with a passion.

"I was a professional cowboy with the Northwest Rodeo Association and one of the things I did to stay in shape was ride my bicycle," says Brock Warrener, a member of the Trail Riding Association of Central Klickitat (TRACK). "Later on, my horse died and I started to ride my bicycle more often and I found it was a great way to bond with my girlfriend's son. So we'd go over to Hood River

and ride some pump tracks. So I started wondering how we could ride somewhere locally without having to ride on dangerous roads and so we wouldn't have to spend our money elsewhere."

This very thought began a progressive study that Warrener spent months researching. "I started researching mountain bike communities and what other bicycling groups had done to bring about change in their towns and I was overwhelmed with information," he says. "One thing I found was a town called Oakridge (Oregon), which is very similar to Goldendale. It's a town with a population of 3,000 people who had a large timber industry, which in 1989, shut down. So a bunch of these people decided to use the town's

natural assets and started building a network of trails and over the last 35 years, have developed over 500 miles of trails. Because of this, in the past five years, 13 new businesses have opened, including bike shops and breweries. One way they have attracted the bicyclists is implementing several bike racks."

Warrener, who sees the potential Goldendale has in taking part of Washington's \$3 billion industry that is outdoor recreation, is challenging the community to make changes for the better, starting with a bike rack competition. Warrener is offering our community a substantial prize for the best bike rack created, all with hopes that people will enjoy the idea of giving our bicyclists somewhere to place their bikes while

doing some shopping and by giving our community the opportunity to leave an artistic legacy on the town. Along with the bike racks, Warrener plans to host a "Bikefest," where he will take those who attend (and their bikes) on a tour around central Klickitat to consider some places to create some bike trails and to ride those pre-existing.

"At 8:30 a.m., we'll have a meet and greet with coffee provided by our sponsors here at the Goldendale pool. At 9 a.m., we'll load our bikes in a van provided by U-Haul and board a bus provided by Centerville School and go to some spots around the central Klickitat area where we can ride and envision some possible future trail spots. Then, we'll get back on the bus and be dropped off at Observatory

Hill, where we'll ride our bikes down the trails back to the pool and have lunch. After that, we'll have a 'bicycle rodeo' and skills demonstration. Bicycle helmets will also be provided for those without helmets. Later, we'll have some games to play and have the bicycle rack grand prize giveaway. That night, there'll be a concert with Manimal, a band from Portland, at the American Legion. Tickets will be \$15 at

the door and \$10 pre-sale, available through me."

To show your support make plans to attend the Bikefest on May 9, at the Goldendale pool and purchase tickets for Manimal House by calling Warrener at 360-773-7712 or by emailing him at warrenerbrock@gmail.com. "I'm dreaming big," he says.

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Oregon ski areas ask Legislature for liability protection

By **JONATHAN J. COOPER**
Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Ski areas are asking the Oregon Legislature for enhanced protection from lawsuits after the state Supreme Court invalidated the broad liability waivers often printed on the back of lift tickets.

Ski facility executives told the Senate Judiciary Committee Monday that they may have to raise their prices if they aren't shielded from lawsuits. They warned of potentially dire consequences for the rural businesses that rely on skiers in winter months.

But Lauren Bagley, whose son was injured as a teenager at Mount Bachelor in 2006, said ski companies should be held accountable when their

man-made equipment fails. Her son, Myles Bagley, was 18 when he fell on a jump and was paralyzed. Mount Bachelor has not been found at fault, but the Supreme Court decision in November gave Bagley the chance to argue in court that the resort was negligent.

Lauren Bagley acknowledged that some factors in ski injuries are beyond the control of ski operators, but said they shouldn't be able to shirk liability for man-made equipment or enhancements to the slope.

"Humans make mistakes," she told the legislative committee. "They cannot deny the fact that possibly a mistake was made. Not everything is an accident. Some things are preventable. They just shift the blame to the

skier, constantly to the skier."

A 1979 Oregon law declares that skiing is an inherently risky activity and shields ski area operators from liability in some instances. Until last year's Supreme Court case, it was routinely used to block lawsuits by injured skiers and snowboarders.

The bill proposed this year would nullify the decision for future cases, making broad liability waivers enforceable in court. It would prevent lawsuits alleging the ski area was negligent or created unreasonable conditions. Ski resorts would only be liable for intentional acts by their staff or for "gross negligence," a higher legal standard.

Without the liability waiver,

ski areas would be forced to litigate each case brought by an injured skier or snowboarder, even if it ultimately proved it was not negligent, said Andy Ballyeat, a Bend attorney who represents Mount Bachelor and other ski businesses.

"The impact of not updating the skier statute will eventually cost jobs, limit access to public lands, and threaten the economic stability of these areas and the state of Oregon as a whole," said Matthew Drake, chairman and chief executive of Mt. Hood Meadows.

Floyd Prozanski, a Eugene Democrat who chairs the Judiciary Committee, asked both sides to work together and see if there's room for agreement.

Forest Service to hold forest-level listening sessions

Forest Service responds to desire for more Forest Plan Revision Listening Sessions

PORTLAND, Ore. — The Pacific Northwest Region announced today plans for holding additional forest management plan revision listening sessions. Eleven lis-

tening sessions are planned so far in locations throughout Oregon and Washington. These sessions follow an initial round of listening sessions held earlier in Portland, Seattle and Redding, CA.

"We promised to evaluate the need for additional Forest-level listening sessions," said Jim Peña, Pacific Northwest Regional Forester. "We heard a strong desire for more sessions, so we're holding the next round at local forest locations to further

our commitment to engaging with and listening to the concerns of our communities."

The purposes of the sessions are to:

- Share our current thinking on plan revision,
- Share how science will inform the process, and
- Listen to ideas and thoughts about how to approach public engagement for forest plan revisions on each National Forest.

The Dates, Locations and Forest(s) follow:

April 28th — Olympia

Olympic and Gifford Pinchot

April 28 (tent.) — Bend or LaPine

Deschutes

TBD — Hood River

Mt. Hood, Columbia Gorge Scenic Area, Gifford Pinchot

Specific locations and times will be announced by each Forest as their plans are finalized, and posted on forest and region websites at www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/andmanagement/?cid=stelprd3831710

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Answers on Page A6

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| 5 | 4 | | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 1 |
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