



## LIGHT LOAD, SHARP TURN

The driver of an empty moving van heading east on Sherman Street attempted a left turn onto angular E. Second Street Thursday and got pinched by the slope and an oak tree and home on the northeast corner. The slope of the road and the fact that the trailer was empty created a half-inch gap between tires and asphalt, and without traction John Cooper of Vancouver could go neither forward nor reverse. Bishop Towing of Goldendale responded and pulled the truck west, and uphill, enough to get it loose. Neighbors said vehicles jackknife at the intersection several times a year. Cooper was heading to the Heights and took a wrong turn off Serpentine, learning later that 13th was his best uphill access.

Photo by Kirby Neumann-Red

## Rally looks at sea lion predation

Faced with unprecedented levels of predation from growing numbers of sea lions in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, leaders from the Columbia River Treaty Tribes, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the recreational fishing community were joined at a public gathering on the shore of the Willamette River by Oregon U.S. Rep. Kurt Schrader and hundreds of concerned citizens to support the passage of federal legislation to protect endangered salmon.

The rally, dubbed the Sea Lion Predation Forum, was held at Clackamette Park just downriver from Willamette Falls, one of the locations where sea lion predation is most acute and taking a starting toll on returning endangered salmon and steelhead populations. Willamette Falls is a traditional fishing site of the Warm Springs, Wasco and Yakama Nation. The broad coalition of tribal, state, and fishing organizations came together to draw attention to the urgent need to pass H.R. 564, federal legislation cosponsored by Congressman Schrader, to give tribal, state, and federal fisheries managers the authority to address this growing threat to public safety and the survival of endangered fish populations in the Columbia River basin.

"We know from experience that unchecked sea lion predation can wipe out an entire run of fish as they did to Lake Washington winter steelhead," said Carlos Smith, Chairman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. "We simply can't allow that to happen in the Columbia Basin. This problem can be addressed, but we need the right tools. Congress can provide some of those tools by passing H.R. 564."

"Fifteen years ago it was extremely rare to see a sea lion at Bonneville Dam or Willamette Falls," said Bruce Polley, Vice President of the Coastal Conservation Association Oregon. "The huge influx of sea lions entering the Columbia and Willamette and the resulting impacts on our fish populations is an unnatural and unprecedented threat. We appreciate Congressman Schrader's leadership on H.R. 564 and urge the rest of Oregon's Congressional Delegation to support this needed legislation."

Sea lion abundance in the lower Columbia River has increased over the last three years, from about 200 to nearly 2,500 this spring. Predation in the Bonneville Dam tailrace in 2015 was over 8,000 salmon and steelhead, more than double the average from the last several years. In 2014, ODFW estimated sea lions below Willamette Falls consumed 8 percent of the endangered Willamette River spring Chinook run and 13 percent of the steelhead run.



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