

# With Klamath bill uncertain, dam relicensing moves forward

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA  
Associated Press

PORTLAND — The process to relicense the hydroelectric dam system on the Klamath River will likely move forward if Congress fails to act by the end of the year on historic settlement agreements to remove four of the dams.

The Klamath River basin, which straddles Oregon and California, has long been the site of intense political fights over the sharing of scarce water between farms and fish. The agreements to remove the dams, hammered out by farmers, tribes, environmentalists and states, were a compromise to restore the river for imperiled salmon and steelhead, and give farmers greater certainty about irrigation water.

Congress must pass legislation to implement the agreements, but House Republicans have blocked it for years, fearing it would set a precedent for dam removal.

In October, U.S. Rep. Greg Walden — a staunch dam removal opponent whose Oregon district includes one of the dams — said he was close to drafting a bill in the House. He has not released any details. His office this week said the lawmaker would convene a meeting Thursday with key Congressional leaders to discuss “a way forward” on Klamath Basin water issues.

If there’s no legislation by the end of the year, when the agreements expire, several parties indicated they might abandon the settlement.

“It’s not that we don’t believe in the deal, it’s that we’ve tried for years... and have not been able to get support in Congress,” said Craig Tucker, Klamath coordinator with the Karuk Tribe, one of four federally recognized tribes that



In this 2009 file photo, water trickles over Copco 1 Dam on the Klamath River outside Hornbrook, Calif.

support the agreements. “If we can get tribal leaders and ranchers to come to an agreement to share water, it’s shocking that we can’t bring our Congressmen along with us.”

Relicensing of the Klamath dams with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which licenses hydro-power projects for 30 to 50 years, has been on hold for several years while groups negotiated for a federal bill.

As part of the relicensing process, the dams’ owner and operator — PacifiCorp — must apply for water quality certifications in California and Oregon. This week, the California State Water Resources Control Board announced the public process was restarting; scoping meetings are scheduled for January. California’s process formally resumed in 2013, when the water board started working with PacifiCorp on an

updated application — but no public meetings have been held.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality said its process remains on hold.

If the federal government were to issue a new license to the utility, it would impose mitigation measures to reduce environmental impacts, including modifications to the aging dams’ infrastructure and operations such as fish ladders or water quality improvements.

Those measures are needed because the dams thwart salmon migration, degrade water quality, alter water flows, and contribute to fish disease problems and algae bloom problems. Three tribes depend on the fish for subsistence and ceremonial needs, and a fourth hopes fish will return once the dams are removed.

# Postal service warns newspaper about pot ads

By TAYLOR W. ANDERSON  
The Bulletin

PORTLAND — The U.S. Postal Service office in Portland delivered some potentially bad news last week to Northwest newspapers: If news outlets run ads for the region’s booming marijuana industry, they might be violating federal law.

The Friday memo pointed out it was illegal “to place an ad in any publication with the purpose of seeking or offering illegally to receive, buy, or distribute a Schedule I controlled substance,” according to a copy sent to the editor-publisher of the *Chinook Observer* in Long Beach, Washington.

“If an advertisement advocates the purchase of clinical marijuana through a Medical Marijuana Dispensary, it does not comply with” the law.

The memo quickly caused confusion and concern among publishers whose newspapers have published ads for dispensaries and manufacturers in the region’s now two legal cannabis industries, medical and recreational marijuana.

While Oregon voters legalized medical marijuana in 1998 and recreational marijuana for adult use in 2014, the plant is still illegal at the federal level. Any newspaper with pot ads would violate a federal law preventing advertising for illicit goods, the postal service said.

That’s left publishers seeking answers in parts of Oregon, where medical marijuana shops exploded in number and later converted to recreational shops that use billboards, websites and news ads to showcase their products in a highly competitive market.

If the postal service,

which delivers newspapers for some subscribers, refused to deliver papers with marijuana ads in them, it could have a potential chilling effect on news outlets that are scrambling to find new revenue.

“For our weekly in Washington state, *Chinook Observer*, it’s a large deal,” Steve Forrester, president and CEO of the EO Media Group, which publishes the *Observer*, said Tuesday. “They’re about a 6,000 circulation (paper). Half of it goes through the mail, which is true of a lot of rural weeklies.”

Mark Scarborough, postmaster in Long Beach, delivered the news to the *Observer* and declined to comment on the memo, which he called a “reminder of existing federal law” that “was not a directive.”

It wasn’t clear what provoked the reminder. A USPS spokesman only cited the federal law mentioned in the memo.

Forrester said he has contacted the offices of Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Earl Blumenauer, both Oregon Democrats who are avid supporters of the marijuana legalization effort, and was waiting to hear back.

Staff members for Blumenauer and Wyden confirmed the offices talked by phone with the U.S. Postal Service to hear more about the issue. They say they have asked for clarification from the agency on “what appears to be an outdated interpretation” of the law.

“Both the senator and congressman expect an explanation as soon as possible and are committed to working toward a resolution that reflects the decision made by their constituents at the ballot box to legalize and regulate marijuana,” Hank Stern, a Wyden spokesman, said in an emailed statement.

# Feds investigating Oregon DHS grants to foster care

By HILLARY BORRUD  
Capital Bureau

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is investigating whether the Oregon Department of Human Services submitted false or improper claims for payment under a federal grant.

The federal agency’s Office of Inspector General served a subpoena on the state agency Nov. 13 for records related to the Portland foster care agency Give Us This Day. The

agency faces allegations of child neglect and misuse of funds, including \$2 million the Oregon Department of Justice said the agency wasted on travel, designer luggage and other expenses.

Oregon Department of Human Services receives federal funding including a specific grant mentioned in the subpoena, which prompted the inspector general’s inquiry into how those funds might have been spent on Give Us This Day.

*Willamette Week* first reported the federal inves-

tigation Wednesday, and the newspaper also wrote stories documenting that top Department of Human Services administrators ignored reports of problems at the Portland foster care agency Give Us This Day.

The subpoena calls for the state to hand over a broad range of documents going back to January 2007, including records of all cash advances and other payments to Give Us This Day and contracts and data for all children placed with the agency.

The state faces a Dec. 14 deadline to provide documents listed in the subpoena, according to a letter from Steven Ryan, acting special agent in charge.

A spokesman for DHS declined to comment, citing the open investigation. A spokeswoman for Gov. Kate Brown, who has ordered an independent review of the agency, did not immediately respond to a request for comment on whether the federal investigation would delay or otherwise impact that review.

# Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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**AccuWeather.com Forecast**

**TODAY** A little morning rain; cloudy  
**FRIDAY** Cloudy most of the time  
**SATURDAY** Rain and drizzle in the p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Cloudy with a couple of showers  
**MONDAY** Cloudy, showers around; breezy

**PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
43° 38° 47° 34° 48° 44° 51° 42° 52° 43°

**HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST**  
39° 37° 48° 32° 47° 41° 49° 40° 53° 44°

**ALMANAC**

**PENDLETON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH 43° LOW 23°  
Yesterday 29° 23°  
Normals 41° 28°  
Records 67° (1975) 6° (1985)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.13"  
Month to date 0.13"  
Normal month to date 0.09"  
Year to date 7.94"  
Last year to date 10.45"  
Normal year to date 11.56"

**HERMISTON**  
through 3 p.m. yesterday  
**TEMPERATURE**  
HIGH 41° LOW 26°  
Yesterday 31° 26°  
Normals 43° 29°  
Records 70° (1941) -5° (1985)

**PRECIPITATION**  
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.15"  
Month to date 0.15"  
Normal month to date 0.11"  
Year to date 5.54"  
Last year to date 6.26"  
Normal year to date 8.58"

**SUN AND MOON**  
Sunrise today 7:17 a.m.  
Sunset tonight 4:12 p.m.  
Moonrise today none  
Moonset today 12:34 p.m.

**REGIONAL FORECAST**

Coastal Oregon: Winds gusting past 40 mph today; rain. Showers tonight. A shower tomorrow.  
Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy today; a couple of showers, but dry in the south and upper Treasure Valley.  
Western Washington: Periods of rain today into tomorrow. Saturday: occasional rain.  
Eastern Washington: Rain, ice near the Idaho border, the Cascades and central sections today; a morning icy mix, then rain in the north.  
Cascades: Rather cloudy today with a touch of rain; winds gusting past 40 mph in the south.  
Northern California: Rain today; however, 3-6 inches of snow in the interior mountains.

**REGIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	54	44	r	53	45	sh
Baker City	35	30	c	38	20	c
Bend	46	32	c	41	32	c
Brookings	56	46	r	54	48	c
Burns	35	25	c	35	18	pc
Enterprise	43	32	c	37	23	c
Eugene	56	41	r	52	41	sh
Heppner	43	36	c	44	31	c
Hermiston	39	37	r	48	32	pc
John Day	50	35	sh	42	26	pc
Klamath Falls	44	32	r	41	30	pc
La Grande	43	36	c	41	30	c
Meacham	42	34	r	39	30	c
Medford	52	38	r	51	37	c
Newport	54	45	r	51	45	sh
North Bend	59	45	r	56	47	c
Ontario	40	32	c	44	26	c
Pasco	38	37	r	45	33	pc
Pendleton	43	38	r	47	34	c
Portland	52	43	r	52	42	sh
Redmond	43	31	c	43	27	c
Salem	56	43	r	53	44	sh
Spokane	43	34	i	41	30	pc
Ukiah	45	33	c	39	26	sf
Vancouver	50	44	r	49	44	sh
Walla Walla	47	40	r	47	37	c
Yakima	38	30	i	44	27	c

**WORLD CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	34	23	s	39	26	s
Hong Kong	74	64	c	73	65	pc
Jerusalem	56	41	sh	55	39	s
London	57	44	r	53	49	pc
Mexico City	65	48	c	66	48	c
Moscow	29	22	pc	36	33	r
Paris	51	43	pc	51	39	c
Rome	59	43	pc	60	43	s
Seoul	37	28	sn	39	33	pc
Sydney	73	61	sh	77	62	s
Tokyo	60	49	r	57	48	s

**WINDS**

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NNE 3-6	SW 7-14
Pendleton	SSE 7-14	WSW 8-16

**UV INDEX TODAY**

0 1 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.  
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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**NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY**

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**National Summary:** Rain will change to heavy snow over northern New England and northern New York state today. Showers will linger over central and South Florida. A storm will blast the Northwest with wind and rain.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 86° in Marathon, Fla. Low -17° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

**NATIONAL CITIES**

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	53	27	s	55	30	s
Atlanta	55	36	s	57	38	s
Atlantic City	52	40	pc	52	39	s
Baltimore	50	33	pc	52	33	s
Billings	42	33	pc	46	29	c
Birmingham	54	34	c	59	37	s
Boise	41	34	c	42	28	c
Boston	49	37	c	48	35	pc
Charleston, SC	61	40	c	61	41	s
Chicago, IL	44	28	pc	50	29	pc
Cleveland	44	32	sf	48	31	pc
Dallas	60	37	c	60	38	s
Denver	47	27	sf	54	27	pc
Detroit	45	31	pc	47	28	s
El Paso	59	35	c	64	37	s
Fairbanks	3	-9	pc	-5	-13	c
Fargo	38	22	s	42	31	s
Honolulu	84	72	pc	83	73	pc
Houston	61	39	c	61	36	s
Indianapolis	42	27	sf	48	28	pc
Jacksonville	66	51	c	68	55	c
Kansas City	47	27	sf	53	35	pc
Las Vegas	61	41	pc	65	40	pc
Little Rock	53	32	s	53	33	s
Los Angeles	75	52	pc	71	49	pc
Louisville	47	30	s	51	30	s
Memphis	51	32	s	56	34	s
Miami	81	70	t	78	71	r
Millwaukee	41	29	pc	46	32	s
Minneapolis	37	20	pc	41	32	pc
Nashville	48	29	s	54	30	s
New Orleans	61	44	s	60	48	s
New York City	51	40	pc	51	39	s
Oklahoma City	55	32	pc	57	36	s
Omaha	41	25	s	48	35	pc
Philadelphia	52	37	pc	52	36	s
St. Louis	73	46	c	74	45	s
Portland, ME	45	28	c	45	27	pc
Providence	50	34	pc	49	32	s
Raleigh	53	32	pc	55	31	s
Rapid City	46	26	s	51	28	pc
Reno	53	33	r	46	22	c
Sacramento	60	44	r	60	37	pc
St. Louis	48	30	s	55	33	s
Salt Lake City	46	32	pc			