

# Enviro groups oppose Yakima water plan

YAKIMA, Wash. (AP) — As a long-term plan to ensure a future with enough water for farmers and wildlife in the Yakima Basin moves forward, critics complain there hasn't been enough transparency in the process.

Last month, a Senate committee in Washington, D.C., approved legislation to authorize the first 10-year phase of the 30-year plan, which calls for more than \$4 billion for additional water storage, fish passage, water conservation and habitat protection.

The *Yakima Herald-Republic* reports a House bill is also being drafted.

Praised for ending decades of litigation and bitterness between competing interests, the plan is called vital to the future of the fertile Yakima Valley, one of the nation's greatest farming regions. But it is not without opponents, who say the process hasn't been inclusive enough. There have also been worries about cost and being able to satisfy the diverse needs of water users.

"We continue to object to the Yakima Workgroup portraying the Yakima Plan as the product of diverse interest groups, when the workgroup remains unresponsive to comments and concerns from

those not at the table," said Elaine Packard, a representative from the state chapter of the Sierra Club.

Lake Kachess homeowners worry about wells drying up, lower property values and reduced fire protection when the reservoir is drawn down. To the south, cabin owners and campers don't want to see Bumping Lake expanded by a new dam that would flood cabins, campgrounds and old-growth forest. Some environmental groups oppose any new reservoirs.

Finally, there are fiscal watchdogs who say the plan's benefits don't justify the price.

Some opponents met with the bill's lead sponsor, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., last fall.

"Sen. Cantwell's staff was handed a mess. The plan is poisoned fruit from a contaminated process, so it could not be made acceptable," said Bill Campbell, a retired scientist who lives along Lake Kachess.

Distrust of the plan and the workgroup is so high, critics say the only fix is to scrap the whole thing.

That would be the wrong move for the region, Yakima County Commissioner Mike Leita said.

But Chris Maykut, a Bumping Lake cabin owner and president of a group opposing the new dam plans, called the plan a house of sticks.

"Everyone got something they wanted and if one group pulls out, it falls apart," Maykut said.

In 2009, the federal Bureau of Reclamation and the state Department of Ecology convened a group of "stakeholders" — irrigators with junior water rights, the Yakama Indian Nation, county officials and fish and wildlife agencies — to review past studies and look for solutions to the basin's water shortages.

The agencies developed the workgroup's ideas into the Integrated Plan.

But opponents say the plan is the work of agriculture interests seeking a way to build more water storage and work around past attempts that failed cost-benefit tests.

Opponents contend the plan ignores an independent economic review by a team of Washington State University scientists who found that the water supply projects failed cost/benefit tests and the benefits from fish passage are not as large as initially estimated.

Supporters maintain that looking at the economic benefits of each component of the plan in isolation misses the point — it was designed as an integrated plan because it's worth more together than the sum of its parts.

## BRIEFLY

### Three missing snowboarders found alive on Mt. Ashland

ASHLAND (AP) — Authorities say they have found the three missing snowboarders who failed to return from Mount Ashland as planned — alive and well.

The Jackson County Sheriff's Office on Monday said the men went to the mountain on Sunday at about 10:30 a.m. A family member alerted the sheriff's office to the missing group when they didn't return the next day.

Rescuers found the snowboarders at about 12:30 p.m. on Monday. Officials said the three are in good condition and warming up with hot beverages.

Mount Ashland is the highest peak in the Siskiyou Mountains, just south of Ashland in southern Oregon.

### Bakery owners finally pay damages in gay wedding cake case

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland-area bakery owners who denied service to a same-sex couple have paid \$135,000 in state-ordered damages — after refusing to do for nearly six months.

The Bureau of Labor and Industries said bakery co-owner Aaron Klein dropped off a check Monday for \$136,927.07. That includes accrued interest. Klein also paid \$7,000 earlier this month.

Damages were awarded in July for emotional suffering caused by Sweet Cakes by Melissa, which two years ago refused to bake a wedding cake for Laurel and Rachel Bowman-Cryer. The bakers said their refusal was prompted by religious beliefs.

A 2007 Oregon law protects the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people in employment, housing and public accommodations. The state ruled it also does not allow private businesses to discriminate against potential customers.

Klein's lawyer Anna Harmon could not be reached for comment.

### Washington prisoner released early charged in fatal accident

OLYMPIA (AP) — Washington officials say that one of thousands of prisoners erroneously released due to a computer error is already back behind bars on charges of vehicular homicide.

In a news release Monday, officials with the Department of Corrections say that Robert Jackson was arrested and charged for a Nov. 11 accident that killed Lindsay Hill, a woman who was riding in the car with him. Jackson was released from prison on Aug. 10, 2015. His correct release date should have been Dec. 6, 2015.

As many as 3,200 offenders have being wrongly released early since 2002. Officials on Thursday indicated that three prisoners released since June had committed new crimes, but they downgraded that number to two Monday. Officials are still searching for another offender who committed crimes during the period he should have been incarcerated. They did not release that inmate's name.

### Seattle investigator chosen for probe

SPOKANE (AP) — A Seattle investigator has been chosen to conduct an independent investigation into recent personnel issues involving the Spokane Police Department.

Mayor David Condon and City Council President Ben Stuckart on Monday announced they have chosen Kris Cappel to lead the investigation. Cappel is a former federal prosecutor.

Condon and Stuckart will submit her name to the city council for approval during its next meeting on Jan. 4.

Spokane City Hall has been swamped by problems after the forced resignation of police Chief Frank Straub. He had been accused of sexually harassing the former department spokeswoman, and of launching into tirades that some of his top administrators considered abusive.

Cappel would also investigate issues related to the release of public records in the case.

# Opponents of national monument fear economic woes

By LARRY MEYER  
The Argus Observer

ONTARIO — In the debate over the creation of a national monument in Malheur County's Owyhee Canyonlands, the local opposition, holds up the similarly-sized 1.9 million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah as a reason not to have one.

Those opposed to protections of a 2.5 million-acre area in the canyonlands include members of the Task Force in Opposition to the Wilderness/Monument Proposal of the Owyhee Canyonlands. While proponents, including members of Oregon Natural Desert Association, maintain that local industries will not be impacted by a designation, local opponents do not agree, instead saying a designation would greatly impact Malheur County's economic future.

Indeed, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument is cited by the Garfield County Commission as a major reason for its county's economic downturn.

"We declared a state of emergency in June," Commissioner

Leland Pollock said in an email to the *Argus*. "After 20 years of the monument, the schools have dramatically lost students," he said.

Since the Utah monument was designated, enrollment at Escalante High School dropped from 150 to 50, he said.

"They are considering closing the school," Pollock said.

The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument was designated in 1996 by President Bill Clinton in recognition of the region's unspoiled natural beauty, according to information from Headwaters Economics.

The monument is located in Kane and Garfield counties in Utah, but ironically the signing ceremony was conducted across the border in Arizona, said Dixie Brunner, editor of the South Utah News, Kanab, Utah, who attended the event.

That only increased the anger of the local residents, Brunner said.

"People (in Kane County) went absolutely nuts when the monument was designated," she said.

That included black balloons released, big protests, and the like,

Brunner said.

"The local and state politicians tried to fight it in every way possible to no avail, she said. "Even years later, they still point to what an awful land grab it was."

The land in question was always government land with many restrictions, but the people in Kane County felt that this was yet another layer of restrictions and a travesty to the Western way of life, Brunner said.

Years after it was designated, the monument is still a source of deep resentment to the locals, she said, but it has had a few positives.

"People have come to travel around and view it," Brunner said.

The Bureau of Land Management, which manages the monument, has built three visitor centers in remote locations, and do get a lot of visitors of which benefit the small communities, she said.

"The teaching aspect has been great, because we get many professionals studying it," Brunner said.

In the regional reports about the Utah monument debate, opponents complained about the loss of natural resource jobs, such as mining, timber and agriculture.

## 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.

# EAST OREGONIAN

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## AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30° 19°	25° 16°	23° 13°	24° 11°	23° 6°
33° 23°	31° 20°	27° 16°	27° 14°	26° 14°

### ALMANAC

#### PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 29° 28°

Normals 39° 25°

Records 64° (1917) 2° (1990)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.02"

Month to date 2.28"

Normal month to date 1.45"

Year to date 10.09"

Last year to date 13.13"

Normal year to date 12.92"

#### HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

#### TEMPERATURE

HIGH LOW

Yesterday 32° 30°

Normals 39° 27°

Records 67° (1937) 2° (1983)

#### PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.01"

Month to date 1.78"

Normal month to date 1.33"

Year to date 7.17"

Last year to date 7.60"

Normal year to date 9.80"

#### SUN AND MOON

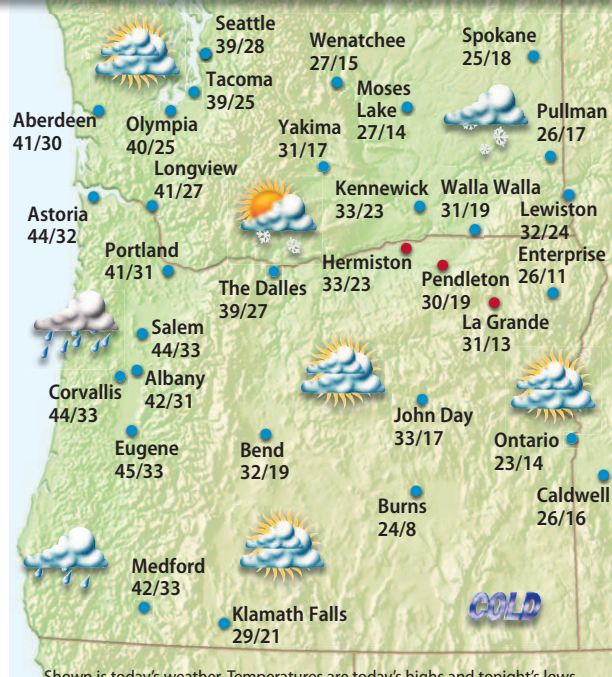
Sunrise today 7:36 a.m.

Sunset tonight 4:19 p.m.

Moonrise today 9:15 p.m.

Moonset today 10:06 a.m.

Last	New	First	Full
Jan 1	Jan 9	Jan 16	Jan 23



### REGIONAL FORECAST

**Coastal Oregon:** Cloudy today; occasional rain and drizzle; however, a shower in spots in the south.

**Eastern and Central Oregon:** Mainly cloudy today. Cold; a flurry near the Cascades in the afternoon.

**Western Washington:** A light rain today; times of clouds and sun in central parts. Partly cloudy tonight.

**Eastern Washington:** Times of sun and clouds today.

**Cascades:** Cloudy and chilly today with a little snow, accumulating a coating to an inch.

**Northern California:** Mostly sunny today; frigid in the interior mountains.

### REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	44	32	r	45	30	pc
Baker City	24	6	c	22	3	c
Bend	32	19	c	27	11	sf
Brookings	46	39	c	49	35	pc
Burns	24	8	c	20	-3	sn
Enterprise	26	11	c	23	2	c
Eugene	45	33	r	44	24	c
Heppner	31	17	c	26	14	c
Hermiston	33	23	c	31	20	c
John Day	33	17	c	30	13	sn
Klamath Falls	29	21	c	34	10	sn
La Grande	31	13	c	27	6	c
Meacham	29	11	c	25	3	c
Medford	42	33	c	45	24	c
Newport	44	36	r	45	31	pc
North Bend	50	41	r	52	35	pc
Ontario	23	14	c	24	9	sn
Pasco	32	23	c	30	19	c
Pendleton	30	19	c	25	16	c
Portland	41	31	r	39	27	pc
Redmond	35	20	c	29	12	sf
Salem	44	33	r	42	25	pc
Spokane	25	18	pc	23	12	c
Ukiah	29	8	c	24	7	c
Vancouver	41	28	r	38	26	pc
Walla Walla	31	19	c	26	16	c
Yakima	31	17	pc	29	12	c

### WORLD CITIES

	Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	40	23	pc	40	16	s
Hong Kong	66	58	pc	64	58	c
Jerusalem	59	43	s	53	43	sh
London	54	49	pc	55	43	c
Mexico City	75	42	pc	76	46	pc
Moscow	21	17	pc	21	11	sf
Paris	53	41	pc	50	43	c
Rome	57	33	s	54	34	pc
Seoul	35	23	pc	42	28	sh
Sydney	73	61	s	75	63	s
Tokyo	50	40	pc	51	41	pc

### WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Wednesday
Boardman	NE 3-6	NE 3-6
Pendleton	NNE 3-6	W 3-6

### UV INDEX TODAY

0 0 1 0 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

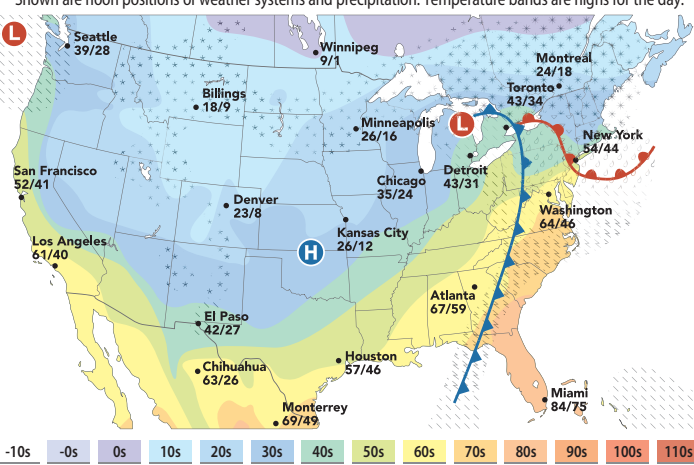
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

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:** Snow, ice and rain will affect the Northeast with showers and storms farther south to the Gulf Coast today. Snow showers will affect the Rockies and Upper Midwest with rain showers in the coastal Northwest.

**Yesterday's National Extremes:** (for the 48 contiguous states)  
High 88° in Plant City, Fla. Low -29° in Gunnison, Colo.

### NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Wed.			Today			Wed.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo</				