

Official sign pact to tear down dams

Deals also protect farmers from rising power, water prices

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Endangered salmon blocked for nearly a century from hundreds of miles of the Klamath River in Oregon and California are expected to return en masse under unusual agreements signed Wednesday to tear down four hydroelectric dams.

U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who signed agreements with the governors of both states, said the plan would bring about one of the largest river restoration projects in the history of the U.S.

The landmark deals also protect farmers and ranchers from rising power and water prices as the various interests work to end long-running water wars in the drought-stricken Klamath River basin.

The dams now block fish from migrating to their historic spawning grounds and also degrade water quality, spreading fish diseases and algae blooms. Salmon are sacred to some Native American tribes that use them for subsistence and ceremony.

“Our allocation of fish this year doesn’t meet half of our subsistence for our people,” said Yurok Tribe Vice Chairman David Gensaw. “This is a threat to our culture, our religion and the economic survival of our people.”

The Klamath basin has been the site of tense disputes between tribes, environmentalists, farmers and



Will Houston/The Times-Standard via AP

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell speaks to a crowd of over 200 people at the mouth of the Klamath River before signing a new dam removal agreement Wednesday in Klamath, Calif.

ranchers for nearly two decades. In 2001, water deliveries to farmers and ranchers were severely curtailed. Adult salmon suffered a major die-off a year later. Salmon harvests have been sharply reduced for the tribes as well as recreational and commercial fishers.

The latest deal is spelled out in two agreements signed at the mouth of the river in Northern California in a ceremony attended by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, California Gov. Jerry Brown, federal officials, tribal leaders, conservation groups, large-scale water users and dam-owner PacifiCorp.

“This is a huge exercise of humankind fixing some of the mistakes of the past,” Jerry Brown said.

The agreements include promises to keep working on a six-year-old settlement process that went dormant when Congress failed to approve it last year. In addition

to removing dams, an initial settlement would have restored tribal lands and provided more water for farmers and ranchers.

By removing the dams without congressional approval and providing price assurances to farmers, backers hope to make the larger deal more palatable for Congress.

Funding for the \$450 million project would come from PacifiCorp customers in California and Oregon, along with a water bond approved by California voters in 2014.

Not everyone is celebrating. Dam removal is a major improvement, but the guarantees for farmers and ranchers don’t belong in the agreement, said Jim McCarthy of the conservation group Water-Watch.

The PacifiCorp utility has supported a dam-removal agreement because it offers the company

liability protections and caps the costs to its customers.

Several studies have shown that dam upgrades likely to be required would significantly reduce electricity generation and would cost millions of dollars more than dam removal and replacement of hydropower with other sources.

The company will transfer ownership of four Klamath River dams to a nonprofit corporation recently created in California, which will petition the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval to tear them down beginning in 2020. Two others will be transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which will continue operating them without raising prices for farmers and ranchers who irrigate their fields.

One of the tribes already has obtained senior water rights through the courts, limiting water available for farmers and ranchers, and the others could pursue that process. Klamath Basin agriculture is valued at about \$670 million annually.

Scott White, head of the Klamath Water Users Association, said the agricultural interests he represents had no stake in the dam removal but he hopes the efforts to boost water rights don’t get lost.

“The Klamath River is a precious resource,” White said. “There is much left to be done to preserve the interests of the communities that it serves.”

Klamath Tribes Chairman Don Gentry said the c’iyaal’s, which means salmon, were placed in the river by the creator and have been essential in sustaining the tribes.

“We won’t be whole, and we won’t be complete as a people until we can once again fish for our c’iyaal’s,” Gentry said.

Oregon considers renewing wildfire insurance

SALEM (AP) — Oregon is considering another year of insurance coverage to help pay for catastrophic wildfire seasons.

British insurance giant Lloyd’s of London is offering the state another year of coverage despite three consecutive years of expensive, drought-fueled wildfires. The policy could protect the state from financial problems if 2016 is another expensive year for fire-fighting, reported *The Bulletin*.

“We think that a policy makes good financial sense for Oregon, (and) we ought to keep purchasing it. That’s what our recommendation is,” said Tim Keith on Tuesday. He administers the state’s forest protection fund.

The policy would also be available to private landowners.

Oregon fire officials and landowners would share the \$3.5 million premium and up to \$50 million deductible before Lloyd’s contributes up to \$25 million. The premium is down \$300,000 from last year.

Last year, the state nearly lost its coverage for the first time in four decades after maxing out its policy in 2013 and 2014. Last year, Oregon’s fire season was bad enough to trigger federal reimbursements that covered the cost for most severe fires.

Oregon still needs to pay off \$10 million in fire costs from last season.

State lawmakers have expressed interest in creating a fund for fire-fighting and finding money for it. It could hold as much as \$60 million.

Sen. Bill Hansell, a Republican from Athena, says he’d sponsor a bill proposing such a trust fund, but he wants to see if there’s a way to protect the fund from being used on other programs when money is tight.

“A trust fund, I can support that. I would. And I would be happy to introduce it,” Hansell said, adding, “I would want protections on it so that it couldn’t be robbed.”

Whitman College to drop Missionary mascot

By ALFRED DIAZ
Walla Walla Union Bulletin

Whitman College officials have dropped Missionary as their official mascot and are working on deciding a new name.

College officials announced the move Wednesday and cited a survey of more than 18,000 alumni and current students, of which 62 percent said they did not think Missionary was an appropriate mascot for Whitman today.

Another 29 percent believed it was an appropriate name and 9 percent had no opinion.

According to the survey

conducted in February, 78 percent of both faculty and students believed that the mascot name of Missionary is inappropriate.

In two statements released Wednesday, college officials also noted that some faculty objected to dropping Missionary as mascot.

“Some alumni expressed concern that a change of mascot will result in a loss of history for the college,” media and public relations manager Gina Ohnstad said.

Whitman College was named after Marcus and Narcissa Whitman, early pioneers in the Walla Walla Valley who started a mission to teach members of local

Indians tribes and as a way station for arriving white settlers.

A Mascot Working Group study report stated opponents considered the Missionary name to be “divisive and doesn’t represent Whitman’s commitment to inclusion.”

Earlier this year, the campus newspaper, *The Pioneer*, said it will change its name because it reflects the “racism” of settlers who warred with local tribes and took their ancestral lands. The new name for the paper is also to be decided this fall.

To determine a new campus mascot, a working group of faculty, staff, students and alumni will

be created and compile a list of prospective official mascots. The entire college community will vote on the new name in the fall of 2016.

The move for the change started in the fall of 2015, when new Whitman College President Kathleen Murray assembled a working group of students, faculty, staff, alumni and governing board members to consider the mascot name.

The Mascot Working Group developed and distributed the survey.

After the survey, the group unanimously decided that Missionary was not appropriate for Whitman College.

Corrections

A cop log entry in the April 2-3 *East Oregonian* was incorrect. The 7:22 p.m. entry should have noted that a violin student at Pendleton High School was hit but is not bruised. 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	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Very warm with sunshine	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Periods of clouds and sun	Nice with periods of sun
78° 47°	79° 52°	77° 48°	71° 46°	70° 43°
81° 43°	83° 49°	82° 46°	75° 44°	74° 45°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
70°	37°
Normals	59° 38°
Records	81° (1934) 25° (1911)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.08"
Normal month to date	0.27"
Year to date	4.07"
Last year to date	2.96"
Normal year to date	4.27"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE

HIGH	LOW
70°	34°
Normals	63° 38°
Records	83° (1952) 22° (1939)

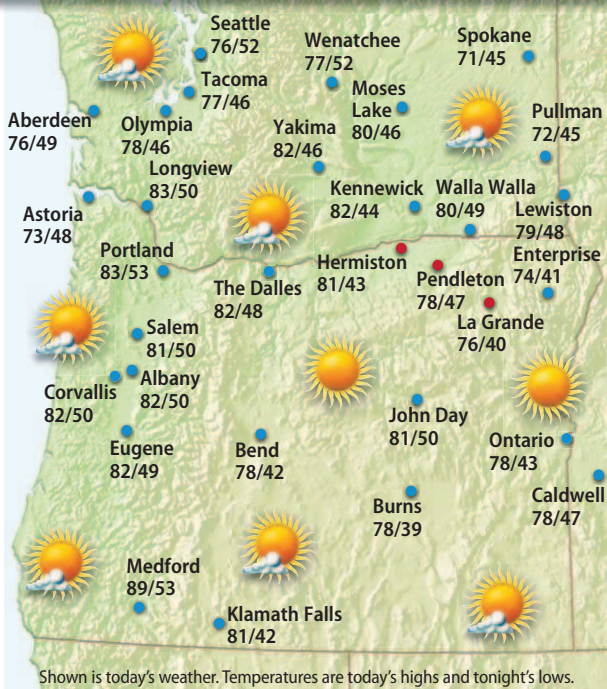
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.10"
Normal month to date	0.14"
Year to date	2.80"
Last year to date	1.78"
Normal year to date	3.28"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	6:23 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:32 p.m.
Moonrise today	6:46 a.m.
Moonset today	8:10 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Apr 7	Apr 13	Apr 21	Apr 29



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today; pleasant in the south. Partly cloudy tonight. Cooler tomorrow.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Very warm today with sunshine. Mainly clear tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow.

Western Washington: Mostly sunny today. Partly cloudy tonight. Intervals of clouds and sun tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Sunny today. Mainly clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Cascades: Mostly sunny and very warm today. Patchy clouds tonight. Clouds and sun tomorrow.

Northern California: High clouds today. Mostly cloudy tonight. A shower tomorrow afternoon; cooler.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	73	48	s	61	46	pc
Baker City	76	34	s	78	38	s
Bend	78	42	s	74	46	pc
Brookings	68	50	s	60	50	pc
Burns	78	39	s	77	41	pc
Enterprise	74	41	s	74	44	s
Eugene	82	49	s	75	51	c
Heppner	77	46	s	77	46	pc
Hermiston	81	43	s	83	49	s
John Day	81	50	s	80	50	pc
Klamath Falls	81	42	s	75	46	c
La Grande	76	40	s	78	47	s
Meacham	74	40	s	76	39	s
Medford	89	53	s	81	55	c
Newport	68	49	s	58	47	c
North Bend	67	50	s	60	50	c
Ontario	78	43	s	80	48	s
Pasco	82	42	s	84	47	s
Pendleton	78	47	s	79	52	s
Portland	83	53	s	81	51	pc
Redmond	81	37	s	79	42	pc
Salem	81	50	s	79	48	pc
Spokane	71	45	s	76	49	s
Ukiah	77	41	s	76	44	s
Vancouver	83	51	s	79	48	pc
Walla Walla	80	49	s	78	53	s
Yakima	82	46	s	86	51	pc

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	75	42	s	77	47	s
Hong Kong	80	72	sh	80	72	pc
Jerusalem	74	57	s	81	66	pc
London	52	43	sh	55	41	pc
Mexico City	83	51	pc	81	55	pc
Moscow	49	35	c	57	42	pc
Paris	53	40	sh	55	40	pc
Rome	77	56	pc	67	51	t
Seoul	69	41	r	63	42	s
Sydney	70	63	pc	73	63	sh
Tokyo	68	59	r	67	54	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NE 4-8	NNE 3-6
Pendleton	NNE 4-8	NNW 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

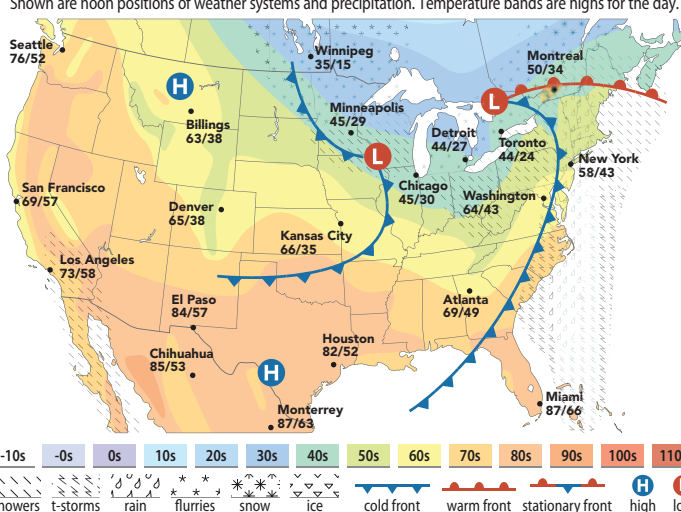


8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme
The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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



Shower Summary: Showers, storms and gusty winds will affect the East Coast today. Showers of rain, ice and snow will accompany colder air in the Upper Midwest. Showers and storms will dampen Southern California.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 99° in Thermal, Calif. Low -1° in Clayton Lake, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	76	50	pc	68	47	c	Louisville	56	36	sh	56	33	sh
Atlanta	69	49	pc	64	44	pc	Memphis	73	46	pc	66	42	s
Atlanta City	57	44	r	52	39	pc	Miami	87	66	pc	84	65	pc
Baltimore	62	39	r	56	35	pc	Millwaukee	44	30	sf	43	23	c
Billings	63	38	s	72	45	s	Minneapolis	45	29	c	37	21	pc
Birmingham	73	49	pc	68	43	pc	Nashville	66	42	c	62	36	pc
Boston	79	48	s	81	52	s	New Orleans	79	59	s	78	59	pc
Boston	57	44	r	53	33	c	New York City	58	43	r	53	36	c
Charleston, SC	77	54	pc	72	48	s	Oklahoma City	81	44	s	73	48	pc
Charleston, WV	53	34	sh	51	31	c	Omaha	60	34	pc	57	26	s
Chicago	45	30	sn	45	25	sn	Philadelphia	62	42	r	55	39	pc
Cleveland	46	30	sh	47	27	c	Phoenix	84	66	c	81	63	t
Dallas	86	56	pc	77	58	pc	Portland, ME	50	43	r	52	30	c
Denver	65	38	s	66	42	pc	Providence	57	43				