

Army Corps may privatize hatcheries

MEDFORD (AP) — A change in how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers interprets its acquisition regulations could mean operations at the Cole Rivers Hatchery on the Rogue River and six other Oregon hatcheries become privatized.

The agency is considering contracting the Cole Rivers Hatchery out to the lowest bidder on a one-year contract as early as this spring, reported the *Mail Tribune*.

The Cole Rivers Hatchery grows nearly 2.8 million fish for release in the Rogue River Basin. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has operated the hatchery under a cooperative agreement with the Corps since it opened in 1974. The Oregon agency also runs six other hatcheries associated with Corps dams.

Corps spokeswoman Michelle Helms said a recent review of the Federal Acquisitions Regulations has led officials to believe a contract approach would be more appropriate than the current cooperative agreement.

"The understanding of the law has developed over the years, and that's what's driving this," Helms said. "The change will allow us to better meet the requirements of the FAR."

Cole Rivers is the first of the Corps' hatcheries to move forward with the new contract approach. The agency could start soliciting bids as early as late February.

The other hatcheries likely to face contract bids down the line are Bonneville Hatchery on the Columbia River,



In this photo taken Feb. 3, Jim Grieve, hatchery foreman with Cole Rivers Hatchery, works with Coquille River Fall Chinook in Shady Cove, Ore. A change in how the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers interprets its acquisition regulations could mean operations at the hatchery on the Rogue River and six other Oregon hatcheries become privatized.

"As an angler, I'd be concerned. There's a lot of uncertainty on whether we'll see the same level of fish production and quality."

— Russ Stauff, ODFW's Rogue Watershed manager

Marion Forks Hatchery on the North Santiam River, the South Santiam Hatchery on the South Santiam River and the Willamette, McKenzie and Lieberg hatcheries in the Willamette Valley.

Russ Stauff, ODFW's

Rogue Watershed manager, said the hatchery's production might not be enough for anglers if a private contractor takes over. He said some contractors might not be as accountable to Rogue Basin anglers.

"As an angler, I'd be concerned," Stauff said. "There's a lot of uncertainty on whether we'll see the same level of fish production and quality."

Cole Rivers is a mitigation hatchery built to raise fish annually to make up for wild salmon and steelhead lost when the Corps built Lost Creek and Applegate dams. It raises about 2.58 million salmon and steelhead for release in the Rogue and Applegate rivers.

Three refuge defendants plead guilty to trespassing

By STEVEN DUBOIS
Associated Press

PORTLAND — Three of the final seven defendants charged in the Ammon Bundy-led takeover of a national wildlife refuge last year took plea deals Monday instead of heading to trial next week.

Sean and Sandy Anderson, a couple from Riggins, Idaho, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Portland to misdemeanor trespassing in exchange for the dismissal of felony conspiracy and weapons charges. Also taking that step was Dylan Anderson of Provo, Utah, who is not related to the Idaho couple.

U.S. District Court Judge Anna Brown sentenced the three to one year of probation each and required each one to pay \$1,000 restitution to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

They must also ask their probation officers for permission to camp on public lands. All are required to avoid the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, located in southeastern Oregon's high desert.

"The Malheur refuge is not on my bucket list," Sean Anderson told Brown.

Ammon Bundy, joined by his brother Ryan and a band of followers, seized the refuge on Jan. 2, 2016, to protest the federal control of Western lands and the imprisonment of two ranchers convicted of setting fires.

The Bundys were arrested in a Jan. 26 traffic stop that included the fatal shooting by police of occupation spokesman Robert "LaVoy" Finicum. Four holdouts, including Sean and Sandy Anderson, refused to leave the refuge until Feb. 11.

A federal grand jury indicted 26 people on conspiracy and weapons charges.

Eleven defendants pleaded guilty last week and charges were dropped against one man.

In a high-profile trial last fall, jurors found the Bundy brothers and five others not guilty of felony charges.

Prosecutors decided after their loss in the trial to go ahead with a February trial for the remaining seven defendants. They changed their prosecutorial strategy by adding misdemeanor charges such as trespassing to the mix.

Another one of the final defendants, Darryl Thorn, of Marysville, Washington, was scheduled to join the Andersons in changing his plea Monday, but his hearing was canceled. He was similarly on the cusp of accepting a plea agreement last June before changing his mind.

Thorn's decision leaves him headed to trial next week with co-defendants Duane Ehmer, Jason Patrick and Jake Ryan.

The jurors will determine whether the four are guilty of felony conspiracy and weapons charges.

The misdemeanor charges will be heard in a non-jury trial after the felony trial ends.



Sean Anderson



Sandra Anderson



Dylan Anderson

Trump: Allow those who 'want to love our country'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — President Donald Trump vowed Monday to allow only people who "want to love our country" into the United States, defending his immigration and refugee restrictions as he made his first visit to the headquarters for U.S. Central Command.

Trump reaffirmed his support for NATO before military leaders and troops and laced his speech with references to homeland security amid a court battle over his travel ban on people from seven majority-Muslim countries. He did not directly mention the case now before a federal appeals court after a lower court temporarily suspended the ban.

"We need strong programs" so that "people that love us and want to love our country and will end up loving our country are allowed in" and those who "want to destroy us and destroy our country" are kept out, Trump said.

"Freedom, security and justice will prevail," Trump added. "We will defeat radical Islamic terrorism and we will not allow it to take root in our country. We're not going to allow it."

Trump touched upon various alliances in his remarks, noting, "we strongly support NATO."

He spoke Sunday with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. A White House statement said the two "discussed how to encourage all NATO allies to meet their defense spending commitments," and also talked about the crisis in Ukraine and security challenges facing NATO countries.

Trump once dismissed the trans-Atlantic military alliance as "obsolete," and said he would decide whether to protect NATO countries against Russian aggression

unreported by the media. In response to requests for evidence to support that claim, the White House released a list of 78 attacks it described as "executed or inspired by" the Islamic State group since September 2014. Most on the list did not get sufficient media attention, the White House said.

The list included incidents like a truck massacre in Nice, France, that killed dozens and

Tech firms take stand against Trump's travel ban, risking backlash

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Through a Super Bowl ad, public statements and court filings, Silicon Valley's biggest companies are taking a strong stand against President Donald Trump's travel ban, saying high tech needs immigrants' creativity and energy to stay competitive.

Although the companies are risking a backlash

from customers who side with Trump, they say the pushback is necessary for an industry dependent on thousands of highly skilled foreign workers.

About 58 percent of the engineers and other high-skill employees in Silicon Valley were born outside the U.S., according to the Silicon Valley Leadership Group, an industry trade

group.

"Immigration and innovation go hand in hand," said Carl Gardino, the group's CEO. "This cuts so deeply into the bone and marrow of what fuels the innovation economy that very few CEOs feel the luxury of sitting on the sidelines. So people are going to stand up and speak up."

The tech industry con-

tends there aren't enough Americans with the specialized skills these companies need. Though critics contend that companies favor immigrants because they can pay them less, tech companies argue that the ban would pressure them to move some operations abroad.

"A lot of these companies will really struggle if all of a sudden we turn off the

spigot," said Greg Morriste, dean of computing and information sciences at Cornell University.

In a court filing Sunday against the ban, 97 companies, including such major tech players as Google, Apple, Microsoft, eBay, Netflix, Facebook and Twitter, also spoke of the entrepreneurial spirit of "people who choose to leave everything

that is familiar and journey to an unknown land to make a new life."

Google CEO Sundar Pichai and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella both came from India. Google co-founder Sergey Brin is a Russian refugee who moved to the U.S. as a boy. The father of Apple's late co-founder, Steve Jobs, immigrated from Syria.



President Donald Trump gesture from the top of the steps of Air Force One at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., on Monday before returning to Washington.

Oregon files brief supporting lawsuit against travel ban

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Oregon is seeking to join a federal lawsuit by Washington to challenge the constitutionality of President Donald Trump's executive orders on immigration.

The executive orders sought to temporarily ban refugees and visa holders from seven predominantly Muslim countries. Enforcement of the order was halted when a Washington

state federal judge granted that state's request for a temporary restraining order last week.

Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum has signed and filed an amicus brief with the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Washington's case. Another 15 states have filed similar briefs supporting the challenge. The court is expected to decide in the next

several days on the Trump administration's appeal of the restraining order.

"If the appellate court upholds the TRO (temporary restraining order), which we hope it will, it is likely to send it back to the trial court in Washington state for further proceedings," Attorney General Rosenblum said in a statement Monday. "We want to be ready to help in any

way we can to establish the permanent illegality of the Executive Order." Oregon also is coordinating with the Washington attorney general and will ask the Washington judge to allow Oregon to be added to the lawsuit, as soon as Tuesday, according to Rosenblum's office.

The Washington complaint alleges that President Donald Trump's immigration order is unconstitutional on multiple grounds, including religious and national origin discrimination.

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Trump made small talk with some of the soldiers, discussing everything from football to military careers.

"Gonna make it a career?" Trump asked one person. "C'mon, you have to stay," he urged another.

Trump also hailed New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, saying he "cemented his place" in football history after his fifth Super

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The AP could not verify that each of the incidents had connections to the Islamic State group.

Earlier, Trump sat down for lunch with a room full of troops in fatigues from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, as well as senior members of his White House

staff.

Trump met with Florida Gov. Rick Scott before delivering his remarks, telling the crowd at CENTCOM that Scott's endorsement of his candidacy for president "makes him a better friend of mine," adding that with those who don't offer their endorsement, "it's never quite the same."

CENTCOM oversaw a recent raid by U.S. special operations forces on an al-Qaida compound in Yemen, the first military operation authorized by Trump. A Navy SEAL Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator William "Ryan" Owens, 36, of Peoria, Illinois, was killed, making him the first known U.S. combat casualty under Trump.

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Bowl win Sunday.

Trump stopped at the base on the way back to Washington after his first weekend away from the White House. Trump spent the weekend at his estate in Palm Beach, Florida, with first lady Melania Trump, who had not appeared in public since shortly after her husband took office.

At MacDill, the president was briefed by CENTCOM and SOCOM leaders. A number of his advisers, including Gen. Joseph Dunford, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Michael Flynn, Trump's national security adviser, also attended.

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Leaders remain mum about labor-business meeting

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE
Capital Bureau

SALEM — Legislative leaders remained tight-lipped Monday about a closed-door meeting concerning budget and tax issues they facilitated last week between business and labor groups.

The two politically powerful groups are generally at odds over the cost of state government and the mechanisms used to fund it. They clashed last fall over Measure 97, and unsuccessful ballot measure that would have created a tax on the Oregon sales of certain corporations in excess of \$25 million. The measure would have raised \$6 billion per two-year budget cycle.

But both sides attended a

meeting Feb. 1 hosted by Oregon Senate President Peter Courtney and Speaker of the Oregon House Tina Kotek.

As the legislative session enters its first full week, Democratic lawmakers are sounding the alarm about potential cuts to services because of the nearly \$1.8 billion gap between the state's resources and what it would take to pay for existing services in the next budget cycle.

The meeting's occurrence was announced Friday, but it's not clear what was specifically discussed. In a joint statement Friday, Courtney and Kotek called the meeting "productive" and said "everyone agrees that the current budget environment is not acceptable."

Perennial political flash-points include the cost of the

state's pension system for public employees and the state's tax structure, including its reliance on income taxes for its general fund revenues.

In a meeting with reporters Monday, Kotek said it is now up to business and labor groups to continue talks independently.

"What I saw in that room was Oregonians who care about their state, who just came off a very difficult election where they might have been on the opposite sides, but understanding that we have a bigger issue that we all have to come together to solve," Kotek said. "And so right now we're stepping back and letting them continue to talk and we'll see how that goes. We just felt it was our job to get it going, and we're glad that it's going, and we'll see

how it ends up."

She said she and the senate president wanted to "provide a space" for business and labor groups to have a "confidential, honest conversation."

Asked about why the meeting was private, she said if the conversations continue to progress, potential legislation will be vetted in a public setting.

"We're trying to bring people together to say, OK, let's talk about it one more time, this isn't the first time we've had this conversation," Kotek said. "And hopefully we'll get some guidance on how best to put some legislation together and that then you will have very public conversations about it."

Courtney's office declined Monday to comment further on the meeting.

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Chamber Members!

We're running a special section in **Monday Minute** (the Chamber's weekly email update) and on the Chamber's website for Valentine's Day Sales & Specials. Send us yours! Please email communications@pendletonchamber.com to be included. Deadline for Monday Minute content is Fridays at NOON!

Thank You!

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