East Oregonian

Study: dams led to salmon die-off on Snake River

East Oregonian

A new report released by environmental advocacy group Columbia Riverkeeper suggests that the massive die-off of Snake River sockeye salmon during the exceptionally hot and dry summer of 2015 could have been avoided, if not for the four federal dams on the lower Snake River in eastern Washington.

More than 250,000 endangered sockeye died due to a lethal combination of hot weather and low flows that raised water temperatures in the Columbia and Snake rivers. Migrating salmon rely on cold water for survival, and have trouble moving upstream as temperatures reach 68 degrees.

Using computer simulations, Columbia Riverkeeper determined that average river temperatures would likely have remained below 68 degrees in the lower Snake River if the four dams — Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite — were not in place.

Miles Johnson, clean water attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper and one of the authors on the report, said he hopes it will prompt the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of



NORTHWEST

In this Oct. 19, 2016 file photo, a man fishes for salmon in the Snake River above the Lower Granite Dam in Washington state.

Engineers to take a hard look at breaching the dams to keep water temperatures healthy for fish.

"Snake River dam removal needs to be on the table," Johnson said. "Because it will work."

Last year, a federal judge in Portland rejected the federal government's latest proposal for managing dams in the Columbia Basin. U.S. District Court Judge Michal Simon ruled the plan needs a major overhaul, and that breaching one or more of the lower Snake

dams ought to be considered. In its analysis, Columbia Riverkeeper focused on 2015 because, as Johnson said, it shows what could become the new normal for the region given climate change, with the Pacific Northwest trending toward springs and hotter summers.

The study, which was released Aug. 14, uses a model known as "RBM-10," developed by the EPA in 2001 to study temperatures of the Columbia and Snake rivers. RBM-10 takes into account a number of different factors, including air temperature and river geometry, to come up with a prediction of water temperature.

According to the report, a free-flowing lower Snake River would have remained cooler than 68 degrees throughout most of the summer of 2015. On the other hand, temperatures broke 68 degrees from mid-June until September in most of the dammed lower Snake.

Terry Flores, executive

for RiverPartners, criticized the modeling in the report, which she said is overly simple and one-dimensional. It is especially glaring that the study did not incorporate use of cold water in Brownlee and Dworshak reservoirs to reduce water temperature during the 2015 crisis, she added.

"This is hardly convincing analysis to argue for Snake dam removal, a draconian action given the benefits these dams provide," Flores said.

Northwest RiverPartners is an organization that represents farmers, ports, electric utilities and businesses along the Columbia and Snake rivers. Flores said the study is a thinly disguised attempt to undermine legislation that would keep the current salmon plan in place while agencies work out a new hydro system operations plan.

A spokeswoman for the Army Corps of Engineers in Walla Walla declined to comment on the study Monday. The Corps is working along with Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration on an updated environmental impact statement on 14 dams within the interior Columbia Basin, including the lower Snake dams.

New path sought for high-voltage transmission lines

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Federal officials on Monday reopened public comments on proposed routes for two highvoltage transmission lines in Idaho intended to modernize the Pacific Northwest's energy

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management announced it will take comments through Sept. 27 for two segments of the Gateway West project proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power.

The BLM in January approved routes for the two 500-kilovolt transmission lines on public land in Idaho's Gooding, Elmore, Owyhee, Cassia and Twin Falls counties.

But legislation by Idaho Republican Rep. Mike Simpson signed into law in May by President Donald Trump mandates segments not connected to those routes.

The legislation removes 2,800 acres from the Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area so 74 miles of transmission lines can go through.

The BLM is now trying to connect the remaining 250 miles of transmission lines with those segments. As part of that process, it's taking public comments for an environmental assessment.

"We need to make sure the alternative we now select connects with those two statutory rights of way," said BLM spokeswoman Heather Feeney.

The 1,000-mile Gateway West project is one side of a giant triangle of transmission lines that Rocky Mountain Power says are necessary to meet future demands in the region and improve reliability. One part is finished, and the other segment is at an earlier stage in the environmental review process.

The segment going through Idaho would deliver power from southern Wyoming to points west, potentially tapping into Wyoming's wind energy. Federal officials have already approved the rest of the Gateway West project, but no work has started.

Feeney said a draft of the environmental assessment on the remaining segments should be ready by the end of this year, with a final decision expected in the spring.
"The route through the

Birds of Prey was a fair and balanced outcome to this transmission siting effort," said Idaho Power spokeswoman Stephanie McCurdy. "The State of Idaho, local units of government, ranchers, environmental interests and project proponents worked hard together to find this locally driven, common sense solution."

The BLM has been working on the project since 2008, trying to thread the powerlines through a mixture of private, state and public lands that also includes key habitat for imperiled sage grouse and the national conservation area that is prime habitat for raptors.

It's been a difficult process, and the final decision in January was appealed by environmental groups, causing it to head to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter also asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to direct the BLM to reconsider its January decision and review other routes using more federal public land. The BLM then asked the Interior Board of Land Appeals to remand

BRIEFLY

Amazon plans to add another massive Oregon warehouse

PORTLAND (AP) -Amazon plans to hire more than 1,000 full-time employees to work in a new packing and shipping warehouse in Salem.

The company announced the millionsquare-foot facility on Monday, but declined to say when it will be up and running.

Sanjay Shah is Amazon's vice president of North America Customer Fulfillment.

Shah said in a statement that support from Gov. Kate Brown, local leaders and others was instrumental in the company's decision to put the warehouse in the state capital.

The online retail giant previously announced plans to put a similar warehouse in Troutdale, near Portland.

Brown says Amazon's expansion means "more jobs and bright futures" for Oregonians.

Hillary Clinton to speak in Portland to promote book

PORTLAND (AP) Former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton will visit Portland to promote her new book, "What Happened."

In the book to be released Sept. 12, Clinton discusses her losing presidential bid, her thoughts on being a woman in politics and what it was like to campaign against President Donald Trump.

She will speak Dec. 12 at Arlene Schnitzer Concert Tickets go on sale Sept.

Portland is her last stop on an eight-city book tour that starts in late October.

Refuge occupier

sentenced to probation PORTLAND (AP) — A

federal judge sentenced a North Carolina man on Monday to two years on probation for his role in last year's takeover of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon.

U.S. District Judge Robert Jones also ordered Jason Blomgren to pay \$3,000 restitution. The judge, however, expressed doubt that Blomgren with \$3.83 to his name — would be able to pay.

"You're about as broke as anyone I've seen," Jones said at the hearing. Blomgren traveled to

southeastern Oregon in January 2016 to perform guard duty during the occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy months before the autumn 2016 trial in which occupation leader Ammon Bundy and six

others were acquitted.
Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Gabriel described Blomgren on Monday as a minor player in the 41-day occupation to protest federal land use policies. He said Blomgren arrived after it began and spent 15 days on the refuge.

Motorcyclist strikes black bear in Marion County

SALEM (AP) — A motorcyclist struck and killed a black bear that wandered into his lane of travel in Oregon. The Marion County

Sheriff's Office said Sunday night that the man was flown to a hospital for treatment of his injuries. The black bear died at the scene and was taken care of by Forest Service employees.

The authorities say the collision is a reminder to be careful when driving in rural areas.

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

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

211 S.F. Byers Ave. Pendleton 541-276-2211 333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211 Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed major holidays

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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday, Monday and Dec. 25, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Periodicals postage paid at Pendleton, OR. Postmaster: send address changes to East Oregonian, 211 S.E. Byers Ave. Pendleton, OR 97801. Copyright © 2017, EO Media Group

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AccuWeather.com Forecast **WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY** Sizzling sunshine Mostly sunny and Abundant sun and Very warm with Sunny and very very hot warm pleasant plenty of sun and very hot PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FO 100° 64° 60° 88° 61° 93° 62° 98° 63° TEMPERATURE I 102° 64° 96° 61° 60° 95° 59° 101° 61° Seattle **ALMANAC** Spokane 85/58 Wenatchee 98/65 98/68 **PENDLETON** Tacoma 84/54 Moses through 3 p.m. yesterday Lake Pullman Aberdeen Olympia **TEMPERATURE** Yakima 101/59 98/58 67/58 102/60

Longview

84/57

Salem

90/55

Albany

88/52

Medford

98/60

Eugene

85/52

90/59

Astoria

68/55

Corvallis

85/51

8.33'

HIGH LOW Yesterday

<u>Normals</u>

105° (1972) 37° (1909) **PRECIPITATION** 24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.07' Month to date Normal month to date 0.38 11.37' Year to date Last year to date

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yesterday **TEMPERATURE** HIGH LOW

Normal year to date

97°	60°				
85°	54°				
101° (1986)	40° (1964)				
TION					
24 hours ending 3 p.m.					
Month to date					
Normal month to date					
Year to date					
Last year to date					
to date	6.10"				
	85° 101° (1986) .TION ding 3 p.m. te				

SUN AND MOON

c · ·			C 13				
Sunrise to	oday		6:13 a.m.				
Sunset to	night	7:39 p.m.					
Moonrise	today	2:25 p.m.					
Moonset	today		none				
First	Full	Last	New				

Aug 29 Sep 5 Sep 12 Sep 19

Coastal Oregon: Hazy sunshine today. Cooler across the north; smoky in the south.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Mostly sunny

and very hot today. Patchy clouds tonight. Western Washington: Plenty of sunshing today; however, low clouds at the coast.

tonight. Sunshine tomorrow; however, some clouds in the north. Cascades: Mostly sunny and very warm today. Mainly clear tonight.

Kennewick

101/63

Hermiston

The Dalles 102/64

100/65

Bend

96/55

Klamath Falls

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

REGIONAL FORECAST

Walla Walla

Pendleton 95/56

96/55

La Grande

Ontario •

Caldwell

100/65

100/62

101/66

Enterprise

99/70

100/64

John Day

98/58

Burns

Northern California: Mostly sunny today. Hot in central parts; pleasant at the coast.

Eastern Washington: Sunshine today. Clear

REGIONAL CITIES

ILLGI	O11/	<u> </u>	•		•			
		oda		Wed.				
	<u>Hi</u>	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W		
Astoria	68	55	C	68	55	pc		
Baker City	99	52	S	94	49	s		
Bend	96 64	55 53	рс	88 65	49 55	рс		
Brookings Burns	96	49	pc s	92	46	pc s		
Enterprise	95	56	pc	91	53	s		
Eugene	85	52	s	79	52	pc		
Heppner	97	62	S	91	59	рс S		
Hermiston	102	64	S	96	61	S		
John Day	98	58	S	92	54	S		
Klamath Falls	93	50	pc	87	46	pc		
La Grande	96	55	s	90	52	s		
Meacham	94	53	s	88	49	s		
Medford	98	60	pc	90	56	pc		
Newport	63	53	pc	63	51	pc		
North Bend	64	54	pc	66	53	pc		
Ontario	100	62	s	98	62	pc		
Pasco	100	60	s	96	54			
Pendleton	100	64	S	94	60	s		
Portland		59	S	79	60	pc		
Redmond	99	51	pc	89	44	pc		
Salem	90	55	s	81	57	pc		
Spokane	98	65	S	92	57	S		
Ukiah	96	51	S	90	48			
Vancouver	89	56	S	78	60	pc		
Walla Walla	99	70	S	94	64	s		

102 60 s WORLD CITIES

96 57 s

Yakima

	- 1	oda		Wed		
	Hi	Lo	W	Н	i Lo	W
Beijing	78	59	рс	81	1 63	S
Hong Kong	91	82	рс	92	2 82	S
Jerusalem	84	64	s	84	4 64	S
London	79	56	рс	59	9 50	r
Mexico City	69	58	C	72	2 56	C
Moscow	59	44	C	64	4 47	C
Paris	91	67	рс	79	55	t
Rome	88	67	S	86	67	S
Seoul	74	59	рс	75	5 60	C
Sydney	63	48	рс	64	4 47	sh
Tokyo	87	76	C	85	5 72	r

WINDS (in mph) Today

Wednesday WSW 4-8 **Boardman** WNW 6-12 Pendleton

UV INDEX TODAY 3 5 5 5 3 5 1

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. **0-2**, Low 3-5, Moderate 8-10, Very High; 11+. Extreme The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ num

> Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. @2017



warm front stationary front National Summary: Harvey will bring more rain and flooding to Texas and Louisiana today. Another tropical system will bring rain, gusty winds and rough surf to the East coast. Storms will dot the Midwest. The West will be hot.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states) **High** 115° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 32° in West Yellowstone, Mont.

	Т	oda	v	Wed.		1.		Today		Wed		ī	
	Hi.	Lo		Hi	Lo			Hi.	Lo		Hi	Lo	
lbuquerque	87	64	t	88	63	_	Louisville	82	67	t	85	69	
tlanta	85	70	рс	76	69	sh	Memphis	86	70	pc	80	72	
tlantic City	72	63	r	76	65	рс	Miami	92	79	рс	92	80	
altimore ´	68	59	r	77	62	pc	Milwaukee	73	61	pc	78	63	1
illings	93	63	рс	95	65	S	Minneapolis	78	62	S	81	60	
irmingham	84	69	c	76	71	r	Nashville	87	69	рс	79	68	
oise	100	71	S	95	65	рс	New Orleans	83	76	r	86	77	
oston	68	59	рс	69	58	r	New York City	70	59	C	77	66	
harleston, SC	81	68	рс	85	72	рс	Oklahoma City	83	60	S	84	64	
harleston, WV	81	61	c	82	63	рс	Omaha	80	59	S	84	60	
hicago	77	61	sh	80	63	рс	Philadelphia	70	60	r	76	64	
leveland	76	60	t	80	62	рс	Phoenix	110	87	S	110	85	
allas	86		рс	86		C	Portland, ME	71		рс	71	53	
enver	92		S	91	60	рс	Providence	71	58		72	56	
etroit	73	61		80	62	рс	Raleigh	74	62		84	69	
l Paso	89	65	-	91	66	S	Rapid City	92	58		90	59	
airbanks	58	48	-	65	45	pc	Reno	97	65		94	62	
argo	86	59		81	56		Sacramento	98	62		97	60	
onolulu	87	74	рс	88	75	-	St. Louis	82		рс	84	67	
ouston	74	72		79		r	Salt Lake City	98	70	S	95	70	
ndianapolis	79	63	-	82		рс	San Diego	90	73	pc	86	72	
acksonville	90		рс	89	74		San Francisco	71	58		72	57	
ansas City	78	60	-	82	61	S	Seattle	85	58		75	59	
as Vegas	109	85	-	108	85	pc	Tucson	102	77		101	74	
ittle Rock	84	69	-	79	70		Washington, DC	70	63		78	67	
os Angeles	100	75	S	98	74	S	Wichita	84	60	S	85	61	

sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.