

Oregon's only heart transplant hospital suspends procedures

PORTLAND (AP) — The only hospital in Oregon that does heart transplants is suspending its program for 14 days because of a shortage of doctors qualified to do the specialized surgery.

The move leaves more than two dozen patients to decide whether to wait out the temporary shut-down or seek care at another medical center, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Oregon Health & Science University in Portland made the decision to temporarily freeze its program after three cardiologists on the transplant team left or announced plans to leave, *The Oregonian*/OregonLive reported.

OHSU won't evaluate new patients for a transplant, accept donor hearts or perform any transplant surgeries for two weeks.

Cardiac patients who don't need transplants can still be treated at OHSU, including for such procedures as pacemaker implantation, said Renee Edwards, chief medical officer for OHSU Healthcare. The transplant team is also adequately staffed to follow up with anyone who's recently received a new heart, she said.

During this 14-day period, Edwards said, administrators will focus on recruiting transplantation and heart failure specialists to run the program, including in surgery and post-operative care. The suspension could extend beyond two weeks, Edwards said.

"It was not an easy decision to make as the only heart transplant center in Oregon. We feel a tremendous amount of responsibility," Edwards told the newspaper.

Edwards said the departures on the heart transplant team were primarily for career and family reasons. Two will stay on at

OHSU until the end of September.

When executives learned of the pending changes Friday, they made the decision to suspend the program, which has run for 32 years, out of concern that patients who undergo surgery wouldn't have someone to guide their care afterward, the newspaper reported.

Eighteen heart transplants were done at OHSU in 2016 and 30 more were completed at OHSU in 2017, according to federal data.

For those on the transplant list, the news is devastating.

Dianna Howell, 58, of Albany, was diagnosed with heart failure in 2016 after passing out at work. She has been on the heart transplant list for 13 months and was told when she was placed on it that she had about 18 months to live.

"It was a transplant or hospice," she said.

Howell learned Friday at her monthly appointment that her doctor, Dr. Jonathan Davis, was leaving the program, and two others are also leaving.

On Saturday, they got a call from Dr. James Mudd, another physician on the OHSU transplant team, who said the entire program was being put on hold.

For Howell, that means starting over with transplant programs in Seattle or the San Francisco Bay Area.

She wonders whether she will live long enough to get established in the other programs.

"I just want OHSU to fix this. This is a wonderful program with great stats and really good doctors," she said.

Information from: *The Oregonian*/OregonLive, <http://www.oregonlive.com>



A federal judge has given the go-ahead for a thinning project along the Lostine River in northeast Oregon.

Wallowa thinning project passes legal muster

Forest Service is thinning 2,000 acres in Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
EO Media Group

Environmentalists have failed to convince a federal judge that a 2,000-acre thinning project in Northeast Oregon's Wallowa-Whitman National Forest violated environmental law.

Last year, the Greater Hells Canyon Council and Oregon Wild nonprofits filed a lawsuit challenging the Lostine Public Safety Project, which aims to reduce wildfire and insect problems along roughly 11 miles of the Lostine River.

A U.S. magistrate judge disagreed with the plaintiffs' contention that the fuel reduction project was improperly excluded from environmental studies under the National Environmental Policy Act and dismissed their other allegations.

Those findings have been upheld by U.S. District Judge Michael Simon, who has ruled in favor of the U.S. Forest Service and Wallowa County — which intervened in the case — by dismissing the lawsuit.

Simon has agreed with the earlier ruling

that the federal government properly used a "categorical exclusion" to exempt the project from the usual requirement of preparing an environmental assessment or more in-depth environmental impact statement.

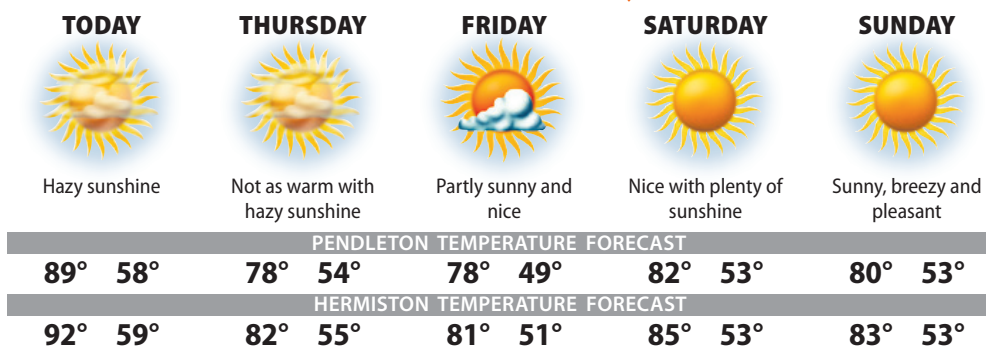
In this case, the agency didn't have to analyze whether "extraordinary circumstances" called for such studies due to provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill that allowed "categorical exclusions" outright for certain ecologically oriented forest treatments, the ruling said.

Likewise, wildlife and botanical reports associated with the project meet the requirements of the forest plan for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and didn't violate the National Forest Management Act by failing to ensure "species viability and recovery," the ruling said.

The project also complies with the "wild and scenic river" plan for the Lostine River because the Forest Service properly determined its long-term effects would benefit the river's "outstandingly remarkable values," according to the judge.

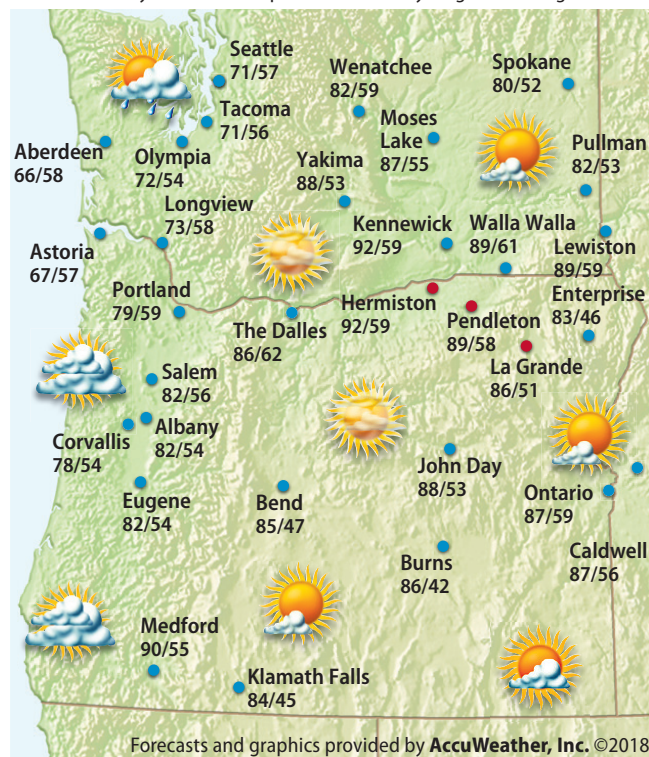
The agency's collaboration on the project was sufficient under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act as well, the ruling said. "Instead of participating, plaintiffs often objected to how the Project was being developed, rather than providing meaningful, substantive input."

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



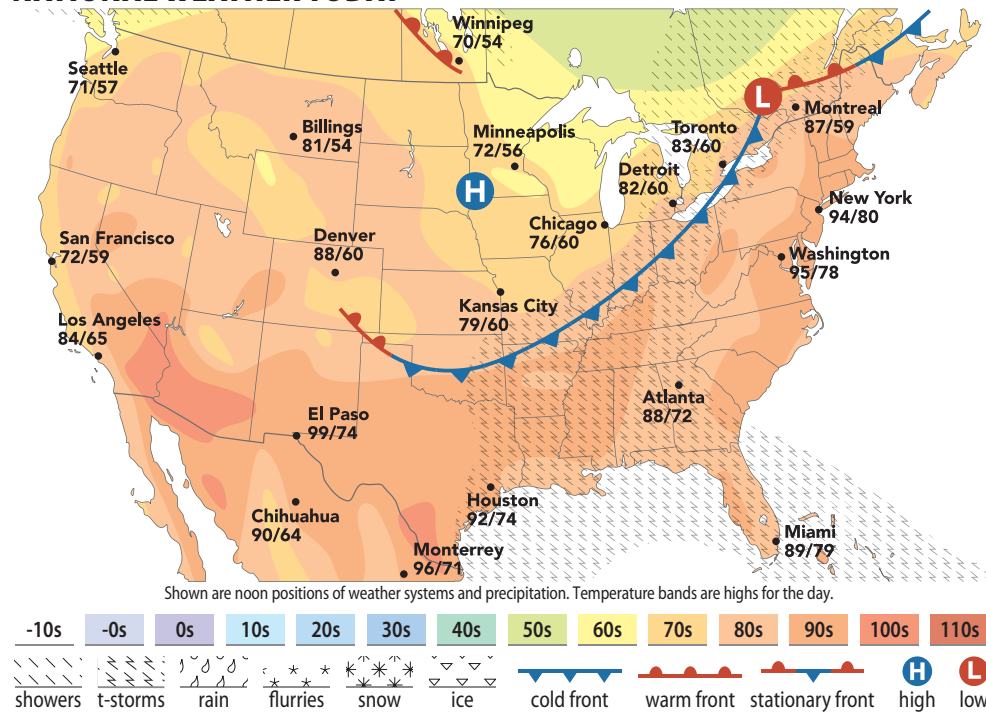
ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	80°	46°	
Normals	84°	55°	
Records	105° (1972)	37° (1909)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.03"		
Normal month to date	0.38"		
Year to date	6.52"		
Last year to date	11.37"		
Normal year to date	8.33"		
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.			
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW	
Yesterday	81°	43°	
Normals	85°	54°	
Records	101° (1986)	40° (1964)	
PRECIPITATION			
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"		
Month to date	0.05"		
Normal month to date	0.18"		
Year to date	5.15"		
Last year to date	6.65"		
Normal year to date	6.10"		
WINDS (in mph)			
Boardman	Today WSW 7-14	Thu. WSW 7-14	
Pendleton	Today W 7-14	Thu. W 8-16	
SUN AND MOON			
Sunrise today	6:12 a.m.		
Sunset tonight	7:39 p.m.		
Moonrise today	9:28 p.m.		
Moonset today	9:18 a.m.		
Last New First Full			
Sep 2	Sep 9	Sep 16	Sep 24

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 107° in Blythe, Calif. Low 27° in Utica, Mont.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Portland attorney authored complaint against Brown-Nike deal

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A complaint alleging that a ballot initiative agreement negotiated by Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, Nike and a public employees union was illegal was authored by an attorney affiliated with political opponents of both Brown and unions.

Attorney Jill Gibson acknowledged Friday that she had drafted the complaint filed last month with the Oregon Secretary of State's office by a Portland man named Richard Leonetti, Oregon Public Broadcasting reported Monday.

The complaint challenged the deal to keep an initiative off the ballot that the Democratic governor helped broker in early July.

The union-backed initiative would have required Nike and other large companies to disclose tax payments and other business details. The unions dropped the proposal. Around the same time, Nike donated \$100,000 to a political action committee campaigning against ballot initiatives opposed by Brown and the unions.

The complaint argued that the arrangement violated a state law.

The state Department of Justice declined to investigate the complaint earlier this month.

Leonetti previously refused to say who wrote the complaint he filed. But Gibson emailed the department after it declined the investigation.

Gibson declined to say who hired her to draft the complaint. She was a former attorney for Oregon House Republicans, and she has previously worked with Priority Oregon — the group that has run attack ads against Brown.



In this May 15, 2018, file photo, Oregon Democratic Gov. Kate Brown sports a green Vote T-shirt as she greets students during a "get out the vote" gathering at Portland State University in Portland.

ney for Oregon House Republicans, and she has previously worked with Priority Oregon — the group that has run attack ads against Brown.

"It appears that the DOJ didn't focus on the allegation and hasn't given it due consideration," Gibson said.

The state Department of Justice is standing by its decision, spokeswoman Kristina Edmondson said.

The Secretary of State's Office must still decide if it will investigate the deal as a possible election law violation.

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