

Pacific Northwest tribes: Remove Columbia River dams

Tribal leaders of Yakama Nation, Lummi Nation made the demand on Indigenous Peoples Day

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

THE DALLES — Two prominent Pacific Northwest tribes said Monday the U.S. government needs to remove three major hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River to save migrating salmon and starving orcas, and restore traditional fishing sites that were guaranteed to the tribes in a treaty more than 150 years ago.

The Yakama Nation and the Lummi Nation made the demand on Indigenous Peoples Day, a designation that’s part of a trend to move away from a day honoring Christopher Columbus.

Tribal leaders said at a news conference along the Columbia River that the Treaty of 1855, in which 14 tribes and bands ceded 11.5 million acres to the United States, was based on the inaccurate belief that the U.S. had a right to take the land because of a Christian mandate.

Under the treaty, the Yakama Tribe retained the right to fish at all their traditional sites. But the con-

struction of the massive concrete dams along the lower Columbia River between the 1930s and 1960s to generate power for a booming non-native population destroyed critical fishing spots and made it impossible for salmon to complete their migration.

“The Columbia River dams were built on this false legal foundation and decimated the Yakama Nation’s fisheries, traditional foods and culture sites,” Yakama Nation Chairman JoDe Goudy said near the site of now-vanished Celilo Falls near The Dalles.

Celilo Falls was a traditional salmon-fishing site for the Yakama for centuries, but it was swallowed by the river in 1957 after the construction of Dalles Dam.

There have been calls by environmentalists and others over the years to remove Columbia River dams, an idea opposed by agricultural and business interests.

The three dams operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are a critical part of a complex hydroelectric network strung along the



AP Photo/Rick Bowmer, File
Water flows through the Bonneville Dam near Cascade. Two prominent Pacific Northwest tribes are calling for the removal of three major hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River.

Columbia and Snake rivers in Oregon, Washington and Idaho that powers the entire region.

Government officials were unavailable for further comment Monday due to the holiday.

The Lummi Nation is located in northwestern Washington state, far from the Columbia River, but it has also been touched by construction of the dams,

said Jeremiah Julius, Lummi Nation chairman.

Chinook salmon are the preferred prey of endangered orcas but just about 70 orcas remain in the Pacific Northwest — the lowest number in three decades — because of a lack of chinook, as well as toxic contamination and vessel noise. The orcas were hunted for generations by the Lummi Nation in the Salish Sea for

food, he said.

“We are in a constant battle ... to leave future generations a lifeway promised our ancestors 164 years ago, he said. “Our people understand that the salmon, like the orca, are the miner’s canary for the health of the Salish Sea and for all its children.”

The Bonneville Dam was constructed in the mid-1930s and generates enough

electricity to power about 900,000 homes — roughly the size of Portland. Dalles Dam followed in the 1950s and John Day Dam was constructed in the 1960s.

Environmental groups applauded the tribes’ demand and said efforts to save salmon without removing the dams aren’t working because without the free flow of the Columbia, the entire river ecosystem is out of balance.

“The stagnant reservoirs behind the dams create dangerously hot water, and climate change is pushing the river over the edge. Year after year, the river gets hotter,” said Brett VandenHeuvel, executive director for the nonprofit group Columbia Riverkeeper. “The system is broken, but we can fix it.”

Fish ladders built into the dams allow for the passage of migrating salmon and migrating fish are hand-counted as they pass through. But the number of salmon making the arduous journey to the Pacific Ocean and back to their natal streams has declined steeply in recent decades.

The Columbia River Basin once produced between 10 million and 16 million salmon a year. Now there are about 1 million a year.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Clouds and sun

WEDNESDAY

Cloudy; rain at night

THURSDAY

Mostly cloudy and breezy

FRIDAY

Mostly cloudy with a shower

SATURDAY

Mostly cloudy with a few showers

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST									
64°	44°	66°	45°	61°	46°	59°	45°	54°	39°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST									
64°	42°	65°	46°	66°	48°	62°	48°	59°	41°

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	61°	37°
Normals	65°	40°
Records	83° (1963)	25° (1969)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.05"
Normal month to date	0.45"
Year to date	10.90"
Last year to date	7.91"
Normal year to date	9.39"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	64°	35°
Normals	66°	39°
Records	82° (1976)	20° (1969)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.04"
Normal month to date	0.24"
Year to date	4.80"
Last year to date	6.29"
Normal year to date	6.80"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Wed.
Boardman	SW 3-6	WSW 4-8
Pendleton	WNW 4-8	WSW 6-12

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:11 a.m.
Sunset tonight	6:10 p.m.
Moonrise today	7:28 p.m.
Moonset today	8:49 a.m.

Last

New

First

Full

Oct 21

Oct 27

Nov 4

Nov 12

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 98° in Beeville, Texas **Low** 0° in Granby, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

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

-10s

-0s

0s

10s

20s

30s

40s

50s

60s

70s

80s

90s

100s

110s

showers

t-storms

rain

flurries

snow

ice

cold front

warm front

stationary front

high

low

Oregon economy strong, but key industry down sharply

Manufacturing slowdown is more pronounced here

By MIKE ROGOWAY
The Oregonian

PORTLAND — Oregon’s economy continues to enjoy historic strength with the jobless rate hovering around 4% and incomes growing rapidly.

One key segment, though, has cooled considerably — and that could be a worrisome sign for everyone else.

Manufacturing hours worked in the state are down sharply in recent months, to levels at or below hours worked in the years following the dot-com bust and during the Great Recession.

“Manufacturing suffers from a slump induced by slower global growth and trade disputes,” wrote University of Oregon economics professor Tim Duy in his monthly report on the state

economic indicators.

Fewer hours worked means employers are running fewer shifts and less overtime, perhaps reflecting the costs associated with President Donald Trump’s trade war and the economic slowdown in China, the U.K. and parts of Europe.

Oregon’s slowdown has been particularly steep, with manufacturing hours declining at nearly twice the national rate. That puzzles economists, who wonder if new state overtime rules or the bankruptcy of farmers’ cooperative NORPAC may be accelerating Oregon’s slide.

In general, though, Oregon appears on the same trajectory as manufacturing nationwide. September was the sector’s worst month since the tail end of the Great Recession in 2009, according to the Institute for Supply Management’s manufacturing index.

“Global trade remains the most significant issue, as

demonstrated by the contraction in new export orders that began in July 2019,” wrote Timothy Fiore, chairman of the Institute for Supply Management, when announcing the national September data.

“Overall,” he wrote, “sentiment this month remains cautious regarding near-term growth.”

Some economists have already declared a national “manufacturing recession,” an unofficial term that describes extended decline in that particular sector of the economy.

That doesn’t necessarily mean a broader recession is imminent. Many economic indicators, from the low jobless rate to the modest inflation numbers, remain healthy.

Manufacturing’s decline does indicate the economy is slowing and that industry is increasingly nervous about the outlook. Continued cutbacks could be a drag on the rest of the economy.

BRIEFLY

Sheriff releases name of man who died in farming accident

ONTARIO — Authorities say the man who died in an accident at an Eastern Oregon onion farm is 42-year-old Theodore Frahm of Ontario.

Malheur County Sheriff Brian Wolfe says Frahm died Tuesday night when he was pulled into a piece of equipment used to harvest onions.

The *Argus Observer* newspaper in Ontario says several agencies from the region responded to the accident to help extricate the victim when the accident was reported just after 10:30 p.m.

Wolfe says the death was accidental and no charges are pending. He says the farm workers were just trying to get the crop to harvest before bad weather hit.

This was the county’s second farming fatality within the past month.

Man arrested after rocks thrown at Portland police cars

PORTLAND — A man has been arrested for allegedly throwing large rocks at Portland police cars.

Portland police say an officer was inside of one of the cars. The suspect ran away after damaging two vehicles Saturday.

Police say an officer chased the man and arrested him on three counts of criminal mischief, one count of interfering with a police officer and one count of attempt to elude on foot.

The suspect is identified as 27-year-old Nathan Prime. According to online records, he was released from the Multnomah County Detention Center on Sunday. He couldn’t immediately be reached for comment.

— *Associated Press*

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.

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