

Task force: restructure economy to save orcas

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Climate change imperils orcas in Puget Sound and to save them Washington should restructure its economy and eliminate carbon emissions by 2050, according to a task force report finalized Nov. 8 for Gov. Jay Inslee.

Global warming’s wide-ranging effects, from a smaller snowpack to ocean acidification, will harm the South Resident orcas and the salmon they eat, the report warns.

Restraining population growth, discouraging meat eating and requiring development to have a “net ecological gain” would help, according to the report.

The goal is to have 84 Southern Resident orcas in Washington’s coastal waters in a decade. There are 73 now.

“With only 73 individuals remaining, there is no time to waste — the road to sustained Southern Resident recovery is through swift, bold and impactful solutions,” task force co-chairs Les Purce and Stephanie Solien wrote in an introductory letter.

The report follows one last year that made 36 recommendations for nour-



Capital Press Photo/Don Jenkins, File

Environmentalists rally at the Capitol in Olympia, Wash., during the 2019 legislative session. A task force created by Gov. Jay Inslee has recommended combatting climate change to save orcas in Puget Sound.

ishing orcas that depend on chinook salmon. The report states lawmakers appropriated \$1.1 billion in 2019 to support orca recovery and that was an “encouraging first step,” but the state should now “double down.”

With the second report done, the Inslee-created task force was disbanded. Its recommendations include a new orca-recovery office, co-managed by the governor and tribes, to help orcas, promote environmental justice and maintain public “inter-

est in this crisis.”

The report was approved by consensus at a task force meeting attended primarily by its government and tribal members.

Washington Farm Bureau director of government relations Tom Davis said he was particularly concerned about the call for every development to have a “net ecological gain.” Would that make converting a pasture into an orchard impossible? he asked.

“It’s pretty cute coming

from people who already have their houses and their land developed, but how does it apply to farmers? It’s unknown and quite concerning,” Davis said.

While killer whales elsewhere eat marine mammals, Southern Resident orcas have evolved to eat salmon. Biologists report the orcas are undernourished. At the task force’s recommendation last year, lawmakers increased hatchery production.

Lawmakers also

embraced a recommendation to hold a \$750,000 “stakeholder process” to study the consequences of breaching four Lower Snake River dams. A report is due in December.

The new report outlines a more ambitious economic and social agenda.

According to the report, “a policy framework and investment is needed to restructure the economy, ensure equity ... and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.” The task force urged “transformational change” in regulating land, especially to counter the Trump administration.

Defenders of Wildlife’s Northwest representative Robb Krehbiel said he was pleased by the ambitious recommendations.

“If we want the next generation of Washingtonians to know our orca neighbors, Gov. Inslee and the state Legislature must turn these new recommendations into law, while increasing our investment in recovery actions from the year-one report,” he said in a statement.

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Brian Blake, D-Aberdeen, said he wasn’t interested in another agency.

“I don’t want to minimize some of this stuff. Puget

Sound basin is in rough shape. We certainly have work to do there,” Blake said. “But I don’t think expanding government right now is the right solution.

“If they wanted to get rid of a bureaucracy, I’d be open-minded about that, rather than just throwing another bureaucracy on top of other bureaucracies.”

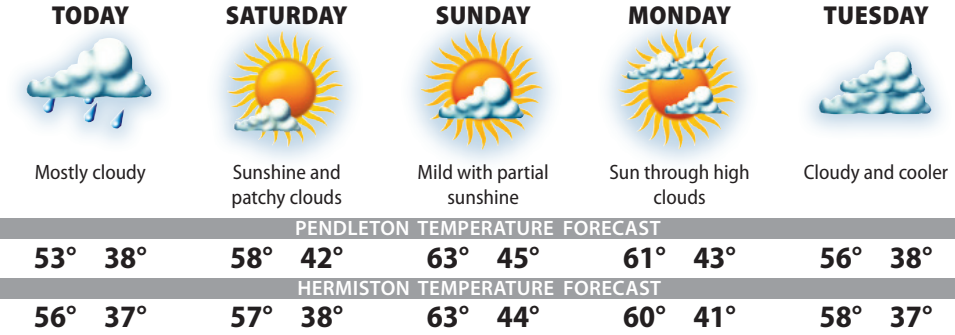
Blake was on the task force in year one. He turned the position over to another lawmaker for year two.

“It was clear to me they were going to piggyback onto orca recovery other desires,” he said. “I think that was kind of the fear as we started the journey on the orca task force.”

Okanogan County Commissioner Andy Hover also served on the task force in its first year, but not the second. He said the task force’s monthly meetings conflicted with the commission’s weekly meetings, and he wasn’t motivated to break away.

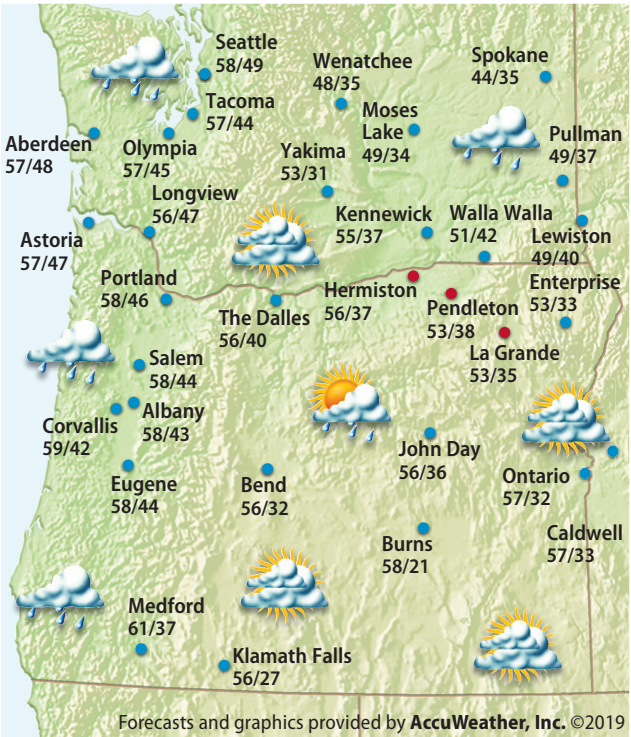
“When we first started, we were looking at things that would make an impact on (orca) population in the short term,” he said. “As it progressed, there were a lot of people asking about taking out the dams and things slowly went down the rabbit hole.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



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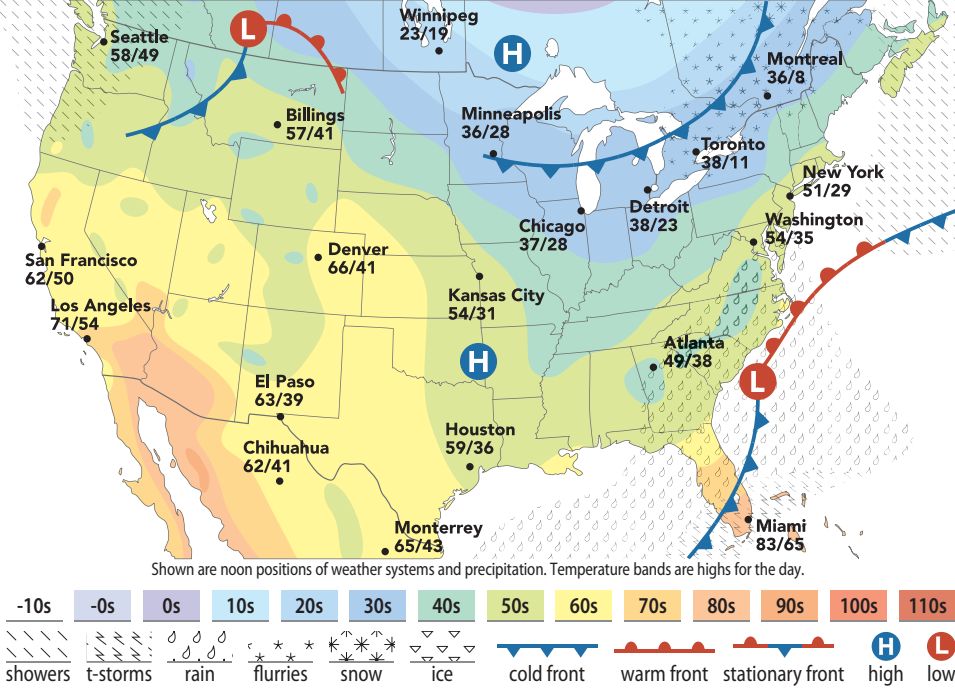
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NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 85° in Naples, Fla. Low -6° in Presque Isle, Maine

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Woman sentenced to 25 years for car chase, officer-involved shooting

By **EMILY THORNTON**
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A Walla Walla woman sobbed as she was sentenced Wednesday in Walla Walla County Superior Court to more than 25 years in prison with chemical-dependency treatment for a high-speed chase and officer-involved shooting earlier this year.

Amanda M. Warren, 38, pleaded guilty Oct. 14 to multiple felonies, including two counts of residential burglary, stolen-vehicle possession, three counts of second-degree attempted assault, three counts of third-degree attempted assault, unlawful imprisonment, and attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle.

The charges were reduced from the original, which included first-degree attempted murder.

Warren cried as she read an apology for her actions Aug. 3 and said she was high.

“I was under the influence of meth,” she said. “I’m deeply sorry for my actions. ... From the bottom of my heart, I’d like to apologize to each and every one of you. ... There are no words to express how awful I feel.”

She added she didn’t want anyone to feel afraid of her, so she planned to educate herself while in prison. She also said being shot six times was “rock bottom” for her and opened her eyes to where her life had led.

Her attorney, Jesse Montagnino, echoed Warren and said his client “didn’t have the internal strength” to apologize without reading a letter. He also asked Judge Scott Wolfram to adopt the agreement between the defense and prosecutors, and said Warren could die in

prison with a long sentence.

Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagle said the case was “one of the most serious in our county” and “this is another example of what illegal drugs can do.”

Others spoke as well before Warren’s sentencing, including Walla Walla County Sheriff’s Office Detective Kristen Daschofsky and Franklin County Sheriff’s Office Lt. Marcus Conner.

The WWCSO deputy read a victim impact statement from the man who Warren had tried to strangle on South Campbell Road, west of College Place.

“I thought she was going to kill me that day,” the letter stated. “I’m still in shock from what happened.”

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BRIEFLY

NORPAC warns of over 900 layoffs after sale collapse

PORTLAND — Oregon farmers’ cooperative NORPAC has notified more than 900 Salem employees that it plans to lay them off after plans to sell the bankrupt organization collapsed.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reports the new layoffs are in addition to 485 job cuts in Stayton the cooperative announced in September.

NORPAC also has a facility in Quincy, Washington; its future wasn’t immediately clear.

NORPAC plans to close a plant and a separate repack facility in Salem. Seasonal employees will lose their job when processing season wraps up Friday, while year-round workers will lose their jobs starting in January.

After filing for bankruptcy in August, NORPAC arranged to sell its assets to Oregon Potato for \$155.5 million. But the buyer pulled out complaining NORPAC hadn’t provided necessary documents to complete its due diligence on the transaction.

NORPAC is continuing to explore other

funding options and seek possible buyers.

2 dead in camper, possible carbon monoxide poisoning

THE DALLES — Authorities say two people and a dog were found dead in a camper trailer outside The Dalles and that carbon monoxide poisoning may have been a factor in their deaths.

Wasco County Sheriff’s detective Sgt. Jeff Hall says Yamhill County authorities on Tuesday requested help to find 47-year-old Deon Louise Patterson and 48-year-old Brian Thomas Paulsen, who had been reported missing by family members.

Hall says deputies went to an area outside The Dalles where Patterson was known to camp and found Paulsen’s pickup and camper trailer on a property near a cabin.

Hall says deputies found them dead in the trailer along with a dog. He says evidence suggests carbon monoxide was a factor.

Law enforcement and medical examiners are investigating.

— Associated Press

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EAST OREGONIAN

— Founded Oct. 16, 1875 —

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333 E. Main St., Hermiston 541-567-6211
Office hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
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East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday,
Monday and postal holidays, by the EO Media Group, 211 S.E. Byers
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Postmaster: send address changes to
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