

Farmers skeptical about being made ‘whole’ if dams breached

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

LEWISTON, Idaho — Eastern Washington farmers doubt that public subsidies would offset higher transportation and irrigation costs caused by breaching four Lower Snake River dams, according to a preliminary study released Dec. 20 by the governor’s office.

Without the dams, the river would be too shallow to barge wheat and other farm goods the roughly 100 miles between Lewiston, Idaho, and the Tri-Cities. Lake Sacajawea, a reservoir created by Ice Harbor Dam, irrigates 47,000 acres.

Farmers are worried about being “at the mercy of railroads” and “skeptical” about switching to crops that use less water, according to the study.

Washington Grain Commission CEO Glen Squires, one of nearly 100 people interviewed for the study, said he appreciated that the report’s writers captured different views on breaching the dams.

“I think they genuinely listened and began to realize this whole thing is more complicated than meets the eye,” he said. “It’s not as easy as giving a farmer a nickel, dime, 20 cents a bushel — case solved.”



Ice Harbor Dam on the Lower Snake River holds back Lake Sacajawea, a source of irrigation water for 47,000 acres of farmland. Farmers are skeptical the water could be replaced if the dam were to be breached, according to a study funded by the state of Washington.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Photo

The study was recommended by a governor’s task force on reviving the orca population in Puget Sound. Scientists blame a declining orca population on a lack of chinook salmon for the killer whales to eat.

All Snake River salmon runs are federally threatened or endangered species. Gov. Jay Inslee and the Legislature supported the \$750,000 study to catalog different perspectives on breaching the dams as a way to increase fish runs.

The preliminary study represents the views of

people representing farmers, tribes, environmentalists, fishermen, shippers and government officials. The public can comment on the study through Jan. 24.

The final study will incorporate the public comments and the results of an online survey. There will be public workshops and panel discussions on the study Jan. 7 in Clarkston, Jan. 9 in Vancouver and Jan. 13 in the Tri-Cities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration are

expected to release in February a draft environmental impact statement on the Columbia River system. Breaching the four dams — Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose and Lower Granite — is one option under study.

Inslee has said the study will inform his response to what the federal government proposes.

“I encourage Washingtonians to get engaged in the public comment period over the next month and share their input on what should be done,” Inslee said in

SNAKE RIVER DAM WORKSHOPS

- Jan. 7: 6-9 p.m., Quality Inn & Suites and Quay Convention Center, 700 Port Drive, Clarkston.
- Jan. 9: 6-9 p.m., Washington State University Vancouver-Dengerink Administration Building (VDEN), 14204 NE Salmon Creek Ave., Vancouver
- Jan. 13: Tri Cities, 6-9 p.m., Red Lion Hotel & Conference Center, 2525 N. 20th Ave., Pasco

ONLINE COMMENT FORM

<http://lsrdstakeholder-process.org/draft-report-comment-form/>

a statement.

The study, conducted by a private firm, does not recommend retaining or breaching the dams. It cites previous reports on the dam’s uses and effect on salmon and summarizes the views of “stakeholders.”

The study listed the people who were interviewed, but did not attribute specific comments to individuals.

Some 5 million acres of farmland, approximately one-third of the state’s total, are in the eight counties surrounding the dams, according to the study.

Interviewers found Eastern Washington residents who supported keeping the dams said people on the

“coast” didn’t understand or respect their values.

Supporters of breaching the dams said public subsidies for new irrigation systems, roads and rail lines could offset the harm to agriculture. “It is important to make agriculture ‘whole,’ so farmers do not suffer significant economic losses if the dams are breached,” the study reported.

Farm groups said the disruption to businesses, communities and families would be significant, as would the costs.

U.S. Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Dan Newhouse, both Eastern Washington Republicans, issued a joint statement saying the study provided nothing new and that taxpayers should be outraged.

“We had no idea a year ago when we said this study would be a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars just how accurate we’d be — imagine how far \$750,000 could have gone to directly support salmon recovery efforts,” according to the statement.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

TODAY

Mainly cloudy; ice at night

FRIDAY

Rather cloudy with a shower

SATURDAY

Clouds giving way to some sun

SUNDAY

Considerable clouds

MONDAY

Rain and drizzle in the p.m.

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
36°	27°	41°	29°	39°
27°	29°	30°	30°	29°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
39°	26°	43°	29°	39°
26°	29°	30°	30°	28°

OREGON FORECAST

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

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2019

ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	31°	22°
Normals	39°	25°
Records	61° (1980)	-16° (1924)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.75"
Normal month to date	1.27"
Year to date	12.33"
Last year to date	10.11"
Normal year to date	12.74"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	35°	21°
Normals	39°	27°
Records	62° (1971)	0° (1983)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.13"
Normal month to date	1.20"
Year to date	5.08"
Last year to date	7.58"
Normal year to date	9.67"

WINDS (in mph)

	Today	Fri.
Boardman	SSW 3-6	WSW 6-12
Pendleton	W 4-8	W 7-14

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:35 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:16 p.m.
Moonrise today	8:04 a.m.
Moonset today	4:54 p.m.

First

Full

Last

New

Jan 2

Jan 10

Jan 17

Jan 24

College Place High School student sentenced in bomb threat

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

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — A 17-year-old College Place High School student was sentenced to 18 months of community supervision and rehabilitation for felony harassment and threatening to bomb or injure property.

Isiah T. Levias pleaded guilty Nov. 8 to two felony harassment charges of domestic violence and one charge of threats to bomb or injure property after his mother provided police in September with his “disturbing journal,” in which he indicated he was planning to attack the school on April 20, 2020, the anniversary of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting in Colorado, records stated.

The youth had “no countable criminal history,” according to Walla Walla County Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagle.

However, on Dec. 20 he was found to have “a high likelihood to re-offend,” court records stated, and “failed to comply with conditions of a recent dispositional order or diversion agreement.” He also was found to have a substance abuse problem, records stated.

Because of five “aggravating factors,” Levias was given more than the standard range of 12 months supervision on count three, as “the standard range would fail to provide necessary treatment and supervision,” records stated.

Levias’ sentence included three months of community supervision each for the two harassment charges and one year for the threats to bomb or injure property charge, running consecutively, and ending on Dec. 6, 2020.

The sentence included chemical dependency alternative treatment for the third charge. His sentence also included 40 weeks of rehabilitation with the Department of Social and Health Services Rehabilitation Administration, 20 hours of community service, staying away from College Place High School, and a mental health evaluation.

Walla Walla County Corrections Department Director Norrie Gregoire wrote in an email that Levias’ 40-week rehab was suspended “with the caveat that if he violates any condition of the disposition or the court finds that he is making unsatisfactory progress in treatment, the court may revoke

the suspension and impose the 40 weeks in an RA (rehabilitation administration) facility.”

Gregoire also wrote that Levias’ sentence may be adjusted, as it appeared to possibly have been written incorrectly.

His disposition hearing has been delayed several times, including waiting for evaluation results. It first was scheduled for Nov. 22.

In the investigation, police found other literature with the same kind of material as the journal in the College Place teen’s room, records stated. The boy was booked without incident in Walla Walla County Juvenile Justice Center.

“Based on the notebook we recovered on scene, the teen planned to harm his mother and her boyfriend before carrying out a detailed plan of attacking the school, using a combination of bombs and guns,” College Place officer Dylan Schmick told the *Union-Bulletin* in an earlier interview.

Police didn’t find any evidence of explosives or guns, but Levias’ mother told them she had found items used to make explosives and had discarded them a month before telling police.

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 84° in Falfurrias, Texas **Low** -4° in Stanley, Idaho

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

BRIEFLY

Redmond boy found safe after reverse-911

BEND — A 7-year-old boy was found “safe and uninjured” in a neighbor’s house by searchers six hours after walking away from a facility in Redmond.

At about 11:45 p.m. Sunday, Redmond Police were called to a care facility in the 2900 block of Northwest 19th Street to a report of a 7-year-old child who had run away.

Dispatchers performed a “reverse-911” to enlist the assistance of residents within 2 miles of the facility.

Volunteers and professionals with multiple

agencies searched the area. At about 5:19 a.m. Monday, the boy was found in a home near Northwest Spruce Avenue and Northwest 19th Street.

A woman had heard movement downstairs in her home and walked down to find the boy, according to Redmond Capt. Devin Cooper.

“The door was unlocked, and it looks like he probably just went inside the house,” Cooper said.

The boy was taken back to the facility where he was being cared for.

The woman asked police to not be identified to the media.

— *EO Media Group*

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.E. 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

EastOregonian.com

To subscribe, call 1-800-522-0255
or go online to EastOregonian.com
and click on 'Subscribe'

East Oregonian (USPS 164-980) is published daily except Sunday,
Monday and postal holidays, 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 © 2019, EO Media Group

Subscriber services:
*For mail delivery, online access, vacation stops
or delivery concerns call 1-800-522-0255 ext. 1*

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

	Local home delivery	Savings (cover price)
EZPay	\$13/month	60 percent
52 weeks	\$173.67	41 percent
26 weeks	\$91.86	38 percent
13 weeks	\$47.77	36 percent

*EZ Pay = one-year rate with a monthly credit
or debit card/check charge

Single copy price:
\$1.50 Tuesday through Saturday

Circulation Dept.
800-781-3214

ADVERTISING
Regional Publisher and Revenue Director:

- Christopher Rush

541-278-2669 • crush@eomediagroup.com

Advertising Manager:

- Angela Treadwell

541-966-0827 • atreadwell@eastoregonian.com

Multimedia Consultants:

- Lora Jenkins
- 541-276-2214 • ljenkins@eastoregonian.com
- Jeanne Jewett
- 541-564-4531 • jjewett@eastoregonian.com
- Audra Workman
- 541-564-4538 • aworkman@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Coordinator

- Dayle Stinson
- 541-278-2670 • dstinson@eastoregonian.com

Classified & Legal Advertising
1-800-962-2819 or 541-278-2678
classifieds@eastoregonian.com or legals@eastoregonian.com

NEWS

- To submit news tips and press releases:
call 541-966-0818 or email news@eastoregonian.com
- To submit community events, calendar items and Your EO News:
email community@eastoregonian.com or call Tammy Malgesini
at 541-564-4539 or Renee Struthers at 541-966-0818.
- To submit engagements, weddings and anniversaries:
email rstruthers@eastoregonian.com or visit eastoregonian.com/community/announcements
- To submit sports or outdoors information or tips:
541-966-0838 • sports@eastoregonian.com

Business Office Manager:
541-966-0824

COMMERCIAL PRINTING
Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com