

Four governors agree to work together for Northwest salmon

By ANNETTE CARY
Tri-City Herald

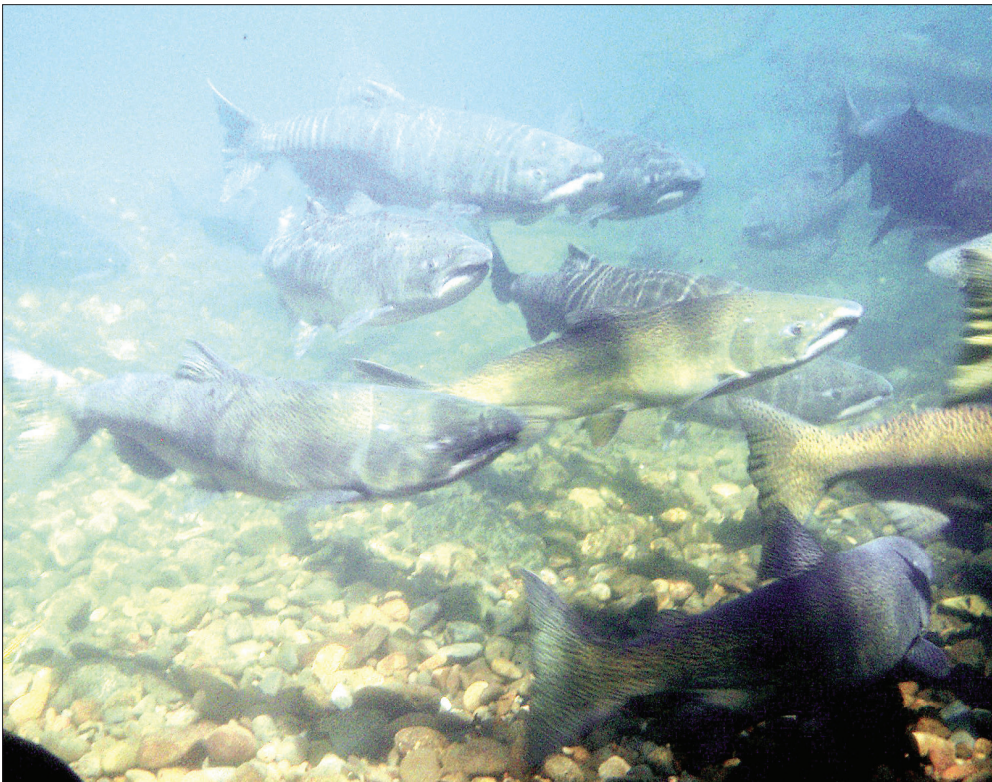
PASCO, Wash. — The governors of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana have agreed to work together to rebuild the Columbia River system’s salmon and steelhead stocks.

They may not all agree on the adequacy of the recently completed comprehensive environmental study of the Columbia and Snake hydrosystems, which resulted in a decision by federal agencies in late September to maintain the four lower Snake River hydroelectric dams in Eastern Washington state.

“However, regardless of those differences and separate from each state’s recourse, we commit to this ongoing collaboration,” said the agreement made public on Friday, Oct. 9.

The four states will use the goals of the Columbia Basin Partnership Task Force for rebuilding 24 stocks of salmon and steelhead. They also will consider the social, cultural, economic and environmental factors identified by the task force when deciding how to achieve those goals.

The task force was formed by the Marine Fisheries Advisory Committee of the National Oceanic



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife/Contributed Photo, File

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and Atmospheric Administration in 2017 and included the four states, Columbia Basin tribes and those with fishing, agriculture, conservation, river transportation, port and hydropower interests. Advancement of the goals will be done in a public process that includes state residents, federal agencies and tribes, which have treaty and cultural rights

to natural resources and will include discussion of regional issues, the agreement said.

The collaborative process among the four states is intended to provide a science-based approach to strategies and actions, the agreement said.

It pledges to help improve fish stocks to uphold treaty rights, support state fishing

objectives and protect economies dependent on the river.

Eastern Washington communities have rallied to retain the lower Snake River dams that are used for barging farm crops and other goods, some irrigation, recreation and to supply low-cost hydropower to the region.

But elsewhere in the

region, commercial fishing operations and recreational anglers have called for more drastic action than the new federal decision to help threatened and endangered populations of salmon species. The federal decision calls for increasing the water spilled over four lower Columbia River dams and the four Lower Snake River dams to help fish passage.

Northwest RiverPartners said it expects a multi-year effort under the agreement to establish processes and decision-making groups to find solutions for struggling salmon populations.

The organization supports the goals of the agreement, but stresses that the process must have scientific rigor and include a holistic look of salmon environments that includes the warming of the Pacific Ocean.

Northwest RiverPartners represents community-owned utilities in six western states and farmers, ports and businesses that rely on hydropower and low-carbon transportation.

“While there are many stakeholders who genuinely believe that dams have been the limiting factor in salmon recovery, recent research has shown that this anti-dam conclusion is not sci-

entifically founded,” Northwest RiverPartners said.

Salmon populations have declined worldwide in rivers with and without hydroelectric dams, with climate change likely to blame, it said.

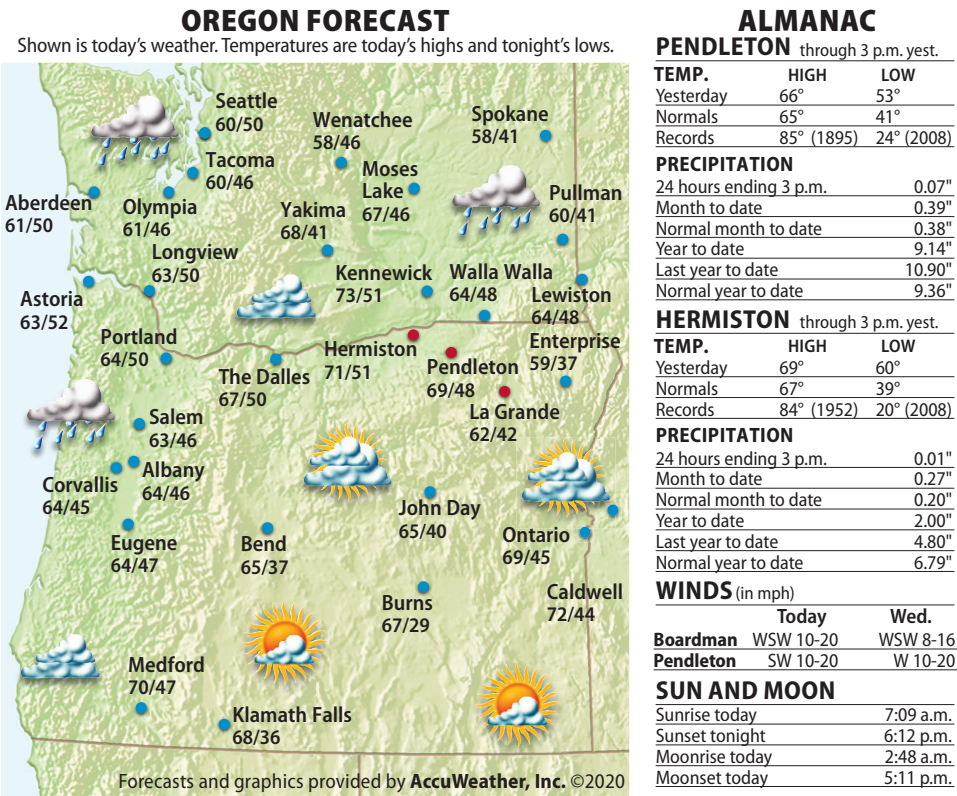
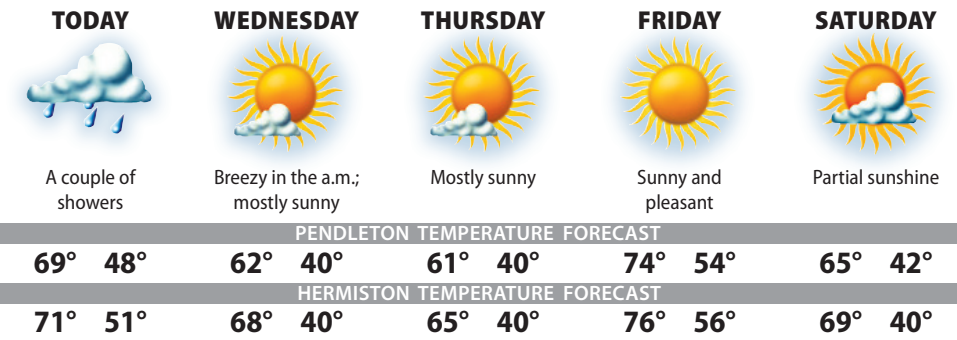
It cited the recently released Biological Opinion, in which NOAA Fisheries said that climate change appears to have a much larger effect on salmon survival in the oceans than in rivers.

NOAA Fisheries also said that chinook salmon may only have 20 to 30 years left in the region if the observed relationships between warming ocean temperatures and salmon survival remain steady.

In addition, scientists at the University of Alaska pointed to a more hostile ocean environment due to climate change and salmon spending fewer years at sea as chinook salmon in Alaska’s rivers are significantly smaller than they were in 1960, Northwest RiverPartners said.

The governors’ process needs to ensure the vitality of the hydropower system as a means to prevent more harm to salmon from climate change and also harm to people, including from devastating wildfires, the organization said.

Forecast for Pendleton Area

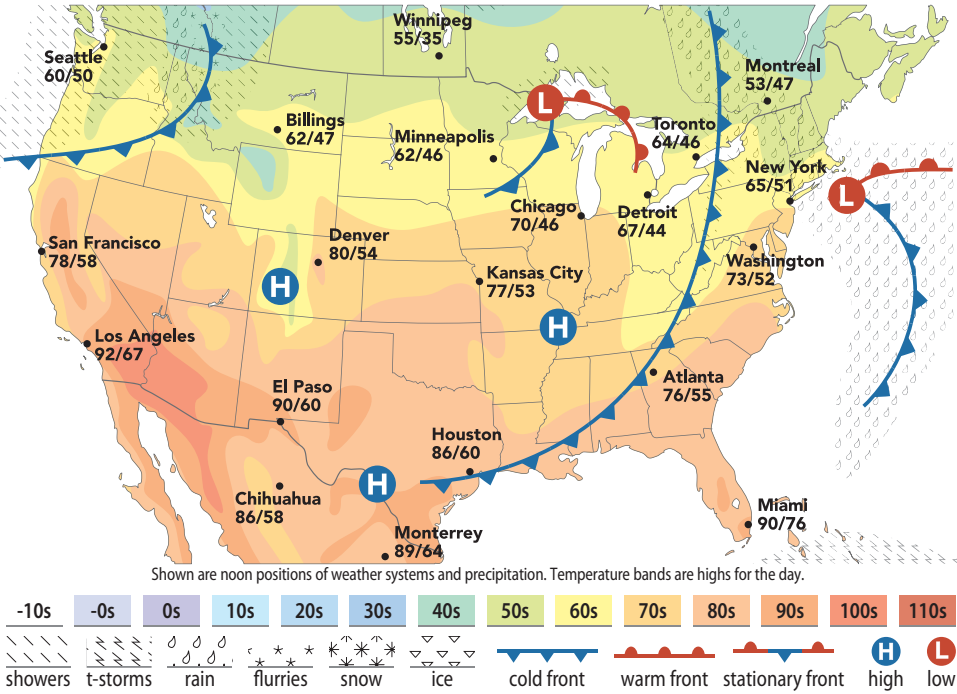


NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 104° in Thermal, Calif. Low 10° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Two recent calf deaths not from wolves

By RONALD BOND
La Grande Observer

LA GRANDE — Two of the most recent livestock depredations the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife investigated in Eastern Oregon lack any markings that point to a wolf.

The kills occurred in late September, one in Union County, according to the ODFW investigation report, which showed 25 depredation exams from July to September.

The first investigation was Sept. 23 after a livestock producer found a dead 400-pound calf in a large private pasture in the Manning Creek area of Baker County. Investigators estimated the calf died the day before.

“No attack or struggle scene was found,” according to ODFW’s report. “There were no pre-mortem bite marks or hemorrhage found on the carcass. The death of this calf was not wolf related.”

A landowner in the McIntyre Road area of Union County found a dead 500-

pound calf in a large forested private pasture on Sept. 24. The calf, investigators determined, died about three days before the examination on the carcass began. It was missing intestines and muscle tissue from its spine, ribs and hindquarters.

The examination of the site found no signs of an attack or struggle, and this carcass also lacked pre-mortem bite marks or hemorrhaging.

“The death of this calf was not wolf related,” the reported stated.

Michelle Dennehy, ODFW communications director, said there is no evidence of the death falling in the same camp as recent mutilation cases that have been reported around the state.

“There was nothing to suggest the death or missing parts were human caused,” she said. “The missing portions of the animal were consistent with scavenger activity — not surprising since there was sign of coyotes, fox and scavenging birds at the scene. This is virtually always the case unless the

carcass is found very quickly after death. Had there been evidence of human involvement it would become a potential criminal case and law enforcement would take over.”

Dennehy said it’s not uncommon for livestock deaths not to be a depredation.

“Most livestock, young and especially adults, die from non-predator causes,” she said.

ODFW, though, does not determine what results in an animal’s death in cases it’s called to examine.

“Our process only looks at whether or not it was wolf-related, not cause of death,” she said. “Though we try to be helpful to the livestock owner, sometimes a veterinary pathologist is necessary to determine cause of death.”

The case was one of four in Union County that ODFW examined in that three-month period. The state wildlife agency blamed the killing of a 550-pound calf in September on the Five Points Pack and determined the Ruckel Ridge Pack in August killed a guard dog.

IN BRIEF

Protesters knock down Roosevelt, Lincoln statues in Portland

PORTLAND — Protesters overturned statues of former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln in Portland on Sunday, Oct. 11, in a declaration of “rage” toward Columbus Day.

Protest organizers dubbed the event “Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage,” in response to Monday’s federal holiday named after 15th-century Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, a polarizing figure who Native American advocates have said spurred centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

The group threw chains around Roosevelt’s statue, officially titled “Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider.” They threw red paint on

the monument and began using a blowtorch on the statue’s base, news outlets reported.

The crowd pulled down the statue just before 9 p.m. The group later turned their attention toward Lincoln’s statue, pulling it down about eight minutes later.

Historians have said Roosevelt expressed hostility toward Native Americans, once saying: “I don’t go so far as to think that the only good Indians are dead Indians, but I believe nine out of every 10 are.”

Protesters spray-painted “Dakota 38” on the base of Lincoln’s statue, referencing the 38 Dakota men Lincoln approved to have hanged after the men were involved in a violent conflict with white settlers in Minnesota.

After toppling the statues, the crowd began smashing windows at the Oregon Historical Society and later moved onto the Portland State University Campus Public Safety office.

— 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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