

OUR VIEW

Consensus reached on dam removal

In crafting his plan for the removal of the dams on the lower Snake River, Rep. Mike Simpson has managed to forge consensus between farm, shipping and environmental interests on his idea.

They all hate it.

Blessed are the peacemakers. They may be children of God, but often find surprisingly little support at home.

Simpson, R-Idaho, has not proposed legislation, but on Feb. 7 released a \$33.5 billion concept for salmon recovery, which includes removing the Lower Granite, Little Goose, Lower Monumental and Ice Harbor dams on the lower Snake River in 2030 and 2031.

It is a bold plan, a grand compromise that seeks to address the competing needs of those who want the dams removed and those who depend on the status quo for their livelihoods, electrical energy, transportation and irrigation.

In short, Simpsons plan would:

- Require that the electrical power generated by the dams be replaced, and that the new infrastructure would be operational before the dams are breached.

- Provide money for: river restoration, the development of transportation infrastructure to replace barge traffic, economic development for communities impacted by the breaching, watershed projects and irrigation infrastructure.

- Require that all other dams in the Columbia Basin that generate more than 5 megawatts of electricity be granted an automatic 35-year license extension.

- Prohibit for 35 years any litigation related to anadromous fish within the Columbia River system under the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act or the Clean Water Act, and stay any ongoing litigation.

As we said, a grand compromise, but one that none of the major stakeholders will accept.

Despite promises that their concerns will be addressed, farmers and ranchers worry about whether they will get the water they need, or will be able to ship product. Electric utilities worry they won't have a reliable source of power and barge interests worry about their jobs disappearing.

Environmental interests love the idea of breaching the dams, but leaving the others unchallenged for 35 years is crazy talk. And filing lawsuits is their *raison d'être*.

A group of 17 environmental organizations says Simpson's plan would speed up salmon extinction and harm human health, calling it "untenable."

In releasing the plan, Simpson said he didn't draft legislation because an ambitious concept, such as he proposed, needs to involve all the stakeholders and the states impacted.

We don't think the plan as proposed ever had a chance, but Simpson should be given credit for starting a conversation. Does anyone want to talk?

We know what everyone doesn't want and what they won't accept, but what do they want and what will they accept?



New pup paws his way into our hearts



TAMMY MALGESINI
INSIDE MY SHOES

A 6-month-old German shepherd/Siberian husky mix recently made the Malgesini pack complete again. A month after losing Lucifer, my husband's 11-year-old German shepherd, John and I were thrilled to bring Biko home.

However, my 8-year-old German shepherd initially wasn't too keen on having to share his space and our attention with the rambunctious bundle of energy. John and I fully anticipated there would be an adjustment period for the General.

When I filled out the adoption application, it asked what circumstances might lead us to surrender the dog. I checked the box that said "doesn't get along with current pets." However, after the first 24 hours, I realized that the General and I would have to leave before taking Biko away from John.

Using criteria outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, if my sweet boy were human, I'm certain the General would fall on

the autism spectrum. His circle of trust is small, including only members of the Malgesini pack and gram-mama (and that's contingent on her doling out treats). When encountering other humans and canines, the General is fine as long as they respect his personal bubble.

On the other paw, Biko is quite sociable. During the Mikey's Chance Canine Rescue meet and greet event at Paw's Natural Pet Emporium in Kennewick, Washington, he excitedly wagged his tail and nuzzled up to both humans and other dogs.

Biko's unfettered exuberance in meeting the General was not reciprocal. My canine kid initially barked and growled at Biko or ignored him by physically turning his head — as if trying to convince himself, "If I can't see him, then he's not there."

After three days of intense facilitated socialization, the General's heart finally began to soften for his new little brother. In addition to now being able to coexist in the same room, they playfully romp together in the backyard.

John instantly fell in love with the pup after seeing his profile and pictures on Petfinder. Because of past experiences with Gastineau, our second German shepherd, I was somewhat hesitant with

adopting another rescue dog. However, since Becky Geyer of Geyer German Shepherds had retired several years ago — we got our last three German shepherds from her — we were faced with finding another source to add to our pack.

While I was somewhat familiar with Mikey's Chance, I wasn't aware of the extensive process involved with adopting a dog from them. The nonprofit organization's thoroughness and commitment in finding the right match for dogs in their care isn't the only thing they do right. Rather than housing dogs waiting to be adopted in a kennel facility, the dogs live in foster homes with people that love them while providing care, socialization and basic training.

When we adopted Biko, in addition to already being house-trained and crate-trained, he understood basic commands. The biggest plus for us was how social he is, which certainly contributed to how quickly he connected with John and me. And despite the initial rebuffs, Biko pawed his way into the General's heart.

Tammy Malgesini, the former East Oregonian community editor, enjoys spending time with her husband and German shepherds, as well as entertaining herself with random musings.

YOUR VIEWS

City program lacks a little something

Pendleton City Manager Robb Corbett has announced, despite the pandemic, increased tax revenue from marijuana and alcohol sales will result in an end-of-the-year cash balance that exceeds that at the year's beginning.

What he failed to mention is that borrowing is also at an all-time high requiring the city council to approve a request to Banner Bank to increase the city's credit limit to \$10 million in support of future planned projects.

Public works has announced its intention to proceed with a project to widen Despain Avenue. A little history on that one. A proposal by the city to do the very same back in the late 1960s or early 1970s was fought tooth and nail by residents and ultimately abandoned. Meanwhile, North Main has continued to rapidly deteriorate with potholes near the size of manhole covers.

Their program lacks a little something, but I can't quite put my finger on it.

Rick Rohde
Pendleton

Oregon GOP lacks any commitment to representative democracy

Certain expectations exist in representative democracies. Chief among these is that elected legislators attend floor sessions of the chamber to which they were elected, and attend meetings and conduct the business of committees to which they have been assigned. Representative democracy is undermined by legislators who fail to fulfill the duties for which they were elected and swore to undertake.

Regrettably, Oregon Republicans have fallen prey to the anti-democratic behaviors of Republicans across

the nation who are now committed to exerting raw power whenever possible. They're suppressing the votes of Americans if it's suspected those votes might benefit other candidates. Is there any reason to think that the Republicans Party of Oregon is different after:

- passing a resolution claiming the obvious falsehood that the Jan. 6 insurrection of Trump cult followers was a false flag operation,
- electing as party chair an individual who joined the Bundy gang of armed hooligan insurrectionists occupying the Malheur Wildlife refuge a few years ago,
- childishly demanding bills are read in full,
- regularly walking out of Oregon Capitol committee meetings and chamber discussions.

Seemingly, Oregon Republicans lack any commitment to representative democracy and remain committed to exerting the tyranny of the minority.

Alan Journet
Jacksonville

EDITORIALS

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