

Managers altering water spilling at two dams

By ERIC BARKER
Lewiston Tribune

LEWISTON, Idaho — Water and salmon managers opted Friday, July 2, to halt normal summer spill operations at two dams on the Lower Snake in a desperate attempt to keep water temperatures from rising to dangerous levels in the midst of a blistering heat wave.

If the strategy works, water at Lower Granite and Little Goose dams will be incrementally cooler in the short term, and the fish and water managers will extend their ability to cool the lower Snake further into August.

But the operation that could help adult sockeye over the next few weeks and returning fall chinook and steelhead in August and September may make conditions more difficult for juvenile fall chinook during their outmigration to the Pacific Ocean.

“It’s tough,” said Jonathan Ebel, a fisheries biologist for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. “Trying to balance the short-term objectives and long-term objectives and the interests of adults and juveniles at any one point in time don’t always align.”

Endangered Snake River sockeye salmon have begun



Ted S. Warren/The Associated Press, File

In this May 15, 2019, photo, the Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River is seen from the air near Colfax, Washington. Water and salmon managers opted to halt normal summer spill operations at two dams on the Lower Snake in a desperate attempt to keep water temperatures from rising to dangerous levels in the midst of a blistering heat wave.

trickling over dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers. But they face river temperatures that are pushing into the low 70s in some spots in the hydropower corridor between Portland and Lewiston and even higher upstream. Temperatures above 68 degrees are considered harmful for salmon.

Idaho proposed the action and was joined by the Nez Perce Tribe in bringing it to the Technical Management Team, a group of state, federal and tribal fish, water

and hydropower managers in the Columbia River basin. The forum meets weekly, and sometimes twice a week, during the spring and summer to manage water to help threatened and endangered Snake River salmon and steelhead while also trying to maximize power generation at federal hydroelectric dams.

Under the strategy that will be implemented starting today, the amount of water spilled at Lower Granite and Little Goose between 9 a.m.

and 11 p.m. will be reduced by raising all but one spillway at each dam. Some water will continue to go over specially engineered weirs at the remaining spillway at each of the dams. The weirs are designed to attract juvenile fish.

The rest of the water that would normally go over spillways to help juvenile salmon move downstream will instead be directed through the powerhouse at the dams. That may help keep temperatures cooler because the

intake for the powerhouse at each dams is about 30 meters deep, compared to just 10 to 15 meters deep at the spillways. The deeper water is cooler and reducing the spill also reduces mixing of warmer surface water with cooler water at depth.

It also means less water has to be released from Dworshak Dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater River about 70 miles upstream from Lower Granite Dam. Water released deep below the surface of Dworshak Reservoir is about 42 degrees and is used each summer in an attempt to keep temperatures of the Snake River below Lower Granite Dam at or below 68 degrees.

The reduced flows from Dworshak are important because the heat wave that produced seven consecutive days with temperatures at or above 100 degrees in Lewiston compelled the Army Corp of Engineers to begin the cool water releases nearly two weeks early and before the reservoir had refilled. That means the water that generally lasts through August will run out three to four weeks early this summer and just as adult fall chinook and some steelhead are pushing upriver. Modeling shows that for each 10 days the strategy adopted Friday is in place, it will lead

to one additional day of cold water releases from Dworshak.

“Being able to extend the use of Dworshak cooling water is important, one could say critical, to adults,” Ebel said.

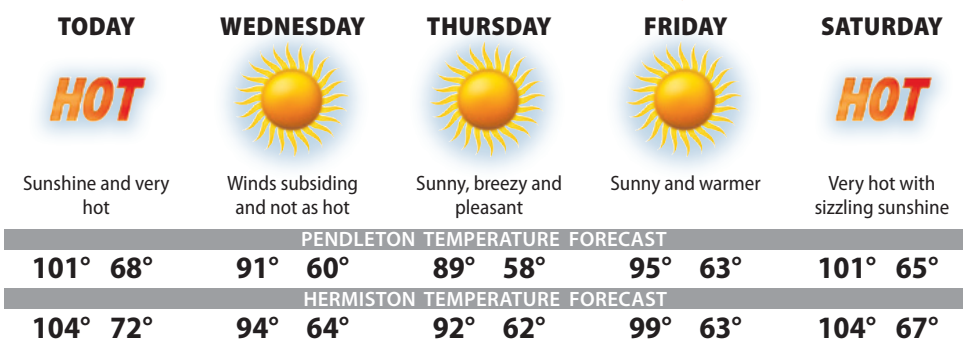
The tradeoff is more juvenile fall chinook will go through hydroelectric turbines because of the reduced spill levels and fish travel time will be increased. Studies show the fewer powerhouses encountered by juvenile fish as they travel to the ocean, the better they survive to return as adults.

To compensate, the juveniles will be trapped as they move through powerhouses and taken downriver in trucks to be released below Bonneville Dam.

Many members of the forum expressed reservations because of the potential harm to juvenile fish, but ultimately either supported or declined to object to the strategy.

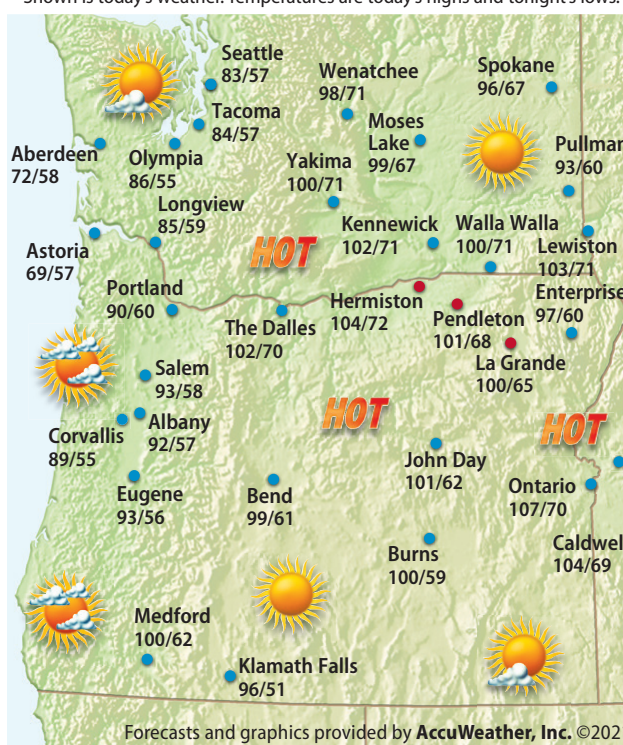
“We understand some of the concerns with altering the summer spill pattern and potential effects on juvenile fish and travel time,” said Claire McGrath, of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. “Given the river conditions, river temperature management is our priority at this time.”

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

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



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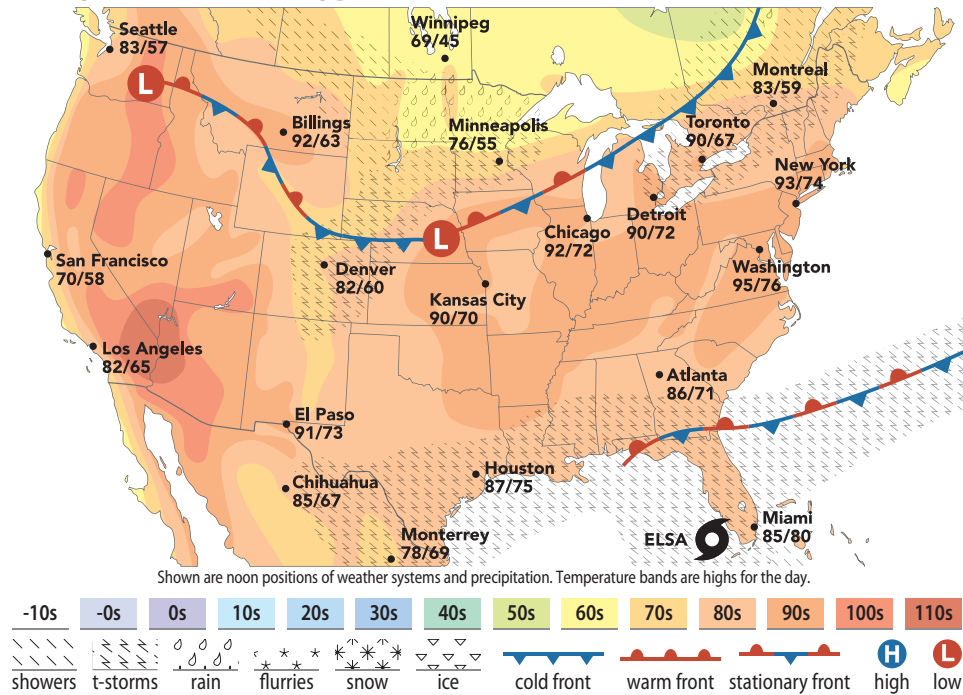
PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	95°	60°		
Normals	86°	57°		
Records	107° (2007)	38° (1932)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.00"			
Normal month to date	0.05"			
Year to date	4.34"			
Last year to date	8.57"			
Normal year to date	7.62"			
HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.				
TEMP.	HIGH	LOW		
Yesterday	99°	67°		
Normals	86°	57°		
Records	108° (1968)	42° (2012)		
PRECIPITATION				
24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"			
Month to date	0.00"			
Normal month to date	0.04"			
Year to date	1.93"			
Last year to date	1.65"			
Normal year to date	5.74"			
WINDS (in mph)				
	Today	Wed.		
Boardman	SW 4-8	WSW 12-25		
Pendleton	WNW 6-12	WSW 12-25		
SUN AND MOON				
Sunrise today	5:13 a.m.			
Sunset tonight	8:47 p.m.			
Moonrise today	2:37 a.m.			
Moonsset today	6:14 p.m.			
	New	First	Full	Last
	July 9	July 17	July 23	July 31

NATIONAL EXTREMES

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

High 113° in Palm Springs, Calif. Low 39° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



More than 1,000 hate and bias crimes reported to Oregon hotline last year

By JACK FORREST
The Oregonian

SALEM — Reports of race and bias to Oregon's bias hotline rose by 134% during the second half of 2020, according to an annual report from the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission.

A 2019 law passed by the Legislature requires the commission to compile and review all data on reports of hate and bias made to Oregon Department of Justice's Bias Response Hotline, along with data from law enforcement agencies and courts across the state. This is the commission's second annual report delivered on July 1 of every year.

The hotline received over 1,000 calls in 2020 reporting instances of racial slurs, threats, assault and murder that peaked in August after an initial jump in June.

There were about 470 reports in the first half of last year and 630 in the second. The hotline began taking calls for the first time on Jan.

2, 2020, which could help explain the jump in reports in the latter half of the year.

Among the reports, 492 were for harassment, 142 for assault and one for murder.

Over 60% of those reports, 454 in total, involved anti-Black incidents, including 250 directly related to Black Lives Matter protests and other reaction to the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis by a police officer, according to the report.

There were 110 reports of anti-Latino incidents, 68 anti-Asian incidents, 65 anti-Native American or anti-Alaskan Native incidents, 22 anti-Arab incidents and 21 anti-white reports, over 100 reports did not specify a race.

Nearly 100 people reported a bias incident related to COVID-19 and the racial scapegoating associated with the pandemic.

Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties accounted for 394 of all reports: 271, 61 and 62 reports, respectively.

In a footnote, the report

said 31% of bias incidents reported to the hotline were perpetrated by the government and 14% by police.

The report points out that 50% of calls made to the hotline went to voicemail and nearly a third went at least a day without receiving a call back. The commission recommended hiring additional staff for the hotline in the report.

The report noted 78 arrests and 82 charges for bias crimes in 2020, down from 88 arrests over the year before. The Legislature changed the name of the charge "intimidation" to "bias" and reclassified it as a felony in 2019.

Of those 82 people charged with bias crimes last year, 16 were convicted — 15 received probation and one was sentenced to prison, according to the report.

While the report captures instances of hate and bias incidents, it said the data is incomplete. Ten police departments reported no data on bias crimes and 45 departments reported incomplete data.

IN BRIEF

Brown: Heat death toll 'absolutely unacceptable'

PORTLAND — A Pacific Northwest heat wave has killed nearly 100 people in Oregon alone, a number that state's governor called "absolutely unacceptable."

"Following events like this we always do reviews and see what we can do better next time," Democratic Gov. Kate Brown said Sunday, July 4, on "Face the Nation" on CBS. Shortly after Brown's appearance on the national program, Multnomah County officials revised their estimate of heat-related deaths to 64, boosting the state's total to 99.

Hundreds are believed to have died from the heat during the past week in the U.S. Northwest and southwestern Canada.

Records included 116 degrees in Portland and 108 in Seattle. The hot weather was headed east, with temperatures well above 100 forecast

July 4 for parts of Idaho and eastern Montana.

Government officials warned people about the heat, dispersed water to vulnerable people and set up cooling stations, Brown said.

"We still lost too many lives," Brown said. Scientists consider the heat wave an ultra-rare event that's nonetheless consistent with the effects of human-caused climate change.

In announcing the additional deaths, Multnomah County officials emphasized the steps they took in what they called "an unprecedented mass casualty event." Officials in Oregon's most populous county, and the county to have suffered the most reported fatalities from the heat wave, noted they opened their efforts included "cooling centers and nine cooling spaces, directly contacting tens of thousands of vulnerable elders, people with disabilities and pregnant women" as well as distributing fans and reaching out to people experiencing homelessness.

— The 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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