



Photo contributed by Pacific Power

Pacific Power has received a license to operate the Wallowa Falls hydroelectric project near Wallowa Lake for another 40 years.

Pacific Power relicensed to run county hydro project

Actions required to protect threatened bull trout

By George Plaven
East Oregonian

Federal energy regulators will allow Pacific Power to continue operating the Wallowa Falls hydro project for the next 40 years, while also requiring additional protections for bull trout in the Wallowa River.

The facility, located south of Joseph near Wallowa Lake, consists of a dam on the river's east fork that diverts water to a small powerhouse with a single 1.1-megawatt generator capable of producing enough electricity for about 500 homes.

Pacific Power has run the

system since 1942 when it acquired the original operating license from Inland Power and Light. On Tuesday, the company announced it received a new license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission after the previous license expired last year.

As part of the agreement, project manager Russ Howison with PacifiCorp said they will invest \$3 million over the next three years to improve stream flow and habitat for bull trout, which are now listed as threatened in Oregon under the Endangered Species Act.

"Environmental standards have changed so much," Howison said. "With an old operating license, you have to bring the project up to new environmental standards."

Most of the work will involve leaving more water in stream for fish, and blocking passage into areas where

bull trout may be vulnerable, Howison said.

In previous years, Howison said the minimum in-stream releases from the dam into the river bypass were just half a cubic foot per second. Those figures have since bumped up significantly to 4 cubic feet per second during the winter, and five cubic feet per second during the summer, with one cubic foot of water equal to roughly 7.5 gallons.

"That's putting considerably more water in the portion of the stream below the dam," he said.

Howison said they are working with the U.S. Geological Survey install a real-time stream gage to monitor required minimum flows on the East Fork Wallowa River. The dam's intake structure will be modified to account for additional releases. Crews will also build a

fish passage barrier leading into the tailrace below the powerhouse, which had attracted bull trout especially during the summer. The problem, Howison said, is when the dam faces an unplanned outage, and the tailrace is suddenly drained of water.

"That's the real risk to bull trout," he said.

Since the project is right next to a number of popular hiking and snowshoeing trails, Pacific Power has agreed to work with the Forest Service on putting in new signs and landscaping to conceal the powerhouse for visitors. Once the work begins, Howison said there may be some temporary access restrictions, though the company will notify neighbors if and when that happens.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

Wallowa County will be on PBS



Kathleen Ellyn

In the current Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce newsletter, Vicki Searles reports that Kelly Cox – producer and chef of "Original Fare," on PBS – has filmed an episode in Wallowa County.

These visits by journalists and filmmakers boost interest in the county. They help those who are planning tourism expansion such as agritourism, culinary tourism or bicycle tourism to reach a larger audience.

Cox featured products grown, dis-

tilled, brewed, and baked from Eastern Oregon and highlighted the tour by traveling via motorcycle and cooking outdoors.

By late March, everyone can watch a teaser of the WC episode aired on PBS and learn when the episode will run. The show will be available through PBS streaming web, apple TV and rook apps.

The episode will also be available nationally, picked up by multiple markets.

Alice Trindle of Eastern Oregon Visitors Association (EOVA) worked hard to make this happen. Greg and Gail Johnson of Trout Haven hosted the guests.

Trindle has also organized an incentive package for viewers watching the episode. There will be a "Taste of Oregon's Old West Out East" contest. The prize will be a giveaway tour of East-

ern Oregon, and it will be advertised by "Original Fare" in Portland.

Original Fare plays into new tourism ideas that folks in the county are already thinking and planning.

Learn more at: <http://www.theoriginalfare.com/>

Watch Original Fare episodes at <http://www.pbs.org/show/originalfare/>.

If you are one of the people interested in bicycle tourism, you will want to check out Travel Oregon's 2017 Bike Tourism conference to be held March 21 at the Portland Zoo. You can learn more about this event and review a draft agenda at <http://industry.traveloregon.com/industry-resources/product-development/bicycle-tourism-development/oregon-bicycle-tourism-summit/>.

You may register online.

Agency kills wolf in Wallowa County

Incident deemed unintentional

By George Plaven
EO Media Group

The U.S. Department of Agriculture inadvertently killed a gray wolf Feb. 26 from the Shamrock Pack in Wallowa County.

The wolf died after coming across what's known as an M-44, a spring-activated device that releases cyanide powder to poison target animals. In this case, USDA Wildlife Services was using the device to kill coyotes on private land to reduce conflicts with livestock.

M-44s are triggered when canids such as wolves or coyotes tug on a bait that releases

a plunger that shoots sodium cyanide powder directly into their mouths. The animals usually die within one to five minutes.

The Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife had recently collared the wolf, OR-48, on Feb. 10. At the time, the male weighed more than 100 pounds and was estimated to be just under 2 years old. It was not one of the pack's breeding wolves.

"The death of this wolf shows the risk involved when wolves are in areas where Wildlife Services conducts these types of operations," said Doug Cottam, ODFW wildlife division administrator. "This is a situation we take seriously, and we'll be working with Wildlife Services with the goal of prevent-

ing it from happening again."

ODFW spokesman Rick Hargrave said M-44s were prohibited in areas where wolves are known to be active while the predators were still listed on the state Endangered Species List. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission delisted wolves in 2016, though Hargrave said the department had spoken with Wildlife Services to keep the devices out of wolf territory.

"I just know we had discussions with them that we didn't want those devices in a known wolf area," Hargrave said. "In our minds, I think there was a general agreement."

"We're certainly going to go back, reiterate those concerns and find out where there

was a communication breakdown," Hargrave added.

Dave Williams, state director for USDA Wildlife Services in Oregon, said they have begun an internal review of the incident. He said the agency "works hard to prevent the unintentional take of animals when addressing human-wildlife conflicts."

At last count, Oregon is home to at least 110 known wolves, though that total is likely much higher. Harsh winter weather has delayed ODFW's latest population report, which will be delivered to the Fish and Wildlife Commission at its meeting April 21 in Klamath Falls.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLOWA
In the Matter of
The Estate of HERBERT M. OVESTUD, Deceased.
Case No. 16PB08092
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of said estate. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative, c/o ROLAND W. JOHNSON, ROLAND W. JOHNSON, LLC, P.O. Box E, 200 West Main Street, Enterprise, Oregon 97828, or they may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings of this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.

Dated and first published: February 22, 2016.

Lorna M. Hill,
Personal Representative

Roland W. Johnson, OSB #77237
Roland W. Johnson, LLC
Attorney for Personal Representative

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Troy School Board will meet for their Regular Meeting on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the Troy School House. A copy of the agenda may be seen at the Wallowa Education Service District administrative office at 107 SW First Street #105 in Enterprise.

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN, the Board of Commissioners will be conducting a special meeting on Wednesday, March 22 2017, beginning at 6 p.m., at Cloverleaf Hall.

This meeting will be held to hear an update from the weed board and partners, to discuss noxious weeds and proposed treatment areas and approve the 2017 noxious weed list.

MEETING AND HEARINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THOSE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO. FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OFFICE AT 426-4543, EXT. 130.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLOWA
In the Matter of the Estate of Dei Kruse, Deceased.
Case No. 17PB01097
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed personal representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative, B. Rupert Koblegarde, 1130 SW Morrison Street, Suite 415, Portland, Oregon 97205-2215, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the personal representative, or the lawyer for the personal representative, who is the same person as the personal representative, B. Rupert Koblegarde, 1130 SW Morrison Street, Suite 415, Portland, Oregon 97205-2215.

Dated and first published on February 22, 2017.

B. Rupert Koblegarde, Personal Representative
B. Rupert Koblegarde, OSB #700795
Attorney for Personal Representative

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF WALLOWA
In the Matter of The Estate of LAWRENCE R. MORSE, Deceased.
Case No. 17PB00543
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has been appointed and has qualified as the personal representative of said estate. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby required to present the same, with proper vouchers, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, as stated below, to the personal representative, c/o ROLAND W. JOHNSON, ROLAND W. JOHNSON, LLC, P.O. Box E, 200 West Main Street, Enterprise, Oregon 97828, or they may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings of this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative or the attorney for the personal representative.

Dated and first published: February 22, 2017.

G. Elaine Morse,
Personal Representative

Roland W. Johnson, OSB #772370
Roland W. Johnson, LLC
Attorney for Personal Representative

LEGAL NOTICE

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

A public meeting of the Budget Committee of the Enterprise Cemetery Maintenance District, Wallowa County, State of Oregon, to discuss the budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 will be held in the Thornton Conference Room, Wallowa County Courthouse in Enterprise. This meeting will take place on Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

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