

Wallowa Lake Dam receives \$14M appropriation from legislature

Ensures fish ladder and sockeye salmon reintroduction

By Ellen Morris Bishop
Wallowa County Chieftain



Until Wallowa Lake Dam is repaired, its impoundment can only be filled to 72 percent of storage capacity.

The Oregon Legislature has passed and Governor Kate Brown has signed HB 5030, which provides state lottery-generated funds of \$2.5 million to the new integrated health center. Importantly, the bill also includes a \$14 million appropriation for the reconstruction of Wallowa Lake Dam.

"We are very excited about this opportunity, and we do hope to make the most of it," said Wallowa Lake Irrigation District (WLID) board member Joe Dawson.

The reconstructed structure will include a fish ladder, allowing the reintroduction of sockeye salmon to the lake. Because these will be reintroduced fish, when they are placed in the Wallowa River system, they will not be listed as Endangered or Threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

"We are very happy that the State has recognized the need in northeast Oregon for the reconstruction of this dam," said Jim Harbeck of Nez Perce Fisheries in Joseph. "It's been a long term goal for the tribes to bring sockeye home to Wallowa Lake. They belong in Wallowa Lake. The funding to rehab the existing dam will make that possible."

The Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, which owns the dam, contracted with McMillen Jacobs Associates of Boise to design the project once the bill, initially including a \$16 million appropriation, seemed destined for passage.

The dam will be a reconstruction rather than a remove-and-replace project, said Mort McMillen, principal engineer on the project. "We will be adding concrete to the upstream face of the dam, and actually encasing the entire dam in new concrete to make it heavier and more stable," he said. "We will rebuild the spillway and provide a fish ladder. The idea is to encase and reuse the dam, with modifications."

The basic design has been done in consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and Oregon office of Dam Safety.

The reconstructed dam will raise Wallowa Lake only to the level previously set by the existing dam. "Water levels were lowered for safety considerations until the dam could be modified," McMillen said. "So the reconstructed structure will seem to raise water levels in the

lake. It will — but only back to the level where they were when the dam was functioning properly."

The project's timeline includes design and permitting processes through 2020, begin dam reconstruction in late August and early September 2021, with completion sometime in 2022.

The \$14 million appropriation will have to be supplemented by grants or other funds to meet the \$16 million cost of the reconstructed dam. But McMillen is confident that the funds will be available.

The appropriation for the dam was secured by the work of Sen. Bill Hansell (R-Athena) and Rep. Greg Barreto (R-Cove). The funding will help refurbish the Wallowa Lake dam to meet current safety standards and will allow fish passage for the first time in more than 100 years.

Other eastern Oregon projects funded or partly funded by the bill include \$1.4 million for an early

learning center expansion in the Port of Morrow and \$1.6 million for expansion of mental health services for the Umatilla County Jail.

In a joint statement, Hansell and Barreto said, "These projects are essential in building up the Eastern Oregon economy and ensuring that our constituents have access to high quality health care in their communities and don't have to drive hundreds of miles away. The investments in vital infrastructure for irrigation, educational facilities and health care will set a strong foundation for a prosperous Eastern Oregon. Securing this funding would not have been possible without the hard work of local leaders and engaged constituents from throughout the region, who came to the Capitol to make their case. This is a great day for Eastern Oregon."

Both Hansell and Barreto had been meeting with constituent groups since 2017 in helping them secure funding for these projects.

Oregon Heritage Grants available, deadline Oct. 1

By Kuri Gill
Oregon Heritage Commission

pers and Japanese American internment related FBI documents.

The Oregon Heritage Commission is offering grants for qualified projects for the conservation, development and interpretation of Oregon's cultural heritage. Awards typically range between \$5,000 and \$20,000. Projects can include anything related to Oregon heritage, and priority will be given to projects that preserve, develop or interpret threatened heritage resources or heritage resources of statewide significance. The grant application deadline is October 1, 2019.

Projects may include theatrical performances, collections preservation and access, exhibits, oral history projects, public education events, organizational archives projects, films and more. Previously funded projects included a variety of projects around the state.

Past projects included: Chetco Historical Memorial Committee installed an interpretive area in partnership with local Tribes.

The High Desert Museum revamped their spring education program to include more diverse stories.

Linn County Museum partnered with Oregon Black Pioneers to incorporate African American history in the permanent exhibit.

Cascade AIDS Project collected oral histories and made them accessible.

Oregon Nikkei Endowment digitized, translated and made available online historical newspa-

The Vanport Mosaic Festival collected and presented the history of the Albina neighborhood in Portland.

"We hope to see projects from a variety of organizations that engage Oregonians in heritage," states Kuri Gill, heritage grants program coordinator. "We encourage the documentation, preservation and exploration of all aspects of Oregon's heritage."

Applications are submitted online. There is plenty of support for preparing them.

"Our goal is to support organizations of all sizes all over the state in their valuable work. We provide assistance in the application process," notes Gill. Oregon Heritage grants programs staff is happy to discuss projects and review applications in advance.

The Heritage Commission is comprised of nine people representing Oregon's heritage and geographical diversity who have been appointed by the Governor. There are nine advisory representatives from state agencies and statewide organizations.

The commission's mission is to secure, sustain, and enhance Oregon's heritage by ensuring coordination of heritage initiatives by public and private organizations; advocacy on its behalf; education of the public about its extent and value; and promotion and celebration of its diversity.

To learn more about the grants, visit www.oregonheritage.org or contact Kuri Gill at Kuri.Gill@oregon.gov or 503-986-0685.

Washington state moves against second wolfpack

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press



Capital Press

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is culling a second wolfpack in the northeastern corner of the state.

Washington wildlife managers intend to kill the remaining two wolves in the Togo pack in the Kettle River Range of Ferry County, adding a second lethal-removal operation in the region.

The state Department of Fish and Wildlife announced Friday that agency Director Kelly Susewind authorized lethal removal because the Togo pack continues to attack cattle.

The department is already thinning the OPT pack in the same county.

The Togo pack has attacked three cattle in the past 30 days and four in the past 10 months, meeting the threshold for the department to consider lethal removal.

The pack has attacked at least 11 cattle dating back to Nov. 3, 2017, according to the department.

A rancher shot a wolf during one of the recent

attacks. The department determined the shooting was lawful. Wolves are a state-protected species in the eastern one-third of Washington, but ranchers are allowed to shoot a wolf caught in the act of attacking livestock.

Two livestock producers who have lost cattle to the Togo pack this summer have tried non-lethal means of protecting their cattle,

according to the department.

The department targeted the Togo pack last year, too. The department shot one wolf Sept. 2. The pack continued to attack cattle, and the department planned to kill the pack's three surviving wolves.

The department suspended the operation in November without killing any more in the pack.

For the 2019 grazing

season, ranchers tried to guard against more depredations by the pack, according to the department. The measures include working with a range-rider that contracts with Fish and Wildlife and avoiding areas where wolves are known to gather.

Even with those and other deterrents, the department said it expects the attacks to continue.

Fish and Wildlife said removing the Togo pack's two wolves will not harm overall recovery of the species. So far this year, the department has documented 10 deaths. In previous years, the department has recorded 12 to 14 deaths, yet wolves continue to grow in numbers and expand their range.

Fish and Wildlife removed one wolf in the OPT pack July 13. The pack — which has four adults and at least four pups — has continued to attack cattle. The department said it intends to remove move wolves.

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