

# WALLOWA COUNTY CHIEFTAIN

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WHEAT FARMER FINALLY ABLE TO

## MOVE ON



Alder Slope farmer Erl McLaughlin holds some stalks of wheat he was unable to harvest last fall due to high moisture content. He's waiting for spring, at which time he'll burn the crop prior to planting this year's grain.

Photos by Bill Bradshaw

## Unable to harvest, grower gets settlement, can burn

By Bill Bradshaw  
Wallowa County Chieftain

**W**heat farmer Erl McLaughlin has finally gotten a settlement for his unharvested crop, after fretting through the fall and early winter and wondering what the next growing season will bring.

McLaughlin, who farms 550 acres on Alder Slope, was unable to harvest 412 acres of dark northern spring wheat because of the high moisture content caused by a wet fall.

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Associated Press File

The Lower Granite Dam on the Snake River is seen near Pomeroy, Wash.

## Brown says to build infrastructure, then breach dams

Renewable power, water and transport infrastructure to be part of governor's plan

By Ellen Morris Bishop  
Wallowa County Chieftain

In a letter widely interpreted as a clarification call for the breaching of the four lower Snake River dams, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown called for improvements to support communities, agriculture and renewable power sources before removing the earthen portions of the four Lower Snake River dams.

"The science is clear that removing the earthen portions of the four Lower Snake River Dams is the most certain and robust solution to Snake River salmon and steelhead recovery," the Feb. 11 letter to Wash. Gov. Jay Inslee stated. "This option reduces direct and delayed mortality of wild and hatchery salmon associated with the dam and reservoir passage and provides the most resilience to climate change. ..."

But she continued: "Much must be done before this is accomplished in order to help minimize and mitigate for potential harm to other sectors." Those tasks include "an affordable, nimble power system .... Continued water supplies for agriculture and municipalities; and efficient, and affordable ways to get commodities to market."

Brown's letter was written in response to the recent draft report on public opinions about the dams produced by Inslee's office. Key public concerns in that report included the need for infrastructure to transport large volumes of grain to market, provide irrigation and support for crop production, and to replace the power generated by the dams. It also expressed Oregon's support for pro-

**'...REMOVING THE EARTHEN PORTIONS OF THE FOUR LOWER SNAKE RIVER DAMS IS THE MOST CERTAIN AND ROBUST SOLUTION TO SNAKE RIVER SALMON AND STEELHEAD RECOVERY.'**

Gov. Brown, in a Feb. 11 letter to Wash. Gov. Jay Inslee

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## Enterprise hopes to hire school resource officer

Building cop-kid relationships seen as critical

By Bill Bradshaw  
Wallowa County Chieftain

The city of Enterprise is in the process of applying for grants that will help fund a school resource officer for the Enterprise School, city Administrator/Recorder Lacey McQuead told the city council Monday, Feb. 10.

McQuead said she has undertaken the application process for the Community Oriented Policing Services

(COPS) grant, specifically for the Cops Hiring Program (CHP), which helps fund hiring of new officers and rehiring officers. The grant would provide 75% of the entry level salary — with benefits — for three years.

Police Chief Joel Fish said he's eager to be able to hire a school resource officer. At present, he performs some of the tasks of a resource officer, such as going to the school and building relationships with the kids.

"In the mornings, I go and hold the doors for the kids, but I don't make it every morning," he said.

Fish said he learned of

the value of resource officers while working on his master's degree nearly 10 years ago.

"Kids seemed to trust a resource officer. They see counselors as more a part of the school administration," he said. "Sometimes they'll tell a cop things they wouldn't tell a counselor."

He also cherishes his opportunity to build relationships with the younger kids. That is evident any time he's at the school, as they come up to him and tell him the latest news from their worlds and even give



Bill Bradshaw

Enterprise Police Chief Joel Fish grins as he gets a hug from 6-year-old Joclin, a kindergartener at Enterprise Elementary School during lunch Thursday, Feb. 13.

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