

Dams: Brown says provide ag, community and power infrastructure, then breach dams

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viding adequate food (i.e. salmonids) for the undernourished Southern Resident Orcas whose decline was addressed in the Insee report.

In her letter, Brown offered to "... increase interim hatchery production of salmon important for

orca forage," in places such as the Lower Columbia that are "outside native salmon's "natural production areas."

She also touted moving forward on the Flexible Spill and Power Agreement" signed by both Oregon and Washington in late 2018. The agreement calls for flexible spill operations that meet three

objectives: provide additional fish benefits by increasing spill; manage power system costs and preserve hydro system flexibility; and retain operational feasibility. Specifically, these operations involve increased spill during certain times of the day for fish migration and lesser amounts for the hours when

hydropower production is needed most, according to a joint statement by the signatories.

Brown's letter has stirred concern among the eastern Washington congressional delegation. In a joint statement Friday afternoon, Republican Reps. Dan Newhouse, Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Jaime Her-

raera Beutler, said, "Gov. Brown's position is not only misguided, it is shocking and extreme."

Jim Harbeck, head of the Nez Perce Fisheries office in Joseph, said "The Nez Peace tribe has been in favor of breaching the dams for years and was one of the first to call for their removal. Now there are increasing

voices calling for removal, and mounting support."

Brown's letter stated, "As identified in your draft report, collaborative, solutions based discussions among stakeholders are needed to facilitate these discussions. Oregon stands ready to be an effective leader and partner in these efforts."

Wheat: Burning last year's crop is Wallowa County farmer's 'only option'

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Insured under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Multi-Peril Crop Insurance program, McLaughlin said he kept thorough documentation from late September that showed weather and crop conditions that he was able to present to the USDA office in Spokane, Wash. As a result, he was able to get the settlement in late January.

Though declining to state the exact amount, he said the settlement staved off total disaster.

"Considering the conditions of the crop — because it had a lot of things wrong with it including a high moisture content — the settlement was quite substantial," he said.

Although the high moisture in his wheat would've led to lower prices he would've received, he doesn't consider the insurance settlement better than selling his crop.

"Insurance companies are not designed to make you complete," he said, just to help avoid a complete loss and enable growers to continue onto the next year.

"I've been farming for 40 years and never had a crop fail like this," he said.

McLaughlin said he had approached the Wallowa County Commission last fall requesting they declare the county a disaster area



Wheat farmer Erl McLaughlin looks over his snow-covered wheat in December that didn't dry out enough to harvest last fall. He'll have to burn it in the spring before planting this year's crop.



Most of Alder Slope farmer Erl McLaughlin's crop of dark northern spring wheat stood unharvested and covered with snow in December having not dried out enough to harvest last fall. He'll have to burn it in the spring before planting this year's crop.



Alder Slope farmer Erl McLaughlin's dark northern spring wheat still stands Wednesday, Feb. 12, after McLaughlin was unable to harvest it last fall.

because of the weather-related harvest conditions.

"That never happened," he said.

County Commissioner Todd Nash, whom McLaughlin had contacted, said the commissioners considered McLaughlin's request, talked to other growers in similar positions and determined "there

wasn't a lot of benefit" in a disaster declaration, Nash said.

He said he made contact with most growers similarly affected by the weather and most had gotten their crops harvested. However, many got low prices for the grain due to high moisture content or having sprouted in the field. Much of it had to

be sold for feed.

Nash said he didn't recall the number of farmers or acres involved, but said, "Most of it got harvested."

He also said he repeatedly checked with McLaughlin and other growers to make sure they got adequate insurance settlements.

"It was a tough deal," he said of the farmers' plight.

McLaughlin's grain usually gets shipped to the Far East after being trucked to Burbank, Wash., where it's loaded on barges on the Columbia River and shipped to Portland.

For this year's growing season, McLaughlin said that as soon as weather conditions permit, he'll burn last year's crop where it

stands. He would have preferred to turn under the stubble of a harvested crop for its fertilizer value, which will be lost by burning.

"But that's about my only option," he said.

But he keeps on keeping on.

"We don't dwell on the past," McLaughlin said. "We just keep moving on."

School: Enterprise hopes to hire a resource officer

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him a hug.

"It's great with the younger kids. By the time they're in later elementary school, it becomes harder" (to build relationships,) he said.

That makes it all the more critical to keep kids from a path that could lead them to becoming lawbreakers and requiring a different relationship with police.

"I don't want to have to be the bad guy," Fish said.

Erika Pinkerton, school superintendent and elementary school principal, as well as Blake Carlsen, junior-senior high principal, also welcome having a regular officer assigned to the school.

"I would love to have a school resource officer," Carlsen said. "I sure hope it works out."

He was quite complimentary of Fish and his officers in their presence at school events.

"I love it when they walk through our campus; I love it when they show up at games, I love it when they develop relationship with students and staff," he said. "Joel's just out there meeting with and talking to the kids."

As the threat of violence at schools regularly makes the news — particularly in larger, urban areas — Enterprise has been fortunate to have avoided any gun-related incidents.

There was, however, a recent incident that sparked rumors that frightened people.

Last week, a special-needs student reportedly made a threatening gesture — forming a gun with his fingers — toward another student, which sparked rumors of a "gun incident" at the high school. Some even expressed fear at returning to school because of the non-incident.



Enterprise Police Chief Joel Fish talks with Enterprise Elementary School students during their lunch Thursday, Feb. 13, at the school. Fish is hoping to be able to hire a regular school resource officer with the help of a grant the city is applying for.

"All of our school protocols are being followed," Carlsen said. "Whenever

there is any kind of an incident, it does shake up people a little bit ... no matter

what level of the incident because we have bad things, we have evil in our world."

"We thought we should deal with it anyway," Fish said, so the school called to let him know about it. But given the insignificance of the incident, he said, "I didn't even write a report."

He said such an incident is one a school resource officer would have been able to handle.

Still, such a minor incident was enough to unnerve people.

"That doesn't mean there's not a response of anxiety or fear from those around," Carlsen said. "I'm very proud of our students on their response. I'm very proud of our teachers on their response and steps they take for the safety of our school."

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