

Forgoing technology, mules called on to make farm go

By ANN BLOOM
For the Wallowa County
Chieftain

a Belgian draft horse. “They (the mules) are our employees,” said McGrath. McGrath describes the relationship between the mules and the use of them, as opposed to mechanized farming, as being positive for the planet.

“It’s an attractive application,” he said, “horses have no ‘off’ button. They have strengths and weaknesses,” like any relationship, plus, “it’s fun!”

He said the size of their property is just right for the two of them and allows them to make ends meet while still being able to pursue other interests and activities. McGrath said the operation allows them to, “select the things we like with the size we have and merge the things we’re both passionate about.”

The mules can work into their early 30s and the draft horses to their early 20s. McGrath says it’s important to keep them active, “chugging along, plowing and turning the sod — it’s the single hardest draft task.”

McGrath and Bass currently lease the land they are farming. They will plow five



Pete, the mule, and Belle, the draft horse, are driven by Jessica Bass and Adam McGrath.

plots that are three-quarters of an acre, but will only grow one plot of garlic at a time. They will rotate the plot that contains garlic each year so the soil is not overused and would thus encourage pests and disease. The other four plots will be planted in a cover crop, mostly alfalfa.

“This is the best crop (alfalfa) to follow garlic because it fixes nitrogen as well as accumulates other important nutrients in the soil,” Bass said. “The second reason we chose alfalfa as a cover crop is because it can feed our stock. Alfalfa provides a source of protein for the mules and gives them a

healthy boost as they age and continue to work.”

They can also branch out to what McGrath calls “tertiary” venues; places which buy salad mixes may also buy flowers, which the couple will grow. They also plan to use the team to deliver produce to customers in Enterprise and offer wagon rides as an extra source of income.

McGrath said one of their biggest challenges has been that they did not come from a farming background. Also, finding farm ground to purchase continues to be a challenge. He said some people may have a romanticized perception about farming.

“Farming with mules is not tidy,” he said, “but I wouldn’t farm if I couldn’t farm with mules.”

He said the number of farmers who farm using mules is not large. Many that use mules or horses to farm are faith-based, such as the Amish, and are often located in other parts of the country. There is a farm in Walla Walla, Washington, called the Hayshaker Farm, which uses mules and is not Amish. “They are young folks about our age that learned how to drive a team from the same mentor as us, John Erskine, who lives in Sequim, Washington, on the Olympic Peninsula,” Bass said. “We have collaborated with Hayshaker Farm a couple of times for plowing. We went to their plowing bee last year and they came and helped us plow this year. We plan to continue to help each other out in order to keep the tradition alive.” said Bass.

Another draft-powered, non-Amish farm, the Hedgerose Farm, is located at Halfway.

McGrath grew up on the front range of Colorado and has been a skier all his life.

He moved to Western Oregon at 18. From there he moved to the Olympic Peninsula in his early 20s. He learned to work with horses and drive a team more than a decade ago and has been farming with horses for about seven years. He met Bass when they worked together at the River Run Farm on the Olympic Peninsula.

Bass, a born-and-raised, self-proclaimed city kid from Minneapolis, learned to drive a team in her mid-20’s when she worked at a dude ranch in Colorado. She continued to hone her skills, and learned to farm, while working at the River Run Farm after moving to the Olympic Peninsula. McGrath and Bass bought their first team, Charlie and Mae, a pair of Belgian mules about three years ago.

“We chose to start a farm because we are passionate about the work. We both love making ecological observations, watching plants grow and caring for livestock,” she said.

Of farming with mules, McGrath sums it up this way: “It’s just a choice we made, and we really like it.”

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This week's featured book

This Time Tomorrow

by Emma Straub

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Idaho Power Company Project No. 1971-079
NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE A SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
(June 13, 2022)

On July 21, 2003, Idaho Power Company (Idaho Power) filed an application for a new license for the Hells Canyon Project, 1 FERC No. 1971. The project is located on the Snake River in Washington and Adams Counties, Idaho, and Wallowa and Baker Counties, Oregon. The Hells Canyon Project consists of three developments (dams, reservoirs, and powerhouses) on the segment of the Snake River forming the border between Idaho and Oregon. 2 The three developments are Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon, which combined provide 1,167 megawatts of power generating capacity and 6,562,244 megawatt hours of electricity annually. The project occupies approximately 5,640 acres of federal land, including land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service.

On August 31, 2007, the Commission issued a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Hells Canyon Project. On December 30, 2019, Idaho Power filed an Offer of Settlement (settlement) with the Commission for the Hells Canyon Project. 3 The settlement, which was executed on April 22, 2019, includes, among other items, spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead fish passage measures. In addition, the Oregon and Idaho Departments of Environmental Quality each issued a water quality certification under section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the Hells Canyon Project on May 24, 2019.

On July 1, 2020, Idaho Power supplemented the final license application for the project with additional information on its proposal, including an analysis of the new and revised fish-related protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures proposed under the

- 1 Referred to in Idaho Power’s license application as the Hells Canyon Complex.
- 2 The current license expired on July 31, 2005, and the project is operating under an annual license.
- 3 On January 7, 2020, the Commission issued notice of the offer of settlement’s filing.

settlement, and updated information on project resources. Additionally, Idaho Power filed on October 14, 2020, draft biological assessments for species managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service, which included an analysis of the effects of the new and revised measures on fish and wildlife listed under the Endangered Species Act.

In order to assess the new and revised fish-related protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures proposed under the settlement, the Oregon and Idaho water quality certificates, and the draft biological assessments, Commission staff intends to prepare a draft and final supplemental EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The supplemental EIS will describe and evaluate the effects of the proposed action and alternatives. The focus of the supplemental EIS will be on the new and revised measures proposed by the settlement, the conditions contained in the Oregon and Idaho water quality certificates, and the information provided in the draft biological assessments. For the resource areas not affected by the new and revised proposed measures or new environmental information, the supplemental EIS will either include or incorporate by reference analyses from the Commission’s final EIS.

With this notice, we are reinitiating informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and the joint agency regulations thereunder at 50 C.F.R., Part 402.

The draft supplemental EIS will be sent to all persons and entities on the Commission’s service and mailing lists for the Hells Canyon Project. Recipients will then have 60 days to review the draft supplemental EIS and file written comments with the Commission. All comments filed with the Commission on the final supplemental EIS will be considered in the Order taking final action on the license application. The application will be processed according to the following Hydro Licensing Schedule. Revisions to the schedule may be made as appropriate.

MILESTONE
Draft supplemental EIS Issued
Comments Due on draft supplemental EIS
Final supplemental EIS Issued

TARGET DATE
June 2023
August 2023
December 2023

This notice informs all interested individuals, organizations, and agencies with environmental expertise and concerns, that: (1) the Commission staff has decided to prepare a supplemental EIS addressing the settlement; and (2) the comments, recommendations, and terms and conditions already on file with the Commission on the application will be taken into account in the supplemental EIS.

Any questions regarding this notice may be directed to Nicholas Ettema at 312-596-4447, or by email at nicholas.ettema@ferc.gov.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

Legal No. 303920 Published: June 22, 2022

NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING

A public hearing on a proposed supplemental budget for the Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, for the current fiscal year, will be held at the Baker County Courthouse, 1995 Third Street, Baker City Oregon. The hearing will take place on June 30 at 1:30 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the supplemental budget with interested persons. A copy of the supplemental budget document may be inspected or obtain on or after June 21 at 101 NE First Street, Suite 100, Enterprise between the hours of noon and 5 p.m. or online at <https://www.neocedd.org/about/>.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES
AMOUNTS SHOWN ARE REVISED TOTALS IN THOSE FUNDS BEING MODIFIED

FUND	EDA Planning Grant		
Resource	Amount	Expenditure	Amount
Federal Grant	\$103,500	Personal Services	\$86,000
Transfers In	\$7,500	Materials & Services	\$25,000
Revised Total Fund Resources	\$111,000	Revised Total Fund Requirements	\$111,000

Explanation of Changes: Additional grant funds received, and work performed.

FUND	Individual Development Account		
Resource	Amount	Expenditure	Amount
Administrative Rev.	\$8,000	Personal Services	\$11,665
		Materials & Services	\$3,800
Revised Total Fund Resources	\$8,000	Revised Total Fund Requirements	\$15,465

Explanation of Changes: Additional work performed; fund balances will be used to pay costs.

Legal No. 304389
Published: June 22, 2022

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FORM LB-1 NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

A public meeting of the City of Joseph will be held on June 27th, 2022 at 5:00 pm at the Joseph Community Center, Joseph, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 as approved by the City of Joseph’s Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 201 North Main Street, Joseph, Oregon, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or online at The City of Joseph. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting that is the same as the preceding year. If different, the major changes and their effect on the budget are:

Contact: Dan Larman Telephone: 541-432-3832 Email: deputyadmin@josephoregon.org

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2020-2021	Adopted Budget This Year 2021-2022	Approved Budget Next Year 2022-2023
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	1,966,280	1,814,050	2,145,157
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	1,138,257	935,311	1,050,700
Federal, State & all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations & Donations	348,979	481,045	331,000
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	0	6,200,000	0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	646,124	595,042	596,000
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	0	0	8,184,500
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	313,200	348,000	365,000
Total Resources	4,412,840	10,052,840	12,672,357

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	600,884	667,630	869,000
Materials and Services	759,405	654,290	878,650
Capital Outlay	422,386	1,300,538	7,124,000
Debt Service	350,300	350,501	1,506,000
Interfund Transfers	645,124	595,042	620,000
Contingencies	357,004	57,500	103,457
Special Payments	0	0	0
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	1,277,131	6,747,947	1,571,250
Total Requirements	4,412,840	10,052,840	12,672,357

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
Administration	229,798	195,598	294,000
FTE	2.00	3.00	3.00
Police	66,365	22,579	0
FTE	0.00	0.25	0.00
Library	28,316	21,861	59,800
FTE	0.50	0.50	0.75
Park	36,152	95,088	101,900
FTE	0.25	1.25	1.25
Community Center	26,584	3,360	0
FTE	0.25	0.25	0.00
Blackburn Building	1,608	3,360	0
FTE	0.25	0.25	0.00
Streets	53,926	0	73,100
FTE	0.25	0.00	1.00
Fire Department	13,742	31,854	33,200
FTE	1.00	0.25	0.25
Utility Services	33,508	293,930	307,000
FTE	5.50	3.00	3.00
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program	78,216	0	0
FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Requirements	568,315	667,630	869,000
Total FTE	8.00	8.75	9.25

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING *

The City of Joseph will be transitioning into a new software program during the fiscal years 2021-2023. The may cause minor changes to the summary of budget listed above. The City of Joseph will also be incurring a possible \$6,200,000 in debt, \$3,800,000 of this will be shared with the Wallowa Lake Sewer District as the project will benefit both organizations. The City will be seeking funding for these projects/loans with the assistance of Business Oregon through a One-Stop financing process.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2020-2021	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2021-2022	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2022-2023
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 2.9867 per \$1,000)	2.9867	2.9867	2.9867
Local Option Levy	0	0	0
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	0	0	0

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1,	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds	\$1,532,312	\$6,200,000
Other Bonds	\$0	\$0
Other Borrowings	\$0	\$0
Total	\$1,532,312	\$6,200,000

Legal No. 304178
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RELAX!

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