

Snow pack bodes well for water reserves

(AP) - Oregon's snow pack is higher than average this winter - good news for farmers, operators of dams and others who track the state's water reserves.

Statewide, the snow pack is about 136 percent of average, said Jon Lea, who is with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"It's almost the flip side of what it was last year," when the snow pack was 38 percent of average, said Lea, supervisor of the conservation service's snow survey program for Oregon and Washington state.

The final survey of the season was conducted last week. There has been one drawback this winter - warmer temperatures that melted snow in low-lying areas.

"Even though it snowed quite a bit, it was a relatively warm winter down low, so the snow line goes from a lot of snow to no snow very quickly," said Lea. "So, some of our low-elevation sites are below average."

For example, Deadhorse Grade, at 3,700 feet on Santiam Pass, has 8.4 inches of water stored in its snow pack, compared with 9 inches for the 30-

year average. Twenty-one inches of snow were recorded at the site.

Still, after last year, the frozen storage is good news for farmers.

"This spring so far has been fairly cool, and I know we have a good snow pack up in the mountains," said Larry Trosi of the Santiam Water Control District.

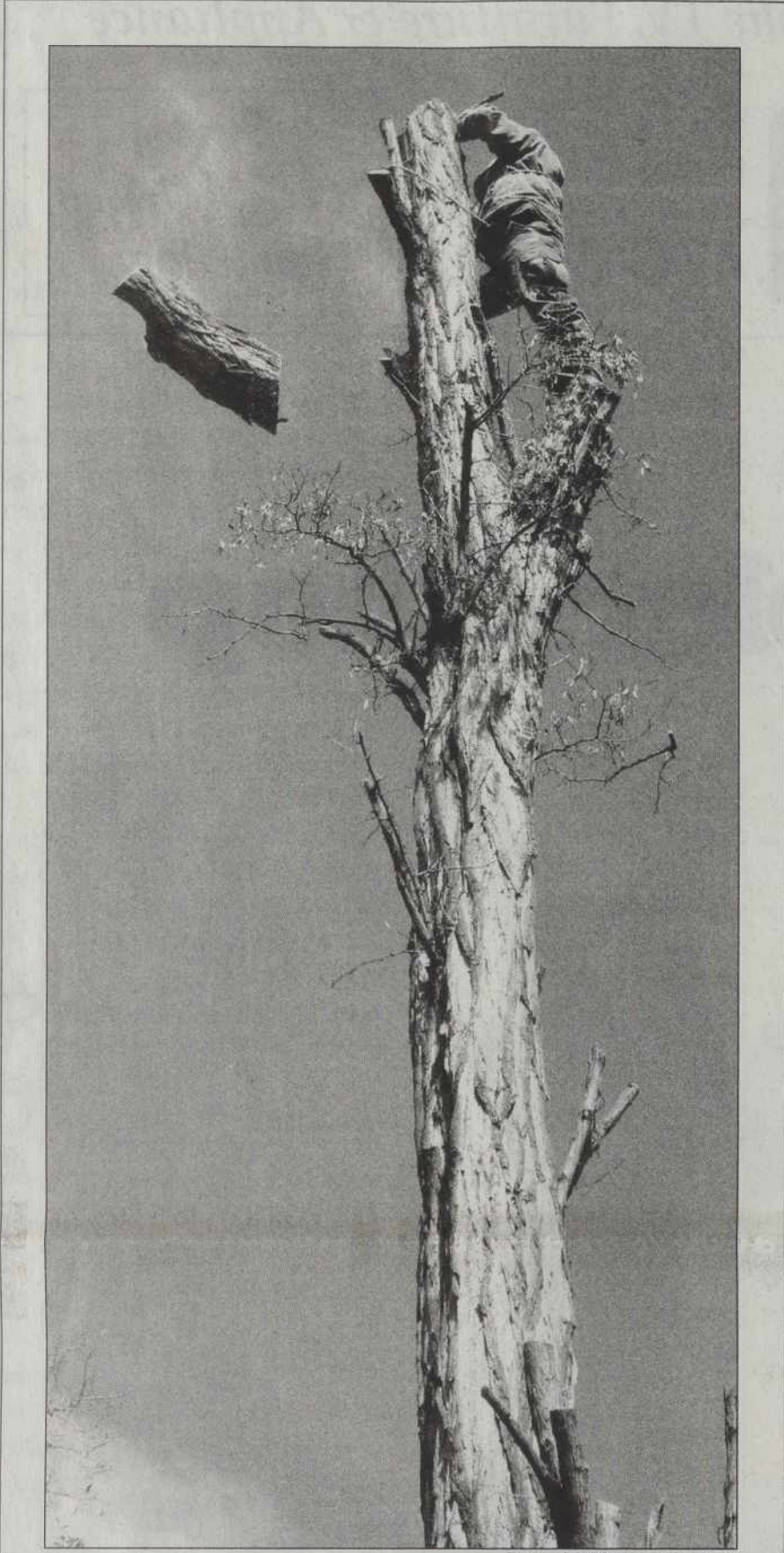
"In the last month or so, the ... river flows have been fairly low, but I think the reason is it has been fairly cool, it hasn't allowed the snowpack to begin melting. At some point, it will warm up, and we will see higher

river flows."

Swimmers, boaters and anglers may have a wet summer to look forward to.

"Our forecasts are showing that the reservoirs have a pretty good probability of filling," said Mary Scullion, a hydrologic engineer for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which regulates dams. "So, we should have some pretty good recreation."

Still, said Lea, "even though we have a good snow pack, it's still worthy to try to conserve those water resources so that all users get to tap into some of that supply."



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

It was a tall order last week for Arthur Landscaping, as the three-person landscaping crew removed a large, and potentially hazardous tree from the yard of the Arlene and Mickey Boileau residence, near the museum. Landscaping business owner Beverly Arthur said this was the first large tree that she and her husband Pedro Marciel have removed. Helping with the project was Jose Alvarez. At the top of the tree cutting is Marciel. For landscaping services call Arthur Landscaping at 410-9338.

Condors seen in Big Sur for first time since 1905

BIG SUR, Calif. (AP) - California condors are nesting in the northern part of the state for the first time in more than 100 years, scientists said.

A condor couple was found Monday displaying nesting behavior inside a hollowed-out redwood tree in Big Sur, a mountainous coastal region south of Monterey, the Ventana Wildlife Society said Tuesday.

The last known condor egg in Northern California was collected in 1905.

"For the past 10 years when this sort of thing came up, it turned out to be just in my dreams," said Kelly Sorenson, the group's executive director. "Now it is a reality."

The male and female took turns guarding the nest every two or three days, never leaving it unattended for more than several minutes, the scientists said.

"Although the view into the cavity is very limited and we can't actually see the egg, we strongly suspect they have an egg, based on their behavior at the nest site," said Joe Burnett, a wildlife biologist.

Scientists have worked for years to bring the condor back from the brink of extinction. Condors are among the largest birds native to North America, with a wingspan up to 91/2 feet.

Ventana, a nonprofit group, began releasing condors into the wild in 1997.

The condor recovery effort has increased the number of birds tenfold over two decades. But about 40 percent of released condors have died because of power lines or attacks by golden eagles, among other causes.

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Young Achiever Elyse Bagley Sponsored by Les Schwab

Elyse Bagley turns 10 years old Friday, but she is this edition's Young Achiever because of her high statewide creative writing scores. A fourth-grader at Warm Springs Elementary School, Elyse said she likes to write about her family and the trips she has taken. She has been to Portland, Hoopa, Calif., and Colorado, but one of her most recent trips was to Southern California, where she went to Disneyland and beaches. She likes to read about drawing and teaching her younger cousins about art.



She has a one-year-old brother, and she and her family live in the West Hills, where she likes to mow her neighbors' lawns. Elyse's family has a pit bull, a golden retriever and a brand-new puppy.

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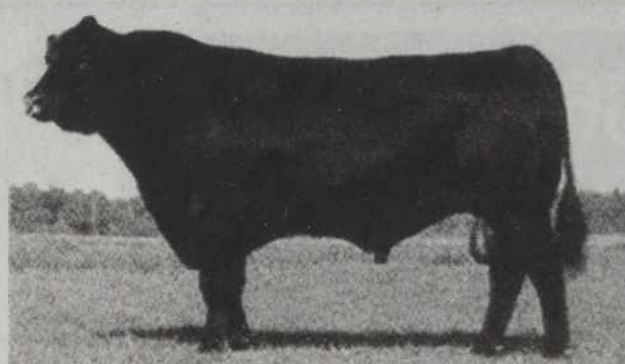
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