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SMOKE SIGNALS

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AN INDEPENDENT PUBLICATION OF THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE · SMOKE SIGNALS.ORG

Army Corps is ‘killing salmon to lose money’



The salmon situation

Part 3 of 3

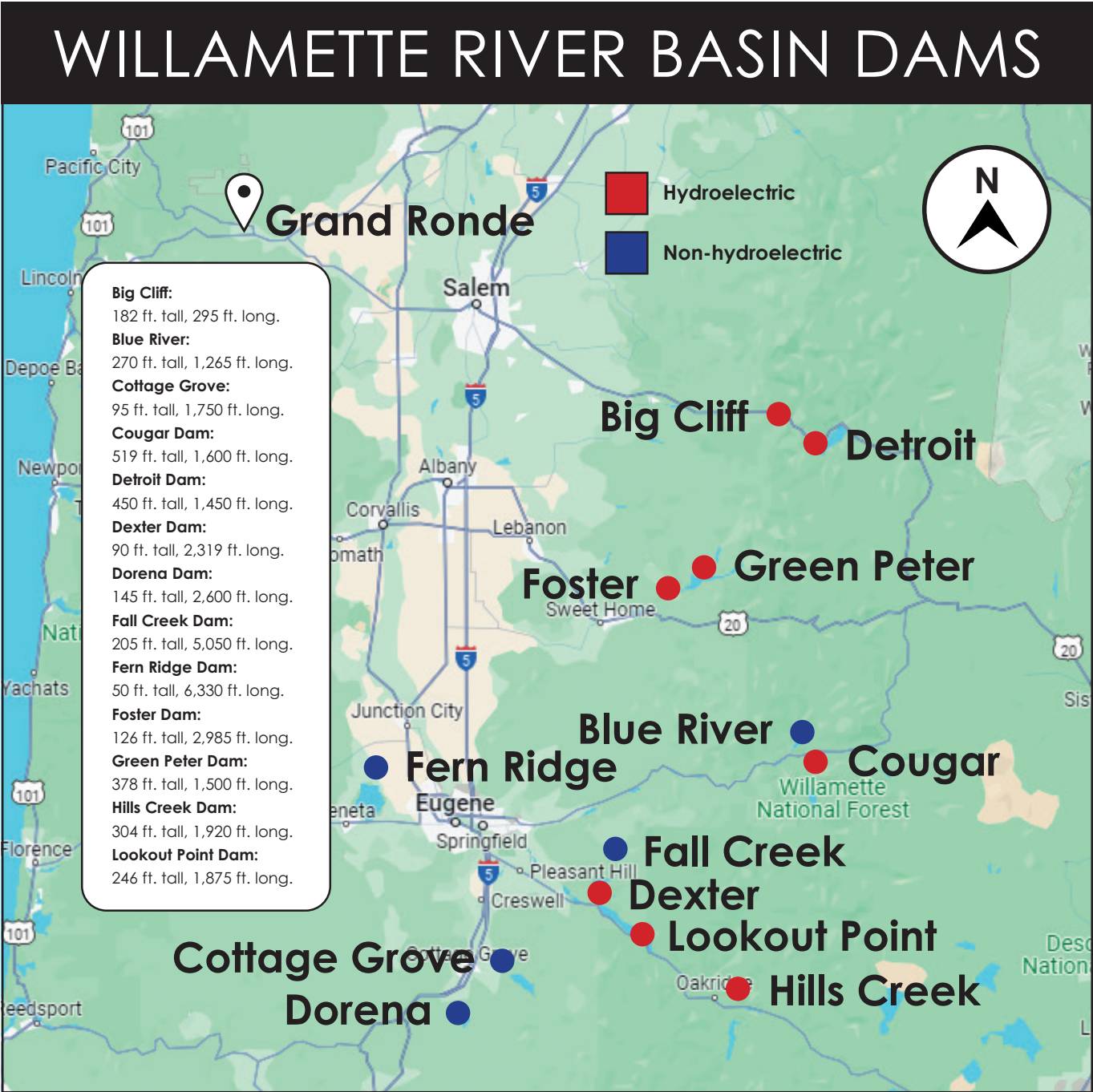
Editor’s note: Salmon, rain and conifer forests are symbols of the Pacific Northwest. In a three-part series, “The salmon situation,” Smoke Signals examines how the region’s signature fish is heading for extinction, with little time left to reverse course and save these ancient species, which are crucial to both the ecosystem and Tribal culture. In the end, the Tribe’s best hope to prevail may lie in winning an epic battle with bureaucracy. This is the third and final installment of the series.

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been urging the Army Corps of Engineers to revamp its operations in the Willamette River Basin.

By reducing reservoir levels temporarily during key times of the year, the Corps could enable juvenile fish to get past dams that are blocking their migratory path to the ocean. The tactic requires no construction and has been shown to work.

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Graphic created by Samuel Briggs III

Tribe says it remains confident despite funding freeze

By Nicole Montesano & Katherine Warren
Smoke Signals staff members

Confusion spread Tuesday, Jan. 28, after President Donald Trump announced a freeze on federal grant funding Monday, Jan. 27, in defiance of the Constitution and laws that place spending under the authority of Congress.

The funding freeze was to go into effect Tuesday at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Confusion and pushback were so widespread that on Tuesday morning, the White House attempted to clarify, saying that Trump was targeting funding for diversity, equity and inclusion programs and foreign aid.

Federal grants help pay for

numerous health and human services programs, drug abuse treatment programs, school programs, transportation programs, food assistance, heating assistance for low-income families, police and fire department funding, and other services that directly affect health and safety.

On Tuesday afternoon, the Washington Post announced that a federal judge had temporarily blocked the order until Monday, Feb. 3, as public health advocates and other organizations and businesses filed lawsuits against the Trump administration.

After the order was blocked Tuesday afternoon, Office of

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Federal government approves Medford casino

By Nicole Montesano
Smoke Signals staff writer

Despite the protests of several other Tribes, the Department of Interior has signed the record of decision to approve an off-reservation casino for the Coquille Indian Tribe in Medford, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians announced in a press release.

The press release was issued jointly with the Karuk Tribe and Tolowa Dee-Ni’Nation on Friday, Jan. 10.

The three Tribes also immediately filed a request with the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon for a temporary restraining order on the project.

The request cites violations of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Indian Reorganization Act and the



Cheryle A. Kennedy

Coquille Restoration Act, along with constitutional concerns related to the National Environmental Policy Act, according to the press release.

“Grand Ronde opposes an off-reservation casino in Medford or anywhere in Oregon,” Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy said. “We support the Cow Creek Tribe’s litigation to prevent it. Like Oregon’s governor and U.S. senators, among many others, we

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