

Local & State

OSU study: Northwest forests less vulnerable to drought, fire than those in Rockies, Sierras

By **Steve Lundeberg**
Oregon State University

CORVALLIS — Forests in the Pacific Northwest will be less vulnerable to drought and fire over the next three decades than those in the Rocky Mountains and Sierra Nevada, computer modeling by researchers in Oregon State University's College of Forestry shows.

The findings, published this month in Global Change Biology, represent an important tool for scientists and land managers because woodlands throughout the western United States are under increasing stress from accelerated rates of drought-related mortality related to global, human-caused climate change.

Also, the Northwest's hemlock, Douglas-fir and redwood forests have tremendous potential to counteract climate change via their carbon-sequestration abilities, meaning policies that promote stewardship of those forests is critical, the scientists say.

“Recent prolonged droughts and catastrophic wildfires in the West have raised concerns about forest mortality and how that might impact forest structure and ecosystem services and also the economic vitality of nearby communities,” said corresponding author Polly Buotte of OSU's Department of Forest Ecosystems and Society. “Forests in the West support high species diversity and some Pacific Northwest forests are among the highest carbon-density forests on Earth.”

Buotte and College of Forestry colleague Beverly Law led a collaboration that modeled 13 different major forest types from around the western United States, taking into account climate conditions and atmospheric carbon dioxide levels over the next 30 years.

The model was high-resolution both from a spatial standpoint – it broke forests into grids of 16 square kilometers – and also because it looked at species-specific

responses to environmental variables.

“The model calculated multiple biophysical and biogeochemical processes, including surface heat fluxes, photosynthesis, evaporation, transpiration, carbon allocation to plant tissue, decomposition and nitrogen cycling,” Buotte said.

The researchers, who also included David Rupp of OSU's College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, developed metrics of vulnerability to short-term extreme and prolonged drought.

“Projections show that water-limited forests in the Rockies, the Southwest and the Great Basin will be the most vulnerable to future drought-related mortality,” Buotte said. “We expect vulnerability to future fires will be highest in the Sierra Nevada and portions of the Rocky Mountains. Forests along the Pacific coast and western Cascades regions, where there is ample rain, are projected to be the least

vulnerable to either drought or fire.”

Stress from drought causes trees to shed leaves, limiting their capacity for photosynthesis; insect infestations also make life hard for drought-affected trees.

“Our analyses indicate strong potential for continued levels of drought-related forest mortality in the southern Rockies and in the Southwest in the coming decades as those forests are likely to suffer from a changing climate,” Buotte said.

The researchers stress that there is a lot of spatial variability in future vulnerability. And that fire vulnerability is not the same as fire intensity.

“We do not imply that areas labeled highly vulnerable will burn or that if ignited they will burn with high intensity, but they are at greater risk in the coming years than they have been historically,” Buotte said.

The U.S. departments of Agriculture and Energy supported the research.

LOCAL BRIEFING

Winter sports workout class Nov. 28

A free workshop for people who want to get in shape for skiing and other winter sports is set for Wednesday, Nov. 28, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the YMCA Fitness Center, 3715 Pocahontas Road.

Kim Zinn, a physical therapist and certified athletic trainer, will present the workshop, which is open to ages 12 and older, and to YMCA members as well as nonmembers. Participants should wear workout clothes and bring a yoga mat if possible.

Zinn will demonstrate exercises designed to help participants prepare for activities such as skiing, snowshoeing, snowboarding and even shoveling snow.

She will also explain trunk-strengthening exercises to encourage spine health and overall fitness, and discuss common winter injuries and how to prevent them.

To RSVP, call 541-523-9622 or stop by the Fitness Center.

LDS plans day of service on Dec. 1

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is inviting people to participate in the “Light The World” campaign, including a worldwide day of service on Dec. 1.

To learn about ways to share time, talents and resources, go to lighttheworld.org. Those interested can also print a four-week calendar containing ideas on ways to serve, starting with Dec. 1.

K9 police fundraiser set

The third-annual drug prevention K9 fundraiser for the Baker City Police Department's drug-detecting dog program is set for Saturday, Dec. 8, at the Baker Community Events Center, 2600 East St.

Social hour starts at 4 p.m., with a K9 demonstration by Capa, the department's drug-detecting dog, at 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and a live auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and are available at the police department, 1768 Auburn Ave.; at Barley Brown's Tap House; and at Thatcher's Ace Hardware.

Teddy bear toss at BHS hoops games

People are encouraged to donate stuffed animals to local families in need during Baker High School boys basketball games on Dec. 13 and Dec. 18. Both games tip off at 7 p.m.

At halftime of both games, spectators can toss their donated stuffed animals onto the court.

— Compiled from staff reports and press releases

Oregon abortion laws attract out-of-state residents

By **Markian Hawryluk**
WesCom News Service

Oregon is providing more abortions than its residents receive, a sign the state's abortion laws are less restrictive than in some neighboring states.

According to data released by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last week, Oregon residents underwent 7,847 abortion procedures in 2015, out of a total of 8,610 abortions performed within the state — about 11.2 percent of abortions in Oregon were for out-of-state residents.

For comparison, in Idaho, fewer abortions (1,272) were performed than residents received (1,695), with just 4.6 percent for out-of-state residents. Washington had nearly the same number of total abortions and abortions for residents.

“We tend to assume that because abortion is legal that everybody has readily avail-

able access to the procedure when needed,” said Grayson Dempsey, executive director for NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon. “The reality is that for women who are in a state like Idaho, they are often needing to cross state lines or get to urban centers to get the care they need.”

According to the Guttmacher Institute, which tracks abortion policy from state to state, Idaho has a number of restrictions in place that make it harder for women to access abortions. Those include state-directed counseling designed to discourage women from having abortions, a 24-hour waiting period and, for minors, consent of a parent.

Oregon has none of those restrictions.

In some cases, women living near the Oregon border may find it closer or more convenient to drive across state lines. That occurs in the Ashland area with women

from northern California. The CDC did not provide data from California in the report.

Dempsey said a number of women fly from Alaska to Portland or Seattle to seek abortions.

In other cases, women may cross into Oregon to get certain types of abortions not available where they live. Women in Vancouver, Washington, can get abortions from a local Planned Parenthood clinic. They must travel to a clinic in Portland if they need a second-trimester abortion, which is not offered at the Vancouver clinic.

Oregon is one of only a handful of states that allow nurse practitioners to perform abortions

“It's really increased access in small and rural communities,” Dempsey said. “That is a huge way in which Oregon is not only progressive in its legislative commitment to reproductive rights but really furthering access for women

in ways that have a really practical impact on women needing services.”

Researchers from the University of California, San Francisco, recently calculated the distance to the closest abortion facility from every U.S. city with a population of 50,000 or more. They found women in 27 cities must travel more than 100 miles to reach an abortion facility.

Most women pay out-of-pocket for abortions and, because the majority are low-income women, they already face significant financial challenges in accessing abortions, said Dr. Sarah Roberts, associate professor at the university's Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health research group.

“If women are traveling to other states to avoid restrictive abortion policies, there are additional financial costs to increased travel distance, and it can force women to take time off work or find

child care in order to obtain an abortion,” she said.

The CDC report also showed that fewer women are having abortions now than at any time since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973. Experts attribute the decline to better access to contraceptives as well as decreased access to abortion services in some states.

That's led to great variation in the percentages of abortions provided to out-of-state residents across the country. Nearly half of abortions in Kansas were for out-of-state residents, the highest rate in the nation. That could reflect limited access in Missouri, where new requirements that abortion clinics must have admitting privileges at hospitals no more than 15 minutes away has left the state with just one clinic, in St. Louis. The state had five abortion clinics as recently as 2008.

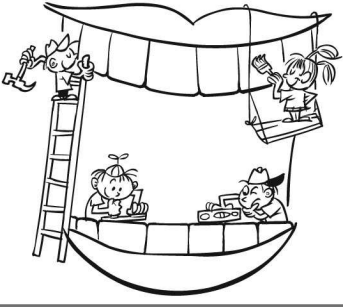
Pro-choice advocates are now worried changes in the makeup of federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, could lead to Roe v. Wade being overturned.

“Many people in my movement are anticipating that may happen within the next couple of years,” Dempsey said.

That could revert the country back to the pre-Roe scenario where women traveled to states like New York or Oregon to access abortions that were illegal in their home states.

“A lot of women, particularly in Idaho, are already living in what I would call this post-Roe reality that everybody is fearful of,” Dempsey said. “It means that our commitment to reproductive rights (in Oregon) needs to continue to grow as the threat from the national level continues to hit states like Idaho further.”

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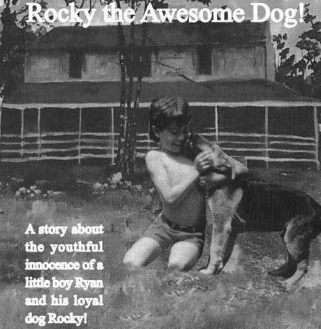


Baker Valley Travel

541-523-9353

Baker City residents are invited to a MEMORIAL MASS for RYAN SULLIVAN at St. Francis de Sales on December 3, 2018 at 9 AM. The Mass will be presided by Father Telegani, with the Baker City Knights of Columbus Council #849 providing a reception after the Mass in the parish hall.

The Knights reception will share the contact information for a children's book with all proceeds to benefit the Sullivan grandchildren Declan, Jack, and little Ryan's College Education Fund.



The children's book “Rocky the Awesome Dog,” @ Authorhouse. com was written for the Sullivan grandchildren by their grandfather Capt. Ed Sullivan (Rt.) sharing reflections on the joyful youth of their father Ryan and his loyal dog Rocky!

The children's book “Rocky the Awesome Dog!” can be purchased locally at Betty's Books on Main St., in Baker.

Special Thanks is extended in Baker City to Hal Huntington and Sam Raabe of the Baker Knights of Columbus Council #849; Randy Dodson @ Ryder Brothers; Fr. Telegani, Fr. Grenier, Ann and Dawn Coles @ St. Francis; Oregon State Deputy of the Knights of Columbus Francis Mohr & his wife Tay Mohr; Steve & Patty Bachman; Chief Dustin Newman; Ed Higgins @ Banner Bank; Barbara Sidway, Geiser Grand; and Carolyn Kulog @ Betty's Books. Along with the many kind folks of Baker City who extended a sincere reception and condolences one long year ago.