

Continued from A4

“We’ll know at the end of the season, depending on the yields and price, but we’re definitely not going to be able to cover all the bills,” he said.

Scott Seus, of Seus Family Farms in Tulelake, said he is working with his neighbors to stretch every drop of groundwater they can.

PVC pipe is in short supply around the basin as farmers buy up what they can to deliver water from wells to fields with higher-value crops like garlic, mint and onions.

Onion planting is now underway, with fewer acres available to farm, Seus said. Processors buy onions in the Klamath Basin which they dehydrate to use in things such as soup mixes, ketchup and salad dressing. Farmers risk losing those contracts if they can’t deliver.

“I think everybody is just trying to find their way through this the best they can,” Seus said. “This is an extreme situation. We’re making tough decisions where we need to make them.”

Supplemental water right

Only the Klamath Drain-



Holly Dilleuth/For the Capital Press

The canal carrying irrigation water to the Klamath Project is at a standstill after the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation cut off water earlier this month.

age District has received any water from the Klamath River system in 2021, exercising a supplemental water right with the state dating back to 1977. Two other irrigation districts, the Langell Valley and Horse-

fly districts, are also part of the Klamath Project, but rely exclusively on water from the Lost River system.

Scott White, KDD manager, said the district is diverting 42 cubic feet of water per second

— 8% of its permitted rate — into the North Canal, south of Klamath Falls.

The diversions, which began in April, drew a sharp rebuke from the Bureau of Reclamation, which ordered the district

to immediately stop or be exempt from federal emergency drought funding. White has asserted the district is doing nothing wrong.

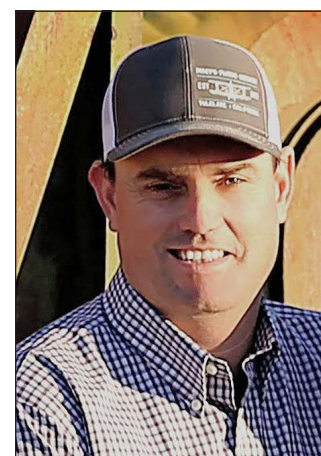
“Whenever Project water is curtailed, we exercise this permit,” he said. “This is no different than any other drought year.”

In its announcement shutting down the A Canal, the bureau cited both drought and “unauthorized diversions at private facilities along the Klamath River and Upper Klamath Lake,” though it did not call out KDD by name. A spokeswoman for the agency did not return messages for comment.

“We can only assume that they acknowledge our rights as being legal,” White said. “We have certainly asserted that our (diversions) are not illegal.”

KDD’s supplemental water right applies to just under 20,000 acres of private land within the district. DuVal, with the Klamath Water Users Association, said that while he does not necessarily like it, he does not blame KDD for taking advantage of supplemental water.

“I don’t think there’s any re-



Submitted photo

“We know what a zero allocation is going to mean to our individual farms and the community as a whole,” said Ben DuVal, who grows alfalfa hay and raises cattle near Tulelake, California.

sentment in the community for them trying to survive,” he said.

The bigger fear, DuVal said, is outsider and extremist groups coming into the community and using the Klamath Project’s crisis as a soapbox for their own agenda.

“We don’t need that,” he said. “It’s the people in this community who live and farm here whose voices need to be heard.”

Bachelor

Continued from A1

“Cascade views from Mt. Bachelor overlooking Broken Top and the Three Sisters are stunning, and we look forward to offering this unique alpine mountain experience to locals and visitors in the near future,” McLeod shared in a prepared statement.

McLeod said the ski resort has been working with the U.S. Forest Service for several years on the vision and approval of the 5.5-mile Mt. Bachelor Summit Hiking Trail. The Forest Service, which allows the resort to operate on its land under a special use permit, recently finished an environmental analysis and formally approved the plans.

“Our environmental analysis is completed on it,” said Jean Nelson-Dean, spokesperson for the

Deschutes National Forest. “We are expecting that they would do some construction activities this summer after the snow melts off.”

The 5.5-mile trail would connect Pine Marten Lodge near the summit and the West Village at the base. From the Pine Marten Lodge, the trail would go toward the Outback chairlift and then down to the West Village.

The proposed snow cat trail would be built from the top of the Sunrise lift to the top of the Carnival ski run to allow the snow-grooming equipment to reach the beginner ski runs.

McLeod said the hiking trail will incorporate historical landmarks and interpretive signs. Most of the trail will be suitable for hikers of all abilities, he said.

Hikers will also have the option to take the Pine Marten chairlift,

which runs seven days a week in the summer, to reduce the total hiking distance or change the experience, McLeod said.

The trail will also be a good option for spontaneous hikers who did not obtain permits to hike in nearby areas in the Deschutes National Forest, McLeod added.

Nelson-Dean said the new trail loop will be a major benefit for the national forest since it could draw more people from the surrounding wilderness areas who are seeing a high volume of hikers.

“The big thing is getting some more trails,” Nelson-Dean said. “Getting some higher elevation trails on Mt. Bachelor will help relieve some pressure on some of our wilderness areas.”

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Dean Guernsey/The Bulletin file

“Cascade views from Mt. Bachelor overlooking Broken Top and the Three Sisters are stunning, and we look forward to offering this unique alpine mountain experience to locals and visitors in the near future,” said John McLeod, president and general manager of Mt. Bachelor ski area.

Bend



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