

No jail time in 1st sentence in Jan. 6 riot; Oath Keeper pleads guilty

BY ALANNA DURKIN RICHER AND MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

An Indiana woman on Wednesday became the first defendant to be sentenced in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and avoided time behind bars, while a member of the Oath Keepers extremist group pleaded guilty in a conspiracy case and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in a major step forward for the massive investigation.

The two developments signal that the cases against those charged in the deadly siege are slowly advancing, even as the U.S. Department of Justice and the courthouse in Washington, D.C., struggle under the weight of roughly 500 federal arrests across the U.S. And it comes as Republicans in Washington attempt to downplay the violence

committed by members of the mob supporting former President Donald Trump.

Graydon Young, who was accused alongside 15 other members and associates of the Oath Keepers of conspiring to block the congressional certification of Joe Biden's presidential victory, pleaded guilty to two counts: conspiracy and obstruction of an official proceeding. It was the first guilty plea in the major conspiracy case brought against members of the group.

Anna Morgan Lloyd, 49, of Indiana, was ordered by a federal judge to serve three years of probation, perform 120 hours of community service and pay \$500 in restitution after admitting to unlawfully entering the Capitol. She pleaded guilty to a single misdemeanor charge under a deal with prosecutors.

On Wednesday, she apologized to the court, her family and "the American people," saying she went to Washington that day to peacefully show her support for Trump.

"I'm ashamed that it became a savage display of violence that day. And I would have never been there if I had a clue it was going to turn out that way," Lloyd told the judge. "It was never my intent to be a part of anything that's so disgraceful to our American people."

U.S. District Court Judge Royce Lamberth said he was giving her a "break," but didn't want others to think that probation — and not a stiffer sentence — would be the norm.

Lamberth said he struggled with what would be an appropriate sentence for Lloyd because he views the riot as a

serious crime. "This wasn't a peaceful demonstration the way it turned out. It was not an accident," he said. "It was intended to and brought a halt to the very functioning of our government."

He said he was "especially troubled" by some lawmakers who are seeking to rewrite the history of the Capitol riot.

"I don't know what planet they were on, but there were millions of people in this country that saw what happened on Jan. 6 and that saw what you saw and what you just described: a disgrace to our country," the judge said.

In a letter to the judge asking for leniency, Lloyd wrote that she was a registered Democrat but that she and her husband began supporting Trump in 2016 because "he was standing up for what we believe in."

Chinook

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The project to return fish to the river revolves around the Selective Water Withdrawal tower at the Pelton Round Butte dam complex, part of a hydropower system on the Lower Deschutes that powers 150,000 homes. The complex, jointly owned by Portland General Electric and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, includes three dams along a 20-mile stretch of the Deschutes River.

The tower accomplishes two tasks simultaneously — both creating more natural seasonal temperature patterns in the river and collecting fish to be transferred downstream. A trap below the dams collects fish for transfer upstream.

For decades the fish migration route was severed by the dams and it will take years to reestablish the route, so any improvement in returning fish numbers is a positive sign that the system offers tangible benefits.

The 59 chinook released into the Upper Deschutes were adults that had previously been collected as smolts from the Selective Water Withdrawal tower. Smolts are juvenile fish in the stage of their lifecycle when they are preparing to go out to sea.

In addition to the 59 chinook, 10 jacks (young adult males) were also taken from the Round Butte hatchery and released into the Metolius River, said Dobscha.

Fish enthusiasts are also pleased with this year's results, though many hold out hope for better results in the coming years.

"Early spring chinook returns are surprisingly good compared to past years, although they're still a long way away from targets," said Yancy Lind, a local fish advocate and blogger.



Ryan Brennecke/Bulletin file

Jeremy Puckett, an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fisheries technician, checks for a tag in a spring chinook after it was collected from a fish trap at the base of the Pelton Round Butte dam complex in 2012.

"Extremely low water in the Crooked River will not allow many fish to get very far, but there are spawning areas in the lowest reaches, so I'm guardedly optimistic," Lind added.

Lind points out that it is illegal to intentionally catch or keep spring chinook in the Upper Deschutes Basin (Deschutes, Metolius and Crooked rivers), but that poaching is a problem.

While some of the progress can be self-managed in the river, there are some factors that remain outside of the project's control. This includes ocean conditions and streamflow levels.

"Streamflow affects smolt outmigration, survival and collection at the Selective Water Withdrawal," said Becky Burchell, a fisheries biologist for Portland General Electric. "It also has an impact on adults as they migrate into the spawning tributaries."

Around 50 of the returned chinook were given radio tags so biologists can track the movements of the fish as they meander through the upper basin, said Dobscha. All of the fish were also given green fish tags so that they can be easily identified if spotted or caught.

Biologists are not expecting many other types of fish to appear in the trap this time of year. In June it's just spring chinook and bull trout. Sockeye salmon will begin arriving in July and summer steelhead will begin arriving in September.

Dobscha said ocean-going fish are getting some help from a recently constructed stress relief pond at the juvenile release site in the Lower Deschutes. The pond will allow fish additional time to rest and recover after handling before their evening release.

"The extra recovery time should improve survival during their ocean-going migration," said Dobscha.

PGE is also conducting a smolt acclimation project, in which juvenile chinook and steelhead are held in stream for several weeks prior to release, said Dobscha. The project is a joint effort among several entities, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Deschutes Land Trust.

Smolt acclimation helps fish imprint on the water's unique scent. It also allows fish time to fully undergo "smoltification,"

which is the physiological transformation that prepares fish for their ocean migration, said Dobscha.

"Acclimation in 2018, 2019 and 2020 greatly improved our collection of juveniles at the SWW," Dobscha said, referring to the Selective Water Withdrawal. "This year, for the first time, 100% of juvenile fish were acclimated prior to release."

Historically, there would have been more fish than are currently making their way to the dams, which were erected in the 1960s.

The Metolius River and Whychus Creek had documented spawning ground counts between 100 and 648 adults between 1951 and 1958, per state fish and wildlife biologists, said Burchell.

Despite the small number of returning fish, Burchell thinks there is plenty of room to increase the numbers, and the recent rise in numbers is promising.

"Our long-term goal is self-sustaining, harvestable runs of spring chinook, sockeye and summer steelhead in the Upper Deschutes Basin, including Whychus Creek, the Metolius and Crooked rivers," said Burchell. "Our vision of success, which is based on the current habitat capacity of the upper basin, is 1,000 chinook returning each year."

Burchell explains that the progress may take years. In the case of salmon, it could take three to five generations to establish baseline data on species performance. Chinook, she said, may remain in the ocean for two to three years before returning to their river spawning grounds.

"There's a delay when we're assessing the effectiveness of our management changes," said Burchell. "It's still relatively early on in a long-term effort."

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Garage Sales
300

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Garage Sales - General

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Garage Sales - General

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Payroll

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That phase is scheduled to be complete in early 2023.

The bill also sets the experience rating for businesses for 2022, 2023 and 2024 — used to determine tax rates — at 2020 levels, which were determined before the coronavirus pandemic resulted in a steep economic downturn a year ago.

Many businesses curtailed their operations, and some closed, as a result of government-ordered shutdowns intended to curb the spread of COVID-19 in public places.

In December, the Employment Department announced that payroll tax rates for 2021 would go up based on a shift to a different schedule. The agency also said employer experience ratings would be adjusted to reflect employee layoffs and usage of unemployment benefits from the state trust fund — a move affecting thousands of businesses.

Five lawmakers from both parties took part in a group seeking ways to ease the pay-

roll tax burden on businesses yet maintain the solvency of the state unemployment trust fund. They got technical help from David Gerstenfeld, the department's acting director for almost a year, and agency staff.

The bill is expected to result in a savings of \$2.4 billion to Oregon businesses over the next nine years, while it rebuilds the trust fund to \$4.8 billion by the end of the 2023-25 state budget cycle.

The bill does these things:
• Businesses can defer payment of up to one-third of their 2021 payroll taxes until June 2022 if their tax rate went up by half a percentage point.
• If the tax rate went up between 1 and 1.5 percentage points, a business could be eligible for forgiveness of 50% of the deferred amount, and if the rate went up between 1.5 and 2 percentage points, forgiveness of 75% of the deferred amount. But businesses would be eligible for partial forgiveness only if they filed wage reports and paid the rest of their taxes on time in 2021,

and are current on their accounts with the Employment Department.

• Employer experience ratings for 2020, which were set before the onset of the pandemic, would be the basis for payroll tax rates in 2022, 2023 and 2024. It would exclude 2021.

• The Employment Department would base its payroll tax collections for the state trust fund on a 20-year horizon, instead of the current 10 years, and the target would be about 10% lower. The state trust fund was at \$5 billion at the start of the pandemic; it is about \$3.7 billion now. The fund is expected to dip to \$3.5 billion in mid-2023, at the end of the 2021-23 budget period, before rising back to \$4.8 billion two years later. A legislative report says the fund should approach \$8 billion by the end of the 2027-29 budget cycle.

The agency has paid out more than \$9 billion in benefits during the past year, but much of it was from federal funds.

Oregon was among the few states that did not borrow from

the federal government to pay unemployment benefits during the Great Recession a decade ago. Gerstenfeld said he does not anticipate this time that the state will have to borrow. Employers in states that borrow repay the costs and interest through higher payroll taxes.

The Legislative Revenue Office estimates that based on current schedules, payroll tax collections are projected to be \$291 million less in the 2021-23 cycle, \$650 million less in 2023-25, and \$840 million in 2025-27.

The bill got endorsements from the Oregon State Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association, Oregon Business & Industry and National Federation of Independent Business/Oregon.

Lawmakers who took part of writing the bill were Reps. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles, and John Lively, D-Springfield, and Sens. Chuck Riley, D-Hillsboro, and Bill Hansell, R-Athens.

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