



OREGON WATER MONTHLY

Published monthly by Oregon Water Coalition with coverage important to Oregon agriculture

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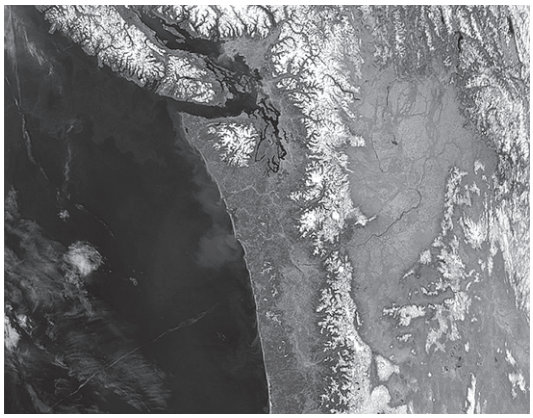
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Basin water supply forecast drops again, low precipitation, early runoff

The most recent water supply reports for the Columbia Basin show a continuing trend of deteriorating conditions with warm temperatures, low precipitation and early runoff.



NORTHWEST SNOWPACK FROM SATELLITE PHOTO: NASA

The most recent water supply reports for the Columbia River Basin showed a continuing trend of deteriorating conditions due to warmer-than-average temperatures, below-average precipitation through much of the basin and a rapid, early runoff from mountain snowpack across the region.

"Things have definitely slipped downward since Jan. 1," said Taylor Dixon of the Northwest River Forecast Center in Portland during a Thursday teleconference

Dixon said the "big story" of the current water year are temperatures in Washington and Oregon that have deviated from 3 to 6 degrees above historic averages— and in some areas above 6 degrees — during the last few months.

"The temperatures are driving the volume forecasts this year," Dixon said, adding that there has been more rain than snow through most of basin, particularly in the lower basin, less snowpack accumulation, and a high and early runoff.

What has resulted are record-low streamflow forecasts for April through September in multiple watersheds: 44 percent of average for the Spokane River at Spokane; 35 percent

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Basin supply forecast drops again, low precipitation, early runoff

of average for the Yakima River; 25 percent of average for the John Day River; 17 percent of average for the Grand Ronde River. The forecasts for all other rivers in the basin are considerably below average, but not at record lows. Forecasts for the Snake River at three locations, for instance, range from 55 to 67 percent of average.

The combined effect of conditions in Columbia River tributaries is a forecast of flows being at 72 percent of average at The Dalles Dam on the main stem Columbia River, considered to be a choke-point barometer for basin-wide flows. That is a substantial downgrade from a water supply forecast for The Dalles that was issued on April 9, predicting that flows would be at 82 percent of average through September.

On Wednesday, the Northwest Power and Conservation Council was briefed on the basin-wide water supply picture.

Jim Ruff, manager of main stem passage and river operations, also referenced the high temperatures, low snowpack and early runoff conditions.

He told the council during its meeting in Portland that 76 percent of the automated snow measuring sites in Oregon recorded measurements that were the lowest on record over the winter. The only bright spots, he said, were at SNOTEL sites in the upper Columbia Basin in British Columbia and Montana, where snowpack measurements were near average.

Ruff said official droughts have been declared in eight Idaho counties, seven Oregon counties and 16 water resource areas in Washington.

He said there are officials who believe water supply conditions in the basin are related to an "extreme sea surface temperature anomaly" that has set up in Pacific Ocean waters off the West Coast. It has been referred to as a "blob" of warmer-than-usual water, and it is believed to be having adverse effects on marine life that could affect future salmon returns in the Columbia Basin.

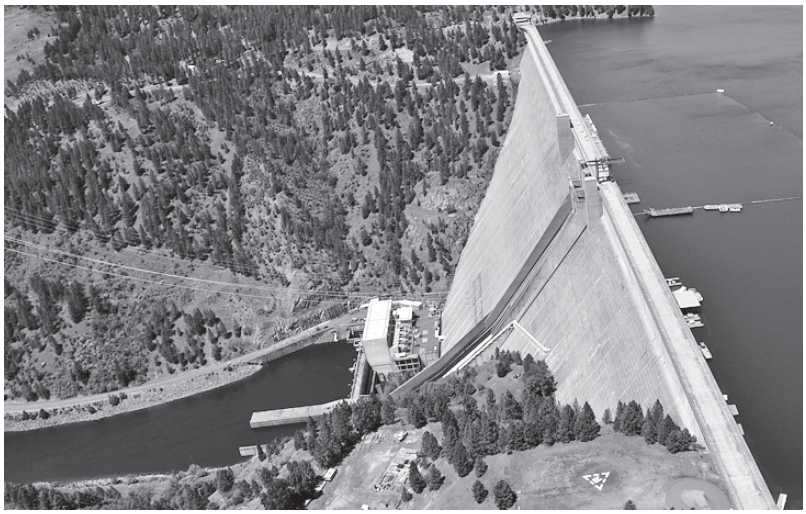
More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Brown declares Baker, Wheeler County drought
+ Oregon snowpack disappears early, hydrologist says
+ Western snowpack melts early, little remains
+ BPA: Early runoff leads to dry year declaration
+ Like water supply, flow target lowered at McNary Dam
+ Low Columbia water forecasts affect Montana reservoirs

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: May 8, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com

Use water now or later? Fish and hydro managers make flow choices

McNary flow objectives dropped for the second week running. Flows were briefly raised from Dworshak Dam to help pass juvenile chinook salmon through lower Snake River dams.



DWORSHAK DAM AND RESERVOIR PHOTO: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

The Technical Management Team, charged with the difficult task in a low water year of balancing spring juvenile fish passage with water and power needs in the region, dropped McNary flow objectives for the second week running and briefly raised flows from Dworshak Dam to help pass juvenile chinook salmon through lower Snake River dams.

Balancing available water to sustainable river flows, TMT again dropped spring flow expectations at McNary Dam for the second week in a row from 180,000 cubic feet per second to 170 kcfs at a special meeting, May 4.

Then, at its regularly-scheduled meeting May 6, it raised flows from Dworshak Dam on the North Fork of the Clearwater River from 5 kcfs to 9.7 kcfs (full powerhouse flows) in order to help struggling juvenile salmon pass through lower Snake River dams. The Dworshak increase will also help flows at McNary Dam.

As an additional aid to Snake River and Columbia River flows, the Bureau of Reclamation said May 7, that it would gradually increase flows out of its Milner Dam in the upper Snake River near Twin Falls, Idaho, to 2 kcfs by May 11 and maintain that flow through early June. The upper Snake River reservoirs are at 83 percent of storage capacity.

BOR says it is taking this action to provide additional water for salmon migration lower in the rivers "in accordance with NOAA Fisheries 2008 Upper Snake Biological Opinion."

Faced with one of the worst water supply forecasts in the past 55 years, TMT lowered the flow objective at McNary Dam from 220 kcfs to 180 kcfs on May 1, hoping that flow level would be enough to help juvenile salmon pass the dam and other Columbia River dams downstream.

Average flows at McNary the week of April 27 were at 160 kcfs, so to reach the 180 target set by TMT on May 1 required dam operators to increase their draft of the Grand Coulee reservoir.

By Monday, May 4, it had

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Now or later? Fish and hydro managers make flow choices

become apparent to the managers that Coulee was drafting at a much faster pace than they had anticipated, risking the chance that Lake Roosevelt, the dam's reservoir, would not refill by early summer.

"The inflow at Coulee is running about 85,000 cubic feet per second and the Snake River is done with runoff," said Tony Norris of the Bonneville Power Administration. "None of that adds up to 180 kcfs at McNary Dam."

The 85 kcfs inflow includes about 10 kcfs that will be pumped into Banks Lake to be used for irrigation, so the Coulee inflow is really closer to 95 kcfs, he added, but the Banks Lake allotment is not available to augment flows downstream.

Passing inflows through Coulee, Norris said, gives McNary about 160 kcfs to 165 kcfs. "What we are doing now will use up at least one-half foot per day," he warned, speaking of the 180 kcfs target.

Given the situation, TMT on Monday further reduced average flows at McNary to 170 kcfs and, by Wednesday this week, flows were averaging 165 kcfs to 170 kcfs, according to Mary Mellema of the BOR, which operates Grand Coulee Dam.

She said flows will continue at this level as long as the Coulee reservoir does not fall below an elevation of 1,243 feet. An elevation below that would cause difficulties in refilling the reservoir and that's water that will be needed throughout the summer. The reservoir elevation on Monday was 1,249.1 feet, she said, but "by the end of Wednesday it would be at 1,247 feet, with only four feet to play with," if outflows continued at 180 cfs. Refill begins after May 13.

The federal biological opinion for Columbia/Snake salmon and steelhead includes a flow objective at McNary Dam of 220 kcfs to 260 kcfs during the spring juvenile salmon migration season, which is achievable during most years. However, in low water years, the BiOp allows for flexibility in managing the situation.

The current flows of 165 kcfs to 170 kcfs at McNary seems to be working for juvenile salmon as they are passing down through the Columbia River at an expected rate, according to Paul Wagner, NOAA Fisheries, at TMT's May 6 meeting.

However, passage of juveniles on the Snake River are below expectations and some steelhead juveniles are likely being waylaid in the Lower Granite reservoir, Wagner said as he pushed for increasing flows from Dworshak Dam on the Clearwater River, upstream of Lower Granite Dam. Steve

Continued Page 9

Effect of mid-April Yakima Basin water supply forecast

A mid-April 2015 'Total Water Supply Available' forecast for the Yakima Basin is expected to create ripples because of the decline in reservoir storage and low stream flows.



YAKIMA RIVER BASIN PHOTO: GREG M. ERICKSON

The Bureau of Reclamation has released a mid-April 2015 Total Water Supply Available forecast for the Yakima Basin because of decline in reservoir storage and low stream flows.

The TWSA indicates a full water supply for senior water rights during the 2015 irrigation season, but an estimated 54 percent supply for junior water rights. The Bureau will issue forecasts monthly or as needed at least through July.

"Weather conditions forced us to use storage to meet demands starting April 15," said Chuck Garner, Yakima Project River Operations supervisor. "We had hoped conditions would favor full reservoirs into May and a later start of prorationing."

The mid-April TWSA forecast is based on flows, precipitation, snowpack, and reservoir storage as of April 15, along with estimates of future precipitation and river flows.

Other future weather conditions that help determine the timing of the run-off and the demand for water are also critical in determining stream flows, prorationing, and reservoir storage. "The record low snowpack, the cold weather and the low amount of April precipitation caused a decline in the natural flows as well as a decline in the water supply and prorationing," said Garner.

Unfavorable spring weather could further reduce prorationing while favorable conditions could improve it. Since longer term weather conditions are unpredictable, Garner recommends that water conservation be considered by all users.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Yakima Basin farmers may soon get access to drought wells
+ Record low streamflows forecast for parts of Washington
+ Inslee expands drought emergency to more of Washington
+ Water prices in Washington high, supply remains tight
+ Washington irrigation districts look for water
+ Irrigation district shuts down temporarily to save water

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Bureau of Reclamation
Published: April 21, 2015
URL: usbr.gov

Farmers urge House to pass bill to dry up EPA's WOTUS regulation

The administration is in the last stages of finalizing the Environmental Protection Agency's 'waters of the U.S.' (WOTUS) regulation, as farmers and ranchers urge action.

Farmers and ranchers are urging the House of Representatives to approve legislation that would stop the agency from unlawfully expanding its jurisdiction to cover land and isolated waters already regulated by states and counties.

It would also require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers to submit a new proposed rule that takes into account the comments and interests of all Americans.

In a letter to House lawmakers in advance of the vote, Stallman said the Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015 (H.R. 1732) is an appropriate and sensible response to EPA's flawed process for proposing the WOTUS rule.

"Additional time, outreach, oversight and transparency are critical for an improved final rule that provides clarity, respects the concerns of all affected parties, and more accurately reflects the will of Congress," Stallman wrote.

Late last month, a bipartisan group of senators introduced similar legislation, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

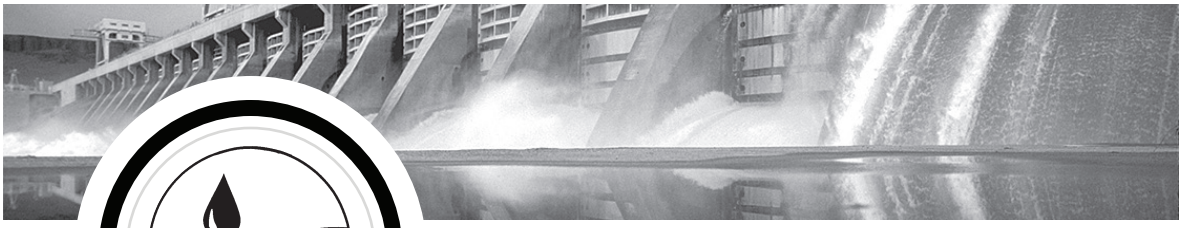
+ Farmers cheer move to stop Environmental Protection Agency WOTUS overreach
+ House wants evidence EPA considered ag in 'waters of the U.S.' rule
+ Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association sues Bureau of Reclamation
+ Judge tosses out ranchers' lawsuit filed against Bureau of Land Management
+ Water regulators seek to close water funding regulation loophole
+ Transmission bill gets hearing in Oregon House of Representatives

Writer: Staff
Publisher: American Farm Bureau Federation
Published: May 8, 2015
URL: fbnews.fb.org

*e*EDITION Headlines

1. Morrow County has approved a resolution asking Gov. Kate Brown for drought relief.
2. Much of the Oregon snowpack has already melted according to a regional hydrologist
3. A Yakima Valley irrigation district has started a temporary shut down among other measures.
4. Oregon's water supply development fund nears reality now that rules have been proposed.

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NEW *Oregon Water Monthly eEdition*

Oregon Water Monthly's new eEdition is a re-imagined and expanded full-color version with additional items not available in print. Available starting in June. Pre-subscribe now!

Oregon Water Coalition is giving you more ways to get news of issues important to the economic success of irrigated agriculture in the Northwest. In addition to the newly designed *Oregon Water Monthly* you are reading now, you can catch up on all the latest news coverage in our press room newsblog online at ***oregonwater.org/news.***

Follow older coverage from our legacy pages. Just visit ***oregonwater.org/legacy***. And coming next month, OWC is proud to unveil a brand new monthly electronic news source, Oregon Water Monthly *eEdition*. Inside it, you will find all of the coverage of our printed newsletter and more, with additional content and related articles that simply cannot fit here. If you'd like to receive this electronically-delivered email-distributed publication each month, either 'in addition' to or 'instead' of your printed newsletter, point your browser to the link below to pre-subscribe, or contact us by phone or email.

+ oregonwater.org/subscribe

Capital Press: Common sense means more water storage

Common sense must be the guiding rule in resolving water shortages across the West. Most would have to agree that more water storage is desperately needed.

The folks in Klamath Falls, Ore., are hoping for the best. As they look at a sparse snowpack in the mountains and a forecast for another dry summer, they maintain their optimism.

They say they've seen it before — in 2001, '02 and '03 — and despite the outlook they remain optimistic that somehow enough water will remain available for their crops.

Like the rest of the West, the Klamath region's economy depends on water. Without adequate water, the farms and ranches, and the economy that depends on them, face another difficult year.

But the sad irony is that such hardships could have been avoided. Common sense could have helped them.

Common sense dictates that a region with periodic water shortages should have more storage. Reservoirs, aquifer recharge, lake taps and any other practical means of storing water that is often plentiful in the winter but scarce in the summer need to be pursued. Yet precious little has been done at the federal, state or local levels to create more storage.

The problem is not unique to the Klamath Falls region. Pick a state in the West, and the lack of adequate water storage is the primary problem facing agriculture.

A lot of energy is spent arguing over why the mountain snowpacks are shrinking. Some say climate change is the culprit. Others say it's just another weather cycle.

It doesn't matter. While politicians and others talk about tangential issues they avoid the need at hand — more water storage.

When winter precipitation comes in the form of rain instead of mountain snows, common sense dictates that it should be stored, yet only a few storage projects are in the works around the West.

California is in the grip of a four-year drought. Voters have approved the construction of two reservoirs, but state leaders haven't even decided where to build them. Elsewhere, a few small reservoirs and aquifer recharge projects are contemplated or are underway.

These and many other water storage projects are desperately needed, and now. We also need to mention the role the federal Endangered Species Act plays

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Water conflict resolution: OSU launches 'hydro-diplomacy' co-op

Despite increasing need for water across the global and geo-political divide, there are few resource managers in charge who have training in both water science and diplomacy.



AARON T. WOLF, PH.D., OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY PHOTO: ANDY CRIPE

A new cooperative international education program aims to address that shortfall.

Oregon State University, the University for Peace in Costa Rica, and the UNESCO-IHE Water Education Center in The Netherlands are creating an international joint education program aimed at addressing water conflicts in a more professional manner. The program will launch this fall with about 10 students enrolled to earn master's degrees, eventually growing to 30 students from around the world.

"There is a real need for people trained in the art of 'hydro-diplomacy,'" said Aaron Wolf, an Oregon State University geographer and internationally recognized expert on water conflict. "The problem is really rather simple – there just isn't enough water to go around for every need. So if you manage water, you have to know how to manage conflict and that's where the training has been lacking.

"The good news is that water gives you the opportunity to get certain people into the room that wouldn't ordinarily sit across from each other," Wolf added. "And it gives them a common language."

Students in the new program will study at each of the three sites, ending up at Oregon State where they will be required to conduct a collaborative, applied research project somewhere in the United States where water management issues are in play, according to Mary Santelmann, director of Oregon State's Water Resources Graduate Program, which will coordinate the new degree in the U.S.

The venture builds on a certificate program OSU offers in water conflict management, and utilizes the expertise of each institution.

"Oregon State has some 90 faculty members who are involved in some aspect of water science and another 20 faculty members who focus on some aspect of public policy and conflict resolution," Santelmann said. "That expertise, along with OSU's work with a variety of federal agencies, made the university

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Conflict resolution: OSU launches program for 'hydro-diplomacy'

uniquely positioned to play a lead role in the new educational venture." The University for Peace in Costa Rica is a United Nations-mandated institution established in 1980 as a treaty organization by the UN General Assembly. Scholars there have a great deal of experience at high-level diplomacy, as well as conflict theory and geopolitical expertise with developing countries.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world, and has researchers with extensive experience in working on water resource issues in Europe and elsewhere.

"There is no single institution that could offer an entire curriculum and suite of experiences necessary to train a generation of students in hydro-diplomacy," said Wolf, who is a 2015 recipient of the Heinz Award for public policy. "It had to be collaborative, international and experiential."

The issues students will deal with are vast. In Oregon, for example, there has been a major conflict over water rights in the Klamath River basin, where agricultural interests compete with fisheries management and tribal rights.

These kinds of issues are not unusual in the United States, Wolf pointed out, and can become even more contentious when an international component is added.

"Ethiopia has been constructing a major dam and Egypt is so concerned about the impact on its water that it has discussed going to war over it," Wolf said. "There are many countries in central and Southeast Asia where similar border tensions have arisen over water that flows across multiple jurisdictions."

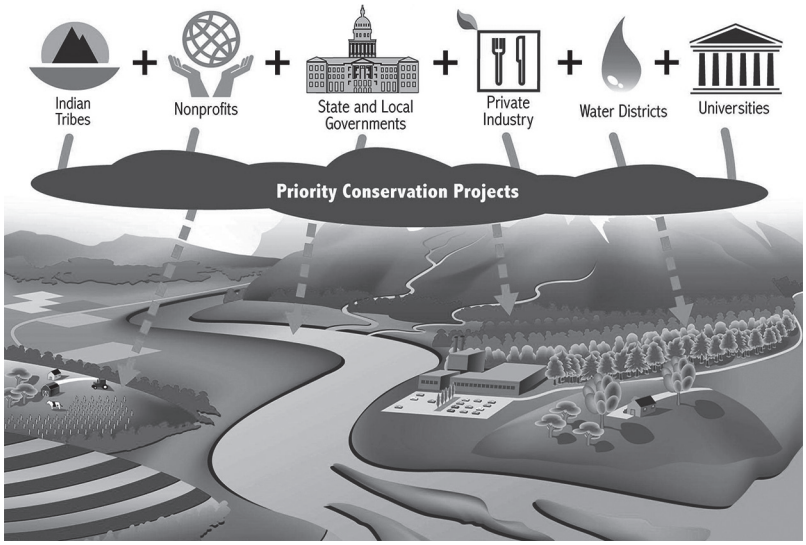
Water management is conflict management, Santelmann pointed out. The collaborative new program will focus on guiding students to gain skills in a variety of areas through field work, working with experts from different disciplines, and gaining a broad understanding of varying points of view, resolution processes, and water management science.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Hydro shortage unlikely despite low water supply
+ Council asks BPA to fund 'emerging priorities,'
+ McNary Dam nears finish of $86M stator replacement

$235 million available for new conservation partnerships

Local coalitions can apply for funding to improve soil health, preserve clean water, combat drought, or protect habitat as part of USDA's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.



USDA REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) INFOGRAPHIC: USDA

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has announced an investment of up to $235 million to improve the nation's water quality, combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat and protect agricultural viability.

The funding is being made available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), the newest conservation tool of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

RCPP, created by the 2014 Farm Bill, empowers local leaders to work with multiple partners—such as private companies, local and tribal governments, universities, non-profit groups and other non-government partners—along with farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to design solutions that work best for their region.

Local partners and the federal government both invest funding and manpower to projects to maximize their impact. This will be the second round of projects funded through RCPP. The RCPP program helps USDA build on already-record enrollment in conservation programs, with over 500,000 producers participating to protect land and water on over 400 million acres nationwide.

"This is a new, innovative approach to conservation," said Vilsack. "This initiative allows local partners the opportunity to design and invest in conservation projects specifically tailored for their communities.

These public-private partnerships can have an impact that's well beyond what the Federal government could accomplish on its own. These efforts keep our land and water clean, and promote tremendous economic growth in agriculture, construction, tourism, and other industries."

Vilsack continued, "We had tremendous interest from local partners when we first launched this program last year.

"In this new round of applications, we'll be looking for even greater emphasis on expanding partnerships that

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NEW DESIGN

Starting this month our member newsletter gets a new look, expanded content and brand new name. *Oregon Water Monthly* now features additional pages, photo content and expanded headlines of related stories in our press room newsblog that just won't fit here. Also, the look and feel of the newsletter has been updated, offering better readability and intuitive flow of content. We've also changed our name to reinforce our publication and purpose. Oregon Water Monthly is the print version of our multi-delivery approach to news coverage, building on the momentum of our press room newsblog, legacy blog, archived newsletter library, AND starting in June 2015, debut of our new full color electronic companion. Oregon Water Monthly *eEdition* is available by email and will be free and optional.

If you'd like to receive Oregon Water Monthly as a member of Oregon Water Coalition, see the back page or visit our membership page at oregonwater.org



ODFW Ontario inspectors find invasive Zebra mussels on Ohio boat entering Oregon

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife technicians discovered Zebra mussels on a boat entering the state at the Ontario boat inspection station.

A boat being hauled from Lake Erie in Ohio is the first vessel of the 2015 inspection season found to be infested with invasive Zebra mussels. The station opened in March.

The driver hauling the Ohio watercraft stopped for inspection April 24.

Motorists hauling boats in Oregon are required to stop at inspection stations to have watercraft checked for aquatic invasive species under a 2011 Oregon law. Failure to stop at an inspection station could result in a $110 fine.

The boat had a moderate number of adult Zebra mussels around the propeller shaft and under the stern in the drain plug area. It was decontaminated at the inspection station with high-pressure and hot water.

"The driver did the right thing by pulling over to have the boat inspected.

Boat owners need to always practice 'Clean, Drain, Dry' before launching their boat to keep invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species out of Oregon and the Pacific Northwest," said Rick Boatner, ODFW Invasive Species Coordinator.

"Zebra and Quagga mussels have caused billions in economic damage around the

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OREGON WATER MONTHLY

Oregon Water Monthly is published and mailed twelve times each year by the Oregon Water Coalition. With news important to Oregon agriculture, this printed publication, along with its electronic and online counterparts, is available to all current OWC members. An archived version of each issue is available online one month after publication. Oregon Water Monthly's new *eEdition* is a re-imagined and expanded full-color version with additional items not available in print. You can subscribe online at ***oregonwater.org/subscribe.***







$235 million available for new conservation partnerships

break down barriers, work across boundaries, leverage resources and create new opportunities for innovation." Secretary Vilsack made the announcement at a signing ceremony in Denver for the Colorado Pressurized Small Hydropower Partnership Project, a 2015-funded project that focuses on water quantity resource concerns.

The project, which will receive $1.8 million in NRCS support alongside local partner investments, will facilitate the conversion of flood irrigation systems to more resource-efficient pressurized irrigation systems with integrated hydropower.

"USDA continues to look for new opportunities to address drought across the West. RCPP projects like this one in Colorado highlight the work the NRCS is doing with partners to increase efficiency while supporting production," Vilsack said.

In January, USDA delivered first round funding to 115 high-impact projects, including the Colorado project, across all 50 states and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In January, USDA announced $394 million in awards in the first round of RCPP applications (which represented two years' worth of funding for fiscal years 2014 and 2015).

The announcement was made possible by the 2014 Farm Bill. The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the past five years, while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers.

Since enactment, USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve quality of life.

USDA is now accepting proposals for RCPP. Pre-proposals are due July 8, 2015. For more information on applying, visit the USDA website at **nrcs.usda.gov** and search for 'RCPP.'

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ USDA grants for water quality in ag communities
+ Conservation project funding favors NW, California
+ USDA sends millions to Columbia Basin projects

Writer: Staff
Publisher: USDA
Published: May 4, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com

NW urges Obama-led Columbia River Treaty negotiations

Lawmakers representing Pacific Northwest states Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana are urging President Obama to make the Columbia River Treaty a priority.

The Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana members of Congress, twenty-six in all, sent a letter to President Obama and urged his Administration to initiate negotiations with Canada on the Columbia River Treaty.

The letter, led by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Greg Walden (R-OR), expressed concern about the slow pace of administrative review, and urged the Administration to act this year.

This letter followed up on a letter sent to the President last year requesting action on this important issue. The Bonneville Power Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recommended through the "Regional Recommendation for the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024" that the Obama Administration take action on the Columbia River Treaty by mid-2014, but there are yet to be any developments.

Updating the Columbia River Treaty directly affects the economy, environment, and flood control needs of millions of residents of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana along more than 1,200 miles of the Columbia River and its tributaries.

"Now that the Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) has reviewed and analyzed the 'Regional Recommendation for the Future of the Columbia River Treaty after 2024' (Recommendation), the United States government must come to an agreement on the parameters for negotiations with Canada," the members wrote in their letter to the Administration. "Given the 2024 deadline for certain aspects of the Treaty, we stress the importance of concluding the IPC process and urge you to initiate negotiations with Canada in 2015…we appreciate the work that has been done by the IPC to understand the Recommendation, and we are united in the belief that the Recommendation should be the basis for ensuring that cross-border management of the Columbia River better reflects the interests of the Pacific Northwest and the nation."

The signatories urged the Administration to finalize a negotiating approach and ini-

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Capital Press: More water storage makes sense

in Klamath Falls and elsewhere in the West. Water is sent down rivers to benefit endangered fish regardless of the fact it is needed for people.

Billions of dollars have been spent on helping fish, but only a relative pittance has been spent in the past 40 years on water storage as the region's population has mushroomed.

If farmers and ranchers want a preview of where this is headed, they don't have to look far. Western and Southern Oregon depended on the timber industry for generations, yet they have struggled to survive after the northern spotted owl was listed as threatened under the ESA.

The once thriving timber economy was decimated as logging operations and mills shut down because the owl favors old growth forests. Congress continues to write checks trying to bolster those faltering counties, but what they need most is relief from the ESA.

Just as communities that depended on the timber industry learned that they don't really matter when a threatened or endangered species shows up in their backyard, Western farmers and everyone else who depend on water have learned that ESA-protected fish trump all else.

But no matter what one's viewpoint is on climate change or the ESA, all sides would have to agree that more water storage is desperately needed around the West.

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Klamath Basin ag businesses brace for drought
+ Klamath Basin water transfer bill passes committee
+ Well levels near Oregon-California border drop

Opinion: Capital Press
Published: April 30, 2015
URL: capitalpress.com

NW urges Obama-led Treaty negotiations

tiate negotiations with Canada this year. A list of signatories and full text of the letter can be found in our Press Room at:

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Federal officials gathering info for Columbia River Treaty
+ Groups issue Columbia Treaty stewardship declaration

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: April 17, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com

Use water now or later? Fish and hydro managers make flow choices

Hall of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the project, warned that using Dworshak water now could jeopardize refilling the reservoir by the end of June. In fact, given the changing water supply forecast in the area, he said it would be more prudent to aim to refill the reservoir in early June.

Runoff volume April 1 was 70 percent of normal and that dropped to 54 percent of normal by May 1, he said.

"The difference is the weather," Hall said. "It's a relatively cool protracted melt and that doesn't translate into runoff. The forecast is for 10 kcfs inflow, but it more likely will peak at 8 to 8.5 kcfs."

Water from Dworshak can be used in the mid-summer months of July and August to cool flows at lower Snake River dams.

"What's more important, refill or flow augmentation at this point in time?" he asked.

TMT's salmon managers chose a short period of flow augmentation to try to move more juvenile salmon through the lower Snake River, asking for four days of full powerhouse flow, which is about 9.5 kcfs, going to 5 kcfs Saturday and down to 1.6 kcfs Sunday, where flows will stay while the reservoir refills.

"None of this is where people want to go and we acknowledge the significant risks this operation has on refill," Wagner said, speaking for salmon managers at the May 6, TMT meeting. "But we think the benefits to the spring fish will outweigh the temperature benefit later on.

"We're going into this with eyes wide open," he added. "But the water we could potentially use in August, we'll use now for these smolts."

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ Salmon-hydro managers consider Libby/Kootenai changes
+ High chinook counts passing Bonneville, fishing days added
+ ODFW to transport chinook upriver to spawn on Umatilla
+ Sea lions in Bonneville Dam's tailrace remain above average
+ Council's strategic plan will protect fish/wildlife investments

Writer: Staff
Publisher: Columbia Basin Bulletin
Published: May 8, 2015
URL: cbbulletin.com

ODFW inspectors find invasive Zebra mussels on Ohio boat

U.S. and we don't want to have the same kinds of problems they create here in the Pacific Northwest."

The Pacific Northwest, including Alaska and the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, is the only place on the continent unaffected by the Zebra and Quagga mussel invasions that have devastated ecosystems and local economies.

The U.S. Geological Survey has online Quagga and Zebra mussel distribution maps at **nas.er.usgs.gov**. Search for 'zebramussel' and 'maps.'

More at: **oregonwater.org/news**

+ BC expands fight against invasive quagga and zebra mussels
+ States gear up for invasive species boat inspections

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