Oregon emergency officials look to 2020 wildfires for lessons learned

State report makes recommendations to prepare Oregon for the next disaster, wildfire or otherwise

By Ben Botkin
Oregon Capital Chronicle
The 2020 Labor Day wildfires strained understaffed state and local agencies and highlighted a need for more communication so people can recover and access services, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management concluded in a report released Thursday.

The 147-page report, based on surveys and interviews, offers a window into the state’s work to recover from the wildfires that scorched an area the size of Rhode Island and left communities across the state reeling as thousands of Oregonians lost homes, jobs and their way of life.

In-detailed shortcomings in the state’s response and included suggestions so officials can better prepare for the next disaster that strikes Oregon.

The wide-ranging report includes examinations of how homeowners received financial assistance for their damaged homes, private fundraising and efforts to provide battered communities with drinking water.

The 2020 wildfires scorched more than 1 million acres in 20 counties, scorched more than 1 million acres in 20 counties, destroyed or damaged more than 1 million acres in 20 counties, destroyed or damaged more than one million acres in 20 counties, destroyed or damaged more than 1 million acres, destroyed or damaged more than 1 million acres, destroyed or damaged more than 1 million acres.

There was good news from firefighters battling the Lookout Fire this week when they reported on Tuesday that although the fire now encompasses 12,188 acres, it has reached a 5% containment level. Over 1,100 personnel are involved in the operation, which includes 73 engines, 21 crews, 13 bulldozers, 28 water tenders, 11 masticators, and 7 helicopters.

Part of their work has been focused on the fire’s southwest corner along USFS Road 700. There, crews are clearing hazard trees and vegetation along Road 2633 and working toward the north. Officials report burning operations to secure those areas will take several days to complete.

Some of the smoke has impacted air operations involving scooper aircraft and helicopters. They have been supplemented by drones that can utilize infrared imaging as well as scouting out spot fires. The drones are also capable of dropping incendiary “spiders” resembling ping pong balls. Unlike helicopters, the drones can fly in areas of heavy smoke.

A new pond for all

Open access bridge added to Discovery Center site

LEABURG: A project to rebuild the earthen pond at the Old McKenzie Fish Hatchery continues to move forward. While dormant it had filled with sediment and vegetation, but now has been converted to a community fishing pond at the McKenzie River Discovery Center site. Thanks to a $19,000 grant to the from the Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, and the work of volunteers, the pond has been upgraded with an eye toward hosting angling and education/outreach events.

When completed, the pond will provide a chance for people of all ages, abilities and experiences levels to get their hands wet trying out a new skill. Activities could range from fly-fishing to traditional bait fishing, or learning how to identify native fish and keep them alive for “catch-and-release.”

People who’d like to support the site now have an opportunity to double their money. Recently, a grant from an anonymous donor will match - dollar for dollar - all new contributions up to $100,000. To participate, go to: mckenziediscoverycenter.org/give.

Lookout Fire updates continue

Some “Leave Now” areas are now at Level 2

“Level 1 is where we want people up here to be all the time,” said the assessor.

Lane County Sheriff Cliff Howard delivered to people gathered to hear updates on the status of the Lookout Fire. Speaking at the McKenzie High School gym last Thursday, the sheriff went on to add that much more people in the McKenzie Valley live in a wildland/urban interface, they should be “thoughtful about these things throughout the year and have a little higher level of awareness.”

Residents in the areas north of Hwy. 126 from Blue River Reservoir Road east to Dryy Lane near the McKenzie Bridge Airstrip had been on a Level 3 evacuation notice. “I know what it means when we tell you to leave your house,” Howard said. “That’s a pretty big deal and it’s a responsibility that weighs heavily on me.”

On Tuesday, areas north of Hwy. 126 east of the 0.5 milepost on Mill Creek Road to the east end of Taylor Road were changed to a Level 2 (be set) evacuation notice.

Some of the contributing factors behind a decision to evacuate include the density of population in a particular area, the number of homes and people who live there, and “how long it will take us to hit every door in that zone,” to tell people to leave, the sheriff said.

Tom Wright, an incident meteorologist with the National Weather Service, noted that the area was coming out of a historic heat wave with temperatures in the 100-degree range, very dry conditions, and some offshore easterly winds. “Luckily we’re kind of climbing out of that now,” Wright said. The change, he felt, could contribute to lowering the fire weather severity from “elevated” through the weekend to “moderate” for Monday through Thursday, based on data from a weather station that had been placed just east of the Lookout Fire.

To access videos from the meeting, go to: tinyurl.com/y496r653.

Some smoke is a good sign

Land & air teams report containment now at 5%

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The community fishing pond at the McKenzie River Discovery Center has added some people pleasing additions thanks to volunteer workers like Bruce Maderer (2021) who has constructed an ADA compliant bridge at its eastern shoreline.
By Francesca Anton

As I inhale the smoke and listen to the trilling of cicadas, I am transported back in time due to the two wildfires in our immediate area. In this way of life, my thoughts wander to the ancient world, the one before we were here.

Some Summer thoughts about life on Mother Earth today. August 19, 2023

Before the dinosaurs, the world was dominated by prehistoric fish. In the late Triassic period, about 298 mya, the fossil record shows us that as the tectonic plates began to move, the Pangaea landmass over the span of about 50 million years, Earth became so large and so thick that as the ice continued to melt, the seas began to flood the land. This process, called sea level rise, created another mass extinction event. The creatures that survived were just beginning to come ashore, and the oceans began to rise. Earth was in crisis, plant and animal species that were just beginning to come back after such an intense cool period ensued. Plant and animal species were forced to adapt to their new environments.

There are several thoughts about what could cause such a huge extinction, primarily over a period of about the last 100,000 years of the Permain period. The final die-off appears to have happened fairly fast, as geologic time goes. There is evidence of a huge asteroid (similar to the Chicxulub asteroid) that hit Earth during this period. This asteroid created a huge impact crater in what is now the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. The impact sent massive amounts of dust and debris into the atmosphere, blocking out sunlight and causing the temperature to drop significantly. This event is thought to have triggered a massive die-off of land-based animals, including dinosaurs, as well as marine life. The impact is estimated to have released enough dust into the atmosphere to block out sunlight for weeks to months, causing a global climate crisis.

Now, this summer, we are looking at real unrelenting in every aspect of our lives. We are living through a time of extreme heat and drought, with many regions experiencing record-breaking temperatures. This is due to climate change, which is caused by human activities such as burning fossil fuels for energy and deforestation. The increase in greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide, has led to global warming and climate change, which is causing more frequent and severe heat waves. This is a perfect storm for wildfires, which are becoming more frequent and destructive due to climate change. The increased temperatures and drought are causing trees to dry out and become more susceptible to fire. The warmer temperatures are also allowing fires to spread faster and farther, leading to more damage and destruction.

As I inhale the smoke and listen to the trilling of cicadas, I am transported back in time due to the two wildfires in our immediate area. In this way of life, my thoughts wander to the ancient world, the one before we were here.
July 29: 2:19 p.m: Criminal Theft - 36500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.
3:17 a.m: Traffic Hazard - 54000 blk, McK. Hwy.
6:08 p.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.
11:11 a.m: Safety Hazard - 51000 blk, McK. Hwy.
7:58 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 40000 blk, Deerhorn Rd.

July 30: 3:13 a.m: Assault - 39000 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:34 p.m: Vehicle Stop - 35200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
6:08 p.m: Traffic Hazard - Marcola Rd. & Camp Creek Rd.
11:11 a.m: Safety Hazard - Aufderheide Dr. & McK. Hwy.

July 31: 12:42 p.m: Theft - 92100 blk, Marcola Rd. A caller reported having cash stolen from a motorhome.
-reported having cash stolen from a motorhome.

August 1: 5:17 a.m: Criminal Mischief - 49500 blk, McK. Hwy.
4:52 p.m: Welfare Check - 55600 blk, McK. River Dr.
5:54 p.m: Reckless Endangering - 8000 blk, Thurston Rd.
6:48 p.m: Disturbance, Dispute - McK. Hwy. & Mill Creek Rd.
11:24 p.m: Theft - 36500 blk, Parsons Creek Rd.

-August 4: 11:35 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 56500 blk, McK. Hwy.
2:00 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, 36200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.

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-August 6: 11:14: Medical - 91000 blk, Marbrook Ln. 

-August 7: 12:47: Medical - 99000 blk, Aufderheide Dr. Male, breathing, no response when yelled at.


-August 10: 3:30 a.m: Traffic Hazard - Milepost 21, Camp Creek Rd.

-August 11: 1:35 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - McK. Hwy.
8:54 a.m: Harassment - 47800 blk, McK. Hwy.
11:03 a.m: Dog at Large - Angels Flight Rd. & McK. Hwy.

-August 13: 3:20 a.m: Motor Vehicle Accident, Unknown Injury - 36200 blk, Camp Creek Rd.
2:30 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 56200 blk, McK. Hwy.

9:00 a.m: 41000 block, Madrone St. Male, Conscious, Breathing.


-August 18: 11:15 a.m: Disturbance, Dispute - 36500 blk, McK. Hwy.


-The Upper McK. Fire District’s board of directors will hold its monthly meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 28th, at the McK. Fire Station, 5678 McK. Hwy, in McKenzie Bridge.
By Finn J.D. John

Part Three: Occupation.

In the courtyard at the Antelope Post Office today, there stands a large bronze plaque attached to the base of a flagpole. It reads, "Dedicated to those of this community who throughout the Rajneeshee invasion and occupation of 1981-1985 remained, resisted and remembered." The plaque also notes that the town of Antelope was given to the commune by the owner, Delbert Chin, whose immaculate Gates of Heaven Chinese restaurant is a favorite for special times. Delbert got in the spirit of cookies and passed out fortune cookies on the street to all concerned, wishing each of us a good life. He invited us to live when he did it, you could see. Maybe that’s what happened.

It was less than a week later. Delbert brought out a large glass jar full of water and punched some little-bitty holes. How more than eight inches long. You were gone, you know. "Whew!" he said with a grin. "I was staring whenever they could catch onto — they lost any chance to bask in his wisdom, dissolve any trace of sin."

Oh, we could always just go ask Delbert Chin why he did it, but door to the Gates and put a sign up on it: "World Famous Invisible Glass Cleaners.

Problem was no one could see the fish. When he was asked about it, he said he caught it in Owens Lake, which is dry. He also added he caught it on a dry fly, naturally.

He had a kind of smirk about his mouth when he answered these questions, but it didn’t stop even half the adults in town from coming in and looking in that glass jar so he could spot the fish.

The quietourn lady who finally did it, though. She confronted Delbert directly.

"Ma’am," Delbert said. "There’s no fish in that jar over there. That’s life!"

"No, no," said Delbert and ran to the jar. "Where?" he said with relief. "For a while I thought he was gone, you know."

"There’s no fish in there!" she said.

"Ma’am," Delbert said. "He’s more than eight inches long. You see those little-bitty holes? How you think he’s gonna get out?"

There’s no difference between leather crafting and art … not when Art does it. Check it out at www.artvincentleather.com.

When “The Rolls-Royce Guru” came to Oregon

Ted Quackenbush

Air Rajneesh’s fleet of passenger aircraft parked at the airport. The largest one was a Douglas DC-3 and a Convair 240.

Oakland. Thousands took them up on it.

As primary season approached in 1984, the population of the twin cities of Rajneeshpuram and Antelope swelled from 30,000 residents, to over 7,000. Every newcomer to the commune was promptly registered as a Wasco County voter.

This was probably the point at which the Rajneeshees definitive- ly lost the fight to stay in Oregon. Because, well, it was one thing to have a bunch of far-out mystics developing a piece of Oregon’s outback; nobody really minded that. The takeover of Antelope had been bad, but Antelope was a tiny place, and the whole thing was easily understood as the com- mune’s only option for having a municipality. The nastiness of the campaign to drive the locals out with hypnosis was an attempt to force local farm kids to attend Rajneesh schools; but these weren’t the kinds of mis- steps that can’t be recovered from with a quick course-correction and a little public-relations balm.

However, when Sheela and her operatives started scheming to seize power at the county level, they were on a visit to the site. Then Sheela and Puja led a team of Rajneeshees — most notably Ma Anand Puja, a.k.a. Diane Omang, the di- rector of the commune’s medical department — most notably Ma Anand Puja, a.k.a. Diane Omang, the director of the commune’s medical director of the commune’s medical director of the commune’s medical director of the commune’s medical director of the commune’s medical director of the commune’s medical...
Controlling pests outdoors is a common summer activity for gardeners, but it’s also important to know how to safely and effectively protect against an insect that feeds indoors and can ruin clothing.

Mothballs, one of the most common methods to control clothes moths, need to be recognized as a pesticide that can be harmful to humans or animals when misused, according to Tim Stock, Extension integrated pest management education specialist and director of the OSU Extension School IPM Program. “People often use mothballs in inappropriate sites and against incorrect pests,” said Stock, who co-authored “Mothballs: Proper Use and Alternative Controls for Clothes Moths.” The only recommendation that counts is the product label, which is a legal document whose instructions must be followed – particularly on where mothballs may be used and which pests they will control.”

Mothballs should not be used inside attics, crawl spaces, garages, trash cans, or vehicles, Stock said. “Unfortunately, mothballs are used in these locations to control pests other than clothes moths, including squirrels, skunks, deer, mice, rats, dogs, cats, raccoons, moles, snakes, pigeons, and a variety of other animals,” Stock said. “Any such use is illegal and can be harmful to human health. A relatively common mistake is placing mothballs in an attic to repel squirrels. This will almost always result in a persistent and noxious odor throughout the home.”

The larvae of two species of clothes moths in the Pacific Northwest are responsible for the damage to clothes and other fabric: the webbing clothes moth (Tinea pellionella) and the case-making clothing moth (Tinea pellionella). Clothes moth larvae are shiny, white, and about a half-inch long. “Clothes moth larvae do not eat synthetic fibers,” Stock said. “They feast only on fibers of animal origin such as wool, feathers, or felt. They can, however, chew through synthetic fibers to reach dirt or stains of animal origin.”

They also can damage clothes that contain both synthetic fibers and wool or other animal fibers but are active only on garments that are undisturbed for a long period of time.

Mothballs – which come in cakes, crystals, tablets, bars, and flakes – contain either naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene as active ingredients. Never mix these two types of mothballs, Stock said. Following the label instructions will limit exposure to these chemicals and control the moths.

“Both chemicals are fumigants, meaning that their volatile chemicals will vaporize at lower temperatures, such as room temperature,” Stock said. “Naphthalene has been associated with adverse health effects such as headache, nausea, dizziness, and difficulty breathing. Paradichlorobenzene is also a potential hazard, although typically less than naphthalene.” Mothballs must be used in an airtight space, such as an airtight garment bag or other containers labeled as airtight, and never in an open closet or plastic garbage bag. Once vapors enter the home, their odor can be detected at a few parts per billion in the air, Stock said. One part per billion is like a few drops of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool.

Alternative ways to control clothes moths are available for those who prefer not to use chemical treatments. The best way to most effectively keep clothes moth-free is through synthetic fibers or materials that are undisturbed for a long period of time.

Vacuuming: After vacuuming, promptly dislodge remaining eggs and larvae by putting them back in the drawer or bag before closing it. Clean vacuum cleaner. Also vacuum furniture and other places that provide food sources such as lint, pet hair, and human hair. Lint and hair that have been undisturbed for a long time are prime breeding grounds for clothes moths.

After vacuuming, promptly put the clothes or brush them before putting them back in the drawer or on the hanger. This will help dislodge remaining eggs and larvae.

For existing infestations of clothes moths, you must do more,” Stock said. “Vacuum drawers and closed storage areas with a vacuum cleaner. Also vacuum furniture and other places that provide food sources such as lint, pet hair, and human hair. Lint and hair that have been undisturbed for a long time are prime breeding grounds for clothes moths.

To prevent clothes moths from getting into your clothes, keep your clothes free of food sources such as lint, pet hair, and human hair. Lint and hair that have been undisturbed for a long time are prime breeding grounds for clothes moths.

Once you have control of clothes moths, vacuum the clothes or brush them before putting them back in the drawer or on the hanger. This will help dislodge remaining eggs and larvae.

It’s also good plain.
**August 25**

**Oregon Rocks - Leaburg**

The Leaburg Library will host the University of Oregon’s Museum of Natural and Cultural History “OREGON ROCKS” program this month. It is scheduled for Saturday, August 26th at 10 a.m. in the Community Room of the McKenzie Fire and Rescue building. Kids are invited to go on a fossil scavenger hunt and explore our ever-changing planet Earth. Dig into rocks, fossils, earthquakes, and volcanoes through hands-on activities and rockin’ specimens, discovering the dynamic forces that have shaped our planet over time. Spend time at the “Skate Board” making an earthquake, and the “Volcano” activity constructing a volcano. Play the “Ride the Rock Cycle” game with your friends, and create your own jars of erupting shower gels with colored sand. There will be trays and trays of nifty rocks to examine, and all kinds of rocks to play with.

All of this will begin with a 15 minute interactive presentation, followed by time at activity tables, for all ages, and touchable specimens.

The program is free of charge for all ages. It is for educational and entertaining for elementary children and their families, everyone is welcome no matter your favorite rock states!

**August 25**

**McKenzie Food Pantry**

Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those 62 years or older. For 42 years, the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for yourself or have food delivered to your car. Questions call Robin 541-844-8838.

**August 26**

**Dime At Time**

The Blue River Bottle Boys Collection/Sorting sessions are held every Saturday from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Leaburg. Store. Donations can be dropped off there as well.

**August 28**

**Springfield School Board**

The Board of Directors meet twice during most months during the school year. Regular business meetings begin at 7 p.m. on the second Mondays of the month. Work sessions are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on the fourth Monday of the month. All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held in the Board Room of the Springfield Public Schools Administration Building, 640 A Street.

**September 1**

**First Fridays at Finn Rock**

Join the Friends of Finn Rock Reach the first Friday of every month from 9:30 a.m. to noon March through November. We are here to help care for the Finn Rock Landing area. During projects we’ll be tackling invasive species, planting trees and helping to care for the public Finn Rock boat landing, kept free and open to the public by McKenzie River Trust. Project sites vary between the Boat Landing and other nearby public projects areas so pre-registration is required. We’ll send out details for each project the Tuesday ahead of each event.

**September 2**

**Walterville Fair**

The Walterville Grange is hosting the 71st annual Walterville Farmers Market on September 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Plan on bringing your fair entries to enter. The market will open March through November.風9:30 AM Children’s activities also.

Carnation and Blue Ribbon Prize Awards Ceremony: Saturdays 6:00 PM, Celebrate Recovery (12 Step Program)

**September 3**

**Write Your Life**

The Leaburg Library is delighted to announce that Duane Nortyuki is back with a second “Write Your Life” workshop! This six-week memoir workshop begins at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, To register, please call or email the Director, Marty Mealey, at 541-896-3817, or stop in at the library. The program is free of charge, says Duane, “nuanced to car. Questions call Robin 541-746-9974 if you wish to be a vendor). Raffle tickets will be available throughout the day for some great prizes and drawing will take place at 3 PM. The program is running to take a look for the replacement of the windows and siding on the west side of the community center. Check out the thermometer and see how we have progressed and feel free to chip in. See you at the fair! For more information please call 541-521-4760 and leave a message (calls will be returned).

**September 5**

**Board of Commissioners**

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

**September 6**

**McKenzie Food Pantry**

Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 2nd & 4th Friday, at the McKenzie Bridge Christian Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Shop for yourself or have food delivered to your car. Questions call Robin 541-844-8838.

**September 8**

**2nd Friday Art Walk**

Free to the public at the Emerald Art Center in downtown Springfield, 500 Main St.

**September 9**

**Living River**

Join the McKenzie River Trust and take a walk near the place the Willamette and the McKenzie Rivers meet. Join 25 years of tree-planting work on Green Island, a habitat for beaver, river otter, eagles and dozens of species of birds. If you’re looking for a special place to connect to nature this year, join in the fun on the autumn solstice day, Friday, 10/21/23, at the McKenzie Fire and Rescue building in Leaburg.

An Invitation to Worship

**McKenzie Bible Fellowship**

Every Sunday Worship - 10:00 a.m.

Mid-First Community Ministries
Men’s & Women’s Bible Studies

111 1st Street
Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604

**Walterville Fair**

The Walterville Fair is scheduled for August 26, 2023 by Common Bond Yoga. It is a day for celebration of all things Walterville including music, food & of course, crafts. Find out more at waltervillefair.com.

**September 9**

**The Block Party**

Look for an evening of music, culture, food & of course, craft event. The Block Party is scheduled for September 22, 2023 by Common Bond Yoga & Trudy Bauscher, the 3rd block party to focus on creating a lively and engaging space to celebrate Downtown Springfield on a slo-mo Saturday night. The party included flying axes, homemade goods, used goods, food trucks, and local lobbies, all featuring Springfield at its finest. A true party for those who know better, Springfield THE BLOCK PARTY will be back in September 2023, bigger than ever, once again bringing together forces with Noche Cultural for a Downtown spectacular at 225 5th St.

**September 11**

**Parks Advisory Committee**

Lane County Parks Advisory Committee will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Goodpasture Room, 3050 N Delta Hwy, in Eugene. It advises the Board of County commissioners on park needs, recommends priorities for projects, and helps serve government staff committed to the acquisition of land. The committee also recommends a list of priority projects regarding long-range planning for future park programs and needs, and other advice to the Board representing the concerns of the community.

**September 11**

**Springfield School board meeting**

7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The Board of Directors meet in the Administration Building, 640 A St, Springfield.

**September 12**

**Board of Commissioners**

Lane County Board of Commissioners. Harris Hall, 125 E 8th Ave, Eugene, The Board of Commissioner meetings begin at 9 a.m. in Harris Hall, unless otherwise noted on the published agenda. Regular Board Meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday Board meetings are on an as needed basis.

**September 15**

**Leaburg Food Pantry**

Free groceries provided in accordance with Oregon Food Bank and Food For Lane County guidelines for food distribution to those in need. 2nd - 4th Saturday at the Camp Fire Hall in Leaburg. The class starts at 9:00a.m., will likely require 4-5 hours, and trainings are free. (Participants must hold a valid Association certificate.) There are 9 spaces left. Interested? Call Claysville Fire & Rescue: 541-896-3311.

Click here and stay in touch with events online McKenzie Community Events Calendar.

**October 21**

Learn CPR & defibrillator use**

A CPR and Defibrillator Use class will be held on October 21st for Goose Creek Service Board. The class is held at 1:00 PM in the Leaburg Fire Hall. The class will start at 9:00a.m., will likely require 4-5 hours, and trainings are free. (Participants must hold a valid Association certificate.) There are 9 spaces left. Interested? Call Claysville Fire & Rescue: 541-896-3311.

Click here and stay in touch with events online McKenzie Community Events Calendar.

**November 27**

**McKenzie Fire and Rescue**

The McKenzie Valley Presbyterian Church Please join us for worship services at 10:30 a.m., either in church on 12th, or via our Facebook livestream. You may also make prayer requests, or even call a email-based prayer line — please email your request to Nancy Ashley, nancy.w.ashley@gmail.com, or call 541-746-9146. We welcome everyone, Milepost 13 McKenzie Hwy. (541) 747-2604.

**McKenzie River Reflections**

**Community Notes**

**August 25**

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All of this will begin with a 15 minute interactive presentation, followed by time at activity tables, for all ages, and touchable specimens.

The program is free of charge for all ages. It is for educational and entertaining for elementary children and their families, everyone is welcome no matter your favorite rock states!
Wayne and Tamara are the authors of The Young Woman's Guide to Older Men, The Friends' Advisor: Solitude and Choice in a Natash—available from Amazon, Apple, and bookstores everywhere.

The Poetry Foundation is now providing a Poem of the Day.

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The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has granted $196 million to more than 170 projects that will improve more than 550 miles of fish passage nationwide. The Coquille Indian Tribe will receive $1.5 million to remove or replace five culverts and eight weirs in the Smith Basin near the coast, ultimately reconnecting threatened salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and lamprey to 62 miles of critical habitat.

About $9.3 million is going to Lane, Clackamas, Coos, Tillamook, Lincoln and Multnomah counties for rebuilding culverts or replacing them with bridges in order to connect fish with spawning habitat and passage. The federal transportation department estimates about 66 million culverts in the U.S. were built using designs from the 1950s that did not take fish migration into account. The agency is granting $196 million this year to nearly 170 projects that will improve more than 550 miles of fish passage nationwide.

As we deal with another challenging year, resolutions for change are a good idea. Among actions to avoid, however, would be spending your hard-earned dollars outside our local communities.

Shopping at Home will help McKenzie Valley businesses continue to be supporters of area organizations, schools, and churches that in turn have counterbalanced the adverse impacts of the Lookout Fire.

Working together, we will remain “McKenzie Strong.”

Shopper at Home, it makes $ense

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

There Are
Good Things
To Keep In Mind

McKenzie River Reflections Page 9

By Alex Baumhardt
Oregon Capital Chronicle

The U.S. Department of Transpor
tation is backing 26 projects to boost fish transit in Oregon that’s
been stymied by poor road and dam infrastructure.

The Oregon Department of Fish
and Wildlife, six counties and the
Coquille Indian Tribe will receive
more than $19 million to get rid of
barriers that have made it difficult
for threatened fish to journey from
freshwater rivers and streams to
the ocean and back.

The federal agency on Wednes-
day announced the grants, which
are funded by the Bipartisan Infra-
structure Law passed by Congress in
2021.

The bulk of the projects will
involve repairing, redesigning or
removing culverts, which are tun-
nels or bridges built behind roads
and railroad tracks to channel wa-
ter so it flows below rather than
on top of surfaces. Some projects
will also involve removing and re-
pairing short dams on rivers and
streams called weirs, which are
typically built to control water
levels.

Deteriorating and outdated cul-
verts and weirs play a role in de-
ciliing populations of Oregon’s
native salmon, river herring and
lamprey, which are born in fresh-
water and need clear passage to
migrate to the ocean and return
to freshwater to spawn.

The largest recipient of the
funds, the state fish and wildlife
department, will get $9 million to
repair and replace roads and cul-
verts in the Rogue River water-
shed in southern Oregon and help
connect and improve critical habi-
tat for Chinook and coho salmon,
sea run cutthroat trout and steel-
head. More than 600 human-made
barriers to fish migration remain
in the watershed, according to the
Rogue Basin Partnership.

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Spring Chinook salmon in the Rogue River watershed. More than 600 hu-
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The McKenzie River: All hatchery rainbow trout released into the McKenzie River are marked with an adipose fin clip and anglers must release all non-fin-clipped (wild) trout in the mainstem river. The lower 11 miles of the McKenzie River below the Hayden Bridge - and the McKenzie River upstream from Forest Glen Boat Ramp at Blue River - are restricted to anglers with lures and flies only, and all trout must be released.

Troto Stocking Schedule: Trout stocking is underway on many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state. Releases of 8” to 10” hatchery fish this week were: McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam – 2,566, and Clear Lake – 3,000.

Fish Counts
August 14, Willamette Falls Spring Chinook – 23,410
Summer Steelhead – 958
Summer Steelhead – 958

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Lessons learned
Continued From Page 1

Greg Wentzel, of West Salem, searches through the remains of his vacation home in Detroit, Oregon with his children, Ozzy, 13, and Destiny, 8, in September 2020 after wildfires.

There is a need for future recovery efforts and lost potential agencies that could play a role depending on the situation. Challenges related to information-sharing also unfold on a national level during disasters, Thomas said, adding that there are ongoing efforts about how to centralize data collection.

That way, survivors won’t need to repeat their accounts.

“When a survivor talks to the Red Cross or a survivor talks to FEMA or a survivor talks to a state agency, those individual organizations can’t share that personal information without written consent from the survivor,” he said. “We had so many organizations that were getting involved, what we ended up doing was the survivor had to repeat their story 20 times, which is not healthy for the survivor.”

Thomas said the work of putting the recommendations and rewriting the state’s plan could take about a year and involve input from different agencies and people.

The plans are important to prepare Oregon for the next disaster and help communities be resilient, he said.

Another fire season like 2020 is possible, as another type of natural disaster, he said.

“As we look to the future and we’re describing changing, I think that we will have more disasters, and I think the disasters that we have will be more severe,” he said. “I don’t want to look at the crystal ball and see dark skies. However, yes, we could have another straight line wind event and firestorm like we had in 2020. We could have more severe ice storms and winter storms.”
McKenzie Fire & Rescue

Upper Johnson Creek Rd. Medical. Trauma. Patient Assessed, 1 transported.

Certified Burn Manager Program is accepting applications

The Oregon Department of Forestry’s Certified Burn Manager (CBM) Program is now accepting applications for both burn managers and qualified training providers. The overall purpose of the program is to reduce barriers to prescribed fire in Oregon and protect certified burn managers and landowners from civil liability. The program, created by Senate Bill 762 (2023), increases capacity for prescribed burns on non-federal, ODF-protected lands through leadership training and a certification program. Through the certification program, individuals seeking to become burn managers learn how to properly plan and overseer a prescribed burn. When a landowner or community within an ODF-protected district uses a certified burn manager, and follows the required burn plan, it protects both from civil liability. The certified burn manager can manage a burn anywhere within ODF protection, whether on their own property or that of other landowners. A potential burn manager does not need to be a landowner to become certified. Expanding access to safely conducted prescribed burns benefits Oregonians by maintaining healthy forests and reducing risks to public safety. Introducing periodic fire to fire-adapted landscapes reduces the potential for high-intensity wildfires along with the huge volume of smoke they produce. ODF is seeking applications from individuals interested in becoming certified burn managers and training providers with experience creating and delivering wildland fire training to deliver content based upon a detailed burn manager instructor guide and final exam provided by ODF. Apply online at https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/prescribed-fire.aspx.

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855-443-0507

Certified Burn Manager Program is accepting applications

What is this figure?

Located about 1 mile west of Bear Creek and visible from Hwy. 126 near Millgrove Rd, this figure appeared about a month ago. Some people on social media offered a variety of suggestions but property owner Benny Coleman says it’s doing the job he intended it for - scaring off geese that had been leaving behind unwanted reminders.

Sheriff’s Report

Continued From Page 3

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McKenzie River Reflections Page 11

HOLIDAY FARM FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING LETTERS OF INTEREST DUE SEPTEMBER 4, 2023 AT 5 P.M.

Non-profits, schools, governments, districts, councils of government, and public authorities serving the McKenzie River corridor are invited to submit a letter of intent for wildfire recovery funding from the Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) Planning, Infrastructur, and Economic Revitalization (PIER) program. The funds can support:

• Planning for housing recovery, economic analysis, hazard mitigation, disasters, or education and outreach.
• Rebuilding or replacing impacted infrastructure and/or building new infrastructure.
• Retaining or returning businesses, microenterprises, or jobs.

For more information, please see lanecounty.an.gov/PIER and the Oregon Housing and Community Services Disaster Recovery page (re. Oregon.gov).

Letters of interest will be reviewed by a committee composed of wildfire survivors, disaster recovery partners, and special districts and includes representatives from Rural Development Initiatives, McKenzie Community Land Trust, Upper McKenzie Rural Fire Protection District, McKenzie Track and Field, McKenzie Fire and Rescue, McKenzie Valley Long Term Recovery Group, McKenzie Community Partners, McKenzie Food Pantry, McKenzie School District, McKenzie Recovery Center, McKenzie River Locals Helping Locals, Eugene Water and Electric Board, and Lane County. The group will formally vote on priorities during upcoming public meetings.

If you’d like to submit a Letter of Interest, have any questions, or would like to receive PIER public meeting invitations in-person or online, please contact Megan.m.turgeon@laneCOUNTY.or.gov or 541-852-8259.