

ESA News MORE WARMING and LESS WATER

Ecological Society of America: grants, jobs, news
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MORE WARMING, LESS WATER

According to a new study sponsored by the US Department of Energy, snowpack in the Cascade mountains will drop by more than half by 2050 thanks to global warming.

That's bad news for more than just the ski resorts. Snowpack is how much of the West gets its water and power. The loss of water will also hit salmon hard, particularly given how the Bonneville Power Administration gives fish the short end of the stick when electricity prices increase.

The study -- to be published in an upcoming edition of the journal *Climate Change*, anticipates major impacts for the Columbia Basin over the next half-century. The scientists that conducted the study say they used one of the most conservative computer models -- thus the results could be worse than predicted.

"You'd like there to be some good news in there somewhere, but unfortunately there is not," Scripps Institution of Oceanography research marine physicist Tim Barnett told AP. "You can have hydropower or you can have salmon, but you probably can't have both," Barnett told the Tacoma News Tribune.

|>| SOURCE US Department of Energy Office of Science
<http://www.er.doe.gov/>

|>| BEST READS

Oregonian: Warming study forecasts skimpy Cascades snowpack
http://www.oregonlive.com/news/oregonian/index.ssf?/xml/story.ssf/html_standard.xsl?/base/front_page/10378837754150.xml

Seattle P-I Study: Warming Will Deplete Water
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/apscience_story.asp?category=1501&slug=Warming%20and%20the%20West

Seattle P-I: Experts Debate Global Warming
http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/apscience_story.asp?category=1501&slug=Global%20Warming

Tacoma News Tribune: Global warming to hit rivers hard, analysis finds
<http://www.tribnet.com/news/story/2182530p-2260189c.html>

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[FOREST]

WILDFIRES, THINNING, SURVEYS, SWAPS

Three newspapers, three good in-depth reports on three different forest policy issues this week.

The Tacoma News Tribune went out into the Gifford Pinchot National Forest with biologists conducting species surveys. The species surveys -- required under the Northwest Forest Plan all but ended most timber sales in the 1.4

million acre forest in Southwest Washington. But now the White House has unveiled a plan to scrap the requirement for species surveys in an effort to increase timber production.

The TNT's Susan Gordon looked at the impacts of Survey and Manage, its affect on timber towns that once depended on National Forest logging, as well as the possible implications of removing the Survey and Manage requirement.

The Eugene Register Guard: Took a closer look at the controversy surrounding so called "replacement volume" timber sales on federal lands in Oregon. Timber sales in the Willamette, Umpqua and Rouge River national forests were offered up in exchange for timber sales canceled in the Coast Range to protect the endangered marbled murrelet.

Environmentalists argue that the Forest Service offered up old growth forest in exchange for younger sales canceled in the Siuslaw National Forest. Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Peter DeFazio side with forest activists and conservation groups in opposing the sales -- slated to be cut in 2003.

The Oregon Natural Resource Council and others want the Forest Service to focus timber sales on cutting crowded second growth plantations rather than valuable old growth habitat. Indeed thinning crowded second growth stands is not only less controversial, but is also good for the health and habitat development of the forest. Forest thinning is also a way to reduce wildfire risk.

The Roseburg News Review: Speaking of forest thinning. Southwest Oregon was home to the largest forest fires in state history last summer. Indeed, President Bush chose this location to announce his new Healthy Forest Initiative of subsidizing fire prevention projects with increased timber sales. This week the News Review ran a series examining the history and future of federal wildfire policy as well as the competing constituencies that underfunded federal land managers have to cater to in balancing forest ecology, fire management and timber harvests.

|>| BEST READS

Tacoma News Tribune: In the Gifford Pinchot: Ecosystem comes first
<http://www.tribnet.com/news/local/story/2151751p-2237637c.html>

Eugene Register Guard: Replacement sales include too much old growth, critics say
<http://www.registerguard.com/news/2002/11/16/1a.replacementtrees.1116.html>

News-Review: Thinning our Forests: A News-Review Special Series
<http://www.oregonnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?Site=NR&Date=20021117&Category=NEWS&ArtNo=111170004&Ref=AR>

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