Region 10 News Clips
Jan. 27 – 31, 2020

[HYPERLINK \l "_Capital_Press"]
Oregon lawmakers will consider a bill during the upcoming legislative session aimed at curbing elevated levels of groundwater nitrates in the Lower Umatilla Basin. State Sen. Bill Hansell, R-Athena, recently introduced Senate Bill 1562, which calls for the Oregon Department of Agriculture to form a new task force that would review existing data and recommend solutions to the area's decades-old groundwater problem. The Lower Umatilla Basin in northeast Oregon is home to some of the state's most productive farmland, with thousands of grazing cattle and vast fields of irrigated crops. But rising levels of groundwater nitrates could pose a public health threat if left unchecked.

[HYPERLINK \l "_Forbes"]
Seattle, Washington is famous for its proximity to the Puget Sound. Over 6,500 miles long, this 'Urban Estuary' is the second largest estuary in the U.S., fed by over ten thousand rivers and streams. Puget Sound supports many culturally and economically important animals, like Orcas (Killer Whales) and many species of salmon. However, modern chemicals threaten the Sound and these ecosystems. Typically, these chemicals are tracked using methods that search for specific chemicals known to occur in contaminated waters, and known to be harmful. However, this traditional 'targeted' water quality monitoring could mean that new harmful contaminants not previously known to occur in natural waterways go undetected. University of Washington scientists decided to take a broader swing at assessing the chemicals present in Puget Sound. Instead of simply looking for chemicals on the 'wanted' list, these researchers went searching for new 'criminal' chemicals, too.

[HYPERLINK \l "_Idaho_Press"]
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and Congressman Mike Simpson announced a long-anticipated change to environmental regulations amid a backdrop of tractors and combines for an agricultural equipment trade show. The seemingly inconsequential change, a redefinition of the term "Waters of the United States," has been long sought by agricultural and mining operations, and their mood was celebratory. But the move has conservationists in an uproar because there are indications, based on internal EPA documents, that the change may remove Clean Water Act protections from the majority of wetlands and many streams in the West.

[HYPERLINK \l "_KOMO_News"]
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a $2.2 million grant for Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington to help identify sources of lead in drinking water in schools and child-care facilities. EPA Region 10 Administrator Chris Hladick says ensuring access to clean drinking water and protecting children from exposure to lead are critically important to EPA. He says the funding will support the states' efforts to keep children safe from the adverse health impacts of lead in drinking water.

[HYPERLINK \l "_Yakima_Herald-Republic"]
Controversy is simmering between environmental groups and Lower Valley dairies. Three dairies have entered settlement talks while a fourth has recently been threatened with a lawsuit. Environmental groups are now appealing state permitting regulations for such operations and have accused another dairy of not complying with a federal consent decree. At issue is high nitrates in Lower Valley groundwater. Environmental groups blame dairies and large animal feeding operations known as CAFOs for the problem, saying their manure storage lagoons leak and that they over apply animal manure to fields as fertilizer. Dairymen and industry leaders disagree, saying high nitrates were a problem long before most of the dairies began operating in the Lower Valley. They say scientific data being used to blame the industry on groundwater contamination is flawed and unfair.

Capital Press
[HYPERLINK "https://www.capitalpress.com/content/tncms/live/"]
Bill would create task force to address groundwater nitrates in NE Oregon
Jan. 28, 2020

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Forbes
[HYPERLINK "https://www.forbes.com/sites/allenelizabeth/2020/01/27/sixty-four-new-chemicals-discovered-in-washingtons-puget-sound/" \l "470426255d93"]
Sixty-Four New Chemicals Discovered in Washington's Puget Sound
Jan. 27, 2020

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Idaho Press
[HYPERLINK "https://www.postregister.com/news/government/ag-hails-clean-water-act-changes-as-conservationists-cringe/article_5e704cde-7b9b-50c9-af00-0c99af85c97a.html"]
Ag Hails Clean Water Act changes as conservationist cringe
Jan. 27, 2020

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KOMO News

[HYPERLINK "https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=http://komonews.com/news/local/epa-announces-22-million-grant-for-drinking-water-program&ct=ga&cd=CAEYACoUMTQ0NzA2NDM4ODE1MDc2OTQ0ODEyHDE5ZjNkZTA4YjQ0MjFiODU6Y29tOmVuOlVTOlI&usg=AFQjCNGWQpc-VgaqIdSbmcgQpRLeD-pAfA"]

EPA announces $2.2 million grant for drinking water programs in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Wash.

Jan. 28, 2020

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Yakima Herald-Republic
[HYPERLINK "https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/more-of-the-story-environmental-groups-dairy-industry-continue-to/article_d25e00f8-66c4-5fbd-a63f-b86bd05867a4.html"]
More of the Story: Environmental groups, dairy industry continue to clash over nitrates
Jan. 30, 2020

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