



Sin-Wit-Ki

Volume 4, Issue 6
July 1998

“All life on earth”

Ducks take to restored wetlands

Inside this issue:

ER/WM Retreat	2
River level down	4
Fry traps	8
It's not my tern!	9
Canyon slides	11

Special points

of interest:

- Baby buffalo count at an even dozen
- Mrs. Smith biased wishes to Washington
- Latest fish counts for tribal fishers
- Environmental group retreats to Minnesota
- It's about educating the non-tribal public

Every morning a four-man crew is busy capturing mallard ducks to band and continue a study of their migration movements.

Tracy Hames, Yakama Nation waterfowl biologist, with two volunteers, Ron Paxton and young tribal member, Wayne Wiltse have been trapping and banding ducks on restored homelands since early July and will continue throughout the summer months.

The tribal program has been working on some 430 acres near Lateral A west of Toppenish and 4,500 acres on the Satus Wildlife Area.

During summer months the ducks are raising their young. “Summer banding allows us to mark the adult birds that nest in the valley and the young birds that are raised here,” said Hames. By banding the locally-breeding ducks, information can be gained concerning the timing and location of their migratory movements in the fall and winter. Survival rate information can also be



Volunteer workers, left, Ron Paxton and Wayne Wiltse, young tribal member, carefully tend to ducks as they take them out of cage to band. Photo by Carol Craig.

estimated with these efforts.

Questions being addressed by the program include: Do locally-breeding ducks stay in the valley all year or do they migrate south? Where are they being harvested, and at what rate during the hunting season?

This information is important in setting harvest levels and hunting season lengths. The banding studies help protect the ducks from over-harvest. “If our band returns show too many are being harvested, hunting seasons can be adjusted to protect them. So far, the locally breeding ducks show an excellent survival rate throughout the hunting season,” he said.

“This is the best start we’ve had. So far we have

(Ducks-Continued on page 3)

Environmental Program asks:

Are assets of Yakama Nation safe from Hanford accidents?



A scientific lab exists in the form of animals in the region... Three different types of bugs have appeared that they never knew existed in that location.

Sin-Wit-Ki translated from the Yakama language means "All life on earth." It is a monthly publication written, edited and photographed by Carol Craig, public information manager for the Fish and Wildlife Program. To receive at no cost, phone 509-865-6262, or write P.O. Box 151, Toppenish, WA. 98948 or e-mail ccraig@yakama.com. Sin-Wit-Ki is printed on recycled paper.

Portland, OR.--Hanford is considered the most severely contaminated site in the United States and is a large part of Yakama Nation ceded lands.

The nuclear storage facility lies a mere 13 miles southwest from Yakama lands and has been a military center for over 55 years.

At a four-day Yakama Nation Environmental Restoration/Waste Management (ER/WM) Program retreat here June 16-19, staff headquartered in Richland, WA. explained the May 1997 explosion at the Plutonium Finishing Plant (PFP) and how it may affect the land and people.

Scientific jargon was broken down to drawings and verbal scenarios for tribal staff and councilman to better understand the Hanford Nuclear Reservation clean-up process.

ER/WM Program Manager, Russell Jim, said that while the Department of Energy (DOE) explains that a minute portion of plutonium or radiation "is not that harmful," only a few out of several thousand people would be affected.

"That's not acceptable to the tribe because there are only 9,000 of us and it would certainly have a detrimental effect?"

The tribe's participation in the DOE's program began in 1989 when Secretary of Energy James D. Watkins requested Yakama Nation assistance in developing and implementing the first national five-year plan for clean-up of Hanford land. "Then the five-year plan became a ten-year Plan?" said Jim.

There was also the discovery that radioactive contamination from Hanford's underground waste tanks had reached ground water. Spent nuclear fuel is also stored in the K-Basin pools that have already exceeded their design life. DOE's plutonium production reactor is moderated by graphite. That is what caused the reactor to explode at

Chernobyl in the Soviet Union.

But Hanford officials told the tribe the PFP explosion was preventable. The tank had an explosive mix of chemicals thought to be empty. DOE then awarded a five-year contract to Fluor Daniel and the clean-up process is slow-going.

"I was driving on the reservation when I heard National Public Radio warn people in Benton County to evacuate the area, said Jim. The alert came when a small can-contents unknown- was discovered behind an old structure that was being taken down. "It was just an empty can left behind after they built the wall," said Jim.

He began to wonder who at the Yakama Nation would be alerted in an emergency situation. "I called the tribal jail and asked the dispatcher if he had appropriate contacts if that were to happen. He told me he didn't even have phone numbers of tribal councilman or program managers."

Jim warned tribal officials at the retreat that an emergency plan has to be devised, "in order to get our people to safety if we have to. We are one of the first that has to be notified."

Tribal councilman and religious leader, Fred Ike, Sr. said there has been on-going discussion about forming an emergency response team for the tribe.

"It hasn't happened yet and I will bring this up again at the next council meeting."

Tom Woods, systems engineer at Richland said, "On the ground work during this so-called clean-up, is essential in the long-term. The impact is as important as the concerns about potential harm to future generations of the Yakama Nation." He had several drawings of how contamination would affect everything it came in contact with. Pointing to a drawing, Wood said, "It may start way

(Hanford-Continued on page 6)

(Ducks-Continued from page 1)

been banding about 45 ducks a day and around 200 were banded in a week.”

Previous crews have banded about 600 mallards each year. “This year we hope to band around 700 to 800,” he said. “We are also trying to target wood ducks this summer.”

Altogether more than a dozen traps are used. The ducks are lured into the wire cages with wheat seed. They check the cages everyday. “Some birds are caught several times over the course of the summer because the wheat seed can be very inviting,” said Hames.

As he and others pull up to one location, a clipboard is nearby to document banding and a strand of small bands rests on top of the vehicle hood strung like a necklace.

The ducks are lifted from the cage and a tiny, individually-numbered band is placed around their lower leg. The band is wrapped around the duck’s leg and is closed with a pair of small pliers. The job completed, the ducks are released as they fly off or take to the water nearby.

“If someone harvests a banded duck, they are requested to send it to the Washington, D.C. address included on the band,” he said.

Information on where and when the bird was harvested is important for these studies. Even if the duck is caught live, the information should be sent to the Federal Bird Banding Laboratory in D.C. which is a clearinghouse for all of the banding studies conducted in the United States. Band return data is then sent back to the Yakama Nation as it is received in D.C.

“This is just one component of our waterfowl monitoring effort,” said Hames. Nesting, breeding, summer

banding, harvest surveys and winter aerial counts are conducted annually. “These surveys combine to help us understand all aspects of the waterfowl populations using the local area.” Hames said.

His ultimate goal with the project is to get tribal youth involved and encourage them to utilize the area. “Especially to get them interested in waterfowl and learn about wetland restoration.”

Another huge part of Hames’ goal is getting a Yakama tribal member interested in a future career in waterfowl management. “We have to get the youth involved now, with schooling and helping them finish college.” Hames also says he would love to have assistance out there to band ducks on a voluntary basis. “It takes just two



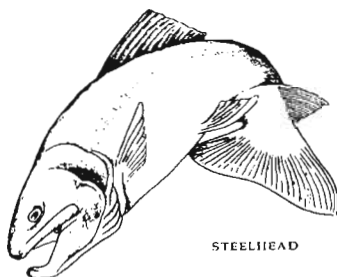
Left-to-right-Hames, John Carl, Paxton move cage while Wiltse approaches to assist.

hours in the morning. We will be banding every week day during July.” Interested people may call Hames at 865-6262.



Careful-hand work as Hames uses small pliers to close band. Wiltse steadily holds onto duck. Photos by Carol Craig.

Fish Wrap



Yakama techs gather eels at Willamette Falls

With water levels down on the Willamette River, Yakama Nation fishery technicians scaled the falls here on July 7-8 to gather eels.

Since last winter the river was elevated and swift waters prevented tribal fishers from erecting scaffolds to fish for spring chinook.

Fishery technicians traveled the some 170 miles to gather and store eels in the fisheries department freezer and hand delivered 50 pounds to elders on the reservation.

"We thought we would get around 700 pounds, but ended up getting only about 400 pounds," said Senior Fishery Technician, Joe Jay Pinkham, III.

The crew makes a yearly trek down to the falls to carefully pluck the delicacy off the cliff banks near the falls.

This is the eighteenth year techs went the distance to assure tribal members get their share during different gatherings and ceremonies throughout the year.

The two-day task had newcomers gather eels for the first time as Pinkham demonstrated to fish tech, Robert Gleason, how to grab them in the middle portion of their bodies and put in the sack quickly. "What an experience it was," Gleason said.



Bits and Pieces of information

On-going education for non-tribal people—Tribe to began PSA's

Even during summer months Carol Craig, public information manager for the fish and wildlife program travels throughout Washington State to educate non-tribal people about the tribe and what they are currently doing in the basin.

Lately her talks have taken her as far north as Twin Lakes near Inchelium, WA. and down to Vancouver, WA. On June 24 she talked to the Natural Resources Conservation Service employees who gathered at Twin Lakes. Their four-day "Harmony Workshop" gathering had various tribal speakers from all over Washington and Oregon. Other guest

speakers included Louie Dick and Elvis Jodie, Umatilla, Joe Pakootas, Joe Peone and Sharon Redthunder, Colville, and Roger Jacob from the Yakama Nation Water Enhancement program.

The Grandview Rotary Club invited Craig to make a presentation on July 8 about what is currently happening in the Yakima Basin and what the tribe is doing to restore salmon runs.

In late July she will be addressing 75 students at Wapato Elementary Summer School and will travel to Portland State University, Portland, OR., July 23 where she is assisting Olivia Alclaire, grant writer and PSU officials in recruiting

more tribal students to the higher education school. PSU is also encouraging tribal students to enter the science fields.

To get the correct messages out to the public and teach them exactly who we are as a tribal nation, the Yakama Nation Executive Committee has authorized a series of Public Service Announcement (PSA) to be produced.

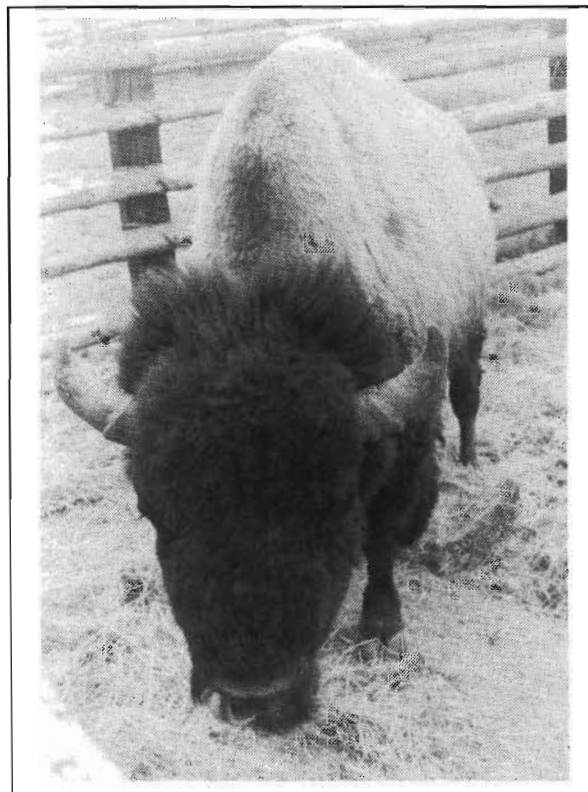
Lawrence Spotted Bird, economic development manager for the tribe is currently targeting funds to get the project off the ground. "This would be the perfect way to tell the public about the Yakama Tribe," he said. "It is important to have tribal people do this kind of work."

An even dozen-Baby buffalo romp, stomp, jump and rest

Since last spring baby buffalo have been arriving. "We lost one this year, but the rest are doing fine," said John Carl, caretaker.

They bounce about the field near Harrah, WA. and are instinctively protected by the mothers. Carl says this was a pretty good year for the herd and they are growing fast.

Newcomer to the herd, 'Dave,' (the lonely bull), named by Carl, has been isolated in a pen at the site. The tribe may sell Dave because of the likelihood of being shunned by the herd. According to Carl the bull has even etched out a bowl-like crater in his pen so he can roll around. "This helps him take the old coat off," Carl said.



Upper photo- Summer morning has the herd resting on grazing land near Harrah, WA. Right-Dave, the lonely bull, is kept separate from the herd. He may eventually be sold according to caretaker, John Carl. Photos by Carol Craig.

Council retreats to Idaho

Yakama Nation Wildlife Biologist, Eric Hanson will attend the White Cloud Council, an environmental group, at its retreat outside of St. Paul, Minn. next month. "This audience looked the same as other groups of environmentalists that have invited me to speak in recent years," said Hanson. "Almost always no people of color." He decided this year he would invite CRITFC's Ted Strong, executive director to attend. Strong was also asked to be the keynote speaker at that event.

The council began when 16 people representing various movements convened at the ranch of Carole King near Stanley, ID. a year ago. The council advocates that science not politics should restore the environment.

Gifford Pinchot Forest Service meets at Yakama Cultural Center

The Gifford Pinchot National Forest staff met with tribal leaders and staff at the Yakama National Cultural Center July 16-17 to discuss issues concerning the tribe.

First day events included presentations from Bill Bradley, wildlife program manager, Johnson Meninick, cultural

resources, Ted Stubblefield, Gifford Pinchot Forest Service Director, Cheryl Mack, Mt. Adams Ranger District, and Eric Hanson, wildlife.

The evening of the 16th participants were invited to a salmon barbecue held at the RV park and hosted by the Yakama Nation. On the second day partici-

pants took a field trip on Yakama National lands at logging units located on the close portion of the reservation, including Simon Butte where they viewed riparian lands, and the fire salvage area near the Klickitat watershed. Other issues were timber management, cultural resources, riparian management, road and grazing concerns.



If tribal people are exposed to any of the contaminants at Hanford, then the tribal food, social and religious activities will be impaired including all natural-cultural resources, medicines, landscape and sacred sites.

(Hanford—Continued from page 2)

down here at Hanford, but the water flows, irrigates the crops, then gets into groundwater, and continues with animals grazing on the contaminated land then we consume the animals and plants, and we become affected."

Currently the tribe is developing a risk assessment model that DOE and Hanford seem to ignore according to staff. "It may describe, in detail, too much and they don't want the tribe to know what potential danger there is in these old storage tanks that are disintegrating," said Jim

Barbara Harper, risk assessment specialist said, "A tribal person living a traditional lifestyle in the upper end of Hanford may have to deal with the certain possibility they will contact cancer later. It is difficult to get DOE to use or understand this."

If tribal people are exposed to any of the contaminants at Hanford, then the tribal food, social and religious activities will be impaired including all natural-cultural resources, medicines, landscape and sacred sites.

"Continual degradation of the land causes loss of our culture use," said Jim. Environmental study documents refer to a 'safe dose of radiation.' But Jim says no radiation exposure can be considered safe. Tribal people still use more than 70 different types of plants as food that grow on the reservation and in the Hanford area.

Jim informed DOE officials about their obligation to include the tribe in all pertinent matters concerning Hanford. "They told me they didn't have to follow that because it was not written in their policy statement and I explained to them their fiduciary obligation stems from the Treaty of 1855 and they looked at me puzzled."

He suggested Yakama Nation leaders go directly to the White House to present tribal concerns about Hanford. "We need to go over their heads if they are not willing to listen to the tribe," he said.

The tribe, under DOE's trust responsibility, should also have access to environmental management classified and unclassified records and documents prior to decision making to ensure tribal rights are taken into consideration before DOE takes any action or decisions affecting the Yakama Nation.

Woods assessed that DOE just wants the tribe to do videos and make comments on their documents. "Once they receive our comments, they are ignored."

DOE was in non-compliance with tribal treaty rights when they were questioned about digging holes in Gable Mountain, a sacred tribal site. "DOE officials said it was not sacred to them," said Nanci Peters, technical analyst for the program.

Cultural matters are also part of the Hanford equation for the Yakama Nation.

Those issues center on looting of archaeological sites and grave lands surrounding Hanford have no protection. Over 300 sites have been discovered and recorded over the years. At one site there was a tribal village with over 60 house pits.

It was not unusual in 1969 for people to be taking some of these things home, packed, ready to take in a box. "We don't know if there has been any case where anyone of those people were convicted or prosecuted for this looting," said Jim.

It was not always local staff working in the area. Some came from the east coast and it's hard to tell where those bones and other artifacts are today, he said.

One idea was to have trained escorts accompany any archaeologists onto the lands. Maybe we could train some of our young people to patrol the area and make sure this doesn't continue, said Wendell Hannigan, tribal council. Especially if DOE is not going to help us.

Today the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has jurisdiction and non-tribal people have access to those sites. DOE no longer has that jurisdiction, it went to USFWS. At least it didn't go to the Bureau of Land Management which we feared, Jim said.

A scientific lab exists in the form of animals in the region. Botanists have discovered plants that were considered rare or extinct. Three different types of bugs have appeared that they never knew existed in that location.

Overall, the tribe will eventually have to make a decision about how to protect the land, resources and archaeological sites.

Grasslands flourish on reservation trust lands

When driving on the reservation near Harrah the view will be quite different from the former acres and acres of weeds replaced by natural grassland.

Just a little over a year ago the Yakama Nation Wildlife Program began eradicating weeds to establish grass and shrub.

The restoration project will provide high quality wildlife habitat.

“The most important thing to recognize about the North Barks Road project is that no irrigation was used to eliminate weeds and establish the grasses there,” said Don Larson, wildlife biologist.

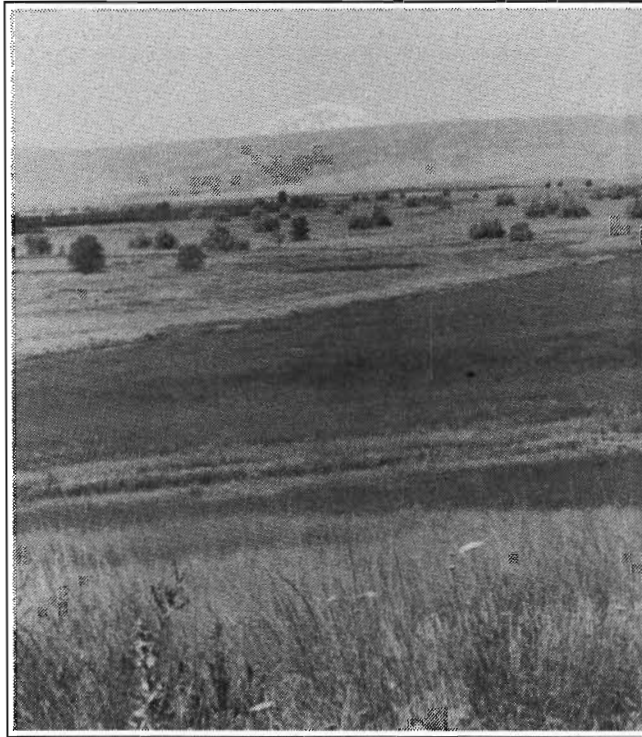
Years of weed growth on the 120 acres was removed by burning. Willow cuttings were planted along some of the wet drainage areas and deep-rooted noxious weeds were sprayed later in mid-summer.

Then last fall the entire property was disked and seeded to dryland grasses. “We wanted to demonstrate that non-irrigated vegetation restoration techniques on chronically idle, weed infested trust lands could be transformed,” said Larson.

The change is dramatic and the grass planting flourishes. In some areas the grass reaches six feet tall.

“Low areas that were too wet to disk and plant were mowed and disked preparing it for grass and shrub planting,” he said.

Remarkably this method of restoration work can be used on the thousands of acres of other chronically idle trust lands on the reservation.



Pahto (Mt. Adams) peeks over tribal trust lands. The darker section of land is the revegetated portion of grasslands.

Besides supplying the great wildlife habitat the area provides, it serves as a non-irrigated demonstration project for local farmers, other tribal programs and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

In the 1960s and 70s the land was leased and farmed for sugar beets but became idle after the closure of the sugar beet factory that was located at Toppenish. Then it became a major weed infestation problem.

The project work is located about three-quarters of mile north of the West Wapato Road and Barks Road intersection. “Because the property was never leveled and contains wet drainages, it was difficult to annually farm for profit,” he said.

Today the 120 acres of restored natural vegetation is abundant and continues to be leased by the Wildlife Program.



In sunny sky weather, Bing Olney, wildlife technician, mows weed infested area under canopy protection. Photos by Carol Craig.

Fry traps monitoring outgoing tiny coho fish

The wood and wire structures resemble freeway on and off ramps and, in essence are, as baby coho salmon stop at one of several check points on their journey to the ocean.

In keeping with the traditional tribal wisdom and the gravel-to-gravel management concept, tribal fish technicians care for salmon at every stage of life.

Earlier this month Yakama Nation fishery technicians were pounding nails and stretching mesh wire to construct fish traps that will monitor the tiny fish during their travels.

Two fry traps have been strategically situated in the Little Naches River system that halts them briefly to give them a check-up.

The traps were installed on Quartz and Pile-up creeks in the Little Naches River Basin according to Joe Blodgett, Yakama fishery technician.

“They were designed to capture the juvenile salmon as they are moving downstream to get to the ocean,” he said. The traps acts like a funnel for the fish which forces them into the collection box. Then tribal technicians check the trap daily to take biological data on the different fish that are captured.

The traps check on juvenile coho planted in the various streams earlier this year, and assist the tribe’s monitoring of the supplementation and reprogramming of the thousands of fish that were placed in the river.

About 400,000 coho fry were transferred from Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery near Portland, OR., by a special refrigerated truck transporting them to the Naches River Basin. The fish were scattered throughout the basin. “This is an attempt to allow the fish to imprint so they will return to that exact location as adults. They will spawn naturally when they complete their life,” Blodgett said. The traps also help in the inventory of other species in the river collecting up and down stream moving fish.

All smiles, ready to help, Salmon Corp’s Sheila Ezekial and other staff assisted in planting thousands of baby coho in the Naches River. Photos courtesy Gerald Reed.



Like off-ramps on the fish freeway, coho are being monitored by fishery staff.



Rice Island's invasion of thousands of terns

Birds prey heavily on juvenile salmon

Like the Alfred Hitchcock movie, *The Birds*, there are thousands of them everywhere.

On a man-constructed island near Astoria, OR., at the mouth of the Columbia River, caspian terns feed only on fish and it is devastating to the juvenile salmon that linger in that area before heading to the ocean to continue their life cycle.

That process known as smoltification, makes millions of young salmon vulnerable to the thousands of terns that pluck them out of the water which is their main diet they share with mates and their chicks.

That particular area serves as the body-changing process for the salmon where saltwater and fresh water mix. Their bodies are gradually changing to adapt to the ocean salt water.

The terns swoop down on the little fish to take back as food. "They are quick to feed one another because other birds try to steal their catch," said Ken Collis, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission biologist.

The terns in huge numbers from 9,000 to 16,000 is the largest colony in North American and have voracious appetites for the outmigrating baby salmon. Last year alone it was estimated they fed on five to 20 million juvenile salmon and they seem to be having the same effect this year.

There are two other colonies upriver above the John Day Dam.



Begay, Yakama fisher and technician works on East Sand Island marking eggs. Photo courtesy Ken Collis.

Collis, David Craig, Oregon State University researcher and Bobby Begay, Yakama tribal member and technician, have been studying the tern colony in hopes to relocate them to another nearby island to steer away from the outgoing baby salmon.

"You should see all of the

terns that feed on the salmon. We have to do something about this problem. That's why I'm here to help the salmon for our people," Begay said. Volunteers and others have also joined the three-man team to learn more about the bird problem and what course to take.

"We used to think the dams played a major role in killing the juvenile salmon, but the impact was showing up elsewhere. We didn't know anything about it then we came here and saw this huge population feeding on smolts," Collis said.

The birds migrate from Central and South American to breed exclusively on Rice Island which is two miles long and built out of sand by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) dredging operations that began in 1962.

Approaching the sand island by motor boat, it looks relatively calm. But as the view gets closer, what resembles a white cloud-like cover on the island is actually the thousands of terns. And they are noisy, cackling and making warning sounds to one another of pending danger.

(Terns-Continued on page 10)

"You should see all of the terns that feed on the salmon. We have to do something about this problem. That's why I'm here to help the salmon for our people."

The Yakama Nation Fish & Wildlife Committee is comprised of four members appointed by the Yakama Tribal Council who serve four-year terms. Members include: Lonnie Selam, Sr., Chair, Randy Settler, Secretary, Jack Fiander, members and Wendell Hannigan, member.

(Terns-Continued from page 9)

They are not an aggressive species either. Collis noted they are timid and do not know how to defend themselves. When gulls and eagles approach to scatter the terns, it leaves their babies and eggs wide-open for the taking. "That's why they are so heavily populated. They have no instinct to defend themselves in any way." Once the babies and eggs are gone, the terns began laying eggs immediately to reproduce.

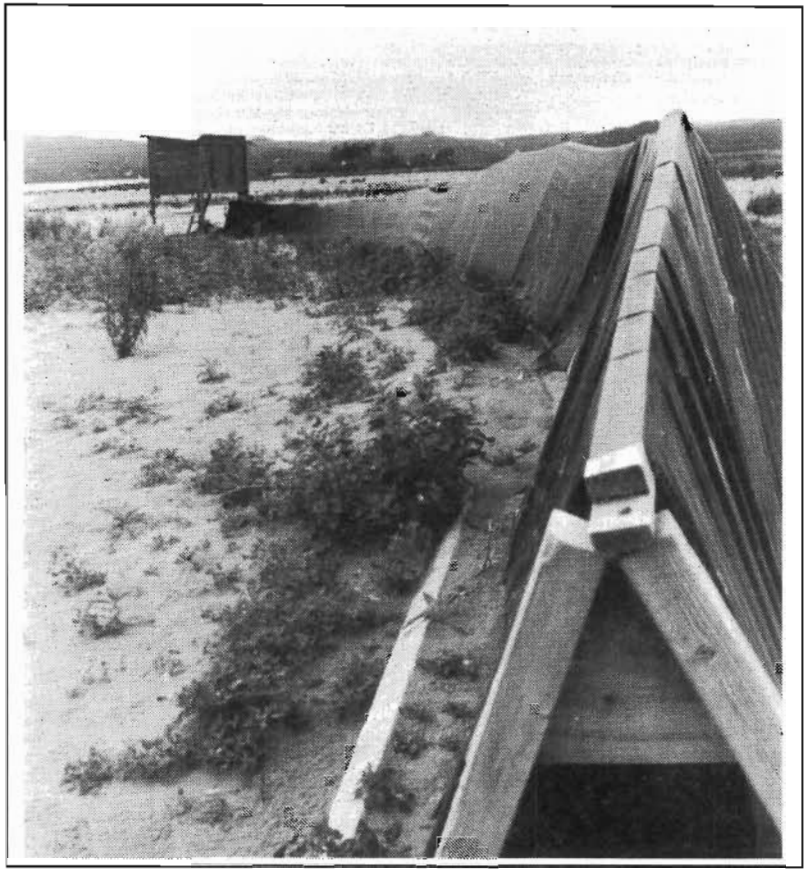
Last year the terns laid an estimated 25,000 eggs. "Out of all of that about 500 survived the gull and eagle attacks who eat both chicks and eggs," he said.

How can the problem be handled without eradicating one species to save another was the question. "That's what we are studying now," Collis said. "We are trying to lure them to another island location near here."

The idea is to replicate the birds through decoys. "We started placing the decoys on East Sand Island further down river and they are taking to it," said Craig. Besides the decoys they placed speakers that blare a 24-hour tern call luring them to that location.

The project includes revegetating the island which would disperse the terns because they prefer the sand environment and will abandon a nest if it is disturbed or other problems arise.

Begay collects birds so scientists can determine the percentage of baby salmon in their diet. The terns, cormorants and gulls, who feast on fish, can be shot and dissected to study stomach contents.



Three blinds on Rice Island have tunnel pathways leading researchers to the colony of terns so they may study their behavioral traits. Photo by Carol Craig.



Thousands of the birds have invaded Rice Island and take turns preying on lingering juvenile salmon. Photo courtesy Ken Collis.

The crew does this with a state permit that allows them to shoot the predators.

To get even closer to the colony of terns, the three-man crew erected blinds so they would not scare away the birds while studying their habits.

The blinds have long tunnel-like plastic covering that leads the biologists there to observe them, take pictures and document their findings.

Last year alone, the terns consumed five to 20 million of the salmon smolts. "So we have to work quickly to alleviate the devastation terns have on salmon resource," said Craig.

The project is being funded this year by the Bonneville Power Administration to the tune of \$280,000 which will carry the study through next February. The Corps contributed an additional \$115,000. A Bird Predation Work Group has been formed combined of different fish and wildlife agencies to devise a plan for the problem.

Tribal foe takes legislation to Congress

Washington State's Linda Smith republican congresswoman, will take her proposed tribal hunting legislation to Congress for a hearing.

In May she introduced The Deer and Elk Protection Act that directs tribal hunters to follow state rules when hunting on 'open and unclaimed land.' The bill was referred the House Resources Committee who set the date for the hearing.

Smith says HR. 3987 is a public safety issue, not race. Tribal officials



took a dim view of her misguided stance.

Bill Bradley, Yakama Nation wildlife manger calls it a political maneuver, with her stooping to the basest form of emotional racism.

At the July 27th hearing, Kevin Gover, Assistant

Secretary to the Department of the Interior, will provide testimony on behalf of the federal government. There will also be a panel of tribal leaders from Washington State to present testimony. Yakama Nation Councilman, Randy Settler, will make a statement for the tribe.

“This is a political maneuver as Smith is stooping to the basest form of emotional racism.”

Rain caused rockslides shuts down Canyon Highway

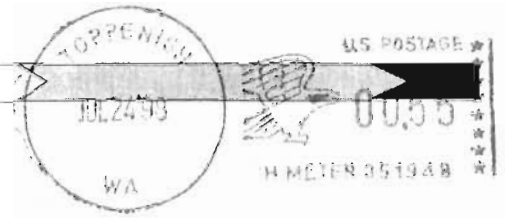


Wymer Cut along canyon highway is cut now. A significant amount of the road was washed away by the normally dry McPherson Creek which comes into the Yakima Canyon. All is not as bad as it looks, the slide created slow velocity summer rearing habitat for juvenile chinook. Photo courtesy Joe Jay Pinkham, III.

It could take as long as three weeks for cleanup crews to remove thousands of yards of rocks and mud that closed the canyon highway that connects Yakima to Ellensburg say state officials.

Superior Asphalt of Yakima is cleaning up some of the small slides on the highway. In other places slides went directly into the Yakima River and closed some roadways. Two thundersroms hit the area July 3, dumping more than three inches of rain in about one hour that caused multiple rock slides closing the road. The slides may have brought as much as 50,000 yards of rock and other material according to Department of Transportation Field Engineer, Steve Mettie.

Yakama Nation Tribal Biologist, Bill Sharp, said, “It actually did some good for fish habitat. It created slower velocity rearing habitat for summer chinook which is ideal.”



Yakama Nation Fish & Wildlife
Resource Management
Program

P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA. 98948

Phone: 509-865-6262
Fax: 509-865-6293
Email: ccraig@yakama.com



Greta Siegal-CRITFC Library
729 NE Oregon, Ste. 200
Portland, OR. 97232

Fishery update

Smaller numbers of catches in the Yakima Basin during spring

According to tribal fishery biologists estimates, tribal fishing harvest in the basin amounted to small numbers. A total of about 1,802 adults and jack spring chinook have been counted at the Prosser Dam with the run completed.

The **Yakima River** subsistence fishery closed on June 20, but permanent tribal regulations allow fishing on the river where it borders the reservation. "The effort was moderate in this fishery with harvest of 188 chinook estimated through the close

of the fishery on June 20," said Bill Bosch, Yakama Fishery biologist.

On the **Klickitat River** the subsistence fishery was closed May 30. "There was a small number caught in fishery with about 52 adult chinook, two jack chinook and 11 steelhead," Bosch said. The fishery was reopened on a weekly schedule from noon Wednesdays to 6 p.m. on Saturdays beginning June 24. Harvest since has estimated about 29 adult chinook, 29 jack chinook and three steelhead.

The **Wind River** subsistence fishery closed on June 6 and did not open above Shipperd Falls. There were about 102 spring chinook caught in that river.

A tribal fishery on **Icicle Creek** opened on a weekly schedule from 9 p.m. on Wednesdays to noon Saturdays beginning June 3. On June 22, the fishery was expanded to noon Mondays running through noon on Saturdays. An additional extension is now in effect through August 1. Harvest through July 18 was around 406 chinook.