



# Sin-Wit-Ki

*(All life on earth)*

January 2000  
Volume 5, Issue 1

## Spring chinook expect to be largest return since 1977

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**W**ith the expectation of a large return of spring chinook this year, there is also the possibility the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will try to limit tribal harvest of those fish.

"We haven't had this large a return since 1977," said Steve Parker, Yakama Nation Fisheries harvest manager. This year's count may be as high as 134,00 compared to 143,600 in 1977 according to Parker.

"Each and every one that is passed through tribal fisheries should have a purpose and use, either

as food, broodstock or spawner.

This year NMFS has indicated even though the large return is mostly hatchery fish, the wild component is not as strong. As a result NMFS is leaning towards reducing the tribal harvest again.

The outcome may be to limit fishery impacts on the less abundant wild fish. "We expect a large escapement of hatchery fish in the tributaries where hatchery fish will be returning," said Parker.

Now with such large hatchery surpluses the  
*(Chinook—Continued on page 18)*

### Tribal involvement needed during hearings

## Council to hold public meetings

**T**he Northwest Power Council (Council) was created by Congress as an interstate compact and is the region's public voice in fish and wildlife decisions that have an impact on the four Columbia River treaty tribes including Yakama, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Umatilla.

This year the Council will be amending the fish and wildlife program, project review, selection and funding process to make them more accountable and effective.

The amended plan will provide a resource that will help coordinate all of the basin's fish and wildlife efforts. The Council is looking for a balance that will better serve the public interest while keeping an eye on how public funds are spent.

Part of Council's requirements is to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife populations severely damaged by construction and operation of federal dams along the Columbia River and its tributaries. The Council says it is time to amend the process based on what Council has learned as a result since last amended five years ago.

The amendment process offers tribes an opportunity to have their ideas and opinions heard to help recovery efforts, have better coordination and be more cohesive.

A public meeting will take place Feb. 1 at 10:30 a.m. at the Portland office. A short presentation will explain the process, schedule where questions and comments will be taken. Later the Council will schedule meetings with

*(Hearings--Continued on page 2)*

### Special points of Interest

- Celilo postcard picture
- In the corner...
- More old photos from the past

# NPPC Public meeting schedule

**Feb. 3-4 Portland, Ore.**

Governor Hotel  
 SW 10th at Alder  
 Feb. 3--8:30 a.m. to closing  
 Feb. 4--8:30 to 3:00 p.m.

**Feb. 8--Spokane, Wash.**

DoubleTree Hotel  
 322 N. Spokane Falls Court  
 12 noon

**Feb. 10--Lewiston, ID. \***

**Feb. 15--Astoria, Ore.**

Clatsop County Fair Grounds  
 9237 Walluski Loop  
 5:00 p.m.

**Feb. 17--Tri-Cities (Pasco)**

DoubleTree Hotel  
 2525 N. 20th Ave.  
 12 noon

**Feb. 23--Boise, ID.**

Center on The Grove  
 850 West Front St.  
 12 noon

**Feb. 29--Seattle, Wash.**

DoubleTree Hotel, SeaTac  
 18740 Pacific Hwy. South  
 12 noon

**March 1**

Kalispell, MT.  
 Outlaw Inn  
 1701 Highway 93 South  
 6:00 p.m.

**March 2--Idaho Fall, ID.**

DoubleTree Hotel  
 100 Madison  
 6:00 p.m.

**March 8--Twin Falls, ID.**

Westin Plaza  
 1350 Blue Lakes Blvd.  
 North  
 5:00 p.m.

**Alaska \***

\* Dates, times and locations to be determined. Attend one or more of the meetings at a location near you.

*(Hearings--Continued from page 1)*

tribal governments and others through a series of technical workshops throughout the region.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) in Portland, Ore. is urging all tribal members to become involved in the Council process as the public hearing take place during February and March at different locations throughout the Northwest. CRITFC is the technical arm to the four tribes.

At the same time the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is releasing the draft "Lower Snake River Juvenile Salmon Migration" Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement for public review and comment. The study examines alternative for configuring and operating the four federal dams on the lower Snake River for improved salmon migration.

The Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation and Corps are completing a Biological Assessment of potential effects of operation of the Federal Columbia River System on listed aquatic species in the Basin.

History tells us tribes depend on salmon and have for generations with 10 to 16 million returning annually to the Columbia and its tributaries. With the advent of non-tribal arrival fish numbers were decimated. Today only about a million fish are returning.

Northwest tribes continue to work on increasing salmon and have made substantial progress addressing hatchery practices and improving habitat while dams continue to be a significant source of mortality for fish.

On the table is whether to breach the four lower Snake River dams to help fish reach spawning grounds to increase returns.

The tribal voice is important during the public meeting process. CRITFC is initiating an ad campaign targeting tribal people to get involved in this important decision on salmon. As the public hearings take place at different locations, tribal members are urged to get involved.

*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.*

*One can almost hear the roaring of Celilo Falls as one looks at the postcard printed in the early 1950s. The postcard was found at an antique show in Portland, Ore. last November.*



## 'To catch a thief'

# Archaeological sites protection along river

**H**ood River, Ore.— Through the millennium and tribal generations, many artifacts and burial grounds that make up tribal cultural resources along the Columbia River can be found.

But more importantly those cultural sites have a need for protection not only from looters and thieves but how the dams are operated and maintained.

Teaching other enforcement agencies how to spot looters and vandalism that occurs along the Columbia River will be the main focus again this year for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE).

Last year CRITFE Officer Lori Watlamet coordinated and provided several policemen and attorneys information on what to look for when theft or damage is evident. Especially at an archaeological site that holds 'looters gold' in the form of tribal artifacts.

Drastic fluctuations of pools at the dams have caused severe erosion at some of the sites. "We lose sites more and more every year," said Watlamet. And, once exposed, can be vulnerable to the looters.

Safeguarding the cultural resources is equal to protecting tribal fishers and upholding treaty rights according to Watlamet. CRITFE also ensures tribal fishers comply with tribal fishing regulations during the fishing season on the river.

There are certain areas that are being looted quite frequently, it's a matter of catching them in the act," said Watlamet. There are pictographs and petroglyphs people have vandalized purposely with graffiti evident. "Some of the people even try to take the rubbings. In either case if caught the perpetrators face serious charges," she said.

To assure cultural resources continue to be protected, not only by the tribes, Watlamet provides an opportunity for law enforcement officers and prosecuting attorneys to learn how sensitive the cultural heritage may be affected by the gravediggers and thieves.

Patrolling the river using the latest technology plundering can now be tracked at night. The night patrollers will be using an infrared beam from Night Owl monocular night vision gear that can detect any activity. Officers using them will know immediately if someone is on a looting rampage.

Night vision goggles is another apparatus that will be utilized. "These goggles can be hand held or worn on the head for patrolling at night by vehicle, foot or boat," she said. All of the night vision equipment can be enhanced with an infrared spotlight that can light an area up to one-quarter of a mile away.

Since July 1998 CRITFE has had a total of 27 cases with 19 received from callers reporting suspicious activity of looting and vandalizing. "We continue to encourage to public to call our 1-800-number," she said. In some instances, the suspicious activity were tribal archaeologists conducting surveys. "But

still, it is nice to know that people are watching and reporting these types of activities."

Wana-pa Koot Koot formed three years ago is comprised of the four treaty tribes (Yakama, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Umatilla), Bureau of Indian Affairs-Portland Area Office, Bonneville Power Administration and the Corps of Engineers-Portland District. "The group is dedicated to the wise management of the tribes' natural and cultural heritage," said Watlamet. Translated to 'those who work along the river,' Wana-pa Koot Koot protects the significant cultural resources along the Columbia.

She organized a 'cultural resource' structure within the law enforcement communities on the river then devised a questionnaire for enforcement communities. Watlamet then had a grasp of how the departments responded to different situations and was able to provide training in archeological resource protection laws. "I sent each law enforcement agency on the Columbia a survey asking general questions such as, what kind of training they received on resource protection laws, their response time to a violation in progress, how many officers are available and other questions," she said. Surprisingly, there was a 100 percent response on the survey.

From those results she coordinated and provided an eight-hour training session for the some 42 officers, deputies and prosecuting attorneys who responded. Since last June's training session was a success CRITFE is planning to host another one this March and July. "Our office will conduct the 40-hour Federal Law Enforcement Training Course on Archeological Resource Protection Laws and we hope to get another great response," she said.

Watlamet has worked alongside individual tribal archeologists and cultural technicians from the four tribes to learn more about the culturally sensitive areas. She also requested the four tribes Fish and Wildlife Committees to add an additional sentence to their fishing regulations. "We want the tribal fishermen to call CRITFE's 1-800 number if they see anyone digging or vandalizing culture resources."

Eventually Watlamet would like to see all law enforcement agencies work together to protect the resources on the river and follow up on the cases being prosecuted in court. "This way looting and vandalism will be reduced and tribal artifacts can be returned," she said

Part of her capacity includes educating the public and she considers public education 'extremely important.' "By educating people whether it be by media or school visits, the public can help us protect these tribal resources by getting involved if they see any illegal activity occurring out there."

*If you see suspicious activity of any kind call  
CRITFE's toll free number 1-800-487-3474*

# Fish wrap



Bits & pieces of  
information

## Wildlife videos being produced

**T**he wildlife program is working on piecing together informative pieces of video work according to Tracy Hames, wildlife biologist.

A local retired man with video camera in hand has been taping various projects worked on in the last few months. Hundreds of feet of film have been taken by Gaylord Mink who says videotaping is a hobby of his. "Instead of just putting this on the library shelf I'd like to get something done with it," he said.

His video library contains footage of the former Zimmerman ranch where duck banding took place, the Satus wildlife area, tuleee cutting, other restoration projects including plenty of wildlife at wetland areas on the reservation. "We just have to come up with ideas of how we can use this footage," said Hames.

Mink has a Website and posted several of his photos. Log onto: <http://www.angelfire.com/wa/minkgi>

"This is great that we can have this done for merely nothing," Hames said. "Perhaps we can purchase some of the tapes for him."

The two are making a list of video work done and will be scripting dialogue to fit the footage.

Hames hopes to utilize the videos to educate the public and may even be used to explain the wildlife program during general council meetings.

## Sockzehigh, Alec join committee

**A**s a result of last December's Yakama General Council meetings the Fish and Wildlife Committee has two new members.

Incumbents, Ross K. Sockzehigh and Duane Clark were re-elected during the proceedings. Sockzehigh is former chairman of the tribe and was elected for his second four-year term. Clark was also re-elected and is a tribal fisher.

Leo Aleck Jr. was elected during General Council and joined the Fish and Wildlife Committee. Aleck is a former tribal fisher and General Council Secretary.

Randy Settler serves as chairman for the fish and wildlife committee and Clark is the secretary.

In their new capacity, Sockzehigh and Aleck are commissioners for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, technical service organization for the four Columbia River treaty tribes including Yakama, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Umatilla nations.

**I**n related news Lonnie Selam, Sr. was selected to serve as chairman for the Yakama Nation. Jerry Meninick is vice-chair and Patricia Martin is Secretary. Randy Settler will serve as Asst. secretary and Ray C. James, Sgt.-at-arms.

There are eight standing committees serving various programs and functions of the tribe with five special committees including tax, cultural, public relations, radioactive/hazardous waste and, timber, fish and wildlife.

New members for the Timber, fish and wildlife special committee are Sockzehigh, chairman, Leo Aleck, Jr., Harris Teo, Jr. and Russell Billy, members.

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Mt. St. Helens plans Annual Free Days

**A**MBOY, WA—May 18-21 will be free days at the Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument in remembrance of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1980 eruption.

No fees will be charged to enter the Volcanic Monument including the Silver Lake and Coldwater Ridge visitor centers as well as the Johnston Ridge Observatory on SR 504 according to Roger Peterson, United States Forest Service.

The Coldwater Ridge visitor center is currently open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Mount St. Helens Visitor Center (at Silver Lake) and the Johnston Ridge Observatory will reopen for the summer season on May 1.

## 'Tribal bones' Scientists Final decision

**N**ow that scientists have completed grinding up bones and doing other tests on the so-called 'Kennewick Man,' radiocarbon analysis has confirmed what tribes have been saying all along.

Radiocarbon tests indicate the oldest set of bones found in North America is not only more than 9,000 years old but determined the bones were most likely a tribal person that was born and died along the Columbia River.

Francis McManamon, chief archaeologist for the National Park

Service, said a study of sediment adhering to the bones and the shape of the spear point in his hip confirm 'Kennewick Man' was an early tribal person. Earlier last year, one of the tribal councilman said, "Well, if it was a visitor, we got him."

The bones were deemed 'Kennewick Man' after they were found on the Columbia River near the Tri-Cities in 1996. Non-tribal religious sects tried to intervene in having the bones returned to the tribes for reburial claiming the bones were one of their ancestors.

Yakama tribal councilman, Clifford Moses said, We hate to see this go on as a circus. We'd just like to see the bones back in the ground.

The Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation was pleased as well to hear the news.

This news confirms the tribes' original viewpoint that this individual is Native American or of tribal descent.

"It is disturbing, however, that it has taken the federal government nearly four years to make that determination," said Armand Minthorn, Board of Trustees member and chair of the Tribe's Cultural Resources Committee.

The Umatilla Nation indicated they want to work constructively with the Department of the Interior on the next step.

"I believe tribes across the nation will continue to insist that the remains of their ancestors stay in the ground and not be subject to unnecessary testing that result in the destruction of human remains," Minthorn said.

**T**he Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Committee is comprised of four members appointed by the Tribal Council who serve four-year terms. Members include Randy Settler, Chair, Duane Clark, Secretary, Ross Sockzeigh and Leo Aleck Members.

## Crews cruise during winter

Several fisheries and wildlife crews are braving the winter snow, rain and just plain cold weather.

Although some of the projects have slowed just keeping warm is a priority for some.

At the Roza Dam facility the crew works in mostly open areas and warms up by packing into the small office that has a portable heater. "It has been cold and we finally decided to get some heat in there," said Joe Hoptowit, fisheries technician.

Other crews at Prosser and even Salmon Corps are trying to cope with the weather waiting for spring to show.

## Buffalo bits

Recently Wildlife's John Carl had some buffalo meat cured and dried. "We could be selling the dried buffalo meat at places around the reservation soon," he said.

Carl took some of the buffalo meat to a processing place and had them make buffalo jerky out of it.

Usually during the year one or two buffalo will be processed for the Heritage Restaurant where they serve delectable dishes of buffalo stew and steaks.

Buffalo tends to be naturally dry to begin with so when the jerky was made it was immediately stored in the freezer to keep it from becoming too dry. "If you were to keep it out of the freezer after opening it the meat would become really dry," he said. So instead of ending up with Bacon Bits you might end up with Buffalo Bits.

Carl also said the buffalo jerky would be available at the Yakamart store and the Cultural Heritage Center.

So if it's healthy snacks you're looking for, it would be a good idea to check out the low cholesterol, high protein food that will be available later this year.



Take heed tribal people! There is a not-so-silent attack on tribal nations as the GOP campaign hits the trail. Apparently George Dubya sides with states when it comes to tribes. It was first reported in the Yakama Nation Review last October and was picked up by the *Masinaigan* tribal newspaper out of the Great Lakes region. Both tribal newspapers say that presidential candidate, George W. Bush has publicly denied sovereign status of tribal nations.

Bush did a campaign swing through New York State declaring tribes should be subject to state law. Quote: "My view is that state law reigns supreme when it comes to the Indians, whether it be gambling or any other issue."

In the Winter 1999-2000 edition it reported tribal leaders were 'incredulous'. "[Only] the federal government has the authority," said Mark Emery, spokesman for the Oneida Nation.

Like one of the former tribal leaders once said, "Every four years we have to educate the newcomers." To say such a thing for the many years he has been in politics is astounding. It certainly does not sound like the 'compassionate conservatism' he claims to be touting in his campaign.

If elected he could possibly follow the (Yikes) Ike path and terminate tribes. During the mid-50s then President Dwight D. Eisenhower wiped out the existence of several tribes. Its seems our sovereignty may be in danger if this Texan is elected into office. Get out there and register to vote for someone who understands who tribes are as nations. We do not want an Ike re-run of the 50s.

*Views expressed in this column are solely of the editor of Sin-Wit-Ki and not the Yakama Nation or the Fish and Wildlife program.*

## New salmon sites

# Modifications installed to acclimate fish

**C**ulvert modifications were worked on last year that will hold future plantings of hatchery coho according to Klickitat River Acclimation Project Manager, Mathew Tomaskin.

"This is so they can be held and acclimated to streams located in the closed areas of the reservation," he said. In the adult stage of their life the fish will have a better chance of returning to the same stream.

After careful study, these locations were selected because they will not impede other anadromous fish passage. "We worked on this new acclimation site where we installed the entire unit," Tomaskin said.

The mountain culvert modifications will retain fish and allow water to pass at the Deer Creek Springs crossing located on the Peavine Ridge Road south of Signal Peak. Once completed the culvert will be boarded and screened. Later dam boards and screen will be removed to allow both smolts and water to pass. "When the fish reach smolt size, we will pull the screen and dam boards and let em' go," he said.

"We will be holding fish in this pond from mid-March through mid-May of this year." The fish will be trucked in from different hatcheries along the Klickitat River basin as pre-smolt size to ensure the stream they are being held in will implant into their brain. "This way they may have a better chance of returning to the Klickitat River and hopefully to the same stream to spawn as adults. Currently fish are dumped directly into the river by the hatcheries.

The crew also worked on converting a culvert at Trout Creek. "Eventually we'll start working on Sharp's Pond," Tomaskin said. "We call it that because tribal biologist Bill Sharp found the perfect spot." The pond is located on State Highway 142 on the Glenwood highway located just south of Stinson Flats Campground.



This area is visible to the public from a vantage point above the proposed site just off the highway where a gillnet was stretched across for the same purpose. "With the net in place last year some people thought it was a gillnet. I was checking our screw trap and saw some people looking and pointing at the acclimation site. I pulled over to talk to them and they thought it was a gillnet, so I explained the purpose of the net at that acclimation site," said Tomaskin.

The crew worked on modifying two sites last fall and will continue this year. New sites will be added ever year for fish acclimation according to Tomaskin.

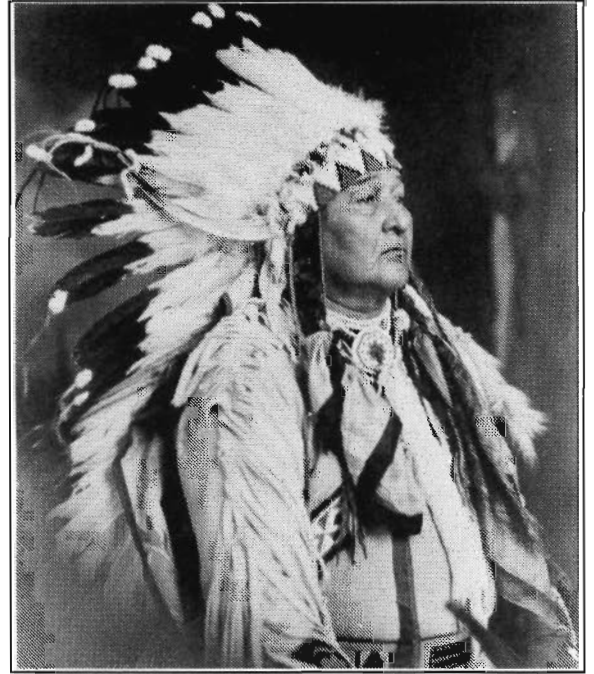
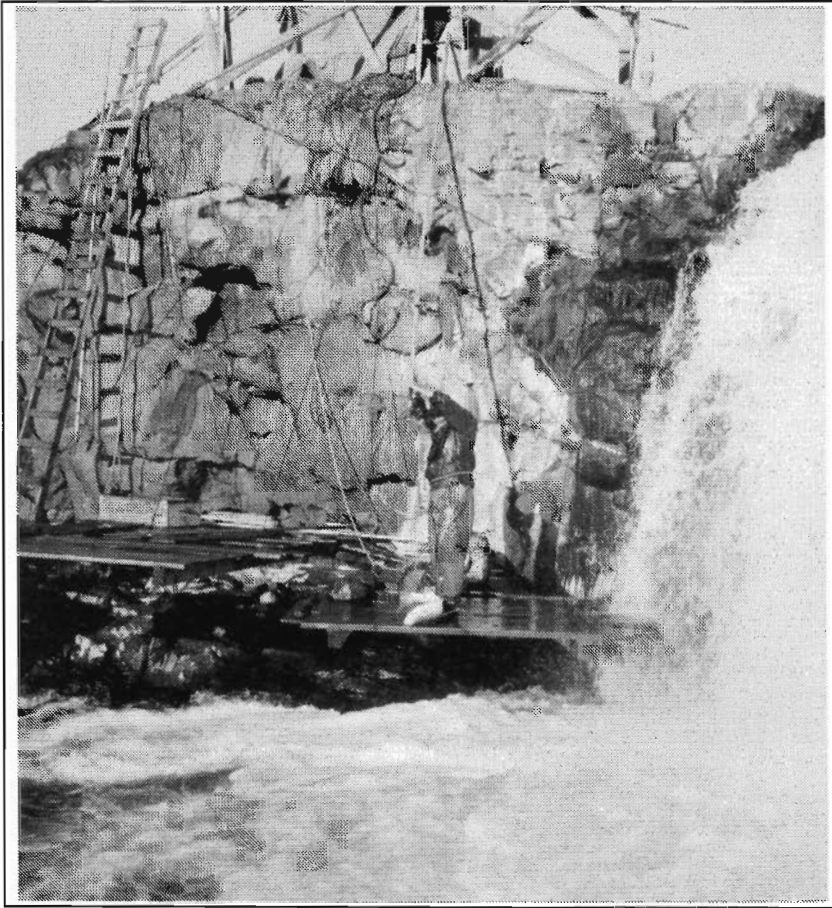
"We'll be working to acclimate steelhead and fall chinook along the river so there's plenty of work to be done. Our goal is to increase the number of returning adults to the Klickitat," he said.

With winter in full swing, the crew wound down waiting for better weather.

*Above at Deer Creek left to right-- Troy Adams, Mathew Tomaskin and Roger Stahi listen as Greg Strom tells them to dig faster and deeper to make screen holding fit. Below-- Fish techs work on clearing opening before putting new culvert rising in place. Photos courtesy Mathew Tomaskin.*



# Celilo Falls and Yakama people



*Upper left--Tribal fisher hoists hoop net with salmon alongside Celilo Falls on the Columbia River. Since the time immemorial tribal people gathered on the river to fish, trade and feast on the delectable fish. The falls were inundated when the Dalles Dam was complete in 1957.*



*Upper right--Found in an antique store in Cle Elum, Wash. the photo identification reads: Chief Billy Joshua, 1921 taken by photographer Joseph McKnight in Olympia, Wash. Silver gelatin print toned by Susan Parish from her collection.*

*Lower right--From the Many Visions Gallery in Cle Elum, Wash. the title reads: Yakamas at the Ellensburg rodeo circa 1928, silver gelatin photograph by Mary Rowland Mires (1862-1940). Although photographers have taken beautiful pictures over the years, the photos always lack identification.*

Yakama Nation Fish &  
Wildlife Program  
P.O. Box 151  
Toppenish, WA. 98948



StreamNet Library  
729 NE Oregon, Ste. 190  
Portland, OR. 97232



*(Chinook—Continued from page 1)*

question is what will happen to the extra fish when they come back in greater numbers. According to Parker there are several options including: distribute surplus fish to food banks; tribes bury them in landfills; or release them into natural spawning areas. "We oppose the middle option and prefer the third," he said.

Some of the Zone 6 fish returning are harvested in the ceded area tributaries at Icicle and Wind rivers. "Other tribes have tributary fisheries too that are not all hatchery fish," he said.

Runs in the Methow and Entiat rivers usually have no fishery because of mixed stocks. One species is broodstock that comes from the Carson Hatchery and transferred to Leavenworth Hatchery. "They used that broodstock source to stock Entiat and Methow.

The runs returning to Methow and Entiat are mostly hatchery spring chinook that were created and supplied from the Leavenworth Hatchery, which in turn got its broodstock fish from the Carson Hatchery on the Wind River in many years. "NMFS believes that the Methow and Entiat hatchery stocks of Carson fish should be phased out and replaced with fish of local origin. They don't want to use adults of Carson stock

origin as broodstock anymore," said Parker.

Local stock fish can be trapped in the tributaries or, in the case of Methow, at Wells Dam because most of the spring chinook that reach that point are bound for the Methow River. "NMFS and others believe that local fish are better suited than out-of-basin fish because they have been shown to spawn successfully in the wild, whereas, the Carson fish come back to the hatchery but may not produce successful offspring in the wild," Parker said.

The tribe agrees that it makes sense to use local broodstock while NMFS and others think it's more important to eliminate Carson stock as quickly as possible whether or not their production goals are met. "The issue is whether the co-managers will transition gradually into a local broodstock program or go cold turkey. We maintain that rebuilding and production goals take priority, and if they can be met with local broodstock, so much the better."

What the tribe does not support is 'local broodstock only' if it means reducing production levels. The four Columbia River treaty tribes have taken the position that there should be no such term as 'surplus' fish so long as treaty fisheries are being restricted. "Each and every one that is passed through tribal fisheries should have a

*"Each and every one that is passed through tribal fisheries should have a purpose and use, either as food, broodstock or spawner."*