



# Sin-Wit-Ki

(All life on earth)

February 2000  
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Tribes demand four million salmon within 25 years

## Treaty tribes go to Washington

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**W**ashington, D.C.--A recovery program that will yield returns of four million salmon above Bonneville Dam within 25 years must be implemented immediately, leaders of the four Columbia River treaty-fishing tribes told federal officials Jan 25.

Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs and Nez Perce tribal leaders met with representatives of numerous federal agencies, including the regional director of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the CEO of the Bonneville Power Administration. White House Council on Environmental Quality Chairman George Frampton chaired the meeting.

"We went to Washington to have a good faith dialogue," said James Holt, Nez Perce Executive Committee member and chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). "We were very clear, the Administration must fulfill its legal and moral treaty obligations to our tribes and the salmon. A plan keeping salmon runs at quasi-extinction levels for the next one hundred years is not acceptable.

Tribal officials reminded the Administration that it has not delivered on promises to produce a recovery plan despite 20 years of legislation (Northwest Power Act and Endangered Species

*(Tribes--Continued on page 3)*

### Special points of interest

- Treaty rights questions and answers
- Old photo
- Pastoral letter



*Fish techs, Donella Miller and Chuck Carl work up sturgeon as fisheries secretary, Carol Sue Speedis looks on. Techs were weighing and tagging fish to keep track of growth. Fishery in-house staff at times take to the field to view current projects being worked on. Photo courtesy Jaimie Brisbois. Story page 7.*

## Better packaging for fish products

# Salmon tips helps tribal fisher sell 'his'

**H**e arrives on the reservation with two hefty canvas bags that dangle from both shoulders. People recognize him as they delight in seeing the young tribal man, again. That day he is wearing his entrepreneur hat.

Clifford Shippentower, Umatilla, is one of several tribal fishers that takes in all he can to better the product he personally delivers. To do that he attended the workshops provided by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). His business card is complete with his logo, e-mail address and acknowledgement that he completed the seafood industry course by providing the HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) certification.

"I had my own logo made and learned how important packaging is, especially to the buyer," he said. Although he is from Stevenson, Wash. he will go the extra mile to fill customer orders. Just last fall he was featured in a northwest newspaper article as he sold his fresh caught salmon along the Columbia River during the only commercial season.

"Last year seminars demonstrated how to ice up the fish to keep it in good condition," he said. Once the commercial fishing season is over he begins to smoke and dry some of the salmon. It has proven to be a great extension to selling over-the-bank. Fish is not the only product he sells but provides dried elk and deer meat as well. Some of the meat is peppered, some spiced up. "It depends how the customer likes it, so I prepare different kinds."

He has taken advantage of the marketing workshops provided for tribal fishers by CRITFC. As he learns more his packaging of the smoked and dried salmon is even more eye-catching and tastes as delectable as it looks according to new buyers. "I haven't tasted any dried fish that good," said Rachel Loran.

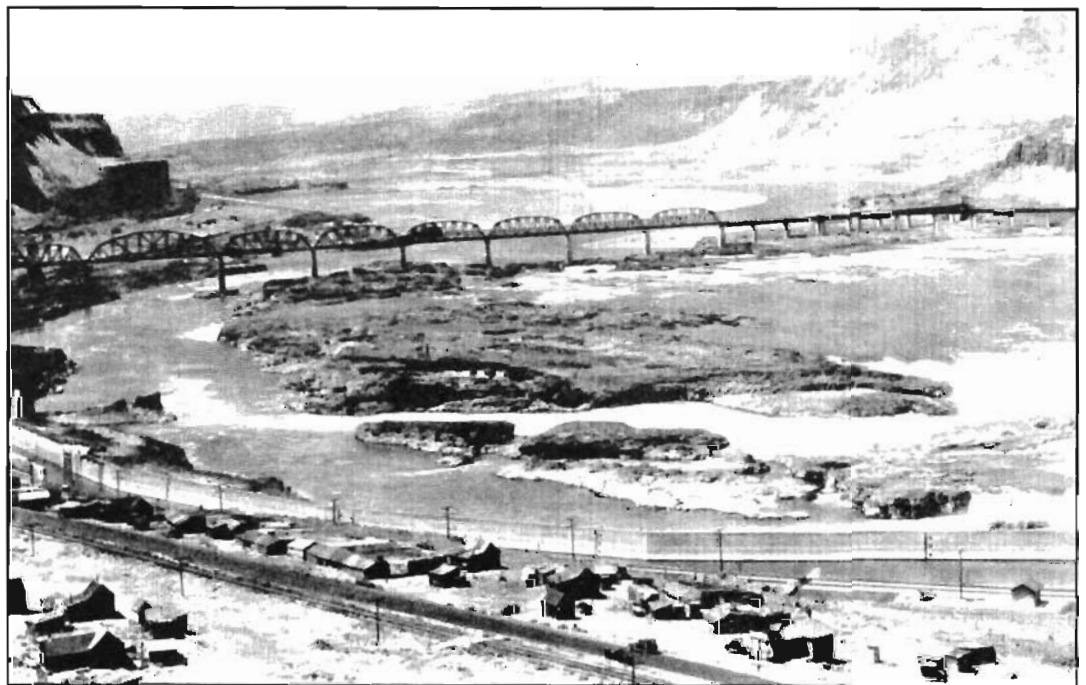
Last year Shippentower had his dried salmon in small plastic baggies. He also smoked some of the salmon and vacuum packed it in silver bags with his logo on the front of it. This year he has vacuum cellophane bags of dried salmon for his customers. His clientele is ever-growing as his fish product is the talk of many.

"His dried fish is so pliable, soft and chewy," said Adrienne Wilson. She soon found out the cellophane bags she purchased was not enough for her household. "Those two little bags didn't last long and I want to buy more next time," she said. He makes the trip to Toppenish about twice a month.

Yakama tribal members that have taken the CRITFC courses include Sharon Dick and Bill Yallup, Jr. Nez Perce member, Jack McCormick also participated.

As an ever-growing number of tribal fishers continue to learn more about marketing their products, the sooner they may be on store shelves.

*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.*



*The post card indicates B.C. Markham from The Dalles, Ore. took the picture and was found at an antique show. A seldom scene of Celilo village long ago where the cars appear to be from the 1930s*

# Tribes tell Administration salmon can't wait

(Continued from page 1)

Act) requiring it to do so. Solutions, in the form of Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit, the tribal salmon restoration plan, were emphasized in the two-hour dialogue. Tribes emphasized the need for certainty in rebuilding salmon stocks.

And it must come soon.

"The Administration has to hit the stop button on the 'no decision' merry-go-round," said Alan Crawford, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Fish and Wildlife Committee member, "and abandon 'blank check' policies allowing expensive, unsuccessful tinkering of the federal hydrosystem."

Olney Patt, Jr, chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, said it will take hard decisions to rebuild fish runs.

"Options have to be weighed against time. Time is what salmon have the least of," Patt said.

Further, the Administration must proceed toward breaching of the lower Snake River dams. To do so requires moving forward with engineering work; completing economic mitigation plans for impacted communities; implementing interim actions for hydro (more spill, flow and surface bypass); reforming hatchery policies; implementing

and enforcing protective habitat standards on federal lands; funding habitat restoration; maintaining harvest controls while meeting treaty fishing needs.

If these interim actions are implemented and achieve salmon rebuilding goals, then there are opportunities to avoid more drastic options such as breaching, tribal leaders said.

Without these actions, however, deconstruction of the lower Snake River dams must be completed with all due speed.

National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) hatchery policies and motives were also taken to task. Current policy allows for killing of 'surplus' hatchery fish deemed inappropriate to spawn naturally. Tribes have successfully restored and rebuilt runs using supplementation of carefully managed hatchery stocks.

"All fish, both naturally spawned and hatchery-reared must contribute to rebuilding these runs," said Randy Settler, Yakama Nation Council member and Fish and Wildlife Committee Chair. "There are two basic choices--accept supplementation as a rebuilding tool, so NMFS can give the region back to the people, or, they can hunker down and we can expect to live with them, ESA and fishing restrictions for a helluva long time. It's genetic gridlock now, extinction tomorrow."

The tribe were clear to point out that restrictions to treaty fisheries were unacceptable either by treaty standards or as a conservation option. The Columbia River treaty-fishing tribes voluntarily ceased commercial harvest of summer chinook in 1964 and spring chinook in 1977. Neither stock has recovered.

Additionally, the tribes demanded that actions in all "H's"--habitat, hatchery, harvest and hydrosystem--be equitable and accountable. Recommendations included:

- Increasing use of surface bypass and spill technology;
- Making improvements in adult passage;
- Committing to comply with Clean Water Act standards.
- Requiring Bonneville Power Administration to pay for fish and wildlife restoration as well as its Treasury debt, on time and in full;

(Tribes--Continued on page 8)

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## Salmon have given to us for thousands of years-- let's give back three minutes.

**Public hearings will be conducted throughout the region that will impact federal decision regarding salmon, trust responsibility and treaty rights. Let the native perspective on dam breaching and salmon management be heard. The salmon are counting on your voice.**

**DoubleTree Hotel  
Pasco, Wash.  
2525 North 20th Avenue**

**Thursday, Feb. 17, 3 to 5  
p.m. (sign-up at noon)**

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Medallion II Rooms**

**For more information contact your tribal public information office, tribal fish & wildlife committee or the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission at 503-238-0667.**



# Fish wrap



Bits & pieces of  
information

## "White man much crazy"

**T**he *Readers Digest* is still small in form and is as the title describes--condensed. The December 1943 issue had on the cover '22nd year of publication.' Inside on the bottom half of page 68 there is a drawing of a tribal man holding a piece of paper in his hand and shaking his other hand as if to say, "no."

Some of the terminology in the essay is not used today and explains what the non-tribal person has done to the land. Succinct, it reflects some of the activities that are still destroying the interconnectedness of every living thing.

The article: *Two pictures, one showing a dilapidated house, the other a field badly washed out, were printed in the Oklahoma Farmer-Stockman, which offered prizes for the best essays suggested by the pictures. First prize went to a Cherokee Indian who wrote:*

*Both pictures show white man crazy. Make big tepee. Plow hill. Water wash. Wind blow soil, grass all gone. Squaw gone, papoose too. No chuckaway. No pig, no corn, no hay, no cow, no pony. Indian no plow land. Keep grass. Buffalo eat. Indian eat buffalo. Hide make tepee, moccasins, too. Indian no make terrace. No build dam. No give a damn. All time eat. No hunt job. No hitchhike. No ask relief. Great Spirit make grass. Indian no waste anything. White man much crazy.*

## CRITFC marketing program update

**H**ood River, Ore.--Several tribal members participated in a two-day workshop held at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE) headquarters here.

Some 23 tribal fishers learned how to process fish in accordance with federal regulations under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). Although the acronym looks difficult to pronounce (Has-sip) it is a simple and effective way to ensure food safety said Scherrie Sotomish from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) project coordinator.

Once the two-day course was completed tribal fishers received both college credits and a certificate. Sotomish said another workshop will be offered at a later date and will focus on good manufacturing and sanitation practices.

For more information about the seminars contact Sotomish or Jon Matthews at CRITFC 503-238-0667.

"The workshops have no registration fee and is the perfect opportunity for tribal members to learn more about federal regulations pertaining to prepared foods," she said. "Hopefully we can help them with marketing tribal foods to the public."

## Marketing seminar

**C**RITFC is again hosting a program where tribal fishers can learn how to improve the foreign export of tribal agriculture

products Feb. 23-24 in Portland.

This is the fourth seminar CRITFC provided with specific, professional information. The latest seminar entitled "*Indian agriculture export readiness*," will feature exporters, marketing experts and international trade consultants.

"Our overall purpose in this project is to improve reservation economies by improving the value of products through export," said Jon Matthews, project leader for the marketing program.

The seminar will prepare CRITFC staff for the upcoming FOOD EX Food Show in Japan. "The largest of the Asian food trade show, this is an opportunity to present tribal agriculture and food products to Japanese and Asian importers," he said.

The major focus of the project is to encourage tribal enterprises with potential products for exporting to attend the International Trade Shows. "We will select four export-ready enterprises to attend each foreign trade show and feature their products," Matthews said.

## National magazine provides tribal view

**I**n the January 24 edition of *The Nation* magazine, an article was written on the importance of salmon to tribal people in the Pacific Northwest. Entitled '*One fish, two fish*,' Jan Clausen explains the tribal side of the salmon situation. The two-pager describes what tribes are doing for salmon through restoration and the dam breaching issue. Clausen says "the politics of dam removal are rocking

the region."

In particular, Clausen focuses on tribal treaty rights history and explains how tribes and salmon have suffered. "You always hear about what farmers or other groups will lose if we take out the dams but you never hear about what tribal people will lose if the fish go extinct," said Sampson, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC).

## Pastoral letter

# Rivers of our memory & watersheds of our vision

**T**he Catholic bishops of the Columbia River watersheds will issue a 'pastoral letter' that will be released later this year.

By gathering different people in the basin at various locations and times during 1998 the bishops heard first-hand the concern for salmon. From that a book is being completed that will provide the testimony given at different places.

"This was to listen about how connected history is with the rivers and to promote a vision of a just and sustainable way for people of the region to relate to the rivers and watersheds," said Bishop William Skylstad, chair of the Columbia River Pastoral Letter Project and Bishop at Spokane, Wash.

Among Yakama tribal people invited to speak while the Bishop was on the reservation May 1998 were Wilbur Slockish, Jr. and Carol Craig.

The bishops worked with Catholic colleges and universities in the region preparing the pastoral letter that will be filled with testimony from various ethnicities in the Pacific Northwest.

On March 18 Bishop Skylstad is hosting the 13th annual 'Peace-ing it together' conference to take place in Portland, Ore. at Mago Hunt Recital Hall at the University of Portland.

During the two-hour session Bishop Skylstad will have attendees gather in small groups to discuss family history connected to the rivers. "How blessed we are here in the Northwest to have the mighty Columbia River and its tributaries...we are filled with a sense of awe and appreciation of this wonderful gift and treasure in our midst, the flowing waters of life," he said.

For more information contact the Office of Justice and Peace, 2838 East Burnside, Portland, Ore. 97214 or call 503-233-8361. The e-mail address is

**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 Setzler, Chair, Duane Clark, Secretary, Ross Sockzchigh and Leo Aleck, Members.

mspeck@archdpx.org. Pre-registration for the event is \$5.00 per person, \$3.00 per person for a group of three or more and \$7.00 per person if registering the same day. Sign-in is at 9:30 a.m. and the conference is from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

**I**'ve heard tribal leaders and elders tell us that today we have to speak for the salmon if they are to continue to exist. Tribal members will have

that opportunity as the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC) conducts a series of meetings throughout the Pacific Northwest this month and next. The schedule was in the last edition and tribal leaders urge tribal members to attend one or more of the hearings to let the NPPC know how you feel about the salmon and what needs to continue to assure the salmon's existence for future generations.

Earlier the National Marine Fisheries Service held a public hearing taking comments from farmers who paraded outside the Yakima Convention Center protesting and holding signs that read: "Stop the fishing--Stupid!" I guess that means those farmers should not be held accountable for dumping pesticides into the water system that kills fish or diverting water for crops instead of fish.

But as the editorial cartoon depicts below about 'who done it'--the finger-pointing continues. The four Columbia River Treaty Tribes converged on D.C. to tell the Clinton Administration salmon can't wait and the federal government should be fulfilling their fiduciary obligations as well as the trust responsibility as written in the treaties.

Some of the information tells us if barging stops and dams are breached that it will affect and do away with 'the farmer' who has a family but at the same time does not talk about tribal children or elders who may starve and die because the salmon may become extinct. Who will be responsible then?

*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.*



In the corner with CC



# Corps strives to continue education

**S**almon Corps (Corps), a branch of the Earth Conservation Corps, has new members doing new things. So far they have learned how to fill out financial aid papers for college, worked on fence lines and did various winterization projects for tribal elders since hired last October.

The partnership between Earth Conservation Corps, Salmon Corps and the tribes have empowered many young adults. In existence for five years now Corps members from 18-25 attend seminars, assist the fish and wildlife program with many projects as well as helping grade school students in science, mathematics and reading. Corps members also earn college dollars at the end of each stint with the program. They can be in the Corps for up to three years.

Corps groups have been established with Yakama, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Umatilla Nations. Two other Corps groups come from Portland, Ore. and the Shoshone-Bannock Nation.

Gina George has headed up the Yakama Nation Salmon Corps for four years and plans on continuing her college classes. Former Corps members have gone onto college, joined the fish and wildlife staff or work in other programs.

These young adults will eventually be future technicians, policy makers, managers, directors

and council members. Over 500 people have participated in the Corps program. Statistics indicate 70 percent have successfully completed their General Equivalency Degree (GED) while in the Corps. Forty-seven percent of those who graduate go on to full-time employment. Twenty percent of Corps members continue their education by attending a trade or technical school and college. Over 340 college credits have been earned by those attending college classes while with the Corps.

What has been gained by the five years and what has the Salmon Corps accomplished? Let's count the ways:

- ◆ Released over 7.5 million anadromous and resident fish into the Columbia River Basin.
- ◆ Built over 395 miles of riparian fence to protect the streams and rivers throughout the Basin.
- ◆ Participated in the restoration of 50 salmon habitats in watershed throughout the Basin.
- ◆ Planted over 200,000 native trees and vegetation.
- ◆ Adopted 7.5 roads for community clean-up.
- ◆ Delivered over 175 cords of wood to veterans, tribal elders, disabled, and low-income community members.
- ◆ Assisted over 25,000 community members within five flood zones during high-water/flood events.
- ◆ Served over 10,000 community meals.
- ◆ Educated over 5,000 secondary school children in science, math and reading.
- ◆ Hosted several alcohol and drug free athletic events.

## Treaty rights-- Q & A

### What is tribal sovereignty?

**W**hen the European countries first began to occupy land that is now the United States, they dealt with the tribes as sovereign governments under the guidelines of international law.

When the U.S. became independent of England and became sovereign itself, the U.S. government continued dealing with the tribes on a nation-to-nation basis, respecting tribal sovereignty. This is why the U.S., during the Treaty era, entered into many treaty agreements with the tribes.

Today, federally-recognized tribes in the U.S. still maintain sovereignty and are considered 'domestic, dependent nations.'—Domestic meaning the United States talked with us. Dependent—meaning dependent upon the United States for protection. That is the trust responsibility and legal obligation of the federal government to look after us. Nations—Is the acknowledgement of a separate status as sovereign nation but the need for protection from the states that try to encroach upon tribal sovereignty. This means tribes are no longer fully independent of the U.S. however, they still have certain powers of sovereignty.

Treaties do not lose their potency with age and are legally binding contracts between two sovereign entities. Without this power that tribes have, they would cease to exist.

The basic definition of sovereignty is governmental powers. You cannot define tribal sovereignty as one because it is limited and each tribe determines how their government structure will be. Sovereignty rests with the tribe and not the individual.

There are four elements that make up sovereignty—

- Having a land base
- Having people
- Having a governing body structure and,
- An economy of the people

Sovereignty is territorial because we have a reservation with boundaries and can only regulate our powers there. What we have, we have to protect and did so through the treaty.

Reared on the reservation

# Tags hold sturgeon growth data



**H**eaving and hauling sturgeon back and forth from the holding ponds may have put more muscle on fishery technicians during a two-day training session near the Marion Drain earlier this month.

Tribal technicians were learning how to determine sex and maturation of sturgeon currently holed up in acclimation ponds on the reservation.

The 174 sturgeon were moved from the Hanford site at the K-Basin two years ago and were there since 1994 according to Joe Blodgett, Yakama tribal biologist.

"They were about seven or eight years old when moved to Hanford and are close to ten now," said Blodgett. "It appears the sturgeon have adapted very well. In fact they're doing good."

Several of the fishery technicians were trained by state and federal biologists. Blaine Parker from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, technical arm to the four Columbia River treaty tribes, was also on hand. "We trained tribal technicians to

determine sex and sexual maturity of the fish. Of course, these are all fish that are in captivity and won't be released," said Parker.

One-by-one each hefty sturgeon was taken from the pond and transferred to holding tanks then injected with an anesthetic. Once the medication took effect the sturgeon was placed on a table and a small incision was made at the bottom of the mid-section. From the incision Parker told the crew what to look for to determine whether it was a male or female. The productive organ determines male/female sex. Incisions were immediately sewn up. "They tend to feed well right afterwards too," he said. With all of the testing fish techs reported they have one female a year away from spawning. "This is useful information," said Parker.

Afterwards fish techs tagged the sturgeon, measured and weighed them. The heaviest sturgeon weighed in at 50 pounds while the average sturgeon weighed around 30 pounds.

The pit tags when scanned will identify stage of maturity. "They can look at growth over time," said Parker. Growth rates vary with the temperature of water according to Parker. "If you have good, warm water, food and space, it is ideal for caviar," he said. "It might be an opportunity that could merit some great outcome because there is not too much on the market today."

Parker was impressed by the fishery crew he worked with at Marion Drain "The crew done a great job and the sturgeon are doing fine where they currently are. It was good to work with the tribal constituents. We had some good cutters and sewers over there." All of the fish were worked up and completed in a day and a half.

Now fisheries staff will be able to update sturgeon information every winter to see how they are getting along. The tag can be scanned recalling the number and comparison of yearly growth will be logged.



*Top photo—Sonny Fiander and Travis Hull use their brute strength to transfer sturgeon to holding tank. Below—USGS biologists cut away at one sturgeon. Photos courtesy Carol Sue Speedis.*

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## ***Tribes take issue to D.C.***

- Transitioning federal hatchery operations and maintenance to tribal control;
- Reforming NMFS hatchery policies to discontinue the killing of returning salmon and use them for rebuilding;
- Upgrading the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Program standards with review by the Independent Scientific Advisory Board;
- Protecting, not dredging, the Columbia River estuary;
- Committing to reasonable multi-year fisheries agreement that reflect tribal needs.

"It's premature to declare any victories for salmon," said Donald Sampson, CRITFC Executive Director. "There's a long way to go but we might be getting on the right road. At the same time the Tribes will prepare to act if the Administration does not.

(Reprint from *Confederated Umatilla Journal*, February, 2000).

## **Public meeting schedule for salmon issues to be heard**

**February 17**, Tri-Cities, Pasco, Washington at the DoubleTree Hotel on 9th Avenue and 4th Street. Medallion rooms 1 and 2. Begins at noon.

**February 23**, Boise, Idaho at the Centre on the Grove, 850 West Front St. The Summit and Flying Hawk Erie rooms. Begins at noon.

**February 29**, Seattle, Washington at the Seattle Center, 200 Thomas St in the Seattle Center Pavilion. Begins noon.

**March 1**, Kalispell, Montana at the Outlaw Inn, 1701 Highway 93 South in the Winchester and Colt 44 rooms. Begins at 6 p.m.

**March 2**, Missoula, Montana at the DoubleTree Hotel, 100 Madison, Blackfoot and Bitterroot rooms. Begins at 6 p.m.

**March 7**, Idaho Falls, Idaho at the Shilo Inn, 780 Lindsay Boulevard, Yellowstone and Grand Teton rooms. Begins at 5 p.m. Same day, Sitka, Alaska, Westmark Hotel, 330 Steward Street. Conference Room 1 and Lobby. Begins at 5 p.m.

**March 8**, Twin Falls, Idaho at the Weston Plaza, 1350 Blue Lakes Blvd. North in the Blue Lakes, Shoshone, Pomerelle, Teton and Sawtooth rooms. 5 p.m. Same day, Juneau, Alaska, Centennial Hall Convention Center, 101 Egan Drive in the Sheffield Ballrooms 1 and 2. Begins at 5 p.m.