



Sin-Wit-Ki

(All life on earth)

October 2000
Volume 5, Issue 9

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Special points of interest

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Spotted on reservation land--

Eagles raising young for first time in 100 years

During the summer while on an aerial survey of mergansers, Tracy Hames, wildlife biologist, spotted two adult bald eagles on the reservation side of the Yakima River east of Toppenish, Wash.

Ecstatic about the find Hames said, "It's been a long time since eagles have been recorded in this area."

Hames was not only surprised but what curious knowing bald eagles usually spend the winter on the lower Yakima River.

Hames and Ron Paquine, local volunteer assistant, scouted the area on foot and located a nest in a clove of trees on property now under restoration and purchased by the Tribe. "The nest was built in one of the large cottonwood trees," he said.

A few weeks later while out doing field work he and Mike Livingston, tribal wildlife biologist, spotted a young eagle in the nest. Excited about the find, Hames enlisted the help of Gaylord Mink, videographer, who captured the bird on film as it was perched in a snag about a hundred yards from the nest.

According to Hames improved nesting and foraging opportunities have lured bald eagles back to the lower



Eaglet spotted along Yakima River is perfectly camouflaged among trees almost the same color as the bird. Photo courtesy Gaylord Mink.

Yakima River for the first time in over 100 years.

According to tribal members, local biologists and scientific literature, successful bald eagle nesting has not occurred along the lower Yakima River in a century.

Once obsolete, large cottonwoods abound along the Yakima River. "Especially on the reservation," said Hames. "These trees help provide plenty of nesting opportunities for the eagles."

"In 1997 and 1998 bald eagles tried nesting along Toppenish Creek 12 miles from this year's nest but failed and no nest attempt was made

last year," he said.

Bald eagles are a federally threatened species. Hames attributes population decline to pesticide use, habitat destruction, and persecution which prompted its protection under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1978.

"Last year, the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service proposed removing the bald eagle from the endangered species list because of population recovery," he said. No decision on the proposal has been made yet.

"We still have a long way to go to keep them here, but still, it's great to see them back in the environment."

Restoring the home for fish

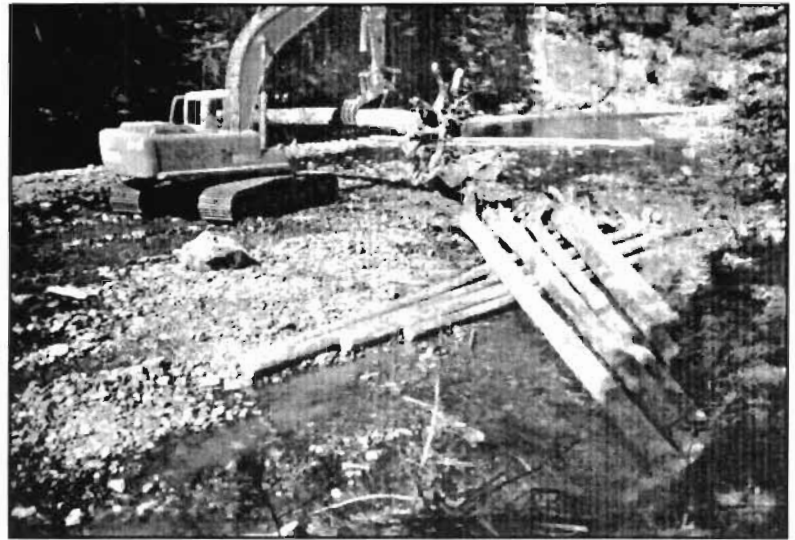
Just as spring chinook returned last month to spawn, habitat restoration work on the Little Naches River proved to be enticing.

The Yakama Nation Fisheries Program recently completed work restoring the river to a more suitable habitat perfect for fish.

One of the major tributaries of the Yakima River, the Naches River is formed when the Little Naches River, Bumping River and American River come together. Further down the Tieton River enters the Naches River and courses down past the towns of Naches and Yakima before entering the Yakima River on the north side of Yakima City.

"The restoration work was focused a two-mile stretch of the Little Naches River between Horsetail Falls up to Crow Creek," said Jim Matthews, tribal fisheries biologist for the project.

For spring run chinook salmon, the Little Naches is a primary spawning area, but lacks rearing habitat for fish. This prompted the Tribe to pursue habitat restoration work. "Improving the habitat in the Little Naches river to a more natural state should increase the survival and productivity of salmon in the river,



Heavy equipment from Hi-Point Excavation positions trees in river.

especially for salmon that have returned as natural spawners," he said.

Restoration work included rock barb deflectors with trees placed in-between, boulder clusters (small piles of boulders in the channel) and small log jams. "We also planted woody vegetation along the river banks to supply future shade and bank stability," Matthews said. The trees and rock structures should improve habitat conditions by forming pools, providing velocity breaks for young fish during high flows, supplying hiding cover from predators, enhancing insect (food) production and collecting spawning gravels.

Stream work began in July and continued until the middle of August

(River—Continued on page 3)

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Unloading huge rocks to be used for barb deflectors and placed huge boulder clusters like those placed directly behind the excavator.





The road narrowed the Little Naches River so habitat improvements were necessary to attract fish back to a friendlier river system.



Large boulders and trees were put in place to enhance the habitat for fish. Photos courtesy Jim Matthews.



(River—Continued from page 2)

according to Matthews. Huge dump trucks hauled in the rocks from the Herke Rock Pit, and trees came from a U.S. Forest Service site near Bumping Lake. Barb deflectors and boulder clusters were constructed with enormous rocks to reduce the chance of movement during high river flows. "The rock averaged three to four feet in diameter, with some approaching five foot diameter in the boulder clusters," said Matthews. "Boulder

clusters were placed to create additional pocket pool habitat for fish. The trees and barb deflectors will also increase pool area, as well as habitat complexity, cover and velocity breaks for salmon and trout," he said.

There were several spring chinook spawning in that vicinity of the project recently. With the restoration work done it should provide improved habitat conditions when the fry emerge this next spring. "The new structures will slow the stream velocities and supply cover for the young fish," he said.

Before the work was conducted in the Little Naches River much of the river bank consisted of riprap and concrete retaining walls to protect the road. "There was very little habitat for fish, especially young salmon and trout. The rock deflectors, trees and boulder clusters that were placed in the river should substantially enhance habitat conditions and fish survival," Matthews said.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) supplied the majority of the funding for the project work. The Tribe will be seeking additional funds from BPA and other sources to do similar work further upriver and in other parts of the watershed in the future. "They are a major funding source and we are waiting to see if we will get additional funds for next year's work in the Little Naches."

Various agencies have been involved with the restoration project including the U.S. Forest Service who assisted by completing the Biological Assessment, supplying staff time, donating conifer seedlings and providing trees from the Bumping Lake site. "The in-stream work went pretty smoothly once the permits were obtained, and the contractor did a good job constructing the habitat structures to the design specifications and in the short time frame," said Matthews.

"Although this summer's work was a start at improving degraded habitat conditions and fish production, other parts of the Little Naches River and other streams also need enhancement," he said. Habitat restoration work also entailed monitoring and riparian vegetation work. "Prior to starting the enhancement work, the Little Naches was evaluated by tribal fishery technicians and biologists to determine pre-work conditions," Matthews said.

Both habitat and fish numbers were assessed by the staff. "Similar surveys are planned now that the work has been completed to see how much benefit the restoration project has achieved." Tribal staff did considerable riparian vegetation planting as part of the project. "For the last two springs we put in cottonwood, willow, dogwood and a limited number of conifers to enhance riparian vegetation along the river. The vegetation should help stabilize banks, provide shade and cover, and eventually provide some large woody debris to the river," said Matthews. A portion of vegetation work was done by Salmon Corps two years ago. "They are definitely an asset around here. Their staff and labor helped plant a considerable amount of riparian vegetation in a short period of time."

Work continues on the reservation as well as ceded area of the Yakama Nation with the important goal of salmon returning to a more stable environment.



Fish wrap



Bits & pieces of information

Tribal leaders advocate dam breaching

During the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) annual meeting held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho last month, tribal leaders closed the meeting by passing a variety of resolutions including calling for breaching the four lower Snake River dams.

The 55-member affiliation resolution calls for "breaching the four lower Snake River dams to restore essential natural river features, to prevent the ultimate extinction of endangered Snake River salmon and other species of critical importance...to protect tribal treaty rights, and to fulfill the federal government's Trust Responsibility to the member tribes.

ATNI president and chair of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Ernie Stensgar focused attention on tribal relations with state and local governments which are often strained as tribes exert their sovereignty ranging from natural resources to economic development.

Stensgar extended an invitation to Idaho Gov, Dirk Kempthorne to give the keynote address. "I was pleased the governor visited with the us," said Stensgar.



Fair weather in Yakima

The Fisheries program set up an information center to educate the public about the tribe's effort in returning fish to the Yakima River during the Yakima County Fair Sept. 22 through Oct. 1.

Two years ago the tribe was invited to share the information center with the Dept. of Ecology and Conservation District.

Several fishery staff volunteered their services during the 10-day county fair. Staff at various times served smoked Yakima River fall chinook salmon attracting many to the booth.

Smoked salmon was purchased from tribal fisherwoman, Mary Settler. "All of the people we served said it was the best smoked fish they had ever eaten," said Carol Sue Speedis, staff support.

Tribal technician, Mat Tomaskin said during his stint he had several people question the tribe's stand on breaching the dams. "There was a common misunderstanding by the public," he said. "Most people thought the dams on the Columbia River would come down and I explained to them that it is the four lower Snake River dams that would be breached not dismantled."

Special thanks to staff: Jackie Olney, Ida Ike, Steve Parker, Flo Wallahee, Carol Sue Speedis and daughter Annie Joe Heemsah, Joe Jay Pinkham III, Winna Switzler, Sheila Dakota, Alice Wahsise, Shirley Gwinn, Louize Umtuch, Bob Rose, George Lee, Jaimie Brisbois, Philip Smith, Tammy Swan and daughter Jill Swan, Dora Lee Fitzpatrick and Carol Craig.

Bill to help with forest pest infestation on reservation

Awaiting final Senate vote, a bill targeting the Yakama Nation closed area and forest lands will include \$1.2 million to fight pine tree pests. Proposed by U.S. Senator Slade Gorton the funding was included in the federal Interior budget. Earlier this year Gorton also secured money to improve roads in the timber area near Pahto (Mt. Adams).

The insect attacks grand firs and Douglas firs that eventually kill the trees. The concern about pine pests--including bark beetles that attack various species of pine trees--will also become a problem on the reservation lands.

Corps office closed

The Yakama Nation Salmon Corps office was closed from Oct. 9-13 while Director Gina George traveled to Lapwai, Idaho to work on a project with the Nez Perce at Whitebird.

The office will also close from Oct. 29 to Nov. 3 as George travels to Phoenix, AZ. for training. Interested Corps applicants can obtain information from the fisheries office.

Notice

Due to a personal injury (pinched nerve) requiring a month of chiropractor adjustment, there was no September newsletter.

Rally gathers tribal nations

Seattle, Wash.--The first Tribal Sovereignty and Election Rally was held on the University of Washington Campus Oct. 6 and involved thousands of tribal and non-tribal participants.

Ron Allen, Chairman of the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians, presented a "State Of Indian America Address." Dr. Richard McCormick, President of the University of Washington proclaimed Oct. 6 "American Indian/Alaskan Native Day" on the University Campus, in recognition of tribal sovereignty. They were joined by tribal speakers from across the nation.

Speakers were: Don Sampson, Chairman of the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission; Billy Frank, Jr., Chairman of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Keller George of the Oneida Nation; Alvin Windy Boy of the Chippewa and Cree Nations, Pearl Baller, Chair of the Quinault Indian Nation; Jerry Meninick, Chair of the Yakama Indian Nation and Ernest Stensgar, President of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

"We gathered to make a very important statement," said Allen. "We, the tribal people, are determined to forever change the way mainstream political leaders do business with the nation's First People. The future of tribal Country is contingent on its ability to influence America's political electoral process. Our votes and activism will make a difference in the upcoming election, and in all elections to come." The rally began at noon in Red Square, and continued into the early evening. Highlights included Northwest Coastal dance performances, a powwow, salmon feast, an Honoring of Tribal Veterans for the sacrifices they have made for freedom, Native Vote Registration, Tribal Roll Call (with Tribal Banners), and a Candidates Forum.

Salmon Corps gearing up for seventh year

The Earth Conservation Corp's (ECC) award-winning Salmon Corps will begin the 2001 program year next January and conclude in mid-November 2001. The Corps has received regional and national recognition since they began six years ago.

In previous years the Corps began work in October and ended in August. The change was in response to requests for services during planting periods in September. Corps members, since its inception, have built over 400 miles of riparian fencing, outplanted thousands of native trees

The 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 Sockzehigh and Leo Aleck, members.

and vegetation, released over 8.5 million salmon with in the Columbia River Basin, assisted over 25,000 people within five flood zones during flash flood and other high water events, and worked with over 7,000 students in environmental education, reading, and math.

Interested young tribal people may obtain applications from the Fish and Wildlife Program.

With all of the public polls on who's ahead in this year's presidential race pollster's credentials need careful scrutiny.



When reading magazines, newspapers, or watching television news, one needs to ask 10 simple questions according to *Brill's Content* magazine. The magazine stands for accuracy in reporting of any kind and believes journalists should hold themselves accountable for any of the subjects they write about.

1). Question who covers major events, a crisis, an election, a war, and deaths of major people. Some of these people are paid and some aren't which makes a difference. A paid person can be more outrageous sometimes, more outspoken, and even a little less believable.

2). Just because information comes from the computer doesn't make it true. Some think printouts guarantee accuracy and truth. A computer can be a gossip and a liar if the person who put the data in is a gossip or liar. Computers are programmed machines by humans.

3). When reading an anonymous quote--especially if negative about someone in news articles or magazine--quit reading. The article loses credibility.

4). In stories about polls, stop reading or stop listening if the report doesn't give the wording of the question, the size of the sample, and the date of the poll. The wording can determine the answer. Read it yourself to determine whether it is biased or straight.

5). If an allegation is made in a story or a TV report, is the reply there? Look for this in every story--in politics, in crime, in business. A reporter should be a fact gatherer and truth squad.

6). If you start reading columns or editorials that don't have facts to back up the opinions, stop reading.

7). Reporters must rely on their credibility, and to be credible they must keep their opinions to themselves.

8). In this age of polling, don't fall for anything that professes to give the views of a town, a state, a nation or a world.

9). Read carefully, and listen carefully--words can be subtly persuasive.

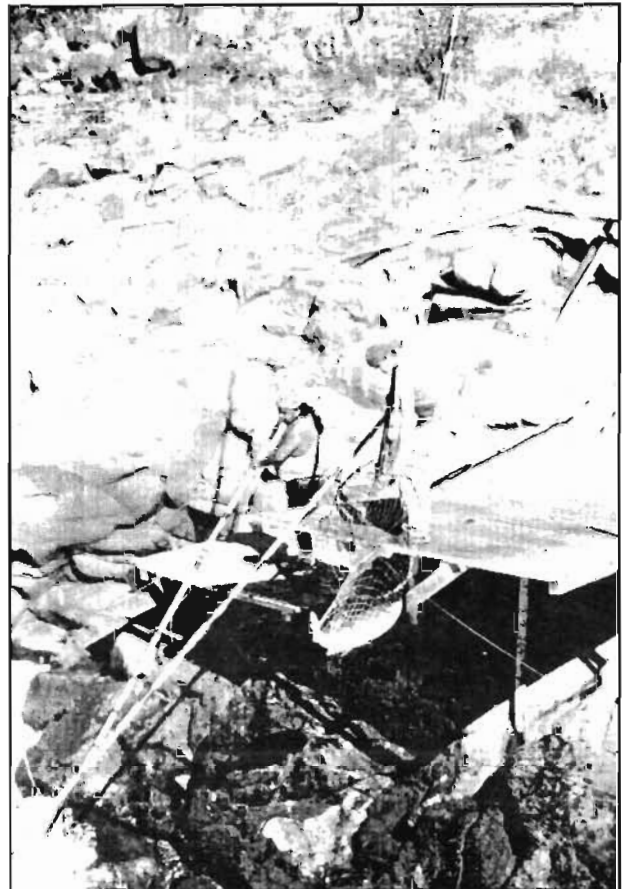
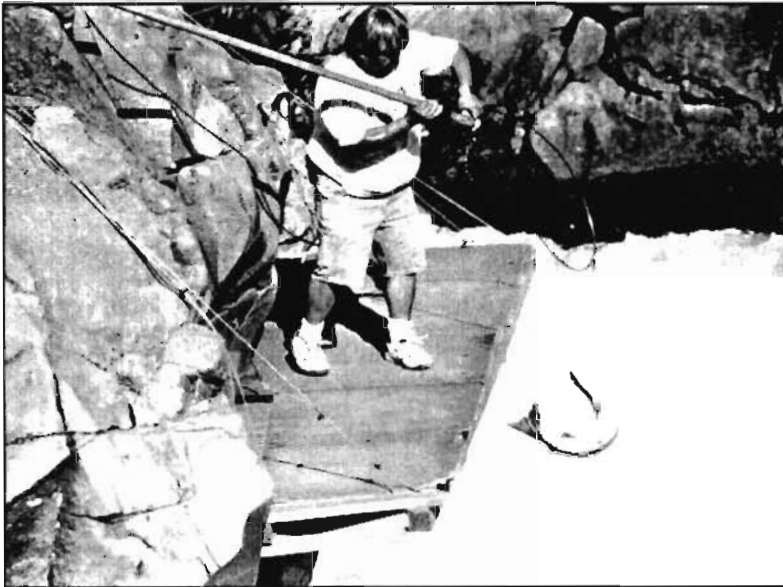
10). Just because it's a big headline doesn't make it important. Just because it's leading nightly news doesn't make it important. Decide for yourself what is important then seek it out.

And, don't forget to register to vote. You shouldn't complain about anything you are not directly involved with.

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.



Fish a jumpin' at Klickitat River



Last month the Klickitat River near the mouth of the Columbia River had tribal fishers taking to the wooden platforms. And, there was plenty of fish for everyone.

Perched from the basalt cliff side, strong and agile tribal fishers swoop the net near the bottom of the river bed, a careful process, fishers make sure not to scrape the bottom scaring fish off.

Upper left—Mike Cloud lifts nice size salmon to scaffold. Upper right—Irvin Kishwalk keeps net in water while James Kiona, Jr. pulls one up.

Photos by Carol Craig.



Oliver Pimms, Sr. nets a nice size salmon to add to already large cooler full of fish to take home.

Younger fishermen are taking to the scaffolds. Jody Watlamet swoops net under water hoping to bring up a salmon.



Bradley retires-honored by tribe

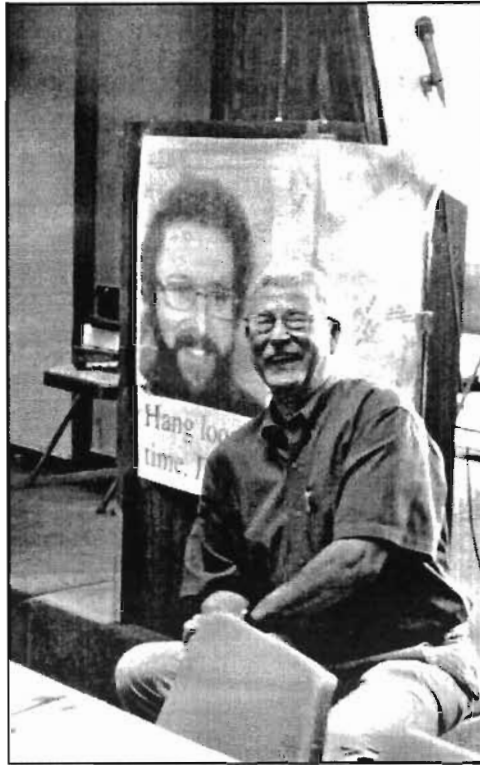
Different tribal and non-tribal program staff came to bid Dr. William Bradley a fond farewell Sept. 19 at the Yakama Nation Cultural Center.

The luncheon was sponsored by staff of the wildlife department and gathered over 200 people that afternoon.

Bradley has been with the tribe since 1978 and was one of four biologists hired to start the fish and wildlife program. Listening to Bradley describe his years with the tribe was a tribute to the Yakama Nation as well.

During the late 1970s the deer and elk were declining and the tribe needed a wildlife biologist. The tribe hired Bradley after he completed his graduate work at the University of Washington. Two technicians were hired at the same time.

"I used to get calls from Watson Totus who was tribal chairman then," said Bradley. Totus instructed Bradley to head to the river with him to assess the fish problem. "I'm a wildlife biologist and don't know anything



Then and now! Wildlife staff had an original 'way back when' Bradley first began working for the Yakama Nation. Photo by Carol Craig.

about fish," he said. "You're the only biologist here, so get over here," Watson said. "So I headed over to the headquarters and began doing all of the river stuff," Bradley told the crowd.

It was not the most quiet time according to Bradley. In fact, it was the 'fish wars' as dubbed by the media when tribal nations began asserting their fishing treaty rights. "Everyone was carrying guns. It was quite different from today and that was the beginning of the program," he said.

It was three years later when the fisheries program came under the direction of Lynn Hatcher who is still with the program.

When the wildlife program was started there was no such word as "trust responsibility" and no government funding. "So we took plenty of trips to Washington, D.C.," Bradley said. It took the vision of past leaders like Roger Jim, Levi George and Totus to begin the tribal programs.

"The Yakama Nation single handily
(Bradley—Continued on page 18)

In-lieu fishing sites were a sight



At last new in-lieu sites were provided for tribal fishers use during this year's fall fishing season. After many years of hard work by tribal leaders, Joe Aleck, maintenance worker for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), The Dalles Field Office, is dismayed that some sites were left in such bad shape. "I want to remind people to clean their act up."

"The in-lieu fishing sites are something our parents made possible for us today," he said. Aleck is responsible for maintaining the areas the are designated specifically for tribal fishers. "And this is how they want to take care of those places? The sites are not going to last at that rate," he said.

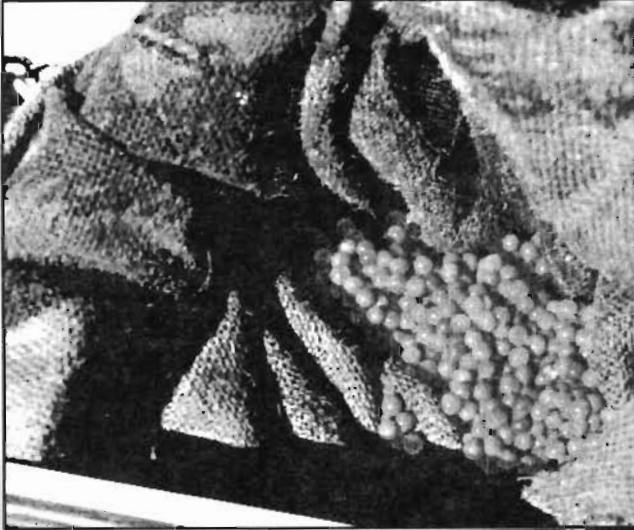
He has traveled up and down the river from Cascade Locks, to Lyle, Wash. and further up to Roosevelt where the new facilities were left in disarray after the fishing season closed. "This is just a hand full of people making is bad for everyone else that does their share."

When he first started two and half years ago there
(Sites—Continued on page 18)



Beginning new life

From hatchery egg to river



Eggs at the eyed stage are transported to river in ice chest wrapped in burlap.

Near Camp Chaparral on the Klickitat River some rocks are arranged in a circle, about two feet in diameter. Below the rocks are small red, round pebbles about the size of peas.

Some of the pebbles seem to have eyes. These are salmon eggs and each 'eyed-egg' is a fertile egg that has a chance to become a salmon.

The tiny eggs came from the Glenwood Hatchery and are being relocated to a natural setting. "We'll be using about a million eyed-eggs from the hatchery and we're putting them in the river," said Mathew Tomaskin, fisheries technician for the fisheries program.

Tomaskin said it is imperative the fish and eggs in the river be left alone. "We punched identifying marks on adults taken from hatchery that we put above Castille Falls so they would spawn. We want tribal members to know the fish and the eggs are there for us but not just now. Let's give them a chance to multiply."

A first, this is part of the tribe's effort in returning fish to the rivers and streams where they have been void for many years. "We are, in essence, producing artificial redds," Tomaskin said.

The eggs were placed in the river above Castille Falls on the closed portion of the Yakama Reservation.



Tribal technicians picked up the eggs at the hatchery and transported them in ice chests wrapped with burlap to stay cool. "You can't get the eggs warm or they will die," he said.

Eight tribal technicians working in two teams used five-gallon buckets to transfer the eggs to the

river. The bottom portion of the bucket is taken out then pushed into the river bed. "They would dig out gravel about 4 to 6 inches that surrounded the outside of the bucket. With care, they placed the eggs in the container and put gravel on top of the eggs. Then we'd pull the bucket," he said.

Although some of the eggs were lost during the process it is considered a beginning. "Compared to losing some, it sure beats not having the eggs in the ground at all."

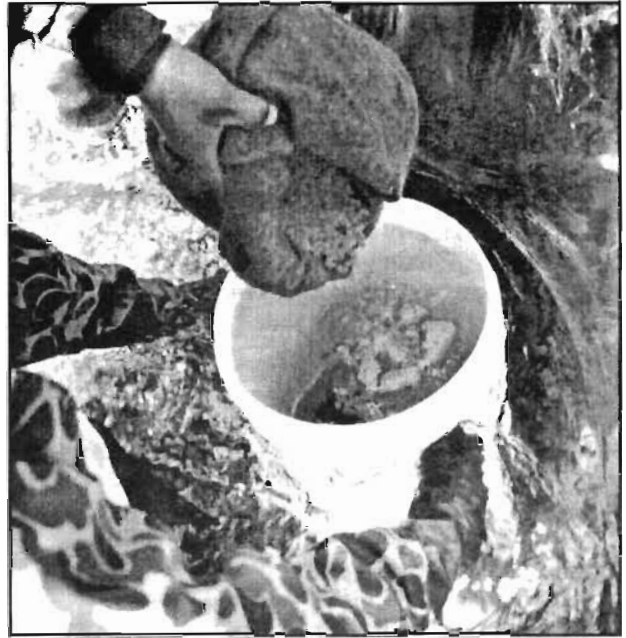
Fish techs began work the first of October and continue on Mondays and Tuesdays.

They picked up 140,000 eggs the first two days.

"We'll be doing this until we get a million and all the eggs are in the gravel. Next spring may bring results. We'll see."

Planting of eggs is done at any good gravel sites above Castille Falls according to Tomaskin. "We're trying to get runs above the falls.

Right now another crew is modifying Castille passage for fish to access and go upriver to spawn. This is the Tribe's effort in restoring fish."



Pouring eggs in the bucket while bucket is positioned in the river. Gravel is poured around bucket to secure eggs then the

bucket," he said.

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Sandy Pinkham steadies bucket in water while Roger Stahi covers top of eggs with gravel. Photos courtesy Mathew Tomaskin.



9,000 year old bones to be returned to five tribes

After four years of arguing who the skeleton remains belonged to the U.S. Interior Department decided that "Kennewick Man," should be given to the five tribal nations who have claimed him as an ancestor.

Interior Secretary, Bruce Babbitt said that after two years of study by his department, staff persuaded him that the bones should be returned to the five tribes including Umatilla, Wanapum, Nez Perce, Colville and Yakama. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for the remains located at the Burke Museum of Natural and Cultural History in Seattle.

"Although ambiguities in the data made this a close call, I was persuaded by the geographic data and oral histories of the five tribes that collectively assert they are the descendants of people who have been in the region of the Upper Columbia Plateau for a very long time," said Babbitt.

The tribes sought custody of the bones for immediate reburial. Armand Minthorn, Umatilla religious leader, said the tribes were pleased with the decision. Minthorn was instrumental in garnering support from other tribes and spoke out on behalf of the bones since found four years ago.

"We knew in our heart that this one is an ancestor, but we are saddened that it took the federal government so long to make this determination."

Facts about the Ancient One

The remains: 380 bones and bone fragments from an ancient human skeleton. About 80 percent of the skeleton was recovered.

Found: In the shallows of the Columbia River, near Kennewick, by college students in 1996.

Approximate age: Carbon dating from a bone sliver indicated the skeleton is between 9,320 and 9,510 years old.

Height: Five feet, nine inches.

Age: Mid-40s.

Description: The Kennewick Man's face was narrow, with a large, protruding nose. He had a slight depression above the left eye, likely from a minor injury. The Kennewick Man was very muscular. His teeth were extremely worn, but were all intact except for the right upper wisdom tooth and the left lower wisdom tooth.

'Ancient One' timeline:

1990--Nov. 16: The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act is passed to protect the remains of tribal people on federal land if they are affiliated with any modern-day tribes.

1996--July: A man's skeleton is discovered on the banks of the Columbia River behind McNary Dam IN Kennewick, which is under the management of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Aug. 28: Early analysis says the bones are about 9,000 years old.

Sept. 13: After several tribes demand the return of the remains, the Corps says it will return them for reburial.

Oct. 17: Scientists begin their legal battle to study Kennewick Man, termed by scientists.

1998-Nov. 13: U.S. Rep. Richard "Doc" Hastings pushes a bill to amend the Repatriation Act to allow study of Kennewick Man's bones.

1998-April 1: The Corps gives Kennewick Man to the U.S. Interior Dept.

April 6: The Corps buries the Kennewick Man excavation site.

June 17: Out-of-court mediation between the parties begins.

July 2: The Interior Dept. drafts a plan to allow study of Kennewick Man.

Sept. 3: A federal judge orders Kennewick Man moved to the Burke Museum at the University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

1999--Feb. 27: A federal team of five scientists begins studying Kennewick Man at the Burke Museum.

Sept. 15: A federal judge sets a deadline for the government to come up with answers for what should happen to Kennewick Man.

Oct. 15: An overdue federal report links Kennewick Man to Asian peoples and not the tribes claiming an ancestral link to the remains.

2000--Jan. 12: Official results of radiocarbon dating confirm that Kennewick Man is about 9,300 years old.

Sept. 25: The Interior Dept. rules that the bones should be given to the five tribes who claimed them as belonging to an ancestor.

Sources: Dept. of Interior and Tri-City Herald.



Fish wheel designed by techs

There's a not-so-new device on the Marion Drain that captures adult fall chinook.

In fact, the early fish wheels patterned by non-tribal fishers that were capable of catching eight tons of salmon a day had a devastating effect on salmon and were outlawed in Oregon in 1926.

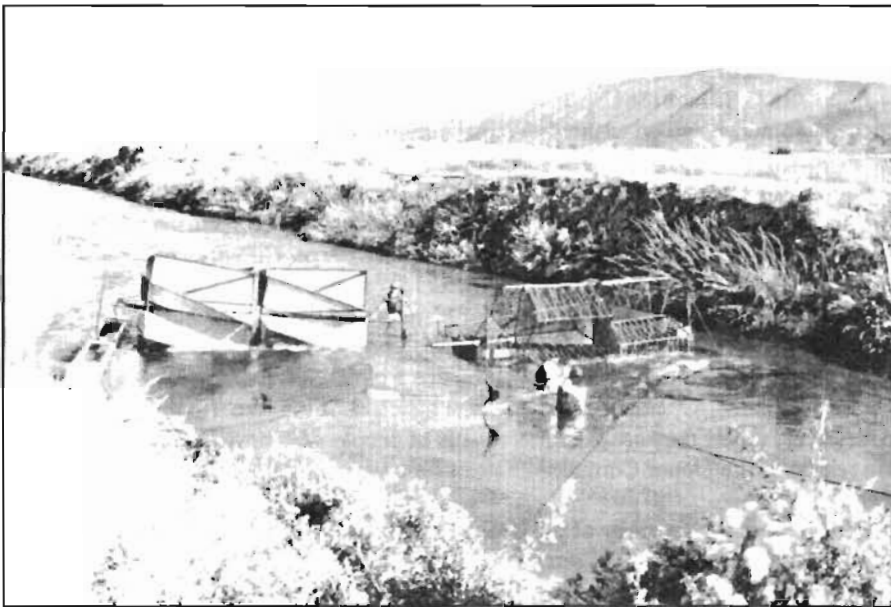
This time though, tribal technicians put their heads together, researched the old fish wheels and constructed one of their own.

The fish wheel was placed in Marion Drain last month to capture adult fall chinook returning to the drain. "The Marion Drain has it's own distinct stock of fall chinook," said Joe Blodgett, tribal fishery biologist. "We need to trap them and use them as broodstock."

Formerly the Zimmerman ranch and purchased by the Tribe, it is now the Marion Drain Hatchery. "We're raising eggs there and basically doing the same thing the other facilities are. It's not high-tech like the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Center but we're getting there," Blodgett said.

"This year 20 to 40 redds were found in the drain so we don't take many adults until the run-size increases. Last year we collected seven females."

The fish wheel will stay in position there until the first of November. "The fish are



Tribal fishery technicians install fish wheel on the Marion Drain near Toppenish that collects broodstock for the hatchery. Photo courtesy Bob Gleason.

moving up the drain now but the peak happens when water is released. Then the fish hone in on that. We expect to see most of the fish then," Blodgett said.

Realizing the usual weir would not work because debris coming down piles up on it, fishery technicians began working on a blue print of their own to construct the fish wheel.

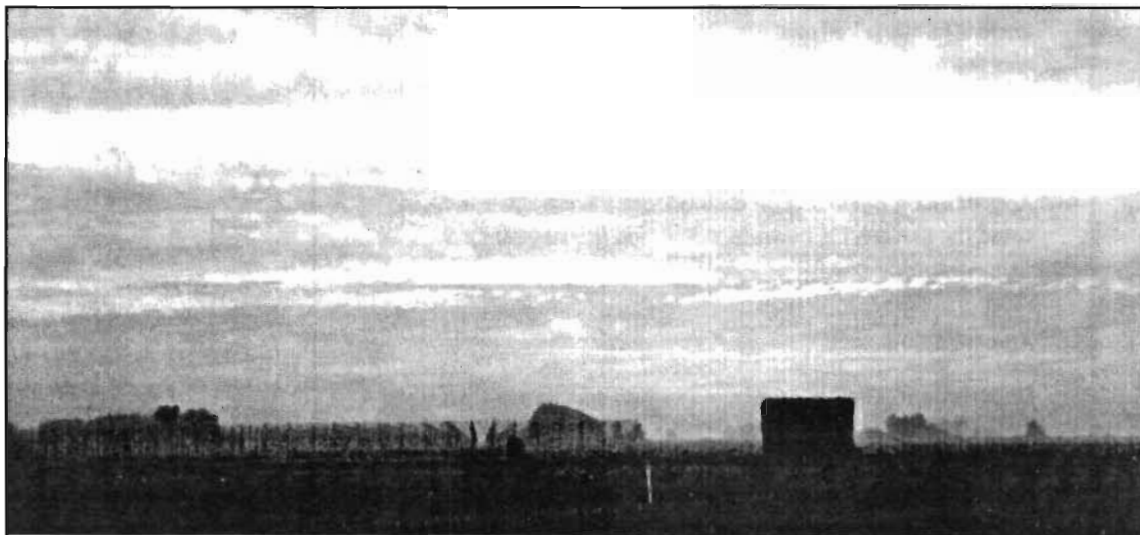
The wheel is self-cleaning and there

is not as much maintenance as the weir. Fishery staff and Troy Adams from Renegade Metals pieced it together.

The crew continued discussion plans with Adams and ended up doing the first prototype out of cardboard. "All of us worked on details and kept improving from there. This is part of our fall chinook supplementation program."

Early morning clouds cast an ocean like view just outside Toppenish, Wash. The clouds resembled the crest of waves as the ocean nears land.

"I was driving to work just before dawn and noticed the cloud formations made the sky look like the ocean and reminded me of Neah Bay," said Carol Craig, who took the photo.



Destroying eggs outrages tribes

By Linda Ashton (AP)

Yakima, Wash.--The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) is outraged by plans to destroy the eggs of more than a million hatchery-raised salmon in north-central Washington and is seeking a congressional investigation of federal fish policy.

"It's a horrible thing. It's a waste of already scarce salmon resources and, as such, it's a wasted opportunity for rebuilding runs in that area," said Charles Hudson, CRITFC spokesperson.

"The policies that are driving this have been exposed as a house of cards. They're not based on any scientific rationale and are designed for control rather than rebuilding."

The Commission, which is composed of the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Warm Springs tribes, has been joined by Colville Confederated Tribes in objecting to the planned destruction of 1.2 million to 1.5 million salmon eggs at the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery, run by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"The request for investigation is direct and timely. This agency has lost its way," said Randy Settler, chair of the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Committee.

The eggs represent more than half of those collected from the 1,200 spring chinook that returned to the Methow River Basin this year. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is seeking to phase out that stock in the basin over the next three years so those fish don't mix with a stock still containing native salmon genes.

On Sept. 25, Greg Pratschner, the hatchery-complex manager, said the Winthrop hatchery would begin destruction of the eggs that week as required by NMFS and that the agency had rejected all the alternatives he suggested. The adult fish are killed by clubbing.

NMFS has never ordered the Fish and

Wildlife Service to destroy eggs, but it has issued some constraints that likely drove that decision, said Bill Robinson, a fisheries service regional hatchery director in Seattle.

"We have worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of Washington and the Colville Tribe and others to try to find appropriate uses of progeny," he said.

The fish are not allowed to spawn naturally in the Methow Basin, and they can't be placed in waterways where a large number of hatchery salmon would be detrimental to federally protected wild runs, Robinson said.

"The request for investigation is direct and timely. This agency has lost its way."

*Randy Settler
Chair of the Yakama Nation Fish
and Wildlife Committee*

But a decision has not been made, he said.

Some of the Winthrop fish will be spawned and their eggs hatched and moved to ponds for rearing and later release. Any fish released must be marked, so hatchery fish can be distinguished from wild fish. Robinson acknowledged that hatcheries might not have sufficient resources to mark all the fish as required.

The issue of marking the fish is an important point, said Kurt Beardslee, director of Washington Trout, a wild salmon conservation group in Duvall.

"We have to have the ability to know which fish are wild and which fish are hatchery. We have to have that management tool," he said.

Unmarked hatchery fish are one of the reasons wild salmon populations are being lost because people end up unintentionally catching wild fish, he said.

In the absence of the ability to sufficiently mark fish, egg destruction is

probably the best choice, Beardslee said.

State Sen. Bob Morton, R-Orient said he is working with U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton to find out why the fish eggs could not be incubated and released in several streams in the area next spring.

Gorton has been working with Morton and the tribes and is seeking an explanation from NMFS on its position, said Todd Young, a spokesman for the senator.

"These fish were raised in a hatchery at taxpayer expense, with paid biologists' expertise; they put their heart and soul into making sure they survived," Morton said.

The salmon, after journeying past nine dams--twice--and surviving countless predators in their life cycle, should be given the chance to spawn, he said.

"They were successful in running the gauntlet. They proved themselves. What more can we expect? Let them finish their life cycle and spawn," he said.

"What we have (instead) is federal officials creating a program that assures their positions by destroying salmon. It's wrong. The taxpayers should rise up in revolt."

NMFS has an obligation to restore salmon to abundance and diversity while providing meaningful opportunities for ocean and in-river fishing, Hudson said.

"They appear to have lost track of those fundamental obligations in favor of micromanaging and genetic redecorating," he said.

"We don't disagree with the importance of maintaining genetic integrity, however, in the case of the Methow, the federal record itself reveals that this is more redecorating than repair."

"The fish stock that they are attempting to preserve and the stock they're attempting to eliminate can be proven to be directly related to each other--they are of the same genetic stock." Last year, 180,000 salmon were killed and their eggs destroyed when they returned to Washington hatcheries.



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Bradley retires to Mexico

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took charge to turn the fish and wildlife management program into reality," Bradley said. "While we were attending congressional hearings to get funding and support, the political leaders were asking why would Indians be interested in fish and wildlife management?" Adherent tribal leaders continued their D.C. visits and were successful in getting funds in 1992.

"This tribe has been a leader in the government returning control of their own lands to the tribe," he said. "This is the single largest fish and wildlife program in the United States!"

Today, according to Bradley, tribal people are getting degrees and he never forgot that his role was to fill the gap until tribal management can take over. "That's what I like to see. All these smiling faces and tribal people completing college."

Wildlife biologist Tracy Hames told the crowd he remembers the first advice given to him by Bradley. "It's easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission."

"He [Bradley] came right out of graduate school and took us under his wing," Hames said.

Cultural Resource Specialist, Joanna Meninick said, "Our culture keeps us together and keeps us going and we'll never change that. I hate to see him go but that's the way it goes." She also appreciated the luncheon on his behalf. "It has the greatest meaning when we share food with another person. I hope wherever he goes that he'll always remember us with good thoughts."

Meninick said it was not always that way and she was not a trusting. "But today we are good friends. It hurts to see those who worked for the tribe leave because it will come to the point where we will need their expertise."

Natural Resource Director Carroll Palmer said, "We had our differences but we always crossed the river. Maybe not at the same time

or place but we did it. He started a department that has grown to over 300 people. He dedicated his life to tribal issues and I've appreciated that."

Bradley received Pendleton blankets from the tribal council and wildlife staff along with numerous other gifts.

Afterwards people waited in a continuous long line to shake hands and share their thoughts. "I said I wasn't going to get misty but here I am," as he wiped his eyes. "We have come a long way in the last 22 years. You have a group of wonderful people to continue. It is a huge challenge to manage and preserve what we have. As I look around and see all of you, I know you can do it."

A special "Bye Bye Bradley" play by wildlife staff was presented Sept. 30. Bradley and wife, Julie, will retire to their newly constructed home in Cabu, Mexico.

(Sites—Continued from page 7)

were only five sites. Today there are 15. At Lyle, Underwood, North Bonneville and Wind River garbage, not from the site, is being put in dumpsters including mattresses and household furniture. "At some places I'd clean them in the morning only to return in the evening to see a mess," he said. There were clogged toilets at Roosevelt, Celilo, Lyle and Stanley Rock.

"I appreciate the people at North Bonneville, Lone Pine and Cascade Locks that are doing their share of cleaning up after themselves. But it's the irresponsible people that are making it difficult to keep clean."

Wasco County Sanitation and the Yakama Nation were at the sites twice along with Warm Springs. "I tried once to clean those sites and it's difficult," said Aleck.

The Roosevelt site had four buckets of fish heads and fish, carcasses in plastic bags that were left behind. "I just want people to know what a chore it is and to help out," he said.