

# Sin-Wit-Ki

(All life on earth)

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FRONT DESK

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## Tribes, state and feds agree on returning fish

Inside this issue:	
Fisher pix	2-3
Farewell staffers	4
Dams don't kill	5
Fisheries update	8
Dam removal	10

**T**oppenish, Wash.--Federal officials agreed with tribes in what is considered wise use of hatchery-reared fish by letting them spawn in the Methow River this year.

The final agreement on managing returning hatchery-reared spring chinook salmon going back to the upper Columbia River was reached by the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of Colville, the State of Washington and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Last June the tribes along with local support demonstrated near the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery opposing clubbing of what the state

deemed were 'excess fish' from the Carson stock so they would not spawn with wild fish in the Methow River.

Lynn Hatcher, Fisheries Program Manager for the Yakama Nation says the endangered wild fish stock are basically the same as the Carson stock. "Letting those fish spawn with the wild spring chinook will still produce fish closer to their ancestors than their hatchery cousins," he said. "This is what we wanted to happen all along. Let them spawn naturally," he said.

Recently all the parties agreed that their final decision was based on what they consider are

*(Parties--Continued on page 3)*

### Special points of interest

Prosser facility attracts many



Garfield's Ricardo Palmas gets his fish

## Huge run of fish keeps tribal fishermen busy

**I**n Zone 6, from Bonneville to McNary Dam, all along the Columbia River tribal fishermen were many during their first commercial spring chinook fishery in over two decades.

Tribes were the only entity to halt their fishery voluntarily back in 1977. As the returning fish numbers rose to nearly 400,000 there was a ten-day opening for tribal fishers held in three-day increments during April and May.

The abundant run provided more than enough for first salmon ceremonies at several longhouses among the four Columbia River treaty tribes Yakama, Nez Perce, Warm Springs and Umatilla.

Over-the-bank sales were in full swing at in-lieu sites including Koberg Beach, Cascade Locks, Celilo, Rufus, Lone Pine and Boardman in Oregon. On the Washington side public sales were held at Fort Raines, Wind River, Cook, Underwood, Lyle, Maryhill, Roosevelt and Alderdale.

Some tribal fishers headed back to their reservation with totes full of fish. Baptist 'Butch' Lumley stopped at the fisheries office parking lot April 20 to sell fish but wasn't too successful.

"People already seemed to have enough," he said. Commercial sales were allowed to non-tribal

*(Tribal fishers--Continued on page 2)*

## Tribal fishers line the river

(Continued from page 1)

customers who stood in lines at times, to barter with the tribal entrepreneurs.

At Cascade Locks five different vehicles with totes full of fish were lined along a parking lot just below the Bridge of the Gods. "We only have one left then we'll have to go back out and get some more," said Wilson LaMere, Jr. just before noon on May 3.

Ernie James Teeias had his pick-up truck parked near the edge of the concrete parking area. Teeias along with grandson Ryan James talked to interested buyers while showing them different sized-fish. "We haven't done too bad at all," said Teeias. "Yesterday we did a lot of business."

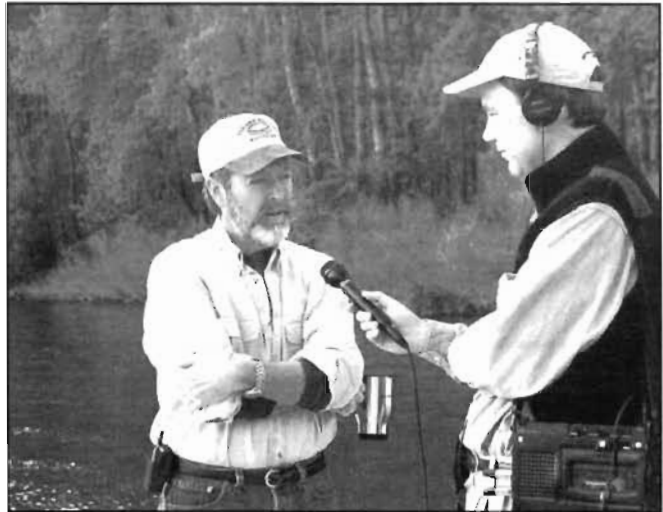
At the other end of town Marvin Bryan held up a weight scale as he peered at the numbers to get accurate

poundage. "We don't have too many left," Bryan said to a gentleman. "We're just checking things out. Will you have more tomorrow?" asked the potential buyer. "Probably," he said. Bryan like other tribal employees took time off from their regular job to take advantage of the numbers of returning fish to enhance their income. "Tribal people get to stop from their regular job to come out here to try and make some money which is good," he said. "I don't think other people can do that but we can."

Meanwhile at Koberg Park more commonly known as Stanley Rock, National Public Radio (NPR) was interviewing tribal biologist Steve Parker and tribal fishers to get a perspective on the tribes' commercial fishery. "He wanted to see how the fishers were doing," Parker said.

As soon as one of the fishing boats pulled alongside the pier Tom Bonse, NPR reporter approached James "Jess" Goudy. "How's it going out there?" he said. Goudy responded with "Okay." Goudy has fished since he was 13-years old. "It gets in your blood. You just enjoy it [fishing]," he said. Goudy fishes to supplement his income. "You need a full-time job to make ends meet though." He works at an aluminum plant near Goldendale, Wash. Goudy said he did better the first week and figured they caught around a thousand fish. A pick-up truck pulls up to the water by the boat to unload the cache of salmon. Bonse put the microphone near to record the sounds.

Later Bonse was invited aboard Randy Settler's fishing boat to talk. Settler, chair of the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Committee, cruised the river as his crew checked nets as Bonse learned the history of tribal fishing. NPR aired the story on May 8.



*Harvest manager for the fisheries program, Steve Parker chats with Tom Bonse, National Public Radio at Stanley Rock near Hood River, Ore. The story aired May 8. Photo by Carol Craig.*

*Sin-Wit-Ki translated from the Yakama tribal 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.*

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*Windy river provides just enough stability for tribal fishers while they check nets and load fish into totes during first spring commercial fishery on the Columbia River since 1977. Photo by Carol Craig.*



*Above--Ryan James keeps busy weighing fish for customers as grandfather, Ernie James Teeias looks on. Photos by Carol Craig.*

*Below--More potential customers checking on size of salmon at Cascade Locks Marina entrance where Marvin Bryan hoists fish for buyer.*



## **Parties agree to changes**

*(Continued from page 1)*

sound biological principles to recover salmon putting the hatchery fish to good use.

The agreement also takes into account local factors including water flows, habitat features and salmon status unique to the upper Columbia River Basin and includes specific appropriate management actions for this year's return of salmon.

"The Yakama Nation recognizes the importance of this agreement in shaping future salmon recovery plans which will contribute to rebuilding these depressed natural stocks," said Randy Settler, chair of the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife, Law and Order Committee.

"The tribe also looks forward to continuing its work with the parties and with local residents to implement the terms of this agreement."

Anne Badgley, Regional Director of the USFWS, praised the commitment and collaboration that went into the agreement. "This process started with considerable differences between the parties as to how the fish in the Methow, Entiat, and Wenatchee rivers could be used," she said. "In a very short time the parties succeeded in resolving those differences and working out an equitable solution."

Badgley said even though long-term issues still need to be addressed to rebuild natural salmon stocks and recover listed fish she's confident the parties will work together. "We have all demonstrated a commitment to promptly address these issues."

## **Hatchery practices to change for fish**

**I**n addition the agreement adds several new operations at the Leavenworth and Entiat National Fish hatcheries.

In the Wenatchee River system, Peshastin Creek will be seeded with chinook salmon coming from the Leavenworth Hatchery.

In the Entiat River, all salmon

returning to the hatchery will be used for broodstock or human consumption. And additional genetic studies are planned on the natural fish returning to that river.

In the Methow Basin this year, returning salmon will be collected for both the Methow State Hatchery and the Winthrop National Fish Hatchery in areas where local natural fish are known to congregate.

Adult fish not needed for hatchery broodstock will remain in the Methow River to spawn naturally.

This approach continues the practice of using local fish to support salmon recovery and at the same time puts every fish to good use that is returning to the Methow Basin.

Salmon recovery depends on the number of salmon perpetuating themselves in the stream, not the number of salmon returning from hatchery plants. "This is a sound agreement that incorporates flexibility to experiment with different hatchery practices and builds on improvements already made over the past decade at tribal, state and federal hatcheries throughout the Pacific Northwest," said Donna Darm, Acting Regional Administrator for NMFS based in Seattle, Wash.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is also supportive of the parties actions. "I am extremely pleased that the technical and policy representatives of the tribes and agencies could collaborate on achieving this agreement," said Larry Peck, deputy director for WDFW. "We have a need to develop a longer-term recovery strategy for the Methow Basin and for the other basins of the upper Columbia River, and we will actively pursue that process to be determined by the parties," he said.

"That process should work since we have been doing the same thing in the Yakima River," said Hatcher. For the last two years tribal and non-tribal fishers got to fish in the Yakima River as spring chinook and coho continue to return.



# Fish wrap



Bits & pieces  
of information

## Awareness of cultural places along the river

**A** four-day course in cultural resources around the Pacific Northwest was provided by the Washington State Cultural Resources Training Program.

State parks personnel and others came together at the Discovery Center May 8-11 near The Dalles, Ore.

Tribal and non-tribal speakers talked about the tribal perspective on cultural resources management, treaty rights, prehistoric stone artwork, identifying historic artifacts and included non-tribal views of logging in the Pacific Northwest and federal cultural resources regulations.

The 50 in attendance also took field trips to see different sites including petroglyphs along the Columbia River. Tribal speakers from the Yakama Nation included Clifford Washines, Carol Craig and Marilyn Malatare.

Umatilla and officer for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement, Lori Watlamet attended as was also asked to discuss her capacity in patrolling the river for looting and desecrating tribal archaeological sites including burial grounds. learned



## Farewell to two staffers

**I**t was a day to say good-bye and best wishes for two of the fish and wildlife program staff on May 3.

Lillian Eneas retired as phone operator. She has been with the program for six years. Eneas said she would miss the people on staff who would stop at the front desk and visit. "She even answered the phone one time by saying 'Fish and wildlife' and realized it was her personal phone," said George Lee, fisheries biologist.

Top photo-left to right-Rachel Loren and Ida Ike listen and nibble on cake while listening to Eneas talk about her traveling ventures. "I've been to Germany, Hawaii, after that Japan. I've seen most of the United States then I went to..." And she plans on more travels after she retires!

Wendell Willey served as fisheries biologist for a year and a half and will be heading east where he will work for the state of Minnesota. "His new boss will be Jesse Ventura," said Tracy Hames, wildlife biologist, as he handed him a key chain with the former wrestler's picture attached. "I even have one for Lillian," as Hames handed her a Jesse Venture magnet.

Lower picture--Willey, shows off new coffee cup during send-off by fish and wildlife staff. Willey says he will also wear his Yakama Nation sweatshirt proudly at his new post. He told staff that he enjoyed his stay and learned many things including the traditional environmental restoration methods used by the tribe. He is leaving to work for the State Dept. of Natural Resources at Eden Prairie. "It's not too far from Minneapolis," he said. Photos by Carol Craig.



## Corps--"Dams don't kill fish"

**T**he U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Snake River dam operations aren't overheating the water and killing salmon as reported in a federal court order response. Further the Corps has no plans to change dam operations to cool the water.

Last February, U.S. District Judge Helen Frye learned the Corps' operation of the four lower Snake River dams in Eastern Washington violated the Clean Water Act as rising water temperatures became dangerous for fish.

Court papers filed May 15 said although the dams "may contribute" to rising water temperatures in the river the operation of them "has no significant impact on water temperatures."

The Corps also said in the report, "There are no operational changes that we can undertake to significantly decrease river water temperatures."

"I am very disheartened by the Corps' response," said Kristen Boyles, lawyer for Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund (ELDF) in Seattle, Wash. The lawsuit was filed by ELDF on behalf of the Nez Perce Tribe, state of Oregon and environmental groups.

"This will not go unchallenged in some way because the Corps' punt on this issue--to say 'Oh yeah, we'll consider it. Oh yeah, it's not a problem!!--is shameless," said Boyles in an Associated Press story.

## BPA orders spill to help fish

**W**ater was ordered by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to be spilled at Bonneville and The Dalles dams on May 17.

The spillways at both dams will make it easier for salmon smolts to reach their destination--the ocean. Prior to dam-making the smolt journey would take a

mere seven days. Because of the impoundments today, a smolt's trip make take over 40 days and some perish as their bodies are changing to adapt to salt water.

Officials said they would continue releasing water for about three weeks. Just last month BPA indicated twice they would exercise a clause in federal law that allows them to withhold water for fish in times of an emergency.

In an Associated Press story the change took prompting from Gov. John Kitzhaber-Ore. and environmentalists for BPA to begin the spilling of water over the dams to help fish. This year's spill will only be a third of the water that is usually released in May.

## Taking terns on Rice Island

**N**o terns have been observed on the former tern colony site at Rice Island since the area was flagged on April 20.

"We suspect that the flagging, fencing, and encroaching vegetation have rendered the former colony site at Rice Island unsuitable for tern nesting this year," said, Dan Roby, Assistant Unit Leader-Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

Terns were beginning to nest on the East Ridge of Rice Island east of the former tern colony. A total of 96 terns and six nest scrapes were counted on May 1. The following day no terns were observed roosting or nesting on the East Ridge, but 87 terns and 8 nest scrapes were counted on the North Shore above the high high-tide line. "But during a subsequent visit to these sites on May 6 no terns were observed roosting or attempting to nest at either site and no tern eggs have been observed on Rice Island so far this year," Roby said.

Terns have a voracious appetite for the baby fish as the journey to the ocean and the experiment seems to be working.

For more information log on to <http://www.columbiabirdresearch.org>.

In the corner with CC

**W**ell folks, it's parade time again--already!  
Yakama Nation staff

members are gearing up for the annual Treaty Days Parade June 8 as signs are popping up all over advertising fund raisers for the various programs.

Who will take the coveted first place in each of the divisions and who is designing what this year? Everyone seems to be silent on that information. As I see different employees from the other programs I ask them, "What are guys doing this year." There are some pretty tight lips out there and answers are terse. "Not much." "Probably the same thing." "Can't tell you right now."

The parade is becoming a better event each year as programs are getting serious with float designs. Last year the Wildlife staff won first place in the 12-employees and over division for the third year. Gina King designed a huge paper-mache eagle that fit atop a huge truck surrounded by other wildlife animals and plants. And, they made it look easy.

So far fisheries has not decided what we are going to do but it will be fun too! Oh, I am not suppose to mention anything either.

This year the parade promises to be even bigger and better with a new parade route that will have entrants leaving the from Yakamart continuing on the side road by the freeway then by the Cultural Center and onto the agency. Sounds like more fun to me. Good luck to all the programs!!

*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 facility serves as classroom

**P**rosser, Wash.--As public schools learn there is a place they can take their students to learn about fish the Prosser Acclimation facility is becoming a popular classroom of sorts. And the visitors come in a variety of age groups.

One such group were first-graders that giggled, were in awe, wide-eyed and curious. The classes were split into two groups to tour the Prosser Acclimation Facility May 17.

Just before entering they were warned by guide, Bob Tuck to take careful steps. "It's really noisy inside too," he told them. "So listen carefully."

The students from Garfield Elementary School in Toppenish were excited because some of them had never seen a fish much less getting a close up look.

"Ooo, look at the fish," said some of them as they walked past the fish passage way inside. The fish are diverted from the canal outside the facility and sorted inside. They walked slowly and carefully listening to Tuck. Squirming sucker fish lay at the bottom of the fishway as Tuck stepped down and grabbed one of them. "See it has no teeth so it can't hurt you," he said. But most of them stepped back or cringed as he walked around to show them. Only one student



*Bob Tuck shows students from Garfield School a sucker fish inside the facility at Prosser. "See it has no teeth and can't hurt you," said Tuck as the children react with trepidation.*



*Adrian Carrasco was the only student brave enough to hold sucker fish as buddies left-Eduardo Flores and right-David Rodriguez gather to take a look.*



*Photos by Carol Craig.*



*First graders from Garfield take to fish as Humberto Sosa shows Ricardo Palmas smolt he grabbed from raceway at Prosser facility.*

*(School visitors--Continued on page 7)*



Above--STEP's Christopher Swimptkin jots down data taken from fish scanner. Halo-like device checks PIT tag from fish. Below--Dirk 'D.J.' Spencer uses elbow grease to sweep bottom of fishway. Photos by Carol Craig.



## School visitors take in facility site

(Continued from page 6)

volunteered to hold the fish as the others looked on in amazement. Then Tuck led them down the steel stairwell to take a look at salmon smolts the Prosser crew were working up.

Crew members do not hesitate to stop and talk with the visitors each time a new group comes through the building. "These are baby fish that we worked on earlier this year," said Seymore Billy as he grabbed one of the little fish from the trough. More oohs and aaahs came from the onlookers. Billy showed them a little red dot in the fish's eye that was inserted earlier in the year. "See that red spot on their eye? That was done so we can identify it later," he said.

Billy encouraged them to put their hands in the water to retrieve one of the fish. As some stood back others stepped forward, rolled up their jacket sleeves and quickly plucked out a fish.

Later the group went outside to the other portion of the facility to see the acclimation ponds and listen to tribal biologist Joe Blodgett explain how they take river water and pump it into the ponds so the baby fish will get used to it. "Then when they are ready to leave, we let them go on their own," he told them. The morning tour enlightened the students as they learned more about salmon and what the tribe is doing to restore fish in the Yakima River.

This was not the first visitors for the month of May and they first-graders would not be the last.

"This month's visitor's schedule is pretty full," said Blodgett as he scanned down the list.

Earlier this month the STEP

(Sciences and Tribal Education Partnership) students were at Prosser learning the 'ropes' of fish tagging, scanning and recording.

"This is part of their curriculum," said Leon Strom, STEP coordinator. "They are getting so much out of this program and it is good to see them work so hard," he said.

Their day's venture had them learning how to scan the smolts and record the data. Each fish as an individual Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag and the students had to scan each one and write down the information.

Upstairs, Dirk 'D.J. Spencer and Armando Ramos were learning why it is important to keep the fish passage way clear of debris. "We have to keep this clean for the fish," said Sid Wak Wak, fisheries technician. Both grabbed the long broom-like poles and begin the chore. "Hey, the water is really swift," said Spencer as he

balanced himself and the pole.

Visitors come from various entities not that stopped by the facility this month. Others included a group of 50 public school teachers, members from the Northwest Power Planning Council, and fourth grade students from Sunnyside and sixth grade students from Yakima and Prosser.

With so many visitors throughout the month one may wonder whether it interferes with the crew's working day. Blodgett didn't hesitate to say he enjoys the tours and the education process when they have visitors.

"The time we spend with the schools and all of the visitors is great," said Blodgett. "Anytime you can get the chance to educate them on what the tribe is doing for fish is another step in them understanding. The benefit exceeds the time spent during our working day."

*"Anytime you can get the chance to educate them on what the tribe is doing for fish is great. The benefit exceeds the time spent during our working day."*



# Fisheries update

## *Best spring fishery since the late 70s adds fishing days on the Columbia River*

**T**ribes will have harvested around 52,000 upriver spring chinook or 13 percent of the upriver run according to the three to five year interim agreement and the latest forecast data.

The Columbia River Treaty tribes also concluded their gillnet permit fishing on April 15 with a total of 6,868 fish.

Four commercial gillnet fishing periods between April 17 and May 12 gave tribal fishers nine days to add to their income.

Total catch for commercial gillnets was 39,540 chinook and 300 steelhead through May 19. Around 3,100 was the total through May 31 for the platform and hook-and-line fishery.

According to Steve Parker, harvest manager for fisheries, low water conditions were to blame for the greatly reduced platform and hook-and-line catch.

Total tribal catch through May 19 stands at 49,443 chinook and 550 steelhead. "The remaining 2,557 will either be caught in the platform/hook-and-line fishery or in the ceremonial/subsistence gillnet permits," Parker said.

Counts of fish at Bonneville Dam began March 15 and lasted through May 17. The current total is 361,448 fish. Daily spring chinook counts range from 1,000 and 3,000 fish since May 9.

Steelhead counts over Bonneville have ranged between 50 to 100 a day and totaled 4,636 through May 17. "The spring chinook run appears to be tracking similar to 1977 run timing, which is the earliest on record," said Parker.

## **Sturgeon fishery**

**A**bout 700 to 1,000 sturgeon remain within the annual guideline for the Bonneville and John Days pools. The sturgeon commercial setline fishing should re-open in Bonneville and John Day pools around June 1. "No specific opening date has been set yet," Parker said.

Each of the fisheries should extend through August or until the catch guideline has been achieved. In recent years, the Bonneville Pool guideline was achieved by mid-July and the John Day has yet to reach its guideline.



## **Tributaries**

Tribal catches were mainly concentrated in the hook and line fishery at the mouth early on. Since then tribal fishers have moved to dipnetting above and below Shipperd Falls. Total catch for the Wind River through May 19 is 1,080 chinook and 15 steelhead.

The Klickitat River catch has been slow and mainly at night. The Klickitat River catch total is at 150 chinook and 15 steelhead through May 12. Icicle River opened May 15 and catch numbers are at 440 chinook through May 12.

Weekly lottery fisheries are held every Tuesday evening as of April 17. Through May 16, the tribal harvest is 5,183 chinook and 11 steelhead. Nightly catches have steadily increased from 450 to 1,770 through May 16, but are expected to decline for the last two openings.

## **Creeks and drains**

**S**atus Creek and its tributaries, Logy and Dry creeks, Toppenish Creek and its tributaries, Marion and Harrah drains, are closed to fishing by non-tribal members until further notice. For tribal members, Satus and its tributaries and Toppenish and its tributaries are closed until May 25. Marion and Harrah drains have been open since April 1. Other creeks, drains and ponds are open.

Questions about on-reservation fishing seasons should be directed to David Lind, tribal biologist for fisheries. Elderly and handicapped non-tribal members may obtain a complimentary reservation fishing permit by contacting Frances Bushman at wildlife. Other non-tribal members must purchase a reservation license.

### **Summary of 2001 tribal tributary fishing**

River	Season dates	Weekly period
Columbia	Jan. 1-- Dec. 31	Year around
Wind	Below Shipperd Falls: Mar. 12-June 23	Daily
	Above falls: May 7-- June 23	Daily
Drano Lake	April 17--May 29	Tuesday nights
White Salmon	April 2--June 16	Daily
Klickitat	April 4--June 2	Noon Tues.-- Midnight Sat.
Yakima	April 11--May 19	Noon Tues.-- Midnight Sat.
Ringold	May 14--July 31	Daily
Icicle	May 8--July 22	6 a.m. Tues.--6 p.m. Sun



*Summary of expected spring chinook runs, harvest and escapement in 2001 with proposed sport and tribal fisheries*

Fishing area	Run size forecast	Projected season harvest or harvest to date*		Escapement goal	Remaining (natural spawn or hatchery surplus)
		Non-tribal	Tribal		
Columbia River	400,000	8,000	52,000	--	--
Wind River	42,600	2,873*	1,080*	664 more	37,983
Drano Lake	11,100	2,750*	5,183*	1,088 more	1,667
White Salmon	1,100	350*	<100	--	--
Klickitat	1,900	75*	150*	968 more	707
Yakima	26,100	1,321*	1,208*	--	23,571
Ringold				--	
Icicle	10,650		440*	1,500	8,710

"We're not paying even though it was well intended," Hansen said. "The Yakama tribe basically went off and did something on their own and sent us the bill."

The dispute arises from what Hansen termed a "casual conversation that was part of a larger conversation" between Settler and BPA's acting administrator Steve Wright in early March. Among other things, the two leaders talked about traditional tribal methods of dealing with drought.

Settler said he told Wright the Yakama's couldn't guarantee results--and Wright reportedly told Settler he couldn't guarantee any water induced by the Yakama's efforts would be used for fish needs.

BPA is under extraordinary pressure to produce hydropower this year for a region whose rivers are near all-time lows. To do that, the cash-strapped agency has suspended many of its normal operations to protect salmon, such as spilling water over the top of dams to carry fish past powerhouses.

"We did tell him we weren't doing it for Bonneville," Settler said. "We're doing this for the natural resources that are dependent on the water."

Yakama ceremonies include one called "the big question," in which followers of ancient tribal ways tune into nature--such as a bug, a deer or other creatures--for answers to the drought.

The "big question," said Settler, is this: "Is there anyone who is close enough to any particular part of nature that can still ask...how they could make such a rain event happen?"

Hansen said, Wright was willing to listen to tribal proposals and

(Rain--Cont. on page 10)



## BPA rejects bill for rain ceremonies

By Mike Lee--Tri-City Herald

**D**rought or no, there are some things the Bonneville Power Administration isn't ready to pay for, including tribal rain ceremonies.

In what's turning out to be another sore spot for tribal-BPA relations, the federal power marketing agency has rejected a \$32,000 bill submitted by the Yakama Nation for performance of drought-striveled region.

"It was pretty much a blow to me to hear from the BPA administrator that he couldn't find the funds...to assist this," said Randy Settler, fish and wildlife chairman on the Yakama tribal council. "I wouldn't have pursued (this activity) if I didn't think it was going to help the region and the resource."

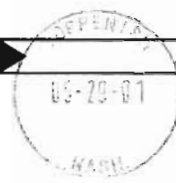
Besides, said Settler, the tribal ceremonies in March worked. "We've had more rain since those events," he said. "We've had a lot of rain."

Precipitation numbers support his contention. April marked the first time this year for above-normal precipitation in the Yakima Basin, keeping farmers from losing even more irrigation water and aiding young fish headed to the ocean.

That's not good enough for BPA, which expected Yakama leaders to produce plans for the agency to review before any ceremonies.

The bill was "pretty vague" about what the \$32,000 was for, said Mike Hansen, BPA spokesman.

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COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-  
TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
PORTLAND, OREGON

*(Rain--Continued from page 9)*  
possibly "provide some  
resources."

"Recognizing and respecting  
cultural difference about how  
people handle the current crisis  
we are in...Steve Wright said,  
'That sounds interesting...Send  
us a proposal and we may be  
able to help.'

Settler took the conversation  
as approval to move forward.

"We're pretty much  
following the directions of  
BPA," he said. Now, "We are  
unable to get Bonneville to  
agree to the commitment they  
made."

Several tribal members held  
two events in the mountains,  
bringing traditional foods such  
as roots and berries. A third  
much larger and more costly  
event was canceled after BPA  
rejected the first bill. It likely  
would have attracted hundreds  
of Indian for a five-day  
ceremony in April, Settler  
said.

## Open house to discuss dam removal

**V**ancouver, Wash.--The public is  
invited to attend an open house May  
31 to discuss removing Hemlock  
Dam north of Carson, Wash. to  
restore fish passage and habitat for Lower  
Columbia River steelhead.

The Mount Adams Ranger District is  
beginning an Environmental Impact Statement  
(EIS) to assess improving fish passage on the  
Trout Creek tributary of the Wind River by  
removing the 65-year Id dam.

The 'open house' at the Rock Creek  
Community Center in Stevenson, Wash. will  
provide information about the dam, Trout  
Creek fish status and opportunities for  
improving fish passage including removal of  
the dam.

The initial stage, know as 'scoping,' is  
designed to gather issues from the public that  
should be looked at as the District begins to

form and analyze alternatives.

All information gathered from this forum will  
be used in developing alternatives for the EIS.  
Once alternatives are set, the EIS will again be  
open for public review and comment. The  
deadline for receiving scoping comments is  
Aug. 31.

At the May 31 open house, District specialists  
will give an overview of the project at 2:30 p.m.  
and again at 7 p.m. District personnel will be  
available to discuss aspects of the project.

Hemlock Dam has been recognized as a  
barrier to migratory fish passage, including  
Lower Columbia steelhead, a species listed as  
threatened for extinction. The long-term  
survival of Trout Creek wild steelhead is  
dependent upon a combination of effective fish  
passage and quality aquatic habitat.

The Civilian Conservation Corps built  
Hemlock Dam in 1936 on Trout Creek about  
one mile upstream from its confluence with the  
Wind River to generate electric power for the  
Wind River Nursery. In 1958 the dam was  
retooled to provide irrigation water for the  
nursery fields. The nursery closed in 1997, and  
much of the land surrounding the dam is being  
transferred to Skamania county.

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