

# Sin-Wit-Ki

(All life on earth)

July 2001  
Volume 6, Issue 6

## Second eagle nest site located on reservation

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*Newest nest was located along the Yakima River on the reservation that has two adult eagles around three or four years old. Photo courtesy Gaylord Mink.*

**P**erched high in the cottonwood trees along the Yakima River, Yakama Nation wildlife biologist, Tracy Hames and videographer, Gaylord Mink were surprised to find yet another bald eagle breeding site making it the second nesting area on tribal lands.

While on the Satus Wildlife Refuge they noticed a nest they had not seen before. As they looked through binoculars they saw two adult eagles around three or four years old at the new site. "We figured they were that age because both had white heads," said Mink. He has been videotaping various projects for the fish and

*(Eagles—Continued on page 8)*

### Special points of interest

- Tribal women continue drying fish
- CRITFE campaign asks for public's help

## Minthorn elected new CRITFC chair

**P**ortland, Ore.—Mainstay commissioner and Umatilla tribal leader, Jay Minthorn was elected to chair the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). Minthorn, 65, has served as commissioner for 14 years and was on the Umatilla tribe's fish and wildlife committee before becoming a member of the Board of Trustees there. "In my opinion, we're veterans. We talk treaty rights every hour of the day and we go to war to protect our resources," he said in a *Confederated Umatilla Journal* newspaper interview.

Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife committee member, Randy Settler, was elected as vice-chair. He previously served as CRITFC secretary. Jerry McCormack of Nez Perce is secretary and Harold Blackwolf, Sr. is the new treasurer. He is also current chairman of the Warm Springs Fish and Wildlife Committee. CRITFC is the technical arm to the four Columbia River treaty tribes including Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Warm Springs nations.



*Harmony Workshop guests at Twin Lakes heard Paul Williams (Center) talk about how tribal fishers use the dipnet and hoopnet. Afterwards they closed-in to get a first hand look and touch of the net. More on page 5. Photo by Carol Craig.*

# Small but deadly

**T**he deer mouse is a cute little animal, with big eyes and big ears but the dainty looking rodent can cause terrible illnesses and sometimes death among humans.

Hantavirus pulmonary syndrome (HPS) is an extremely rare disease the rodents carry yet nearly half of the cases reported are fatal.



*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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Its color varies from gray to reddish brown depending on its age. The underbelly is always white and the tail has sharply defined white sides and is found almost everywhere in North America. It likes woodlands but also turns up in desert areas.

HPS disease was first recognized in 1993 when the New Mexico Office of Medical Investigator notified the New Mexico Dept. of Health when there were three clusters of unexplained pulmonary deaths that occurred in the Four Corners region. (Four Corners carries the name because that is where four states share a common border in the United States).

Hantaviruses that cause HPS are carried by rodents, especially the deer mouse, cotton rats and rice rats in the southeastern states and the white-footed mouse in the Northeast. A person can become infected by exposure to their droppings, fresh rodent urine or when their nesting materials are stirred up. When tiny droplets containing the virus get into the air, this process is known as "aerosolization."

Researchers suspect that if the virus-infected rodent urine, droppings or saliva contaminates food that you eat then you become sick or when you touch something that has been contaminated by the rodent urine, droppings or saliva and subsequently touch your nose or mouth you become infected.

The first signs of sickness, especially fever and muscle aches, appear one to five weeks later, followed by short breath and coughing. Once this phase begins, the disease progresses rapidly, requiring hospitalization and often ventilation within 24 hours. However, it is not contagious from person to person.

There may also be headaches, dizziness, chills and/or abdominal problems, such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and abdominal pain.

Here in the Pacific Northwest the deer mice that carry the hantavirus are more prevalent on the east side of the Cascades. Since 1996 there have been 23 cases of confirmed HPS reported in Washington State. Eight cases were fatal. Ages ranged from 20 to 66 years old, seven were males. Eight cases occurred in residents east of the Cascades.

Transmission of the disease can happen any place where infected rodents have infested the area. This could be barns or sheds or other outbuildings, warehouses or cabins that have been closed up for the season. Carrier rodents can infest homes as well.

HPS cannot be transmitted by any other animals like farm animals, insects, dogs and cats. They may bring infected rodents into contact with people by catching and carrying them home.

After investigating both inside and outside the homes of those who became ill there were signs of rodent infestation like droppings, nests, dead rodents, and urine tracks. Nine out of the ten homes were infested. Some work sites were also evaluated to see if there was a connection.

If anyone has been around rodents and contact symptoms of fever, deep muscle aches and severe

shortness of breath, go to the doctor immediately. Be sure to tell the doctor you have been around rodents - this will alert your physician to look closely for any rodent-carried disease such as HPS.

To avoid being exposed to HPS take precaution when outdoors. Stay away from rodents by not feeding them or disturbing their dens or nests. Stay out of cabins or shelters until they have been disinfected and aired out.

Pitch tents well away from garbage cans, woodpiles or other places that rodents live. Avoid any areas where there are burrows or rodent droppings. Use a tent with a floor and do not sleep on the bare ground.

Keep food and food scraps in tightly covered containers and put all trash in covered garbage cans. Clean dishes and cooking utensils right after using them. When harvesting crops or hay, wear gloves and protective clothing.

## *Keep mice away*

- Don't store pet food uncovered or in open feeding dishes.
- Store grains and animal feed in containers with tight fitting covers.
- Use a plastic trash can with a lid for kitchen garbage and food scraps.
- Plug up, screen or cover all openings into your home that a mouse might get through.
- Use steel wool to plug holes around the base of buildings.
- Use spring-loaded mousetraps. If you use poison bait, follow the directions carefully.
- Wear gloves when handling dead mice.
- Keep the area within 100 feet of your house clear of junk piles, debris or old cars where mice will nest.
- Keep weeds, brush and grass cut.
- Tightly cover outdoor garbage cans and raise them 12 inches off the ground.
- Stack fire wood, lumber and hay 12 inches off the bare ground and as far from the house as possible. Use mousetraps near woodpiles and haystacks.

## *Cleaning infected areas*

Steps to follow when cleaning places where mice fed, left droppings or nested.

- Wear latex or rubber gloves.

(Continued from page 2)

- Mix a solution of one cup bleach to 10 cups water or use another disinfectant solution.
- Do not vacuum, sweep or dust. This may spread the virus through the air. Use rags, sponges and mops that have been soaked in the disinfectant solution.
- Thoroughly spray or soak any dead mice, droppings or nesting areas with disinfectant solution.
- Wipe down counter tops, cabinets and drawers. Mop floors and baseboards.
- Steam clean carpets, rugs and upholstered furniture.
- Wash clothes and bedding in hot water and detergent. Set the dryer on high.
- To dispose of contaminated items, including dead mice, put them in a plastic bag. Seal the bag and put it in another plastic bag. Seal the outer bag and put in our outdoor garbage can.
- Disinfect or throw away the gloves you used. When you are done, wash your hands and/or shower with soap and hot water.
- When cleaning closed buildings like a cabin, garage or shed air out the building for at least one hour by opening windows and doors.
- Leave the building while airing out.
- Wear gloves and a dust mask while cleaning.
- Follow the steps above and spray dirt floors with the bleach or disinfectant solution.

# Taking it to the streets

**R**ich in tribal history that comes in the form of artifacts, the Columbia River Gorge has proven to be digging grounds for voracious looters and thieves.

"We're taking our message to the public who may be able to help us," said Officer Lori Watlamet with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFC).

Watlamet is the sole person patrolling the river in search of clues at cultural historical sites where looting or digging is evident. "That includes the petroglyphs too," she said. "I've seen places where people have actually tried to pry these stones out of place."

Now CRITFE will try an additional tactic to stop the robbing of the cultural tribal sites that stretch all along the gorge. "We're going to post signs so the public will be aware. There have been many helpful people but we still need to do more to protect the artifacts."

Watlamet is posting the signs along the river alerting the public. "Hopefully this will deter potential thieves from scouring and digging which is a federal offense," she said.

## We need your help!

*Cultural resources are everyone's resources. NOT the property of looters and vandals. Help protect these invaluable resources!*

**T**ribal cultural artifacts are not a renewable resource. Once taken or damaged they are lost to all of us. Tribal artifacts should be left in place and honored.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Enforcement (CRITFE), along with Oregon and Washington State law enforcement agencies are serious about enforcing the laws that protect tribal cultural resources.

If you suspect a violation, do not get involved or approach the scene!

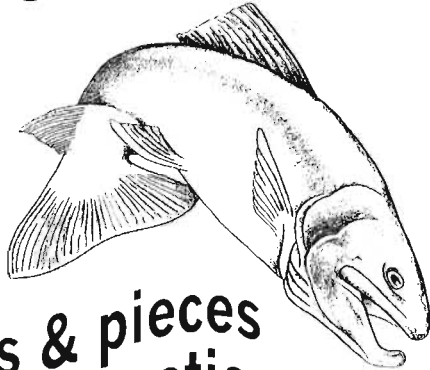
Report the violation immediately to the CRITFE Office by calling toll free **1-800-487-FISH (3474)**.



One of the many petroglyphs that line the Columbia River gorge.



# Fish Wrap



Bits & pieces  
of information

Back then-  
traditional way



## Today-women busy on river

Continuing their stay at the river, Sharon Dick-Klickitat, right and Scherri Sotomish-Nez Perce, above, demonstrate the fish drying process to videographer, Jens Lund.

Lund visited the two tribal women at Stanley Rock on the Columbia River to document their work for the Washington State Arts Commission (WSAC).

WSAC provides a grant to Dick for tribal people who would like to learn how to dry salmon using the traditional method. "Scherri has been a great student and learns fast," she said. "We'll continue into the fall season."

At right, Dick tells Lund how the entire fish body is used while Sotomish works on the filleted salmon cutting it into thin slices to dry. Photos by Carol Craig.



## New BIA Director quiz

**T**ribal women have always stayed busy during the year preparing salmon for future use whether the fish was dried, canned or smoked.

Today is no exception as tribal women in today's modern world still dry fish the traditional way.

Although there is no identification of the women in this photo taken in the 40s or 50s it is an indication the tribal tradition was being passed down.

**I**n a two and a half page statement to the United States Senate on June 13, newly appointed Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) director, Neal McCaleb emphasized "There are extensive needs for improved and expanded \_\_\_\_\_ throughout Indian country."

What is the primary responsibility of the BIA? Is it—A. Protection of habitat for fish and wildlife? B. Health care? C. Day care facilities? Or D. Privatized jails? If you said A, B or C, none of these items were mentioned in his speech. If you guessed that jails are what the BIA is all about, you too, could be on your way to a cabinet position!



## Gathering at Twin Lakes

**F**ederal and state workers camped out on the Colville Reservation June 25-28 at Twin Lakes.

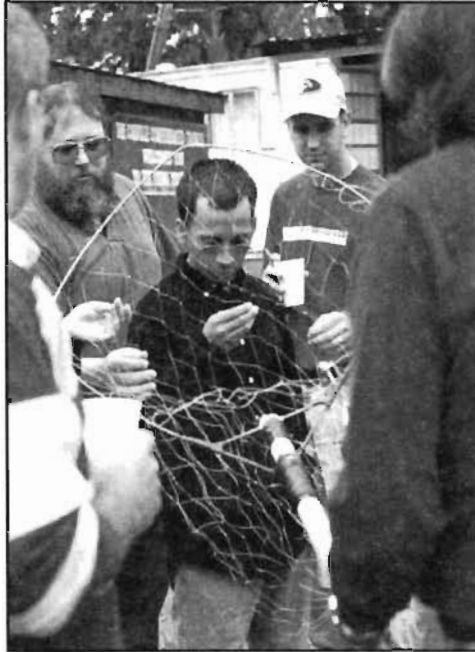
The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service employees from all over the state attend the four-day campout to increase their understanding of tribal culture to better communicate with tribes.

This is the third year Carol Craig, public information manager was invited as one of several tribal speakers. "As part of the federal government's trust responsibility and fiduciary obligations, staff learn what those terms mean from the speakers," she said.

"The 2001 Harmony Workshop brings newly hired staff together for a few days to hear tribal people talk about their culture and traditions. The employees seem to enjoy the time spent at the Colville Youth Camp site," Craig said.

Other speakers included Louie Dick from the Umatilla Nation, Colleen Cawston, Joe Peone, Rodney Cawston and Terry Knapton from the Colville Tribe.

Jim Peters from the Squaxin Island Tribe gave recommendations on how to work with tribes. Dr. Dennis Colson, College of Law, University of Idaho discussed federal and tribal relations.



*Harmony Workshop participants gather closer to inspect hoop net held by Paul Williams, Colville fisher. Photo by Carol Craig.*

## College intern visits program

**N**ineteen-year old Emily Olney stopped by the Fish & Wildlife offices to "take in" all she can. "I've been visiting the natural resources programs the tribe has and it's been really interesting and a lot of good information I

have been taking in," she said.



Olney is currently a college intern with the Economic Development Program. She graduated from White Swan last year

and is continuing her education at Yakima Valley Community College where she is majoring in agriculture.

She visited the buffalo site along with John Carl and plans on more site visits with wildlife and fisheries.

She is the daughter of Allen and Marie Olney.

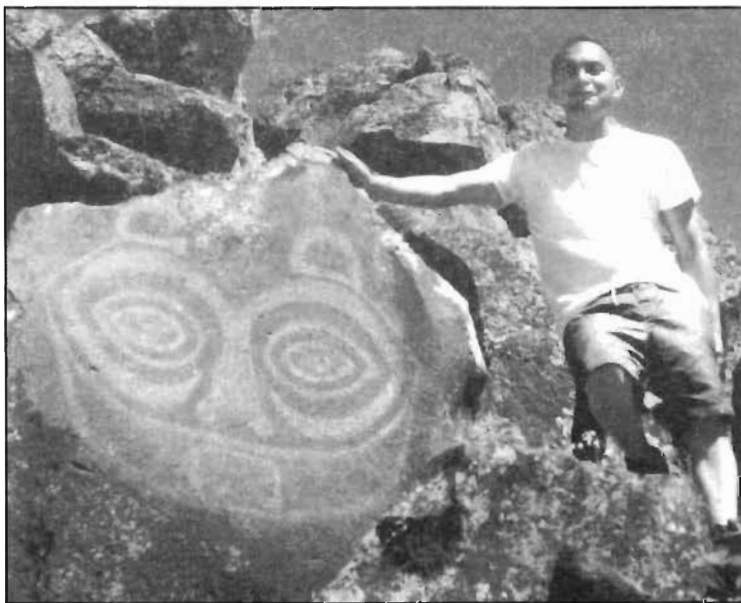
## Makah whale hunt a go

**A**fter being forced to delay their whale hunt the Makah Nation could be back on the waters as early as next month.

In a victory for treaty rights, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) signed off on an assessment expanding the whale hunt year round and the tribe may take as many as five whales a year.

The appeals court ruled the government improperly approved the cooperative plan when approached by activists and former congressman, Jack Metcalf who requested an environmental assessment. "The petition was clearly an attempt to deal with the whaling issue than to address an endangered species, issue," said Brian Gorman from NMFS. Now the feds and tribe have to finalize a revised cooperative agreement before the hunt takes place.

Tribal sovereignty is alive within tribal nations!



*James Tilloquots, crew leader for Salmon Corps poses by "She who watches," or Tsgaglala. Photo courtesy Gina George.*

**S**almon Corps assisted in setting up for the Repatriation Monument Setting and traditional dinner June 22 at Horsethief Lake Park along the Columbia River. "We were there the day before working on everything. We had some extra time so we hiked to some of petroglyphs," said Gina George, Yakama Nation corps director.

Fish eating birds target salmon—

# Latest on caspian tern colony

**T**erns are devastating to the migrating juvenile salmon as the birds feed on fish trying to make it to the ocean.

Regional plans for Columbia Basin salmon recovery recommended avian predation be thoroughly investigated, along with other salmon mortality factors. The Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, U.S. Geological Survey at Oregon State University, and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission initiated a study in 1997 to assess the impacts of gulls, terns, and cormorants on the survival of juvenile salmon in the lower Columbia River.

The ongoing study of caspian tern colony counts continue at the mouth of Columbia River indicating a 25 percent decrease in the median count of terns on East Sand Island. July 9 there were 8,720 terns while on July 15 there were 5,355.

According to the Columbia Bird Research website the satellite tern colony continues to be active on the beach southeast of the main colony, above the high-high tide line. Adult terns counts amounted to 250 with half sitting in nest scrapes. At least 30 young tern chicks have been sighted in this area as well.

Young terns continue to fledge from the East Sand Island tern colony. As many as 1,600 fledged tern chicks have moved from the East Sand Island colony to the adjacent beaches this past week, with thousands more young [chicks] remaining on the colony. "We suspect that production of young terns at the East Sand Island tern colony this year could be considerably higher as compared to last year," said Ken Collis, research investigator. An aerial photo census July 2 will determine the number of young terns that have been raised to fledging age this year. "Those photos will be analyzed in the coming weeks and the results made available in an upcoming update," he said.

At the Mid-Columbia River Sites, Crescent Island and Miller Rocks, high and low colony counts was 209 terns July 13 and 40 terns July 12 indicating a 49 percent decrease in the median count of terns on the Crescent Island tern colony from the week earlier. Many young terns have already fledged from the

Crescent Island tern colony. "We suspect that the productivity of terns nesting on Crescent Island this year will be somewhat higher than last year.

Miller Rocks, an island located on the lower Columbia River just upstream of the mouth of the Deschutes River, was visited on July 15 where 10 adult terns were counted with five sitting in nest scrapes. "One large tern chick, probably about 30 days old, was also seen at the colony site. This is the first documentation of terns attempting to nest on Miller

Rocks, or any other up-river location on the lower Columbia River, other than Crescent and Three Mile Canyon islands," Collis said.

At the Inland Washington Sites near Potholes Reservoir on Solstice Island there were approximately, 190 adult terns and 170 chicks counted on July 11.

Two radio-tracking flights were conducted this month in the Columbia River estuary. Twenty-four of the 48 relocations of radio-tagged terns (50 percent) were on the East Sand Island colony, which is a 37 percent decline in on-colony re-sightings from the previous week. Of all the off-colony detections of radio-tagged terns that are known to be nesting on East Sand Island, one (8 percent) was in Willapa Bay, five (42 percent) were in the lower Columbia River estuary below the Astoria Bridge, one (8 percent) was in the estuary between Rice Island and the Astoria Bridge, and five (42 percent) were above Rice Island.

Chick Banding was done on July 11 where 199 chicks near fledging were banded at the Crescent Island and Solstice Island tern colonies. Each chick was banded with a numbered U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service metal leg band. Of the 199 chicks banded at both colonies, 175 chicks were also banded with unique color band combinations placed on both legs (88 and 87 chicks at Solstice Island and Crescent Island,). No mortality or injuries occurred to tern chicks during this banding operation. These banded fledglings will provide important data on survivorship and dispersal patterns of young terns to breeding colonies in future years.

For additional information on the fish-eating birds log onto the Columbia Bird Research website.

*The ongoing study of caspian tern colony counts continue at the mouth of Columbia River indicating a 25 percent decrease in the median count of terns on East Sand Island.*



# Corps to make treaty negotiations

**T**reaty negotiations will be take place by a younger generation of tribal people during Cultural Camp July 26-30.

The mock treaty negotiations will allow Salmon Corps members to experience what it may have been like to make a treaty with the United States according to Charles Sam, Northwest Director for the Corps.

Seven Salmon Corps groups will be heading to Culture Camp at Lake Hum Ti Pin (Indian Lake) on the Umatilla Reservation to participate.

This year's camp will focus on aboriginal skills, traditional games, a Knowledge Bowl and mock treaty negotiations. "We continue training Corps members at this camp to enhance their knowledge of their culture," Sams said. "They are the upcoming generation that will need to know and understand treaty rights."

Demonstrations on the art of atlatl, dart, bow, arrow, flint knapping, cordage and weaving will be done by tribal instructors. Afterwards Corps members will be expected to complete one of the methods to show the skill they learned.

Several stations will be set up to for an Olympics type of setting where Corps members will compete in atlatl, bow and dart throwing. Running, canoeing and even stick games will be part of the competition.

Teams of six will compete for prizes during the Knowledge Bowl to see who is proficient in salmon restoration questions including specifics of the Salmon Corps member manual.

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*"They are the upcoming generation that will need to know and understand treaty rights."*

*Notorious for eating baby salmon—*

# Reward goes up for pikeminnow

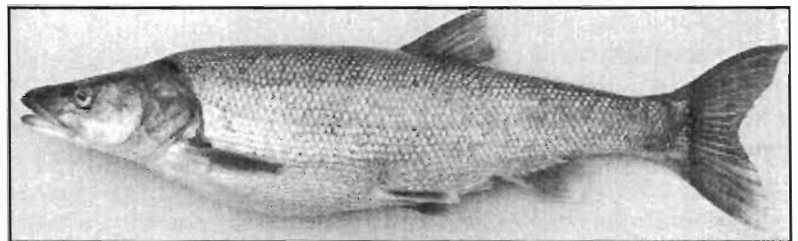
**P**ortland, Ore.—The reward for catching the predatory Northern Pikeminnow is going up according to the Bonneville Power Administration, (BPA) which has funded the reward program for the past several years.

Northern Pikeminnow are notorious because they have voracious appetites for baby salmon and do not discriminate among species of fish, including endangered species.

For the first 100 Northern Pikeminnow caught under new rewards of the 2001 Northern Pikeminnow Management Program, anglers will receive five dollars. Previously, the reward was four dollars. Any further fish caught, up to 400, will now net anglers six dollars a fish, also up a dollar. With catches of more than 400 predators, the reward now jumps from the previous six to eight dollars. The big reward, however, comes by catching a tagged fish. The reward used to be \$50. It's now a whopping \$1,000. The new rewards apply only to the remainder of 2001 and fish caught July 10 or later. Catches prior to July 10 are subject to the previous reward structure.

BPA upped the ante on the sport reward fishing program as one of several efforts it is making to help endangered salmon survive in a year when fish measures, such as spill, could not be fully implemented due to power emergencies.

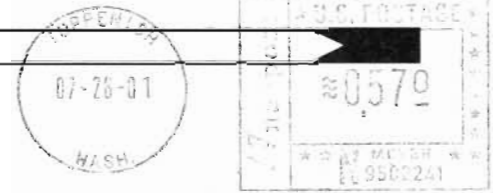
"Experience has shown us that increasing the reward increases the catch," said John Skidmore, BPA's manager for the reward program. "We're hoping that the increased incentives will mean more Northern Pikeminnow are caught saving the lives of a substantial number of salmon smolts, possibly as many as a million."



*Above is the salmon eating fish now known as the bigmouth minnow or Northern pikeminnow. The American Fisheries Society changed the name because the former term "squawfish" was offensive to tribal people. For information about fishing rules, registration, sites, hours, etc., call the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Sport Reward Hotline at 1-800-858-9015 or check the web site at [www.pikeminnow.org](http://www.pikeminnow.org).*



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COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-  
TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
PORTLAND, OREGON

*(Continued from page 1)*

## Eagles spotted in two different nesting areas on the rez

wildlife program for a year.

Last summer the Yakama Nation was jubilant when two adult bald eagles were located near the Yakima River on the reservation. It was the first time in over 100 years that eagles were nesting here.

The pair of eagles produced an eaglet that was captured on videotape before exiting the nesting area. The fledglings left the nest in early July.

The parents occupied the same location as last year. "They are the same two adults in the same nest and this year they had two eaglets," said Hames.

The two young eagles were first spotted in the nest in early April. "By that time they were less than half grown and I saw them peeking their heads out," said Mink.

Between April and May he could see the mother and father bringing fish and other food to the little ones. "That happened at least twice a day," he said. "At least while I was there."

Said Mink, "It's not unusual to have two eaglets but it is unusual to raise them both until they are about ready to fly."

Mink has spend a considerable amount of time out there while videotaping the birds. "I just saw both adults and young ones yesterday (July 19)," he said. The young eagles hung out about a thousand yards from the nest while the adults kept their distance.

Both eaglets have the typical real dark and brown backs, heads and tails with white underneath their wings. "I saw the young ones sitting along the riverbank on snags but I have yet to see them go after any fish. They must still be learning from their parents," he said.

As Mink continued watching both young ones they began making crying noises. "It seemed they were fussing or wanted the parents to do something," he said. Both adult eagles were aloof to the their sounds. "Maybe they wanted something to eat and the female adult probably wanted them on their own."

Mink has completed three videos for the program on banding ducks, the baby eagle last year and the steelhead reconditioning at Prosser earlier this year.

He is currently working on a fourth video about the spotted owl project on the closed area of the reservation near Pahto (Mt. Adams).

"We are so fortunate to have him doing all this volunteer work on the videos. Once they are all completed they will be aired on local cable television," said Hames.