

Sin-Wit-Ki

(All life on earth)

Aug./Sept. 2001
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Record fish run this year

The numbers are official according to biologists counting salmon going over Bonneville Dam this year. Salmon and steelhead are at record runs and more returned than in any other year since the dam was built in 1938. And more salmon are expected to continue returning for at least two more months.

On Aug. 26 numbers of fish counted at the dam totaled 1,239,475 which is 99,727 more than the previous year. The numbers beat the 1986 record total of 1,139,748. Since 1977 fishing gear was packed away until the fall season which usually only lasted several days.

Biologists say the enormous return is a result of good river flows. Juvenile fish make their way downriver heading to the ocean feeding grounds then return to spawn as adults. The Columbia River had strong flows for the last three

years. The fast-flowing river kept water temperatures cool assisting the fish downriver. Improvement in fish passage at the dams as well as ocean conditions is another factor biologists say.

Last spring the largest run of 417,000, spring chinook returned. Then along came steelhead also a record breaker of 668,400. And for the first time in decades the Washington and Oregon fishing compact authorized a tribal and non-tribal sports and commercial spring fishery.

Biologists now expect more than 1,071,200 coho to began their upriver journey to spawn which is the largest return since 1986. Back then 1,527,800 entered the Columbia River.

This year tribal fishers have been busy on the river. The spring chinook tribal fishery totaled 42,600 while the sockeye count was at 7,500 and the tribal fishery has been open the first two weeks in September for the fall season.

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Prayers and condolences go out to all those affected



by the coward-ice act against the United States Sept. 11, 2001.

Weather shift benefits fish

The "Aleutian Low" which causes a change in the Alaskan weather pattern will likely help the record return of coho and chinook salmon to the Pacific Northwest according to researchers.

This year fishery managers have estimated that almost three million salmon will return to the Columbia River Basin which is almost three times the average in recent years.

William Peterson, oceanographer for the

(Weather—Continued on page 3)



Chief of the Oregon Tribes-left-Jesse Duman hesitates to accept treaty as interpreter Kyle Lonewolf-right-looks on. Lonewolf misinterpreted the tribes provisions to government officials, Chris Shelley with clipboard and Thom Wallace, who quickly agreed to the negotiations. See how the tribes fared on the treaties, page 2. Photo by Carol Craig.

Corps tribes balk at offers made during treaty negotiations

At first some of the young adults were laughing and having fun preparing to meet with Salmon Corps staff who served as government officials. But as the negotiations progressed they took on a different posture with smiles turning to serious looks as they heard what the government had to offer the three tribes.

Much like treaty times there was a tent resembling an arbor that covered officials as the tribes approached and entered into treaty negotiations with the United States government.

Seven Salmon Corps groups took part in the mock session to test their negotiation abilities during the Cultural Camp in



Federal officials (right) were seated with secretary Erin Grizard taking minutes while Chuck Sams and Chris Shelley listen to interpreter, (center left) Daniel Williams. Corwin Adams (right) and Jessica Rojas (left) from the Washington and Idaho tribes listen and display concern. 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.

To receive at no cost, phone 509-865-6262, or write P.O. Box 151, Toppenish, WA. 98948 or e-mail cecraig@yakama.com.

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late July at Indian Lake on Umatilla lands.

"When we first got together I asked how many had read their treaty," said Chuck Sams, Northwest Director for Salmon Corps.

He told the assemblage of about 90 members he was disappointed to learn only a few had taken the time to read and comprehend the treaties made by tribes and the U.S. government in the mid-1850s.

"This is your opportunity to step into the place of your people. An opportunity to look at what you have today," he said.

The seven different Salmon Corps groups were divided into the three states, Washington, Oregon and Idaho with an interpreter for the tribe, a head Chief as spokesperson for the tribe, and they had 15 minutes before each treaty was made.

"The translator will do negotiating with the government," Sams said. As each translator and

chief approached they heard the government's offer. "These are the terms," Sams said. "Within each of you is a good farmer and we'd like to see you become farmers. Therefore, 80 acres will be provided for each of you. No family can live more than two miles within each other. We will give you \$5,000 for five years and in turn we get land that has water, minerals, everything," he told the interpreters. "This is what we are offering you. Take this back to your people and return to begin the process."

As each tribe approached the seated officials, one tribe rejected the coin offerings the government handed them. The chief threw the coin to the ground. One interpreter mistakenly gave away most of the tribal lands and was thrown out of the tribe for his mistakes who decided he would side with the government officials as a scout. He was chided and booed by

(Treaty—Continued on page 3)

Treaty brings Corps together

(Continued from page 2)

others as he walked towards officials then stood by them.

Looking frustrated, Ann Hudson, Yakama Nation Salmon Corps said, "You're giving everything away, you can't do that!" But as a tribal member she was suppose to listen and not interrupt as Sams reminded her. "Remember you are members of the tribe that cannot speak English." Hudson dropped to the ground in silence with arms and legs crossed.

During the three-hour plus negotiations each of the tribes retained most of what was in the original treaties according to Sams. "They faired pretty well and I was impressed with what they had to say."

Each of the three tribes will receive their complete official treaty from the Salmon Corps main office in Portland, Ore.

Salmon Corps looking for new members

In related news, the award winning Salmon Corps is seeking young adults 18 to 25 to serve their communities by restoring salmon and watershed habitat.

The Corps is administered by the Earth Conservation Corps-Northwest. The program begin in 1994 and is located at seven sites in the Pacific Northwest and provides a great opportunity to learn about environmental and social issues facing the Pacific Northwest.

The Corps sites in the Columbia Basin are at the Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce, Warm Springs, Shoshone-Bannock and Northsound nations and at Portland, Ore.

New members will learn, conservation, teambuilding, life and leadership skills. Members will also earn up 18 college credits and a \$4,725 education scholarship upon completion of each year. Recipients will also complete high school or GED equivalent as well as receiving child and health care. New members begin in Jan. 2002 and complete Nov. 2002 serving 1,700 hours. Applications will be accepted from Sept. to Nov. 30, 2001. Contact your local field director to obtain an application.

(Weather—Continued from page 1)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration out of Oregon State University's Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Ore. said, "The low pressure system sitting off Kodiak Island during winter pushed nutrient-rich waters north toward Alaska and away from Oregon and Washington."

From 1977 to 1998, the Aleutian Low was larger and more intense than it had been since the mid-1940s. Then during the winter of 1999 the pressure system suddenly shifted west to the Russian peninsula of Kamchatka, and ocean conditions changes almost overnight in the Pacific Northwest.

Peterson said different kinds of zooplankton (tiny sea plants and animals) appeared off the Oregon and Washington coasts shifting the food chain in favor of salmon. He also estimated the number of copepods (tiny crustaceans) doubled in the past two years. "This lead to huge increases in the number of 'baitfish' including herring, anchovies and sardines," said Peterson. "Suddenly the anchovies begin to spawn again, herring are everywhere and sardines have flourished."

Richard Brodeur, a NOAA biologist also working at OSU, said salmon survival rates in the ocean hit bottom in 1998, during a strong El Nino weather pattern. The El Nino is a warming of eastern Pacific Ocean that, coupled with changes in air pressure, can alter the course of the jet stream in the upper atmosphere, changing precipitation patterns worldwide.

(This story contains information from Associated Press.)

Dams, drought cause fish fry to die in river

While this year salmon are returning in large numbers more than 1.6 million baby salmon died in a 17-mile stretch of the mid-Columbia River this spring during their migration downstream.

The fry were trapped amid evaporating puddles and dried rocks at the river bottom. Estimate count of dead fall chinook, the last wild stock, could reach more than three million in the entire 51-miles of the last free flowing stretch of the river. State officials who did the survey below Priest Rapids Dam down to the Hanford Reach area said the fish kill was a combination of dam operations and this year's drought.

"This is where the fish spawn each year between April and June," said Lynn Hatcher, Yakama Nation Fisheries Program Manager. "Water fluctuations by dam operations were much less this year and the drought did not help any."

The Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife also warned fishing restrictions

could result after their survey findings.

According to Hatcher when the tiny fish emerge they are weak swimmers and move to the edge of the river by slower currents. "That way they find food and shallow water protects them from larger, hungry fish," he said. But the shallow river also left them trapped as the flow of water fluctuated with the drought increasing the loss.

"As the river bed flowed then shrunk creating pools, it trapped the fish and either suffocated or par-boiled them as temperatures rose. This made easy pickings by flying predators," Hatcher said.

The upside is that 23.8 million fry hatched this year which was up from an estimated 17.9 million fry in 2000.

The fish mortality information will be used to recalculate how dam flows should be managed.

"We'll know more in four or five years when adult salmon return to the Hanford Reach area to spawn," said Hatcher.



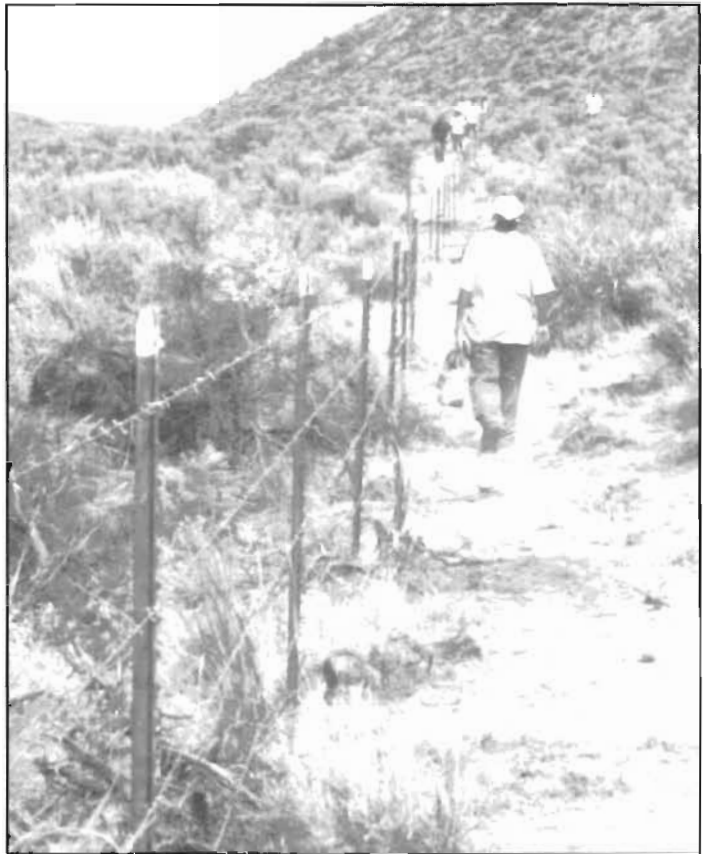
Fence work grueling job

During hottest part of the summer the Corps worked on the fence in 90 plus degree weather

Assisting land owners with some of the most grueling tasks proved to be a difficult project for the Salmon Corps. For the last two months Corps members have been constructing a fence line stretching over a half mile with portions of the ground filled with nothing but huge rocks. "That made it really difficult to try and dig holes for the posts," said Gina George, Yakama Salmon Corps leader. The crew did the work in the Mule Dry Creek area on the reservation

"All we'd be hitting were rocks and it took longer than we anticipated," she said. The work is part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) land holdings. "We worked with Paul Rembold at the BIA on this project," said George.

It was also the hottest part of the summer with temperatures reaching well above the 90s at times. "I would



Crew head uphill to continue fence project working in the hottest part of this summer. Photos courtesy Gina George.



remind the crew to drink plenty of water so they wouldn't get dehydrated. Some of them would want to continue to work and I'd tell them they had to drink water," she said

The old fence line collapsed during a fire that occurred three years ago in the area. As the crew continued working on the fence line it even careened a slope. "That's where all of the ground was mostly rocks. We had to actually use our hands at getting the rock loose." Working on uphill ground made it more difficult.

For now the Corps members were on down time. "Most of them have nearly fulfilled the required hours and our program doesn't end until October so we gave them some time off," George said.

Once they returned after a week off the crew began more work on the fence line. "In fact, this next project is the same one for the BIA Range department. According to George the crew prefers to stay busy and some did not want to take the week off. "This is a hard working crew and a lot of work they do is for the tribe and BIA. They just don't want to quit," she said.

James Tillequots steadies large post as Keith Heem-sah zips away at smaller pole to put at an angle securing the larger one.

From Sept. 17-21 other Corps members from Umatilla, Warm Springs, Northsound and Portland assisted the Yakama Salmon Corps on a mile and a half fence line in the same area.

PacifiCorp adds muscle

Tribe's quest—takeover of dams

Two mid-Columbia River dam's license expires in 2005 and the Yakama Nation has partnered with PacifiCorp, a division of Scottish Power, to compete in the licensing process.

The announcement was made Aug. 6 with the tribe looking for a way to gain control over Grant County Public Utility District's (PUD) dams for over a year. The tribe would like to improve fish operations at the dams and perhaps avoid disasters like the fish kill earlier this year (*see story page 1*).

"The Yakamas would be better at controlling water management to help salmon."

"The Yakama Nation brings a rich history of fish and wildlife protection and a strong emphasis on cultural and recreational values in managing its lands," said

Lonnie Selam, Yakama Nation tribal council chair.

The two hydroelectric dams, Priest Rapids and Wanapum, are within the 10 million acres of land ceded by the tribe during the 1855 Treaty.

"The Yakamas would be better at controlling water management to help salmon," said Lynn Hatcher, fisheries program manager. "The PUD's large water releases for power production kills millions of juvenile chinook." He also said the tribe would ramp the water at a slow rate consistent with the biological needs of fish along with

having power production needs met.

Judi Johansen, executive vice president of regulation and external affairs at PacifiCorp said, "Combining the skills and experience of PacifiCorp and the Yakama Nation will enable the partners to broaden the economic benefits from the dams and optimize the operation of the dams while improving resource protection and enhancing cultural and recreational values."

The partnership will increase the dam's compliance with the Clean Water and Endangered Species acts, as well as the tribe's treaty rights.

PacifiCorp has already purchased 16 to 17 percent of the output of the two dams since they were constructed in the 50s. Priest Rapids was completed in 1955 and Wanapum in 1959. Both dams are currently licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under the same license that expires in 2005.

Grant PUD is a consumer-owned, public utility with a five-member board elected by Grand County voters.

PacifiCorp owned by the Scottish company from Great Britain was blasted in a Grant County PUD press release. "American farmers are the spiritual descendents of the 1776 Minutemen. We've overcome long odds against European tyrants before," said PUD Commission President, Bill Judge. "Judi Johansen has taken on the fight of her life. In the not so distant future

her European bosses will ask why she spent so much money to unsuccessfully take something that didn't belong to her. It's a form of thrift that Scots wouldn't approve," he said.

Dave Kvamme, PacifiCorp spokesperson said, "Our interests are in preserving the low cost hydro benefits for our customers." He also said if both the tribe and PacifiCorp receive FERC approval to operate the dams, contracts would be offered to most of the current buyers at the same cost.

The partners say they will expand the public benefits of the projects by sharing low-cost electricity more broadly throughout the region and will also consider increasing generation, benefits to disadvantaged areas and peoples, and enhance cultural and recreational values.

Grant County, for the past two years, has been working on its relicensing application for the dams while the two new partners plan to complete the initial consultation document by Oct. 31. The tribe and PacifiCorps will also hold public meetings and submit to FERC their competing application in October 2003.

According to Ted Strong, Yakama Nation spokesman, the tribe would use revenue from the dams to pay for essential government services and as jobs become available at the dams through attrition, the jobs would go to tribal members.

(This story contains information from Associated Press).



Fish Wrap



Bits & pieces
of information

Cle Elum has tribal graduate

For the first time a Yakama tribal member graduated from Cle Elum High School. If there ever were any tribal graduates, no one seems to remember

Quinn James, 18, participated in the commencement ceremony on June 16 held at Cle Elum-Roslyn High School. He plans to attend Central Washington State University in Ellensburg, Wash. this fall. His primary interest will focus on fire science/management and business administration.



James with Cle Elum letterman's jacket.

James played football, baseball, track and was a member of the Key Club and several community organizations. For the last two years he has worked at the Village Pizza Parlor in Roslyn and would like to be a firefighter for the Cle Elum Ranger Station next summer.

He is the son of Julia A. Leslie, officer coordinator at the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Center and was raised by stepfather David Jack. He is also the stepson of Virgil James, Foreman/fish culturist 4 at the research center.

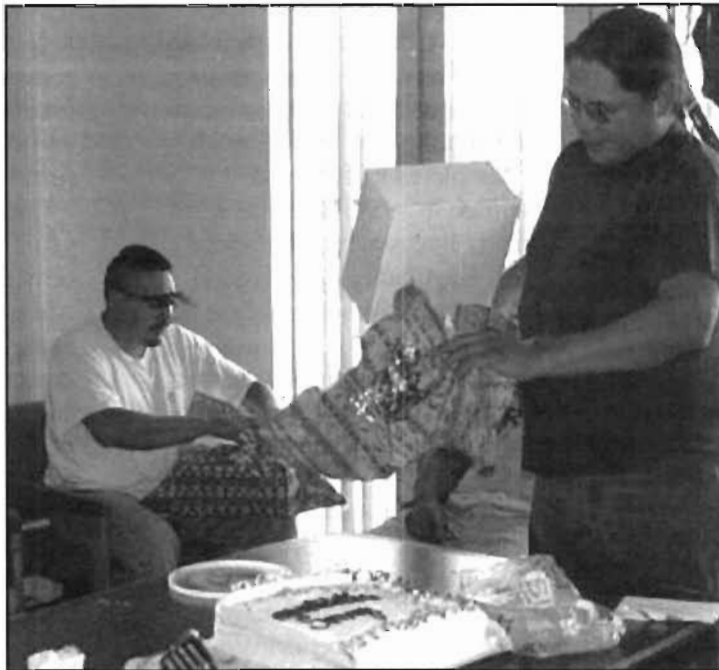
It's off to school

Three of the fisheries program technicians, Michael "Sonny" Fiander, D.J. Brownlee and Michael George grabbed the opportunity to learn more and are heading back to school.

The trio will be taking a two-year course in fish technology at Mt. Hood Community College in Gresham, Ore. New job titles will be fish culturists when they return.

"It was an easy decision to select the top three who will do us proud and show the world we can run our own fish facilities," said Bill Sharp, biologist. Fiander and Brownlee worked at the Prosser Acclimation facility and George worked on the Satus Creek.

"When Sonny started here he was a brash young guy then he started jelling. He took an incredible interest and stepped forward at Prosser to explain what they were doing each time people went out there. Mike was the opposite, quiet and he



Sonny Fiander neatly opens gift while Mike George rips the paper off. Both received pullover jackets with Yakama Nation sewn on.

is a well-known, respected fisherman. I hope it was beneficial for you guys while you were here. My heart is with you and I am delighted for all three. In two years we'll see you," said Lynn Hatcher, fisheries program manager. Supervisor, Tom McCoy told the gath-

ering that George was very observant and applied that to his work. "I remember when he was first here. I saw him and Randy George at the Satus Creek. Randy was shoveling away at dirt as fast as he could and I looked down and saw Mike by the creek who had his arms stretched out like he was catching the dirt. I asked them what they were doing and Mike said they were building a beaver dam which to this day is still there."

They were presented with pullover jackets. George said he appreciated everyone's support and Fiander said he was glad to have the opportunity to go back and learn more. Brownlee was not available because he was still out working in the field according to Sharp.

The three began school Sept. 24.



Wildlife biologist takes on new job with state

The afternoon was filled with stories and plenty of laughter as staff reminisced about Wildlife Biologist, Scott McCorquodale's 14 years working for the tribe.

His quiet stature may be fooling to some but his sense of humor and the many pranks he played on people could not be hidden as stories unfolded. "Scott always got one up on me," said Tracy Hames. "But I did get him one time and that was probably the only time."

One year on April Fool's Day he put a 1-800-BIGFOOT number ad in the classifieds and got results from callers right away. Just one of many stories.

When McCorquodale arrived at the wildlife office for an interview, he and his wife were not sure they were at the right location. "There was this old building that had spray paint on the side 'Wildlife Office.' I looked at it and thought this couldn't be the place, could it?"



McCorquodale shows off personalized blanket from staff.

While with the program several of his studies have been published on deer, bear, elk and other wildlife. "Since I've been here I have not seen such camaraderie and that is what I'll miss most," McCorquodale said. He was presented with a Pendleton blanket engraved with his name and years with the program. "He's been a good asset to the tribe and we're going to miss him," said Eric Hansen, program manager. He will be working for the Washington Dept of Fish and Wildlife in Yakima, Wash.

I did have other thoughts on mascots but that can wait. I take this time to honor, pray for and bless the innocent people lost in the horrible terrorist attack against America on Sept. 11.



I was driving to work and got there before 7 a.m. On the radio I thought I heard something about an attack then listened again. The World Trade Center building was burning. When I got to work someone had already turned on the TV in the conference room. Those eerie whispering words came back to me— "You don't know the horror. You don't know the horror." Those words were spoken by Marlon Brando in the "Apocalypse now," movie made in the 1970s. That's all the words I could think of when I heard about the terrorist attack news that morning.

Watching video reports and seeing the airplane crash into the World Trade Center was horrific. I could not believe my eyes. "This can't be happening," I thought. Later I found myself reading more coverage on the carnage and the hijacked planes. This time attackers did not need any bombs. They shielded their cowardice with real live people and planes. No arsenal except the American people. One person aboard the Pennsylvania airplane crash decided to do a turn-about on the hijackers and purposely made the plane crash not making it to its destination probably somewhere in the capital.

The news video showing people running in all directions as the two World Trade Center buildings collapsed was suppose to be happening in a far off country, in a movie, anywhere, but not here at home.

My heart sank, my body went numb, and I asked the Creator to help all the families, relatives and people, the innocent victims, to be blessed and to help those left behind in this dire time of need.

It is day four after the attack on the United States. I am still feeling sort of numb and sick in the pit of my stomach. Other people have told me they feel the same way. I found it difficult to concentrate at work.

As prayer services were being held throughout the United States I also took part to seek healing. I left early Friday Sept. 14 after the tribe held a prayer service that morning. I was still shook up.

We have seen the horror, experienced it first-hand on American soil, find it unbelievable and are living it in today's world. Hopefully the Creator will help us find understanding, solace and peace.

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.



Landowners meet with tribe

Goldendale, Wash.—About a dozen private landowners along with tribal representatives and the Conservation District convened here Aug. 29 to discuss conservation practices on their land and how it affects salmon.

Yakama tribal biologist, Bill Sharp and Salmon Corps director, Gina George were there to listen to their concerns. George gave her history of living in the area and what work the Salmon Corps has already completed. "In 1995 we did work with landowners and a lot of people in Klickitat County doing fence work to keep cattle out of the creeks along with other projects," said George.

The informational meeting created a bit of hesitation at first. "Some questioned what the tribe was doing but after Bill and I explained all of the work we've done so far, they began to understand," she said. They were surprised to hear about how much work the tribe actually does in that area."

The property owners' main concern was identifying the problems of their land and whether they would be a part of the process? Other major concerns included water quality of the streams and creeks, wildfires, implementing more improvements for livestock to get them away from the creeks, informing non-residents of their responsibility while out there, and the introduction of noxious weeds and other non-local plants. The next meeting was conducted Sept. 19 at the Bickleton Grange.

Summer of fires



Yakama Fisheries technician, Ralph Kiona took the picture of the ominous bursting cloud of smoke that became known as the 30-mile fire. Sixteen people—14 firefighters and two hikers—were trapped July 10 after hot temperatures and dry fuels transformed a small blaze in Okanogan County into a blast furnace. They had only seconds to try to escape the encroaching 30-mile Fire.

Tragically four young adults were taken by the fire. Edwin Lewis, forest manager for the Bureau of Indian Affairs sent condolences to the forest service. "We are in shock over the tragic news about fatalities and injuries involving four wildland firefighters near Winthrop," he wrote. "We also hope for speedy and full recoveries of the injured firefighters."

Experts say that below-average rainfall for the past three years including the second-driest winter in a half-century, has turned the region into a tinderbox. "We were out that way working and I had a camera with me so I took the picture," Kiona said.



Tribal health as well as healthy fish

Salmon is the major food source for tribal people and most importantly, it is also the heart and soul of the tribe's cultural, economic and spiritual well-being.

So it is no wonder that to be healthy by eating salmon, the fish itself must be healthy to sustain tribal people. There have been many changes to the river since the arrival of Europeans. Degraded water quality in the rivers and streams is affecting fish that may make tribal members more at risk for health problems.

Back in 1990 the federal government investigated human health risks to water borne contaminants by ingesting contaminated fish. Their findings indicated people who ate very little fish probably were not at risk.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes, Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Warm Springs, questioned the Environmental Protection Agency's investigation since tribal people eat fish almost daily. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) signed a cooperative agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1990 to conduct a fish consumption survey. The survey was implemented in the fall and winter of 1992-92 with per-

(Toxics—Continued on page 14)

Thousands jammed out for salmon

Portland, Ore.—The second year event drew multitudes of people to the Portland Waterfront Park for the Jammin' for Salmon festival earlier last month.

The two-day music and activity fest attracted thousands of salmon fans hosted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). Among the throng of people were Bonneville Power Administration staff, the four Columbia River treaty tribes' leaders and families, and Northwest Power Planning Council members.

An overflowing crowd of about 20,000 came through the gates and donated five dollars towards the restoration of fish in the Columbia River Basin Aug 5. The first day, Aug. 4 an estimated 10,000 people attended.

The four CRITFC tribes, Yakama, Umatilla, Nez Perce and Warm

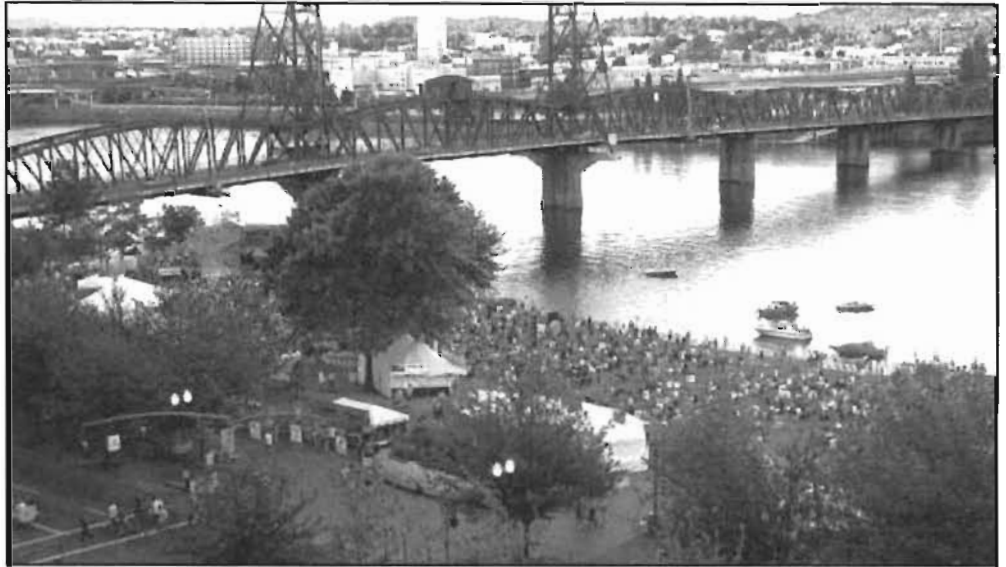
Springs each had display booths showcasing restoration work the tribes do in their locale. "Many people stopped by and said they did not realize the tribes were doing so much work in the basin," said Fisheries Public Information Manager, Carol Craig. "All of them were impressed by what they learned and saw during the two days."

Eleven musical groups entertained the crowd while a jet boat ferried people across the Willamette from the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) to the festival. Salmon Corps was in full swing assisting with the children's activities while tribal artists demonstrated flint-knapping, bead working and basket weaving. The crowd draw was Sunday night's concert by Portland's well-known Robert Cray Band. Saturday evening's event included Chaka Khan attracting around 8,000 to 10,000 people.

On Aug. 3 a banquet was held at the Washington Park Zoo with 300 people attending. A salmon dinner was prepared and a silent auction accumulated more dollars towards salmon restoration. Spirit of the Salmon awards went to former U.S. Sen. Mark Hatfield who was honorary chair of the festival. The leadership award went to Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane who gathered church leaders from around the Pacific Northwest in developing a pastoral letter and taking testimony from various tribal and non-tribal people. The education award went to OMSI and the City of Portland received the Public Partnership award. The Private Partnership award went to PacifiCorp while Save Our Wild Salmon received the Conservation Advocacy award.

The festival also attracted Max Gail who played "Wojohowicz" on the popular mid-70s sitcom Barney Miller. He performed songs he wrote including a tribal song accompanied by tribal drummer Arlie Neskahi. Gail told the crowd about his involvement in supporting tribes and being an environmental activist. He also talked about the current drought issue affecting the Klamath Tribe and local farmers. "There's got to be a better way to figure this situation out," he said.

Left—Max Gail takes time for a picture with Carol Craig. "It was great to meet him, finally!" she said Photo courtesy Lori Watlanet.



The Willamette River and Hawthorne Bridge served as backdrop for an estimated 20,000 people who listened to main attraction Robert Cray Band. The stage situated to the far left had people shoulder-to-shoulder with the crowd stretching almost to the other end of the park to the right. Photo by Carol Craig.



Falls operations kills fish & eels



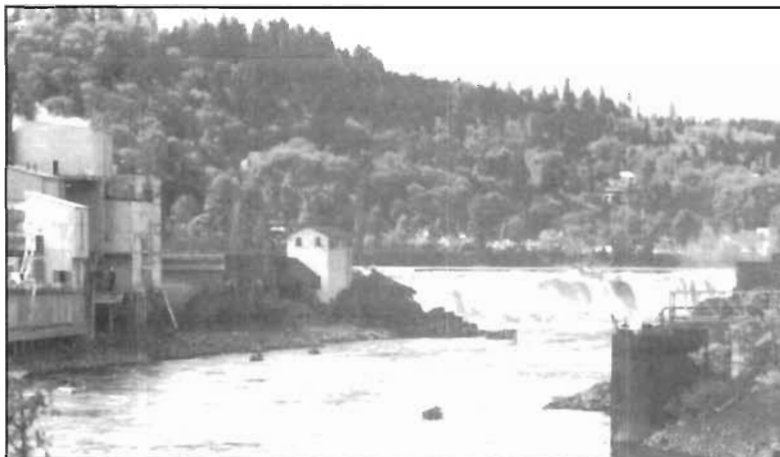
Above—At Willamette Falls river flows were cut off leaving adult steelhead and lamprey without adequate water to exist. The mill is to the left and expanse of the splash dam perimeter (darker portion) just below it. Far right—Tribal biologist looks down to check the damage.

Oregon City, Ore.—The Willamette falls is a usual and accustomed fishing place for the Yakamas guaranteed in the 1855 treaty.

In the early 1990s, the fishery collapsed on the Columbia and the tribe turned to the Willamette River to conduct the first salmon ceremony where fish and eels still make their way back but not without problems.

In late July the impact of stopping flows and the splash dam around the perimeter of the falls is proving to be fatal to both adult steelhead and lamprey, traditional foods for tribal people.

The wall, that shuts off the flow of the river, is seasonally raised in order to divert flows to turbines in the mill situated next to the river. "This pool, and others, contained many stranded adult steelhead and some lamprey," said Keith Hatch, Bureau of



How the falls look with water. Notice same building on the left in upper photo.



Indian Affairs biologist. "My brother took the pictures and said the steelhead swam in slow circles, taking turns to gasp at the trickle of inflow," said Hatch. "These are not juvenile fish, but stranded adults."

Millions of dollars provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service was spent on multiple fish ladders at the falls but clearly flow issues remain to be a major problem.

The project is up for re-licensing under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2004. The project is two-fold with Portland General Electric's (PGE) 16 megawatt Sullivan development on the West Linn side, and a 1.5 megawatt project on the Oregon City side. The application procedure is now open under an "alternative licensing process." PGE released a scoping document last June but will that assist fish and lamprey left stranded diverting river flow?

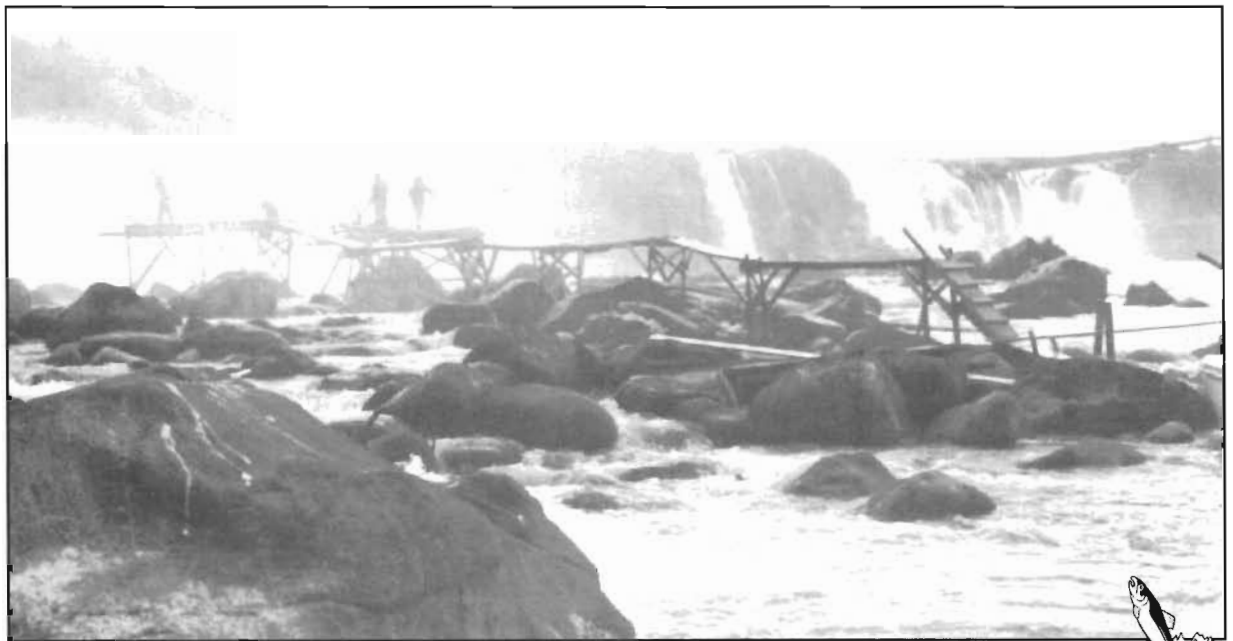
Left—A concentration of deceased lamprey at the base of the falls.



A busy place as new structures are being erected probably for the first fishery during the spring. Some of the scaffolds were placed at the edge over the water while others hung from cliffs above on the roaring river. In the 1950s tribal fishers gathered around Celilo Falls as was done for generations. The Echo of the Falling Waters (Celilo) was quieted after the completion of The Dalles Dam inundated the fishing grounds. The picture was found at a second hand store at The Dalles, Ore.

Early morning mist cast shadowy figures as Yakama tribal fishers stay busy.

Tribal fishers set scaffolds at Willamette Falls in 1990 after the Columbia River was closed to fishing. The falls is a usual and accustomed fishing place for Yakamas. Photo by Carol Craig.



Tribe's museum will note passage of explorers

Toppenish, Wash. (AP) -- Yakama Nation museum officials will recognize Lewis and Clark's visit to their homeland, but will focus more on American Indians' contributions. "There's a lot of feeling left behind from Lewis and Clark," said Marilyn Malatare, curator of the Yakama Nation Cultural Heritage Center in Toppenish. "A lot of native people don't believe it should be celebrated."

The museum has received a \$30,000 federal grant to start work on a permanent exhibit, Internet site and brochure related to the impact of the expedition.

Malatare said history books typically give short shrift to Indians' role in making sure the explorers didn't starve to death during the winter of 1805, when they arrived on the Columbia River and later wintered at the river's mouth. "We're finally getting our chance to talk -- somebody's asking us what we think -- and maybe someday it will be documented in the history books," said Malatare, who serves on Gov. Gary Locke's state advisory panel for commemoration planning.

A three-year series of events will start in 2003 in Virginia, where Meriwether Lewis and William Clark began planning their trip to bring back information about the natural features and native populations of the largely unrecorded West.

Destructive European diseases had already arrived with trappers and earlier coastal explorers, but Lewis and Clark opened the door to a greater secondary wave of explorers and settlers.

Within 50 years of their visit, independent Central Washington tribes and the federal government had signed treaties gathering Indians onto less than a tenth of their territory under a confederation now called the Yakama Nation.

Gerard Baker, superintendent of the National Park Service's Lewis and Clark planning, said he hopes the bicentennial will encourage native language preservation and cultural Baker said in a recent telephone interview from his Nebraska office. "No matter what color we are, we can't pass up an opportunity to tell our stories."

Some observers have questioned the focus on Indians because it doesn't highlight Lewis and Clark's place in history as heroes of the white man's West, said Dave Nicandri, who directs the Washington State Historical Society, the lead planning agency for the state effort.

Governments now understand much more about Indians' rights to their land and other natural resources, he said.

Discussions to shape the events have encouraged an impressive interracial dialogue, Nicandri said.

"That in some ways has always been the greatest



promise of the Lewis and Clark bicentennial," he said.

Yakama leaders hope to educate visitors about the widespread system of commerce they historically used and to provide a forum for modern perspectives on the significance of the expedition.

Among other ways of gathering that information, researchers will interview Yakama members and comb through Lewis and Clark's journals, as well as other records from that period.

Already, visitation to landmarks along the original trail has increased, with a large number of visitors expected for bicentennial events.

While they want to guard the sanctity of cultural sites, Yakama museum officials anticipate the chance to pass on their nation's history.

"If we can do this in an orderly way, it can have an effect on Yakima County," said Pamela Fabela, the cultural center's ad-

Wildlife go to lower lands

Several bear sightings are being reported which is very unusual according to John Carl from the Yakama Nation Wildlife Program.

Tribal biologists say the bears, cougars and elk that are being reported in the lower portion of the reservation are probably looking for food and water during this year's drought.

In the last three months Carl has been contacted about bears in and around the White Swan area. "One was even walking in the middle of Pom Pom Road east of the longhouse," he said.

Another bear was about 50 yards from the Ft. Simcoe Ranger Station. One bear was seen right by White Swan High School and another report of a bear near Moses Road in mid-August.

Earlier this summer one bear even made the local TV news after climbing a tree when dogs begin barking and chased it. "I had to tell people just to leave the bear alone and he would eventually come down," said Carl. "And, he did come down later after everyone was gone."

A large bear came as far down as the Toppenish area around Lateral C and Pumphouse roads earlier last month. At Camp Chaparral near Mt. Adams he was requested two times to go up and chase the bears away. "That was right during the time the kids are up there. I've been pretty busy dealing with this bear problem." Each year tribal youngsters are invited to attend the two-week camp sessions.

There have also been two reports of cougars in the same location and elk seem to be everywhere. Once the critters are trapped, and captured, they are released in the upper mountains.

Carl reminds people to stay clear of the animals once they have made their report of a sighting. "They may look approachable but they are still animals that have a hunting instinct. So be cautious," he said.

Yakamas celebrate lands return

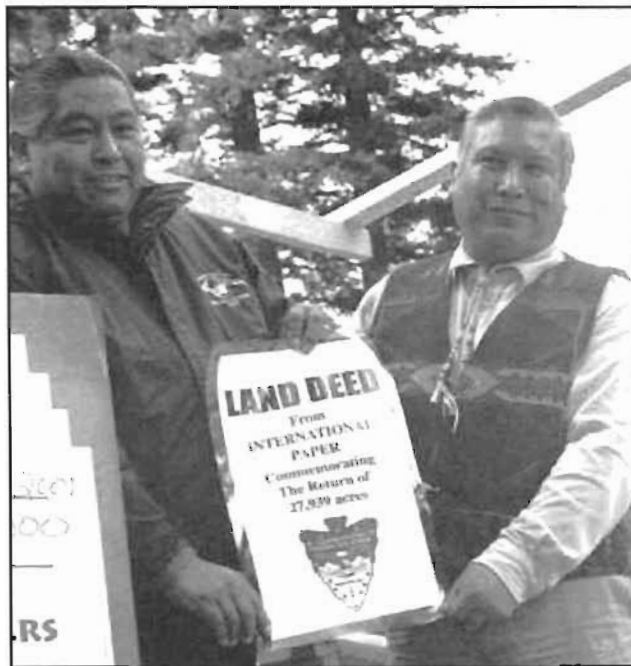
Closed area lands on the Yakama Reservation taken by either the Allotment Act or improper surveys has finally been put back into the hands of the rightful owners, the Yakama Nation.

The Aug. 23 ceremony for the land purchase of 27,939 acres drew a crowd to Signal Peak Ranger Station hosted by Lehigh John, Yakama Land Enterprise.

The process of acquiring the land took years. "But 4,000 acres still belong to non-tribal people up here," said, Land Committee Chair, Harris Teo, Jr.

The 1904 Homestead and later the Allotment Act adjusted the boundaries outlined in the Treaty of 1855. Both acts created fee land in the closed area of the Yakama Reservation allowing non-tribal people to purchase tribal land.

Then in 1983 International Paper (IP) purchased most of the timber land. In the early 1990s IP announced it was disposing of their Washington timber holdings. The tribe stepped in and begin purchasing the parcels of land from the company. The \$15 million deal was finally closed. Max Ek- enber, International Paper regional manager told the crowd



After presenting the \$15 million check to International Paper, left, Arlen Moses and Harris Teo, Jr. proudly display Land Deed Aug. 23. Ceremonies were conducted at the Signal Peak Ranger Station on the closed area of the Yakama reservation.



Elaine Miles talks with Champion International delegate during ceremonies.

When she approached the podium that towered above her she told the audience, "I bet you can't see me." The microphone was adjusted pushing it to the side so she could be seen and heard.

Afterwards during lunch she sat and signed many autographs for fan seekers that stood patiently in line. Photos by Carol Craig.

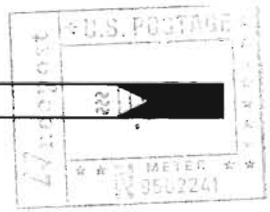
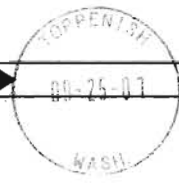
he was now out of a job now but the \$15 million satisfied him.

Vice-Chair, Jerry Meninick said the fire of 1994 nearly torched Camp Chaparral where tribal youngsters stay each summer. "Our past councilman here today, Cecil Sanchez, was told during the fire that the trees near the camp would have to be cut down to avoid burning. He told that man you can't replace 400 year-old trees, but if the camp burns we can rebuild that. He was thinking of our resources"

"Hopefully we come to understand that what is returned to us is our soul," said Meninick. "Today you are testimony of that return...It is the hills and the trees that you honor, not us."

Elaine Miles, most notably known from the Northern Exposure TV series, served as guest of honor for the event and signed autographs for the long steady line. Young tribal dancers entertained the people doing various traditional dances. The dancers are under the tutelage of Marilyn Malatare from the Yakama Nation Museum.





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



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

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son-to-person interviews on the four reservations. Over a three week period 513 tribal members were surveyed who also provided information for 204 children age five and younger.

CRITFC findings indicated fish consumption was significantly higher than the estimated general population.

Tribal members were questioned about their consumption of salmon, steelhead, trout, eels, smelt, shad, resident fish, whitefish, sturgeon, walleye, bigmouth minnow and sucker.

The two-phase study resulted in the first findings of the tribal survey being published in 1994.

The second phase sampled Columbia River fish for contamination. "We did this to evaluate the health risks to tribal members from eating contaminated fish," said Barbara Harper, Yakama Nation toxicologist.

Fish were collected from sampling locations recommended by the tribes including the Columbia River estuary, mainstem dams, tributaries of dam pools, major river tributaries and Icicle Creek which is the northernmost location.

During the on-going study federal scientists conducting studies for non-tribal people were alarmed to find young salmon in Northwest estuaries and hatcheries contaminated with toxic compounds. And levels of PCBs, industrial compounds called polychlorinated biphenyls, were extremely high. Some of the highest levels of PCBs were found in fish

near the mouth of the Columbia River.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service also worry that the contaminants are being passed on to wildlife that feed on Columbia River salmon. Cormorants, eagles and Caspian terns have all been found to have elevated levels of toxic compounds.

DDT was detected in almost all of the 284 samples of fish according to Harper. Several PCB's were in all samples along with lead, mercury and other trace metals.

It is known that chemicals in fish are causing the greatest health risk to people especially cancer due primarily to the PCBs, dioxins, furans, arsenic and the DDT family which are major contaminants found in the fish samples.

At question is whether these fish contaminants are causing illness in people today. "This depends on how much fish a person eats and how sensitive they are," Harper said. Although the poison levels may suggest that people who eat a lot of fish are having health problems, there are no actual health statistics to confirm or refute this according to Harper.

As the studies continue some question whether people should change their diet.

"It is premature to make any recommendations yet," said Harper. "We are clearly concerned about health risks and implications if people decrease their fish intake. Each person decides what they will eat but the information may be useful to some," she said.