

CHINOOK

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In an update June 12, Yanke said the total number of salmon is at 96,000, roughly 57 percent of the ten-year average count.

A couple weeks later, things had not improved significantly.

“We are not expecting to open fisheries in the Wallowa and Imnaha Rivers,” he announced. “Our staff will battle the high flows and attempt to begin trapping fish at the Imnaha weir ..., as every single fish will be important to achieve our broodstock take this year.”

The lower numbers mean fewer Chinook to trap and use as brood stock. On a positive note, he said, salmon fishing is strong at Hells Canyon Dam. Officials estimated that 114 adults and 41 jacks were harvested last week, at a rate of 11 hours per fish.

“That’s really good fishing on a normal year, and when the run is this



Chieftain File Photo
A juvenile spring chinook is put into a holding pond for release later.

depressed, and flows are 40,000 cfs below the dam, that’s remarkable,” Yanke said.

“Jack” salmon return to fresh water earlier than their counterparts.

In addition to Chinook, Coho and Steelhead are also among the nine

salmon species listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act as either threatened or endangered.

Last week, Coho were restored in the Grande Rhonde River basin. A half-million smolts were released into the Lostine River. Coho have been

nearly extinct since 1986, according to a Nez Perce spokesman. The goal is to have 600 naturally produced adult Coho return to the Lostine River annually.

The 2016-17 Steelhead season wrapped in late May.

“Unfortunately, the short run was apparent in the fishery this year with the fishing never really heating up for extended periods,” said Kyle Bratcher,

Assistant District Fish Biologist for ODFW in Enterprise. “We saw a few good days, but ... our river fishing was overall pretty difficult.”

The good news, he said, was that when fish were caught, they were typically larger than expected.

The program to restore salmon is operated jointly between the ODFW and the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management. It was authorized as part of the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act in 1980.

Today, the main stem of the Columbia River has 14 dams, of

which three are in Canada and 11 in the U.S. Four mainstem dams and four lower Snake River dams contain navigation locks to allow ship and barge passage from the ocean as far as Lewiston, Idaho.

Planners were aware that fish such as the Chinook and others would need help navigating past the dams on their journey to the sea and back.

Much of the Nez Perce culture is based on salmon, similar to the tribes in the Midwest whose lives centered around the American Bison.

“To call salmon a staple of the tribal diet would be an understatement,” according to statement on the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fishing Commission website. “Historically, the typical tribal member ate almost a pound of salmon every day, but salmon represented much more than a source of nutrition — they shaped our societies and our religions.

Yanke did not have a ready estimate of what it costs to run the Chinook restoration program. Neither did Bonneville Power Association.

ELK

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Williams noted the winter had been unusually severe and that elk had followed a draw in the terrain that led to Harshfield’s barn. She said that Harshfield had initially tried hazing the elk with shotgun blasts and also installed plastic netting to stop the raid of his hay. Neither were successful.

“The result was that he took the matter into his own hands, and he killed elk,” Williams said.

The district attorney added that she believed Harshfield

had other avenues to explore before taking the elk. She also noted that in 2006, Harshfield had killed a deer under similar circumstances and had received diversion, which included working with fish and wildlife to do everything he could to help mitigate damage to his ranch.

“There was no doubt he was fully aware of what ODFW could (and) couldn’t do,” Williams said. “He was very familiar with the process of working with them on the previous occasion.”

She called the act “egregious” and noted that Harshfield did not take advantage of an ODFW program that

allowed them to give permits to hunters to harvest the elk.

Williams recommended no jail time, noting Harshfield’s employment as a logger. She said she thought restitution was appropriate, and she recommended Harshfield pay \$18,000 total for all six counts.

She also said Harshfield had approved of her proposal that he work with fish and wildlife and her office to put together three programs to be presented in Joseph, Enterprise and Wallowa next spring. The programs will instruct those with wildlife problems on how to work with ODFW and state police and others to contact as well as appropriate actions

ranchers themselves can take to protect their property.

She also recommended two years of supervised probation with minimal reports to a probation officer as Harshfield was not a community threat.

Powers responded that he approved of supervised probation with regular reports as it would ensure that Harshfield lived up to his part of the plea bargain.

Williams also asked for a three-year suspension of hunting privileges. Powers seemed surprised that she did not also call for a forfeiture of firearms, to which Williams replied she was not even certain which firearm Harshfield used in the incident.

She added that she knew Harshfield and his wife well and that sometimes good people do bad things.

“It doesn’t make him a bad person,” she said.

Harshfield’s attorney Lissa Casey noted that the case had created a stir throughout

the state not just because of the number of elk killed, but because it occurred on private property.

“It got a lot of people interested in the case and generated a lot of discussion,” she said. She added that the 2006 deer incident had in fact been an elk and that Harshfield was in possession of a tag that had expired the day before.

She also said he utilized the meat in that case. Casey asked for the return of \$12,000 bail that Harshfield posted as the funds were intended for his wife’s inheritance.

“I want the court to know that the Harshfields have taken action to get their ranch ready for the winter and be ready for what they know will be an elk problem ... they have spent \$12,000 at this point to try to put up permanent hay sheds on their property,” Casey said.

She added that she hoped the parole and probation system would understand that her client was a low-risk individ-

ual and allow him to report by telephone as soon as possible because of the time involved with his ranching and logging pursuits.

Harshfield chose not to speak on his own behalf.

“I don’t think you could have picked two harder ways to make a living ... you’re to be commended for your commitment to that sort of hard work,” Powers said from the bench.

He added that it indicated the defendant was a person of good character. Powers says that the court sees wildlife violation cases during and after hunting season with many convictions resulting in jail sentences, but he also noted the stress that Harshfield said he was under at the time.

“I understand the impulse to something, but boy, this is not the way to go about it,” Powers said. “I’m convinced now that you understand this is not the way to go about it.”

The judge said he knew many citizens would view the agreement as light punishment in view of no jail time.

“Punishment is just one part of justice,” Powers said. “There’s also restorative justice, and it’s using the court system in a very creative way — to do something better coming out of this incident than was done during the incident. It sounds like you’ve personally made an investment into doing that, and the court recognizes and appreciates that.”

Powers added that the severity of the sentence should convince the general public that the court took the crime very seriously.



THE REACTIONS

Dave Morgan, Andy Gilbert and Henry Kinsley, as they were in the 60's. Join us as they perform those tunes of yesterday!

August 5th - Save the Date!

Births

A son,
Hosea James Brown
was born June 21, 2017,
to Zach and Maggie Brown of Enterprise.
Grandparents are Vickie and Jim Newberry and Denise and Scott Brown.

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Recreational Opportunities Public Notice

In accordance with 18 CFR, Part 8, Section 8.1 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Regulations, the following public notice regarding recreational opportunities is provided. PacifiCorp, parent company of Pacific Power, owns and operates the Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. P-308. The FERC issued the Project license for a period of 40 years commencing January 5, 2017. The Project is located in Wallowa County in north east Oregon, on the East Fork Wallowa River, West Fork Wallowa River and Royal Purple Creek. The Project is approximately 7 miles south of the town of Joseph near Wallowa Lake and is partially within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

PacifiCorp's Project lands are available for public recreational use. Public recreational uses that occur around the Project include camping, hiking, horseback riding, day-use/picnicking and fishing. PacifiCorp provides trail opportunities and manages Pacific Park, a 10-unit campground near the powerhouse tailrace on lands owned by PacifiCorp.

Additional recreation facilities in the immediate vicinity of the Project include the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) managed trailhead adjacent to the powerhouse, USFS managed East Fork and West Fork trails, Eagle Cap Wilderness, Little Alps State Park (day use), Wallowa Lake State Park (day use and camping), Wallowa Lake Tramway, and two private campgrounds. The little Alps State Park and a State Park maintenance facility are on lands owned by PacifiCorp and leased to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department.

The recreation opportunities and facilities at the Wallowa Falls Hydroelectric Project are developed and furnished by Pacific Power as a public service. They are open to the public and made available for use and enjoyment to all without regard to race, color, religious creed, national origin, or any other status protected under applicable local, state or federal law. Further information regarding these recreation sites can be obtained from Pacific Power, c/o PacifiCorp – Hydro Resources Department, Recreation Supervisor, 825 NE Multnomah St., Suite 1500, Portland, Oregon 97232.



PACIFIC POWER

Public Notice



James Wing
1937 - 2017

James Wing passed away June 24 at the Idaho State Veteran's Home from a lifetime of smoking. He has now joined his beloved family at their big Pinochle game in the sky. Born in 1937 on a hot, summer afternoon in a log cabin on Mica Peak, James joined his parents, Ellis and Wauneta Wing and a 10 year old brother, Gene. The family moved to Kellogg ID where they lived for several years. When James was seven years old, his baby sister, Ilene, was born. By this time, older brother Gene had left home and James and Ilene grew up together. James teased his little sister mercilessly but the two were very close and always had each other's back. At age twelve James' family moved back to the log cabin on Mica Peak. James and his sister spent endless summers picking wild strawberries, playing in the beaver dam and exploring the mountain. Life was simple and their activities were limited only by their imaginations.

During high school James worked summers pulling green chain in his uncle's sawmill, was a flagger for his crop dusting brother and had various jobs for area farmers. Upon graduation from Rockford High School, he joined the Navy for his first hitch of 4 years. Upon discharge, James found it difficult to get work so he committed to a second hitch of 6 years. During the Vietnam War he served as Quartermaster 1st Class on the destroyer USS Eversole. He was honorably discharged in 1966.

Upon becoming a civilian, he moved to Kellogg and worked underground in the Sunshine mine for many years. He was working there during the devastating fire of 1972 and was saved simply because he was working a different shift. When James was 38 years old, he was diagnosed with Ankylosing spondylitis , a rare form of arthritis which fused his spine and rendered him unable to continue to work. Drs predicted he'd be wheelchair bound by age 40. He stubbornly defied their prognosis by remaining ambulatory until age 79. James lived the last 20 years in Wallowa OR where he hiked nearly every trail in the spectacular Wallowa Range and indulged his love of outdoor photography.

No children were born to either of his two brief marriages. James made countless friends during his life. His easy good nature and self deprecating sense of humor endeared him to most everyone he met. It was indeed a rare moment if he became angry or unhappy. He was gentle, kind hearted and took special pleasure in helping however he could those he considered to be less fortunate than himself. He will be missed by many.

A very special thank you to the entire staff of the Idaho State Veteran's Home who showed James exceptional care and compassion and who he considered to be more friends than caregivers. These people greatly enriched the last year of his life. A loving thought to Joe Hamon, a fellow resident, who was James' good and constant friend. James was fortunate to spend his end of life in this environment.

James leaves behind his older brother Gene Wing and his sister Ilene Holliday both of Clarkston. He will also be remembered by long time close friends Bill and Phyllis Hayter of Wallowa OR and Dan and Agnes Cosner of Elgin OR. A graveside memorial service will be held at the Mica Peak Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made the the Idaho State Veteran's Home activities fund.

Sign the guest book at www.merchantsfuneralhome.com