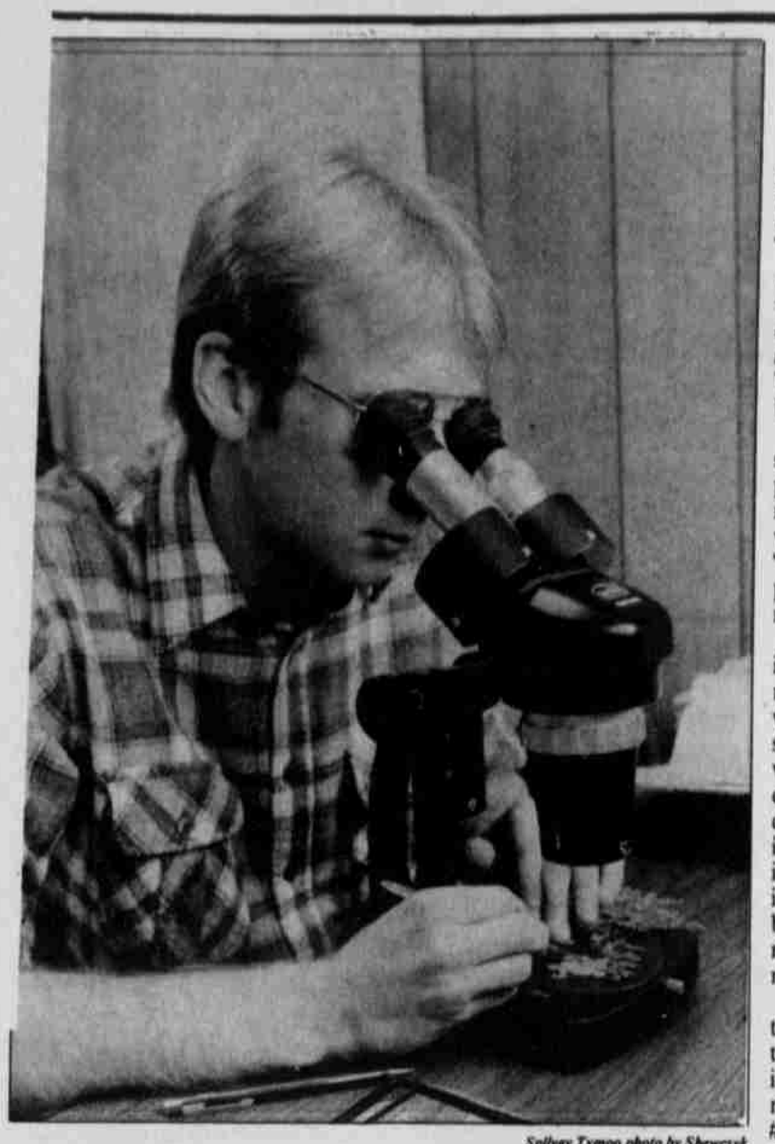

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Ethno-botonist Richard Helliwell studies plants growing on the Warm Springs reservation which relate to the Indian culture.

Cultural plants inventoried

"The root issue is just as important as the salmon issue and we need to address it."

Increased land development has made the preservation of plant food areas a pressing issue and of importance now. "Since development has geared up so much," explains Culture and Heritage department director Nina Rowe, "little consideration has been given to plants that occur in areas that are being sprayed, used for homesites, grazing, water development, fencing projects, logging and other activities.

The existence of these plants in areas scheduled for development have been ignored. These areas have been used traditionally by Indian people and continue to be used. "As traditional people," asserts Rowe, "we need to start realizing that our natural resource are important especially for our children's future."

Because of the seeming disregard given to areas where cultural plants grow, Rowe decided it was time to start gathering hard facts to show tribal land developers where these cultural areas are located. Many times culture and heritage representatives have voiced their concerns without information to back it up. All other departments are able to lay down facts and figures.

The Culture and Heritage committee allocated funds to hire an ethno-botonist to do just that. Richard Helliwell is making a traditional food inventory and gathering density and impact information. "Now, we're mapping and documenting these areas," Rowe adds.

Beginning this spring Helliwell has begun to gather plant information. He will be working for three years from March through September to collect data. Currently he is involved in a preliminary survey, viewing aerial maps to determine location for particular plants. "The reservation is extremely varied in soil types," says Helliwell, "For each type of plant you must look for something different." Concentration is being given to predominant food plants such as "coush," "luksch" and "Pe ah ke." Some minor plants are also being identified at this point.

Time has been spent with root-diggers discussing plants and their locations. Helliwell is also working with tribal linguist Hank Morrison to equate Indian names with scientific names.

The second step, the plant inventory, says Helliwell, involves making ground plots and counting the number of plants in each area. Topographic features associated with plant locations will be include in the summary.

"Root grounds have been pretty stable," explains Helliwell. The same is still made of these sites. "People, 1,000 years ago were after the same resources."

Preserving cultural areas in the midst of reservation development requires good documentation. With the information being collected, the Culture and Heritage department hopes to prevent development of traditionally utilized plant digging areas. The people's concern for these areas, emphasizes Rowe, is something "leadership needs to be aware of."

Corp plan fails fish

A coalition of seven state and federal fish agencies and 13 Indian tribes are criticizing a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plan for protecting juvenile fish in the Columbia River this spring and summer. The coalition, called the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, is concerned that too little spill will be provided for downstream migrating fish during this year's anticipated low water conditions. Spilling water at dams reduces the number of juvenile fish, or smolts, killed by passing through generating turbines

"It's a minimalist plan," is how Rollie Schmitten, chairman of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority, characterized the Corps' proposal. "The Corps is only willing to provide the minimum amount of water required by the Northwest Power Planning Council even though that amount will result in fish losses even though the Corps could provide more water without effecting firm power demand," Schmitten said. Firm power demand consists of the basic residential, commer-

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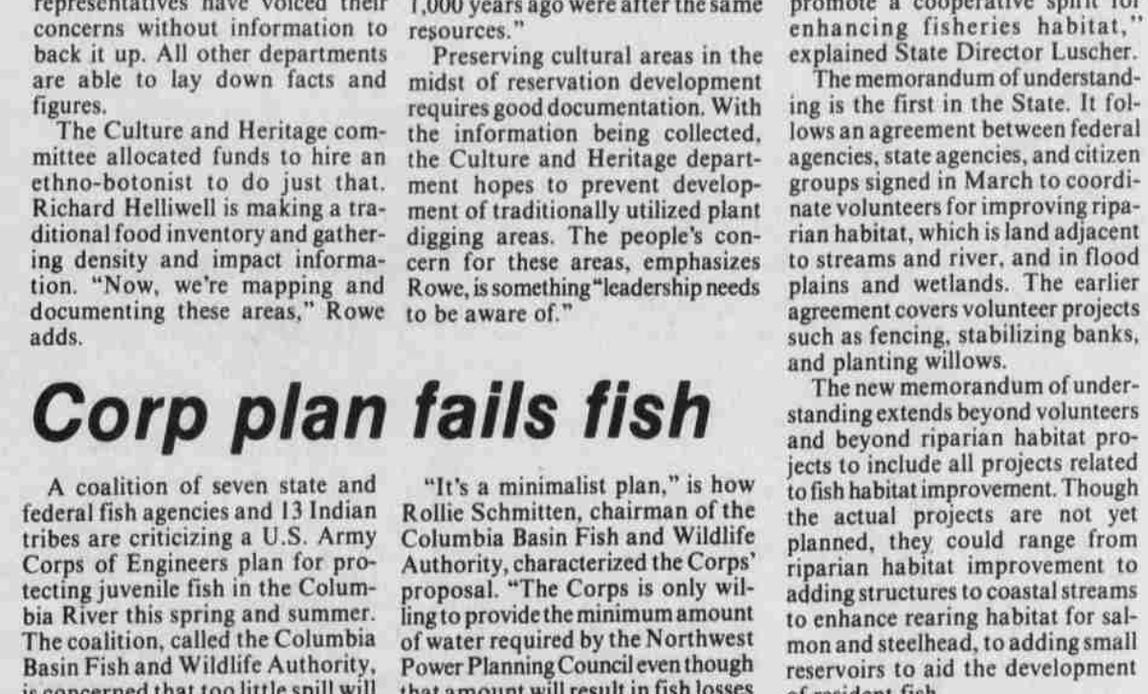


Spilyay Tymoo photo by Leno-Baker

Upon the completion of the new tribal freezer, the Confederated Tribes will be able to store more fish and other game meats for ceremonial meals. The new building is located in the Industrial Park.

Environmental assessments open for review

Two environmental assessments for proposed action on the Warm Springs reservation are now subject for public review.

Understory burning in ponderosa pine is planned with annual treatment from 500-1000 acres, based on need. Old Daniel Springs timber and Mistletoe Flat timber sale on Tenino Road are scheduled for burning this year.

According to the assessment dense stands of shrubs have prevented ponderosa pine from successfully restocking the site. Prescribed-fire would change plant succession and "encourage natural generation of ponderosa pine," as stated in the report.

For cost reasons prescribed fire is the preferred method of treatment. Environmental consequences with this method would include short term intrusion by smoke which would degrade air quality; water quality of some intermittant streams could be lowered because of increased runoff and nutrient leaching; There will be some tree mortality from fire intensity; wildlife would be temporarily displaced. This alternative, according to the report would not cause significant impact.

Public response is requested to the environmental assessment and to the proposed understory burning by April 30. A copy of the EA may be obtained at Forestry trailer #1 across from the Community Center.

Bunch and grass control and seedling release is the topic of a second environmental assessment. Forest plantations for treatment in 1987 total approximately 425 acres. "This treatment is deemed necessary by the Branch of Forestry to prepare sites for regeneration of timber species or to release existing seedlings from competing broadleaf brush," according to the report. The proposed action calls for spraying 2-4-D on pine plantations and aerial application of atrazine and simazine for grass control.

This treatment is preferred over mechanical and hand removal of brush and grass for cost reasons.

Proposed treatment areas are located in northwest, northeast and southern portions of the reservation with individual units ranging from 5-50 acres in size.

Some environmental consequences with the treatment include: Site quality could be minimally impaceted through surface runoff and wind erosion caused by foilage removal; Soil temperatures will fluctuate with higher temperatures possibly damaging seedlings; Air quality could be minimally impacted in areas being treated; Wildlife would be minimally impacted by removal of hiding cover on these small areas; The risk to workers is minimal if safety precautions are followed.

A public meeting to discuss the spraying will be held April 23 at 7:00 p.m. in the fire management trailer in the Industrial Park.

Fish pitted against power

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Umatilla, the National Wildlife Federation, the State of Idaho, the Washington Departments of Fisheries and Game, the Northwest Resource Information Center, the Salmon River Valley Chamber of Commerce and others filed their opening briefs last week in a lawsuit that pits Pacific Northwest salmon and steelhead interests against a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposal to increase power marketing to southern California.

The lawsuit is the most recent round in a series of conflicts over the allocation of the Columbia and Snake rivers' waters between power and fish.

"Although many people have seen the adult fish ladders for salmon and adult fish ladders for salmon and steelhead at Bonneville Dam, fewer people appreciate the obstacles the dams present to young salmon and steelhead (smolts) moving downriver to the ocean," said Tim Wapato, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Unless diverted away from the dams' turbines, juvenile salmon and steelhead many suffer extremely high mortalities (in the range of 70 to 90 percent) after passing eight dams.

The lawsuit was filed due to concerns over the availability of water to be spilled at the dams.

"Spilling water is about the only way to keep fish out of the turbines at dams, such as Lower Monumental and Prist Rapids, without juvenile fish bypass systems," said Thatcher, the Wildlife Federation attorney.

BPA's proposal would expand the capacity of transmission lines to the Los Angelos area by about 1100 megawatts. (This is roughly comparable to baseload requirements of the city of Seattle.)

The lawsuit challenges BPA's decision to proceed with the transmission expansion without preparing an environmental impact statement.

"BPA is an agressive market expansion program, due to present electrical power surpluses and the market they are targeting—and the reason for the transmission line—is in California, Arizona and southern Nevada," said Thatcher. "Fewer than ten years ago, however, BPA was forecasting power shortages."

Houses approve scenic status

A bill to designate 70 miles of upper Deschutes River as a scenic river passed both the House and Senate. The scenic river designation protects the river from development between Wickiup Reservoir and Lake Billy Chinook in Central Oregon. Hydroelectric projects on the river are prohibited. The bill received support from many Central Oregon citizens who felt further development of the river would destroy the unique recreational experience of the river along with fish and wildlife habitat.

Help wanted

Wanted: Janitor on the Deschutes River. Person or firm to clean restrooms on the Deschutes River starting at the Warm Springs Bridge. One to two miles per week from May 1 through October 30. Must have river boat, supplies will be furnished. For more information call (206) 824-3269.

Agreement increases fish

Federal agencies and Oregon Trout took the first step today in a new, coordinated effort to increase fish habitat in the state of Oregon.

In a special ceremony held at the Regional Office of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service, Regional Forester Jim Torrence, Bureau of Land Management State Director Bill Luscher, and Oregon Trout Executive Director Bill Blake signed a memorandum of understanding that will "serve as a guide for fishery management coordination and public understanding of fishery resources on Federal Land in Oregons," according to the document.

"We predict that our agencies, working together with Oregon Trout, can bring additional dollars into Oregon's $390 million sport and commercial fishing industry through increasing the harvest of resident and anadromous fish by 25 percent," stated Regional Forester Torrence.

"We will use this agreement to promote a cooperative spirit for enhancing fisheries habitat," explained State Director Luscher.

The memorandum of understanding is the first in the State. It follows an agreement between federal agencies, state agencies, and citizen groups signed in March to coordinate volunteers for improving riparian habitat, which is land adjacent to streams and river, and in flood plains and wetlands. The earlier agreement covers volunteer projects such as fencing, stabilizing banks, and planting willows.

The new memorandum of understanding extends beyond volunteers and beyond riparian habitat projects to include all projects related to fish habitat improvement. Though the actual projects are not yet planned, they could range from riparian habitat improvement to adding structures to coastal streams to enhance rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead, to adding small reservoirs to aid the development of resident fish.

Approximately 31,000 miles of streams in Oregon sustain resident and anadromous salmonid fisheries. Over half of these miles are on National Forests and land administered by the BLM. In addition, 385,000 acres of lakd and reservoir habitat provide high quality recreational resident trout and warm water fisheries.

Deschutes study shows impacts

A study of recreational use of the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River has found it to be impacted environmentally in many areas and overcrowded.

Commissioned in 1985 by the Oregon State legislature, recreational specialist Bo Shelby from Oregon State University studied four sections of the lower Deschutes.

Increasing recreation use in the late 1970's after the river was selected as a Scenic Waterway led to concern about the river. In 1980 a 17-member Governor's Task Force reviewed issues and public input and made recommendations for management. Subsequent management included greater cooperation among agencies, data collection, user education, land acquisition, law enforcement and development maintenance of facilities.

Some interest groups were still concerned in 1985 about overuse which led to the decision by the Oregon legislature to commission an independent study.

Recreational opportunities on the river are diverse and include angling, camping and floating. Particular river segments receive more use.

Several areas of ecological concern have been identified by interest groups and resource managers. These concerns include: degradation or loss of riparian vegetation, increasing rates of riverbank erosion and sediment input, maintenance of the trout and steelhead fishery, decline on wildlife, frequency of wildfire, and the aesthetic appearance of recreation sites. Recreation impacts were viewed as ecological problems in heavily-used sites.

An assessment of current ecological conditions suggests that riparian vegetation is below its maximum potential in many areas. Long stretches of the riparian zone and riverbank have been managed by grazing, railroad and road construction. Riparian zones and riverbank have been locally damaged by heavy recreational use in some areas. The loss of riparian vegetation and increased sediment loads may be having a detrimental effect on the trout and salmon fisheries, according to Shelby's report. Protection of the riparian zone is important, Shelby states.

The Shelby study used observation and questionaires to arrive at its conclusion. The river was divided in to four sections and each was analyzed.

Section one from Warm Springs to Dutchman Flat is typically used for overnight trips. Local impact to recreation sites has increased in recent years. River environment and fishing are rated most important. Crowded conditions are perceived by users in campsites and on the river.

River users favored small-scale development with increased education and law enforcement. They favored jet boat limits.

Whitewater, good weather and social interaction are rated important in section two from Dutchman flat to Sherar's Falls. It is also rated the most crowded of the sections studied. Impacts in camping areas and impact as a result of grazing are prevalent. Users favor small scale development, education and law enforcement programs.

The least used section is three, from Buck Hollow to Mack's Canyon. Steelhead fishing and river aesthetics are the most important reasons for use of this section. Impact problems are overcrowding. Persons surveyed in this section favored small scale development and increased education and law enforcement.

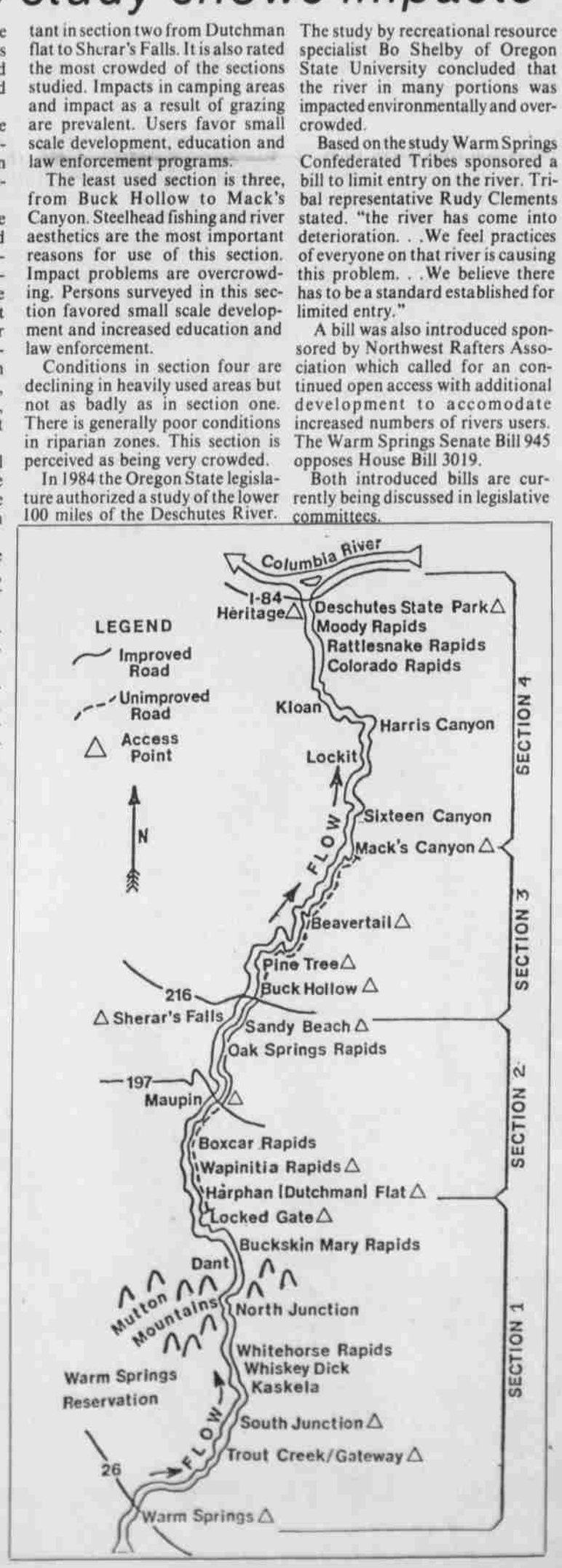
Conditions in section four are declining in heavily used areas but not as badly as in section one. There is generally poor conditions in riparian zones. This section is perceived as being very crowded.

In 1984 the Oregon State legislature authorized a study of the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River. The study by recreational resource specialist Bo Shelby of Oregon State University concluded that the river in many portions was impacted environmentally and overcrowded.

Based on the study Warm Springs Confederated Tribes sponsored a bill to limit entry on the river. Tribal representative Rudy Clements stated. "the river has come into deterioration. . .We feel practices of everyone on that river is causing this problem. . .We believe there has to be a standard established for limited entry."

A bill was also introduced sponsored by Northwest Rafters Association which called for an continued open access with additional development to accomodate increased numbers of rivers users. The Warm Springs Senate Bill 945 opposes House Bill 3019.

Both introduced bills are currently being discussed in legislative committees.



Lower Deschutes scenic waterway.