



Warm Springs fisheries biologist Mark Fritsch works with volunteers from Central Oregon Flyfishers, Portland General Electric and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife STEP coordinator to construct pools for bull trout in Jefferson Creek. Increasing fish habitat will hopefully increase fish populations.

Work begins on spruce budworm

Offices for the interagency Mt. Hood-Warm Springs western spruce budworm control project have opened in The Dalles and Madras, announced George Berscheid, Incident Commander.

Western spruce budworm is a caterpillar of a small moth that eats the new growth off of many types of evergreen trees. While it is normally a natural resident of the forest community its populations

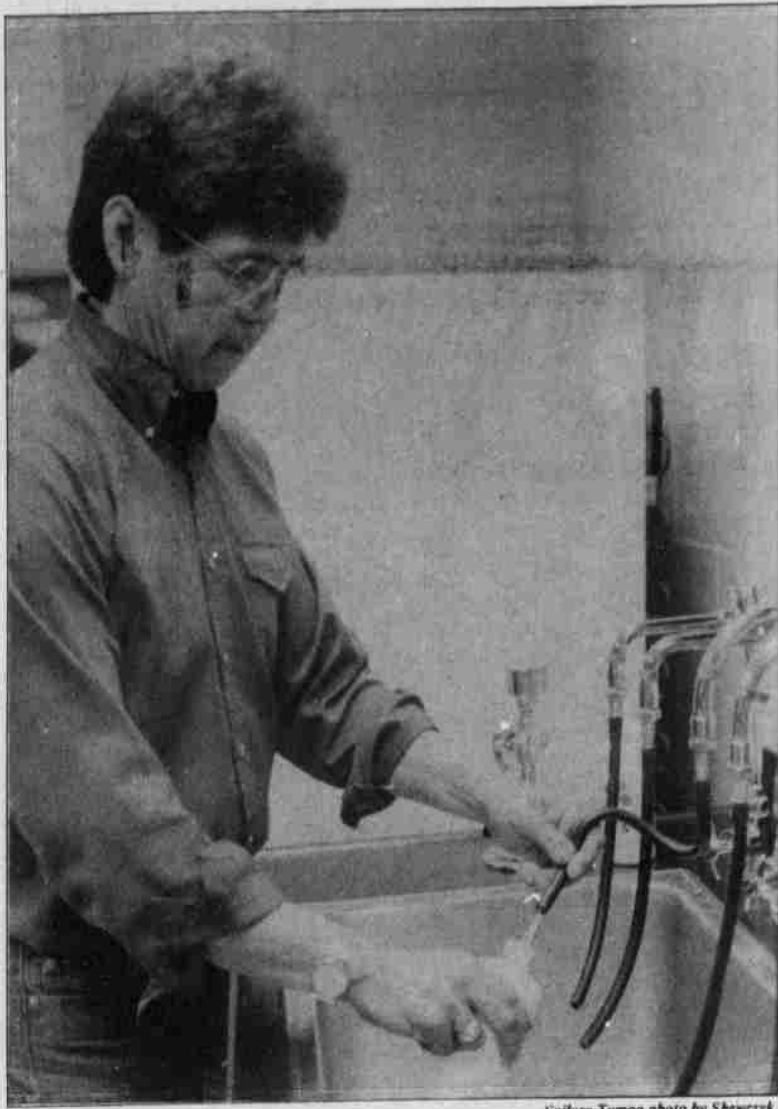
have currently reached epidemic proportions. Over a million acres of State, Federal and private lands have been infested between Hood River and The Dalles south through the Warm Springs Indian Reservation.

From late May through June, the USDA-Forest Service, Oregon State Department of Forestry, and Bureau of Indian Affairs are planning to treat 524,000 acres of Fed-

eral, State, and private forests with a biological insecticide known as B.t. B.t. is a naturally occurring bacteria that affects caterpillars. It is harmless to other insects, livestock, fish, wildlife and humans. This is one of the largest aerial spray operations ever undertaken, utilizing about 100 helicopters and about 500 people.

The project headquarters is located at 2705 East Second Street in The Dalles, 298-5547. A smaller office to handle primarily the Warm Springs Reservation portion of the project is located on Highway 26 in Madras, 475-6715. Both offices are open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fluoride levels kept at standard



Water distribution system operator Kanim Smith takes water sample in order to test fluoride levels in domestic water supply.

Warm Springs residents are receiving the proper amount of fluoride through the domestic water system. As a matter of fact, fluoride levels have been kept at optimum levels since October 1, 1986 according to a report issued by the Public Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services.

According to Water Treatment Plant manager Roy Vaughn the proper levels of fluoride injected into the water is closely monitored. Fluoride levels must be maintained between .9 and 1.4 milligrams per liter. This is measured by samples taken from the water on a regular basis.

After water is tested in the Warm Springs laboratory a water sample is sent to the Public Health Service laboratory in Pendleton. Results from both tests are extremely close.

Fluoride is injected into the domestic water systems at different locations on the reservation. Sidewater residents and Simnasho/Schoolie residents have their own systems. A water distribution system operator checks the wells three times each week. Fluoride is added to holding tanks and the injection system is inspected.

Water going into greater Warm Springs is treated at the Water Treatment Plant at Dry Creek. All water samples are tested at the plant.

Domestic water usage on the

reservation varies with the season. An average of 1.3 million gallons passes through the Treatment Plant while potable drinking water from Tewee reservoir totals 1.5 million gallons daily. Southeast distributes 2.0 million gallons daily and Kah-Nee-ta sends through 1.3 million gallons per day on the average.

Many reservations have never attained the proper fluoride levels for their domestic water system the report indicates. Warm Springs had improper levels only once, says Vaughn, "when the control unit went out at the well in Simnasho. Now we have a spare part" for that system, he adds.

A fluoride incentive program provides payment for compliance to fluoride level standards. During each quarter the three water systems can earn a total of \$200 if fluoride levels are within standards. That amount is added to the Warm Springs general fund regularly, Vaughn explains. Many reservations never see their compliance money.

Five employees help Vaughn keep the plant and water system in operation. Kanim Smith and Kelly Beymer serve as water distribution system operators. Steve Courtney and Tim Stetz are water treatment plant operators. Ron Maitland is distribution system forman. Many of the tasks performed by plant employees are overlapping. Vaughn points out.

Agreement reached

Plan helps to restore salmon, steelhead

An historic plan to restore runs and allocate harvest of fish in the Columbia River Basin has been agreed to by the federal government, the states of Oregon and Washington, and four treaty Indian tribes—the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce.

Work on this fish management plan has been underway since a federal judge ordered development of a joint management agreement in 1983. On Friday, March 11, the plan was submitted to the U.S. District Court in Oregon for review and approval.

The agreement is the culmination of 20 years of legal tests and negotiations stemming from U.S. vs. Oregon, a lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in 1968. The plan is a management agreement, not a settlement of U.S. vs. Oregon. The case is not closed—the federal court will continue its jurisdiction in the case to make sure that the tribes' treaty fishing rights continue to be upheld.

This followed on the heels of the landmark decision of Judge George Boldt in U.S. vs. Washington, proceedings involving fishing rights brought by Puget Sound and coastal Washington tribes against the State of Washington. Judge Boldt's 50/50 sharing rule was subsequently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court. The rulings in U.S. vs. Oregon and U.S. vs. Washington are judicial interpretations of the language and intent of treaties signed in 1855 by the federal government and Northwest Indian tribes.

At the core of this new U.S. vs. Oregon agreement is the goal to rebuild weak runs to full productivity and to fairly share the harvest of upper river runs in accordance with the tribes' treaty fishing rights.

For the tribes, restoring the salmon runs means developing year-round fisheries for tribal members at usual and accustomed fishing sites on the Columbia River and its tributaries.

tribal fisheries will be created for early-run coho in tributaries and for late-run coho on the mainstem Columbia.

Long-term plans call for new hatcheries to be established on some major Columbia River tributaries, such as the Yakima, Klickitat, Clearwater, and Umatilla rivers. These production and management decisions are tied to a new program that will develop what are called subbasin management plans.

There is also a procedure in the plan to resolve disagreements among the parties over fishing regulations and collection and interpretation of management data. In addition, a Policy Committee will also be available to handle concerns that might arise outside the purely technical realm.

The focus is on the maximum amount of information sharing, consensus, and conflict resolution outside the courts.

This plan adds a final link in the coordinated effort to restore Columbia River salmon and steelhead runs. A treaty signed in 1985 between the U.S. and Canada reduced harvest of Columbia River stocks in British Columbia and Alaskan waters.

The plan is also linked to the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, which is funding major fishery enhancement programs for the Columbia Basin. The Fish and Wildlife Program is aimed at offsetting some of the effects that hydroelectric dams have had on migratory fish and spawning habitats.

Although the State of Idaho participated in the negotiations for the new management plan, it has refused to sign it. Idaho alleges that Indians are allowed to catch too many steelhead under the agreement. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, a party whose rights in the U.S. vs. Oregon case haven't yet been defined, was not required to sign the plan.

Awareness, appreciation focus of program

A pilot program was recently planned and implemented by Warm Springs Natural Resources department fisheries personnel and 509-J school district teachers. Program objectives included achieving student awareness and appreciation of tribal natural resources and exposure of students to resource careers.

On May 12, approximately 30 seventh grade life science students from Madras Jr. High, directed by teacher David Vick and hatchery assistant Paul Hemerick, toured the facilities of the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery. Students were introduced to fishery propagation techniques and several thousand chinook salmon and rainbow trout.

The students also conducted a stream survey on Shitike Creek under the guidance of tribal fisheries biologist Bob Heinith and fisheries technician Louie Pitt Jr. Students measured physical and biological components of the creek and learned how they influence fish populations.

On May 19 and 20, Heinith and Pitt, with fisheries technician aides Carmela Scott and Orvie Danzuka and water technician Fritz Miller, combined efforts and presented a natural resources program to nearly all students attending Warm Springs Elementary on an individual classroom basis.

Fifth grade teacher Harry Phillips had previously coordinated the teacher staff with the program. During the presentation students were asked to differentiate salmon and trout from other fish captured that morning at the Warm Springs migrant trap. Students were also

asked what it meant to be a tribal member and to think about the importance of fishery and other tribal natural resources.

Lastly, resource personnel requested that students leave places for migrating salmon to pass through when they construct dams for

summer swimming on Shitike Creek, and to refrain from being streamside litter bugs.

Because of the outstanding success of the pilot program it is hoped that it will be expanded next year to include hands-on field activities for 509-J students at all grade levels.



Madras Jr. High seventh grade students feed salmon at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.



Warm Springs Elementary first grade students are enthralled by fish in a jar held by fisheries biologist Bob Heinith during classroom visit.



Students survey Shitike Creek, analyzing riparian areas, streambed and general environment.