# Unlimited access wanted on River

Unlimited access epitomized the appeal of Deschutes River users speaking at public meetings held in both Madras, February 13, and Bend, February 14. Commercial users and private parties expressed their view that the river could handle a no-limit entry system indefinitely.

Many who offered testimony before the Deschutes River Management Team acknowledged that problems existed including those of trespass, poor regulation enforcement, overcrowding, jet boat hazards, deterioration of riparian areas and monopolization of favored fishing and campsites, but few wanted more regulation.

Comments from the public ranged from Madras Mayor Ed Sites' comment, the Deschutes River "is a good place to party," to the importance of the river to the economy of Jefferson County, expressed by Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce executive director Marjean Whitehouse. Some wanted to see more boat launch points, some hoped to see less vegetation on the banks of the river, others wanted to see more shrubbery. Staggered boat launching was suggested as well as more development of campsites.

Only one person at the Madras meeting emphasized the importance of looking into the future. Portland General Electric fisheries biologist Don Ratliff stated that a limiting figure must be placed on the river.

Comments and suggestions offered by the public at the scheduled meetings will be used to draft a final plan for management of the Deschutes River. The management plan is required by Oregon legislature House Bill 3019 and by the U.S. Congress in its designation of the river as a National Wild and Scenic River.

The river is divided into four segments, each with proposed alternatives for development. Segment one includes 41 river miles from Pelton Reregulating Dam to the Deschutes Club Locked Gate. Section two is 15 miles from the Locked Gate to Sherar's Falls. Segment three incorporates 21 miles from Sherar's Falls to Macks Canyon. Segment four is the 23 river miles from Macks Canyon Campground to the confluence of the Deschutes River with the Columbia River.

Seven agencies are involved in the planning process including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (with 5,669 acres affected), the Bureau of Land Management (20,641), the State of Oregon (4,806), the governor appointed Deschutes River Management Committee, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wasco, Sherman and Jefferson Counties, and the the City of Maupin. (Private acreage includes 10,251).

The planning process following public meetings includes preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for each alternative. The preferred alternatives will be selected by the Policy Group by Spring 1990. The first plan is scheduled to be completed Fall 1990 with implementation in the winter of that year. The plan will be continuously monitored, evaluated and updated.

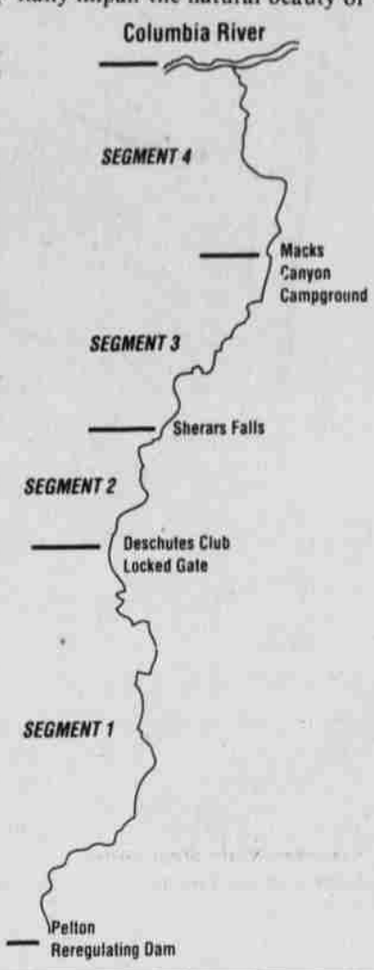
Overall goal for the management of the river as stated in a Bureau of Land Management summary document is stated as being "To manage the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes River Canyon on a segment by segment basis to allow the continuation of compatible existing uses, while providing a wide range of public outdoor recreational opportunities and minimizing user conflicts. These recreational opportunities would be provided to the extent that they do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the river canyon, dimish its esthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values and take into account the rights and interests of private landowners."

Minimum standards for the entire planning area according to the BLM document include: 1. Any riparian and upland area that is in declining status or is in less than mid-seral (25% of less or the plant composition found in the potential natural plant community) ecological status; 2. Any riverbank that is actively eroding at such a rate that water quality and fish habitat are adversely affected; 3. Any significant natural feature or recreational value that is eroding or being irreparably damaged by human use to the point that it is in danger of being lost; 4. Any significant health hazard caused by human use; 5. Any damage to the habitat of or endangered species caused by human use; 6. Any abuse of significant historical, archaeological or geological sites; 7. Any significant degradation of water quality due to human use; 8. Any fish population decreases below the following levels: Spring chinook-total return 8,500 to 12,000, harvest 5,500 to 8,000, spawning escapement 3,000 to 4,000, Fall chinook-total return 10,000 to 12,000, harvest 4,000-5,000, spawning escapement 6,000 to 7,000; Summer steelhead-total return 16,000 to 22,000, harvest 6,000 to 12,000, spawning escapement 10,000; Rainbow trout will be managed as wild fish, maintained at a total population indicated by 1,500 to 2,500 fish per mile larger than eight inches in the Nena Creek area; Bull trout will be managed to maintain the existing population; Sockeye will be managed to develop and maintain a self-sustaining run; 9. Any significant damage to private land and improvements within or adjacent to the planning area resulting from public use.

Questions regarding the Deschutes River Management Plan may be directed locally to DRMC member Louie Pitt, Jr. at the Warm Springs Natural Resources Office.

Copies of the issues and alternatives are available through the Bureau of Land Management Office, P.O. Box 550, Prineville, Oregon 97754.

Comments on the plan will be accepted until February 28, 1990 and can be sent to the BLM office in Prineville.




## Integrated planning needed

Management of natural resources demands a comprehensive view of all resources. "The stakes are too high to do otherwise," says George Brown, dean of the School of Forestry at Oregon State University.

During the annual meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society, meeting February 7-9 at Rippling River Resort, the fisheries professionals examined the importance of looking at natural resources in an integrated manner to maintain quality for future generations. Rather than fostering an "illusion of knowledge," says Brown, resource managers must work together and work with the public to discover solutions to ongoing problems.

The threatened and endangered species "translates into a threatened ecology," points out Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Jim Martin. The best job professionals are doing is not keeping up with the diminishing quality of resources. Martin emphasizes that as professionals "we've come a long way," but it isn't good enough. It's necessary to make certain that resource quality is not lost, that adaptability for species is maintained, and that integrity of the ecological system is cultivated.

As habitat biologist for the Jamestown Klallam tribe in Sequim, Washington, Jim Lichatowich sees answers to concerns and issues in resource management in the public. The public, he says, "must be allowed to play a role in the decisions." Biologists and resource managers cannot tackle the problems alone and expect to solve them. The public must be a part of the process.

Lichatowich, speaking to conference participants adds, "You're never going to have to face your judges" for decisions that are made. So, "decisions must come from your own conscience." Resources must be protected for the future and professionals with citizens will provide the answers.

It is crucial that resources be seen as whole, rather than separately, that managers look at an entire watershed rather than a single resource. Resources must be managed on an integrated level and according to Brown, the time for that is now.

# IRMP will create multiple-use reservation

In 1987 the Warm Springs Tribal Council directed all tribal and Bureau of Indian Affairs resource managers to determine the annual allowable cut for the reservation, taking into account all resources. They wanted the entire reservation analyzed, but in the six-month time-frame allotted, resource managers were able only to collect and analyze data from the Beaver Creek watershed. Resource managers could only estimate the allowable cut for other watersheds taking into consideration minimal impacts on other resources.

Looking at the results of this first integrated resource plan, Tribal Council directed resource managers to develop a plan for the reservation forested areas, a total Integrated Resource Management Plan.

The forest management plans previously used to manage resources in forested areas on the reservation "didn't take into account all of the resources," explains BIA Range and Agriculture coordinator Ross Racine. "Resource managers were allowed to comment on the sales but the objective was to maximize the timber resource with consideration to other resources." Racine adds.

The IRMP process currently in use is organized so resource managers "complement rather than compete" with one another, notes Racine. With proper management planning, the IRMP will create a multiple-use reservation rather than one dedicated to the development of one resource.

Tribal members attending IRMP public meetings have expressed concern about all resources on the reservation. They have emphasized an interest in protecting resources, controlling logging, limiting the use of chemicals, roads and pollution.

Focus in the IRMP processs is currently directed at data collection and analysis of the data. Resource managers meet weekly and public meetings are being held to discuss the IRMP.

Alternatives for the reservation's watersheds will be presented to Tribal Council in the final plan which will give the Council an overview of the condition of the resources in the watershed and the effect of developing one resource over another.

Resource managers will be submitting the final drafts of the plan beginning in September 1990 with the Forest plan. Other resource plans will be submitted September 1991. Evaluation, alterations and monitoring will continue on the watersheds even after implementation of the plan. The final plan is scheduled for implementation in June 1992.

Tribal members are encouraged to participate in the IRMP process by attending meetings and making comment. Those with special interests may contact the chairman of the various committees: Dale Sarkinen-Forestry; Deepak Sehgal-Water; Marsha Kimball-Culture and Heritage; Dave Smith-Range; Mark Fritsch-Fish; Terry Luther-Wildlife; Ross Racine-Soil; Dale Parker-Rural housing; Elton Greeley-Recreation; and Richard Inman-Long-term production.

The IRMP procedure "needs the expertise" of tribal members, says Natural Resources fisheries technician and IRMP public meeting facilitator Louie Pitt, Jr. Identifying concerns and developing a working plan for the reservation requires everyone's involvement.

## BPA budget may be cut

The $1.23 trillion budget submitted by President Bush proposes a change in the way marketing agencies, including Bonneville Power Administration, repays their federal debt. It could raise Pacific Northwest electric rates as much as 42 percent.

The president is also proposing to cut BPA's operating budget by 34 percent for $250 million to $170 million a year. This may mean consecutive programs will be cut.

The budget proposes spending $175 million for a reforestation program, planting a bilion trees on private lands and a community trees program.

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# Integrated Resource Management tribal member survey

**(Tribal members: *Please answer questions and return survey to the Natural Resources office)***

Membership Survey Date._____
Member_____ Non-member_____

1. Do you understand what the Integrated Resource Management Planning process is about?____Yes _____No
I would like more information on:_____
_____.

2. What Resource shcould receive priority in management?
*Please select five (5) and mark in order of preferred priority (1 being highest and 5 lowest).

_____Economic Development
_____Farming
_____Fishing
_____Food Gathering
_____Grazing
_____Water Resources
_____Other (Please Specify)_____
____ Hunting
____ Logging
____ Rural Housing
____ Tribal/Public Recreation
____ Wood Cutting

3. What would you like the FOREST to be like in the future?

____More Clearcuts
____More Wildlife Cover
____Cut More Trees
____Leave more downed wood in timber sale units
____Remove as much merchantable wood as possible
____Allow livestock to graze in forest management units
____Reduce the number of roads
_____Less Clearcuts
_____Less Cover-More Open Ground
_____Reduce Timber Cutting
_____Build more Roads

Comments:_____
_____

4) How should Conditional Use areas be managed?

_____Manage for more recreational opportunities such as hunting, fishing, hiking, site seeing, etc.
_____Provide more protection to wildlife and big game habitat
_____More emphasis on Timber management and harvest
_____Manage areas as they have in the past
_____Protect areas from Wildfire
_____Manage areas in a Natural state
_____Provide sanctuary areas for wildlife where hunting is not allowed
_____Provide more protection for unique environments
Comments:_____
_____

5) What methods, do you think, would best protect food gathering and culturally sensitive areas? (Please Chose Three (3)).

_____More regulations with strict enforcement (loggers, trespassers)
_____Identify areas and implement plans which avoid or restrict other resource uses
_____ Restricting the use of herbicides/chemicals in food gathering areas
_____ Limiting rural housing expansion to protect traditional food gathering areas
_____ Protect food gathering areas (e.g. meadows) from further disturbance by limiting access through road closures, no new road construction, etc.
_____ Make food gathering areas more accessible to Tribal members
Comments:_____
_____

6. Which CULTURAL PLANTS do you think are most important to manage for:
(*Please number your choices in order of highest to least importance (1 being highest and 12 lowest). You may number one or more items with the same number if they are of equal importance to you.)

__piaxi (biscuitroot) __lukwš (desert parsley) __xaus (bitteroot)
__xamsi (Indian celery) __ša'mamui (wild onion) __camas
__sawitk (Indian carrot) __Huckleberries __ Choke cherries
__k'unč (Black Moss) __šuxašuxa (wild mint) __mamn
OTHER_____
_____

7. How Should Stream and Lake areas be managed?

__More emphasis on overall watershed protection and water quality
__Provide more recreational opportunities to Tribal members
__Manage stream and lake areas for improved Fish and Wildlife Habitat
__More emphasis on livestock grazing restrictions in these areas
__Manage stream and lake areas for more timber production
__Keep current level of management the same
__Manage certain streams for economic returns to the Tribe (Hydro-electric production, irrigation, community water systems)
Comments:_____
_____

8. How should the forest road systems be managed?

____Build more roads ____Would like to see fewer roads
____Would support road closures for wildlife protection
____Would support road closures for watershed protection
____ Would like to see more all weather roads for recreational uses, timber hauling,etc.

The most effective method of road closures in my opinion would be:
_____ Signs
_____ Boulders/Logs (Still provides for fire access in emergencies)
_____ Tank Traps (Large pits made by Cats or blasting)
_____ Ripping and reseeding roads to timber or grass species
_____ Gating
Comments:_____
_____

9. In your opinion, FIRE in resource management could be used more in:

____Enhancing range lands
____Understory treatment in commercial forest lands
____Huckleberry site reproduction
____Improving wildlife habitat
____In my opinion, fire is used too much
____Feel stricter air quality standards should be adopted
Comments:_____
_____

10. How should standing and downed dead trees be managed?

____Standing dead trees should be left in the forest for wildlife habitat
____More dead and downed logs should be left in timber sale units for personal firewood use
____More trees left for future soil productivity
____Certain areas should be designated for commercial firewood cutting
____More trees should be used for commercial chipping operations
____Less trees should be used for commercial chipping operations
Comments:_____
_____

11. Recreational Developments in th FOREST should be:

____Create more recreational opportunities for Tribal members
____Create more commercial recreation opportunities for non-members
____Restore and protect scenic and visual corridors
____Create and maintain Wilderness areas
____Restrict recreational activities (off-road vehicles, etc) t protect sensitive resources.
____Manage existing recreational opportunities at the present level
Comments:_____
_____

12. Emphasis in managing the Wildlife resources should be placed:
(*Please mark species in order of preferred priority (1 being highest and 7 lowest).

____Bear
____Deer
____Elk
____Upland Birds
____Threatened and Endangered Species
____Waterfowl
____Watchable Wildlife
Comments:_____
_____

13. Where would you like to see more emphasis placed in the range management program at Warm Springs:
(Please Chose 3- and give a ranking of 1-Most Important to 3-Least Important.)

____Producer education(Breeding,Marketing, Grazing Practices, etc.)
____Fences
____Water Developments
____Grazing Plan Implementation
____Holistic Resource Management, Rest Rotation, Deferred Grazing Practices
____Riparian Habitat Protection and Improvement
____4-H and FFA programs
____Other Range Improvement Practices (Juniper Control, Reseeding, etc)
____(Please Specify _____)

14. Would you be in favor of tighter regulations governing range use and the strict enforcement of these policies?_____Yes _____No
Why or Why not_____
_____

15. What are the most important issues facing the Tribes in regards to their forest resources in the next ten years?
(Please rank the following in the order of importance. (1 most important to 10 least important.)

____game management
____reforestation
____logging control
____thinning
____trespass
____herbicide use
____fire control
____firewood
____logging access roads
____other (please list)

**Call the Natural Resources Office, 553-3233, for more information.**