

NWPPC listens to citizens

"We're here to listen" to local opinions regarding plans formulated by the Northwest Power Planning Council, explained public affairs director Rich Recker at a May 20 meeting in Madras and a meeting with tribal representatives in a prior meeting.

The NWPPC is trying to create long-range plans for electricity in the region and to mitigate for loss of Fish and Wildlife in areas affected by hydroelectric facilities. Once a plan is in place, Bonneville Power Administration is responsible for implementing the plan.

Even in the midst of budget cut discussions, says Recker, the Fish and Wildlife Program will most likely remain intact. Cutting this program "is a violation of the mandate," says Recker.

Although the council has no direct authority over the Corp of Engineers and the effect of their facilities, Recker explains that "political persuasiveness" could be used to assist in their compliance. However, this is not an absolute.

The local meetings come after a realization by the NWPPC that the public process used throughout the plan is not as efficient as it could be. Often large groups were represented at the public meetings but local citizens were not.

Recker encourages comment regarding the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Program. Comment is invited through the summer. Call Rich Recker at the NWPPC offices, 229-5171 or write 620 S.W. Fifth Ave., Suite 1025.

Streamflow Restoration Act introduced

The Salmon/Steelhead/Streamflow Restoration Act of 1993 (SB 960) recently was introduced in the Oregon Legislature. The bill seeks to protect instream flows from continued overappropriation, restore streamflows by facilitating transfers of existing water rights to instream use and providing incentives to do so, amend the conservation statute to provide more incentives to conserve water and preserve the biological integrity of streams by requiring all water right holders to install fish screening and by-pass devices within five years of the bill's passage.

Resident bull trout may be listed as endangered

The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced on May 17 that a petition to list the bull trout under the Endangered Species Act is substantive, and the agency will begin a formal review of the status of the species. Bull trout are a relatively large native trout, similar in appearance to Dolly Varden and brook trout.

The Fish and Wildlife Service received a petition in October 1992 from three conservation organizations in Montana: the Swan View Coalition, Friends of the Wild Swan, and the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Inc. The petition requested listing the bull trout as endangered throughout its range, which includes Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, and Montana. The petition also requested that the Service emergency list those bull trout populations in immediate danger of extinction. In January 1993, the Oregon chapter of the American Fisheries Society also petitioned the Fish and Wildlife Service to list the bull trout within the Upper Klamath River Basin.

Bull trout historically occurred from the headwaters of the Yukon River in Canada to northern California, including portions of the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Nevada. It is thought

to have disappeared from California and a number of drainage's in the western states.

The petitions and accompanying information indicate bull trout have been in serious decline throughout their historical range due to habitat degradation and loss, genetic isolation, overharvest, competition, and hybridization with introduced species.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will now conduct a formal status review of the species to determine whether listing as threatened or endangered is warranted. That judgment could be made by October 1993. If warranted, a formal proposal to list the species would follow.

The 90-day finding was published in the Federal Register on May 17, 1993.

Bull trout populations exist in some tributaries on the Warm Springs Reservation. The Tribe also has an interest in the population in the Metolius River and in Lake Billy Chinook. The Tribe is currently seeking funding from the Northwest Power Planning Council to study bull trout.



Bull trout studies show a decline from historical numbers.

Study assesses Columbia River as integrated system; looks at potential risks from Hanford

The Columbia River is considered to be one of the Pacific Northwest's greatest assets.

The Tri-Party Agreement agencies value the Columbia River and agree that a comprehensive study assessing the river as an integrated system, to determine potential risks posed by Hanford operations to human and ecological (plant and animal) populations, is a good idea.

The study will involve review of existing technical information accumulated from nearly 50 years of study, and regulatory and public interests.

A work plan will be generated to define all field activities, should they become necessary to eliminate gaps in data already gathered.

This will increase the agencies'

understanding of the river's ecological systems in order to enhance protection of human health and the environment.

The state of Washington classifies the Columbia as a Class A river. A Class A determination means that the river is considered to be excellent in terms of uses.

Class A means the Columbia is excellent for a water supply, fish and shellfish habitat, wildlife habitat, recreation, navigation, and it meets certain water quality criteria.

In addition to the uses listed above, the river is one of the primary reasons why the Hanford Site was chosen as part of the Manhattan Project.

The clean, cool water of the Columbia provided ample water to cool the nuclear reactors that needed to be

built support our national defense.

In fact, reactor operations were the source of the vast majority of the contaminants that entered the river.

The river continues to be an exposure point and off-site transport pathway for contaminants from Hanford.

From Hanford's beginning, routine monitoring and special focused studies have followed the impact of the site's river discharges to human, plant, and animal populations.

Recent environmental regulations including the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, Liability Act mandate that ecological preservation needs to be weighed equally with human health.

A comprehensive review of the available ecological information on

the river will determine if data gaps exist.

Additional information may be needed to determine both ecological and human impacts caused by contaminants released from Hanford.

A vast amount of information

exists on contaminant loading from the Hanford site into the Columbia River. However, this information is being generated from a variety of programs.

By analyzing the river as a whole system the three agencies will have

the ability to complete ecological risk assessments for river-related operable units.

The ecological risk assessments will help determine if any remediation is required of the river.

NWPPC Responsibility calls for mitigation

What is the obligation of the Northwest Power Planning Council for Fish and Wildlife mitigation resulting from impact by hydroelectric facilities?

Annual salmon and steelhead runs have dwindled to 2.5 million from 8 million in 100 years and habitat has been cut by one-third due to impacts of hydropower, poor logging practices, grazing, and habitat degradation in general. But the major decline coincides with construction and operation of hydropower dams. Wildlife, too, has been impacted as has native fish populations.

In 1980, Congress passed the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act which authorized the states of Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington to enter into an interstate compact to create a policy-making and planning body to develop plans for long-range electric power and for mitigation of Columbia Basin fish and wildlife.

The Fish and Wildlife Program is a result of this act. The program encompasses 30 subbasins and 259,000 square miles.

The Council is using an ecosystem approach to protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife as part of the fourth and final phase of the Fish and Wildlife Program. The first three phases, completed in September 1992, deal with salmon and steelhead. This fourth phase deals with resident fish and wildlife. All of the phases will be integrated into a 1993 Fish and Wildlife Program.

In managing the Columbia Basin as a system, the NWPPC and scientists are striving for a balance. Trade-offs may be necessary, but that is expected. Protecting habitat, for example, may mean limiting water withdrawals or changing grazing practices.

Cooperative watershed management is included in the concept of ecosystem management as is work with Canada, necessary because the Columbia River originates in that northern country. The Council continues to work toward doubling the salmon run to 5 million.

No long-term goals exist for wildlife as yet. An interim goal calls for protection, mitigation and enhancement of 35 percent of "habitat units" (amount of habitat that supports one animal).

A wildlife rule was adopted in 1989 which calls for wildlife trust agreements. These negotiated settlement agreements will be made with state agencies and tribes to undertake and finance wildlife mitigation projects.

Protection and rehabilitation projects are now under review by the NWPPC funding. The Council selects projects on an annual basis. The Tribe has submitted four project proposals.

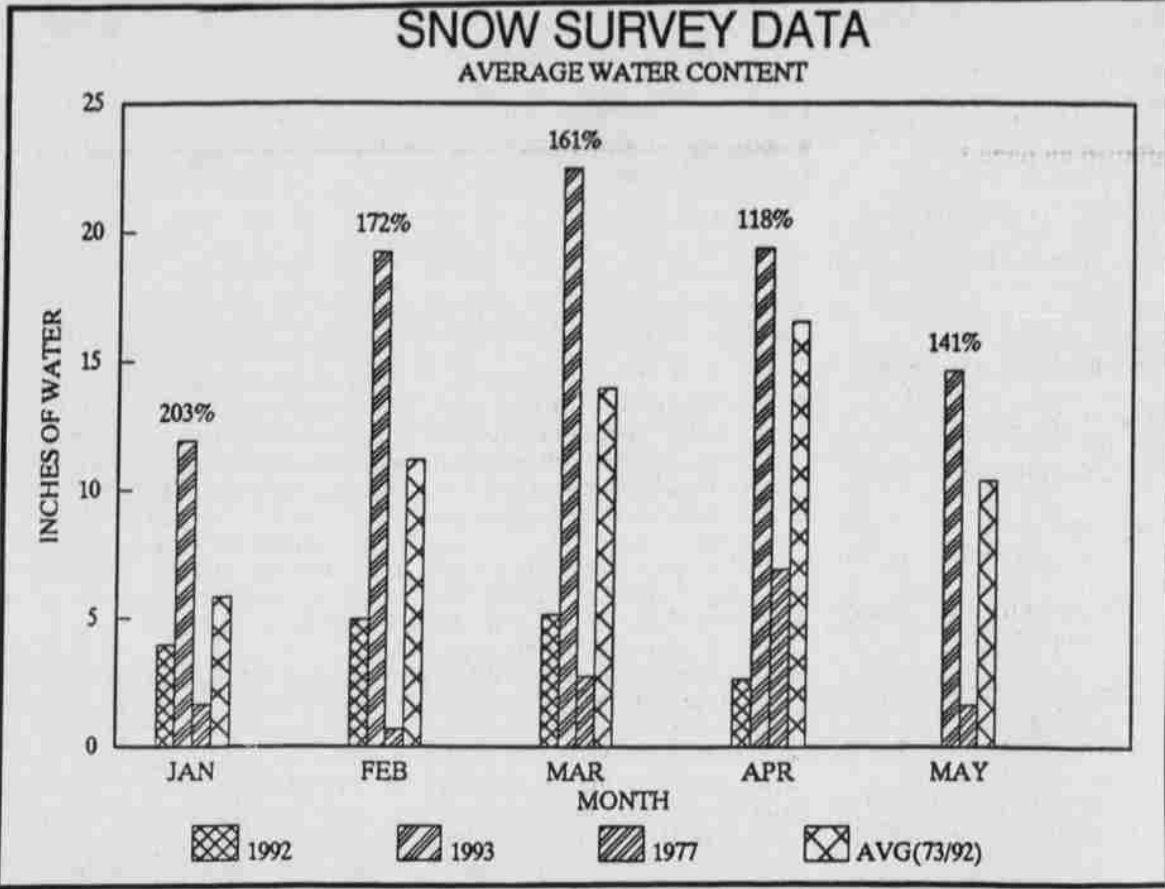
The first, The Deschutes Anadromous Salmonid Study, requests funding of \$200,000 to look at the feasibility of returning anadromous salmonids to the Deschutes River Basin above Round Butte Dam and

designing downstream passage from Lake Billy Chinook.

A Crayfish Study would look at basic biology of crayfish fish in Lake Billy Chinook with the purpose of managing for a tribal commercial fishery. The request is for \$95,000 for two years.

A Deschutes Landlocked Sockeye Study requests \$1,644,579 for an eight year study to evaluate the production potential and to understand year-class fluctuations of Sockeye.

Finally, a request of \$1.65 million has been made for a Deschutes, Hood River and John Day Bull Trout Study to look at life histories and limiting factors of bull trout populations with a focus on developing a conservation plan.



Working together is most important to ensure that system functions properly

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Following is the text of an address delivered here during National Crime Victims rights Week April 29 by Henry R. Thompson, victim/witness director the Apache County Attorney's Office in St. Johns, Arizona, on the Navajo Reservation.

"It is an honor to be asked to come today. Any time I am asked to speak on issues of victims I become very excited, especially when it's to a Native American audience. I serve as a Victim Assistance/Compensation Coordinator in St. Johns, Arizona.

"My responsibility entails serving victims of violent crimes in the Northeastern part of Arizona known as Apache county. The population of this area is approximately 68,000, with an area 50 miles wide and 200 miles long. Over half of this area and population is the Navajo Reservation.

"When I came on board in this area of victimization four years ago, there was very little done on the Navajo Reservation.

"I knew that if the situation was in this shape in the Navajo Nation, we faced similar problems but on a larger scale across the country.

"My initial reaction was to see how I could shed some light on the problems confronting administrators, how to better serve the victims on reservations and federal lands.

Finding the Main Players

"The first step was to get involved with the main players of the system we work in: police officers, prosecutors, social services, and victim assistance people. This task in itself

was overwhelming and took two years to finally reach a point to where a positive feedback was created.

Victims Compensation Program is a much needed program, especially for the American Indian. This program was designed to specifically assist victims of violent crime with financial assistance by covering medical, funeral and wage loss expenses. In fact in Arizona we also cover travel and traditional healing expenses.

The one crucial element of information required to receive compensation is the police report. This documentation is needed to verify that there was a crime and to give substantiation for compensation.

Washington State, unlike Arizona has centralized Victim Compensation Program situated in Seattle. This in itself creates another obstacle for the Indian Reservations in this state. There has never been a greater need than today for Victims Assistance Programs on Indian lands to coordinate and educate the law enforcement personnel.

Occasions of Homicide

When there's a homicide on the reservation, it is essential for the police to give what little information required to the Victims Assistance personnel so they can file the proper documentation with the Victims Compensation Office in Seattle. Our main concern as Victim Advocates is to make sure the victims receive the services they deserve with as minimal distraction as possible.

I know there are some law enforcement officers here today that disagree with me on releasing police

information. It is true, under the U.S. Attorney's office and the FBI guidelines — release of information concerning a crime on the reservation is not possible. However, Victim Assistance people only need limited information, information such as; was there negligence involved, did the victim provoke the incident, and was alcohol involved? These are just some of the questions.

There are a total of eight questions. Retrieving this information from the tribal Police has been a major problem in Arizona. Sometimes the victims would show up at my office but if there was no reports, I couldn't proceed with their application.

To solve this problem, Apache County Attorney's Office, in conjunction with US Attorney's office, devised a form that solved the problem for everyone. For the past two and half years that this form has been utilized, we have been satisfied with it.

In addition to this, two months ago there was a meeting in Washington DC between the Justice Department, Office of Victims of Crime, and the FBI. The result of this meeting was assignment of certain FBI agents to make sure that Victim Compensation offices received the information needed to assist their victims. We hope this will improve the service delivery even more to victims on Indian reservations.

Politics Plays a Role

Unfortunately, politics plays a great role throughout Indian reservations. I always thought that politics was always a method that was visible in society which excluded the

American Indian. I am afraid this is not the case — it is very visible in the Indian nations, well, in Arizona anyway. The reason this is being mentioned is the fact that there is a close connection between success and failure of a program due to the political climate. Sometimes the best people on the jobs are fired for no particular reason.

The sad thing about this is the fact that in most cases these individuals do not have any recourse. When competent people are placed in these situations, this eliminates the concentration and consideration that otherwise would have been applied to the job. When people are intimidated and are more concerned about job security than job performance, then everybody has problems.

I believe that when these people from Washington, DC who fund these programs for Victim Assistance/ Victim Compensation in Indian country, their intentions are good. However, when programs are not successful, they will no longer have the resources to operate. And on the bottom line, victims suffer again.

A Scream for Help

One of the greatest lessons that I have learned is not to ever be afraid to ask for help. I realize that there are a lot of people out there who are more than willing to offer their assistance in anyway possible. If they can't, they will refer you to someone who can.

I am not sure if this is a normal part of the system, but one of the biggest obstacles I faced was dealing with new people in key positions with such regularity. It seems as

though as soon as I established a rapport with a police chief or program director, they would disappear. Then I had to start on a new relationship with a new person. Believe me, after a few of these changes, I felt like throwing up my hands and walking away from the whole situation.

The greatest feeling I get from being involved in the Victim Assistance Program is the fact that our program assists people who are in dire straits and in most cases our program is the only one that can assist them in these situations.

My experience has been that special feeling of helping a victim with funeral, medical, or mental health expenses when no one else was able to assist them. This is what makes my job so rewarding.

Assisting a victim in this situation on the reservation is even more meaningful because of the conditions and economics confronting the people on reservations throughout the country. This issue of providing Victim Assistance to Indian Country has so inspired me personally that I feel everyone who resides on the reservation, Indian or non-Indian should be made aware of these services.

I'm not indicating by any means that our system is all bad, so please don't interpret my delivery with that connotation. My experience has been that maybe to make an organization function properly, you have to function together first. If there are problems, identify these problems by being very specific.

The bottom line again, is victims: Let's take care of them.

Special dance--

Continued from page 2

cash prizes, jackets and prizes while fourth and fifth place winners will receive consolation prizes and special gifts.

The contest will begin Friday evening, June 25. All participants are counted in each grand entry with the numbers being separated from the regular Pi-Ume-Sha numbers.

Call Barbara Jim at 553-3269 or Lovina Colwash at 553-1816 for more information.

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