

Rockin' 4-H: Back in the saddle again

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Working for him, Buller learned about horses, and the experience has been a part of his life ever since.

Last fall Buller was teaching at Jefferson County Middle School, when he got to know Jasper Smith, one of his eighth-grade students from Simnasho. They shared a common interest, riding horses.

Buller began meeting with Smith and other young people at Simnasho for informal riding sessions. Butch David, Warm Springs liaison at the middle school, helped Buller meet other families in the Simnasho area.

Soon there was a core group of riders who were meeting every week. They would spend some time riding and learning skills needed for ranching. Then they would have a barbecue. The parents thought it was a good thing, and the young people liked it too.

About this time Fara Currim became the Warm Springs OSU Extension Office agriculture agent. As part of her work with livestock on the reservation, Currim wants to see young tribal members involved in cattle ranching. She thought the Rockin' 4-H Club would be the perfect way, but the club needed to be revived.

The first thing was to find a club leader, so she approached Buller, who agreed to take on



Jasper Smith and Leander Smith on their horses.



Chris Buller, 4-H leader

This won't happen overnight, and that is a good thing.

"These are long-term goals, and when you're thinking about the future, you have hope," said Buller.

"This is something the kids can feel is uniquely theirs in Warm Springs, and they can have pride in where they live and in what they're doing. A blessing of the reservation is the 60,000 square miles of range."

Rockin' 4-H can be a way for the generations of people on the reservation to learn from one another. "There are elders in the community who are not connected with the youth," said Buller. "And the youth want to know what the elders know."

And as much as anything else, the Rockin' 4-H Club is about having a good time.

"The kids would be out here every day riding if they could," said Buller.

the task. They went to Tribal Council with the suggestion that the 4-H pastures again be put to use by the Rockin' 4-H Club. The Council was enthusiastic in its support, as this kind of project - encouragement of young tribal members - is a top priority of the Council.

Donations of cattle for the

newly reformed club are coming from Tribal Councilman Buck Smith and his son Jason Smith, Council members Rita and Earl Squiemphen, Councilman Raymond Tsumpti, and Secretary-Treasurer Jody Calica.

The hope is for each Rockin' 4-H Club member to have two cattle, said Currim. And along

with the livestock will come responsibility, and in the long run a profit.

"We're trying to build stewards of the range, to support a cattle industry that is geared to the uniqueness of the reservation," said Currim. Part of this involves horsemanship, as the reservation rangeland can't be

worked only with trucks and 4-wheelers, she said.

So there are many aspects to Rockin' 4-H: horseback riding and horsemanship, cattle-working skills, ranch management and business skills, roping, animal doctoring and breeding. "The kids are going to have their own cattle ranch," said Currim.

Yakamas prepare to study wild horses

TOPPENISH, Wash. (AP) - The faded gray stallion with four white socks and a long face fervently nods his head, serving notice not to come any closer to his herd. Moments later, startled by a sudden movement, the horses kick up a cloud of dust as they storm across the hillside, disappearing behind a ridge.

The stallion is just one of several thousand wild horses thundering across south-central Washington's Yakama Indian Reservation. Their exact numbers are unknown. But in the desert scrubland known as Dry Creek, tribal wildlife officials know there are too many to share habitat with the native

species they aim to restore to the land.

"We know just by observation that there are problems - inbreeding, overgrazing, lack of range management. We know that they have displaced other natural species, such as deer and elk, in some places of the reservation," said E. Arlen Washines, wildlife manager for the Yakama Nation. "But we don't know what's needed to fix that, to create a balance."

The Yakama Nation has begun preparing a wildlife management plan they believe will better help them understand how plants and animals best coexist on the reservation. They also hope to reintroduce some na-

tive species that haven't been seen in the area for decades, including pronghorn antelope, big-horn sheep and sage grouse.

But to reintroduce native species, the tribes first must learn more about the wild horses that roam freely across the land and their habitat.

Research has shown that wild horse herds across the West are the descendants of horses brought to North America by the Europeans. Whether horses were extinct on the continent before the Ice Age remains under debate.

American Indians believe the horse was already on the land, much like any other native species, Washines said.

Salmon: chemicals found in wild and hatchery fish

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The highest levels were in Scotland, where the fish tested at almost 4 ppb.

It's unclear exactly how the PBDEs leach out of products, but they've been turning up in everything from household dust to women's breast milk.

"Add this study to the mounting evidence that shows the PBDEs are in the environment and moving up the food chain," said Ivy Sager-Rosenthal of People for Puget Sound, an environmental group.

The study's lead author, Indiana University professor Ronald Hites, said it "was a real surprise to us" to learn that some wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest had levels as high or higher than farmed fish.

Studies of Puget Sound chinook and coho also have shown levels of PCBs on par with farmed fish.

Besides Hites, the study involved researchers from Cornell University, the University at Albany, the Midwest Center for Environmental Science and Public Policy and AXYS Analytical Services.

The source of PBDE contamination is likely the salmon's food. Farmed fish eat a fish meal made from ground-up smallest fish, and Chinook also

Health authorities and scientists urged people to continue eating salmon, which is a good source of protein and fatty acids.

eat smaller fish. The other salmon species generally eat lower on the food chain, feeding on jellyfish and plankton. Pollutants such as PBDEs, PCBs and mercury tend to build up in animals, concentrating in organisms higher on the food chain, such as orcas and people.

Unlike other pollutants, there are no dietary recommendations restricting how much PBDE is safe for people to eat.

Health authorities and scientists urged people to continue eating salmon, which is a good source of protein and fatty acids. PBDEs and PCBs concentrate in the fatty tissue of the fish, so removing the skin and using cooking methods that allow fat to drip off can reduce exposure.

Next month, the state Ecology Department plans to release a draft version of a plan to reduce PBDEs.

"These things shouldn't be out in the environment when we don't know what their effects are," Sager-Rosenthal said.

Spill

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But Redden rejected the analysis, calling it "arbitrary and capricious."

In their lawsuit and their arguments to Redden in court, conservation groups said more than a half million young salmon could die if spills were reduced at the Bonneville, John Day, The Dalles and Ice Harbor dams.

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