

Condors learn to multiply at Oregon Zoo

PORTLAND (AP) - The 12 endangered California condors at the Oregon Zoo have learned to multiply since arriving here a year ago.

One pair produced two healthy chicks. Another pair has proved to be stellar foster parents to one chick.

Already, adult males are beginning to court the females, spreading their wings and swinging their heads back and forth, signaling the start of another breeding season.

Oregon saw its first chick, appropriately enough, on May 9 - Mother's Day - 60 days after Tama, the queen breeder of Oregon's flock, laid a 4.3-inch-long, 10-ounce, gray-green egg.

"To come up in the middle of winter like that to a totally new area, and to not only give us one, but two eggs - it's unreal," said Joe Burnett, assistant curator of the breeding operation.

"It shows you how resilient they can be."

Last Nov. 19, Oregon Zoo keepers spread wood shavings



Beaded condor on a cradleboard at the Museum at Warm Springs.

over cold, concrete floors and cranked up propane heaters inside a drafty barn in rural Clackamas County. The birds arrived from balmy Los Angeles that morning, smack in the middle of a surprise Portland snowstorm.

Some were established pairs. Others met for the first time in Oregon.

Together, they signaled the newest chapter in the two-decade effort to rescue California condors from near extinction.

Their numbers had dipped to just 22 known birds by 1982, and in 1987, a captive breeding program started as a last-ditch method to help condors survive.

Yakama Nation rejects resort proposal

TOPPENISH, Wash. (AP) - The Yakama Indian Nation is no longer pursuing a proposal to develop a destination resort on tribal land on Mount Adams, a tribal council official said last week.

The proposed resort would have included eight ski lifts, a gondola and a tram that would carry skiers to 11,100 feet on the 12,276-foot mountain, as well as three 18-hole golf courses, a casino, restaurant and 2,500 lodging units.

Council members expressed interest in the idea to diversify economic development. Some tribal members and outdoors enthusiasts, however, criticized the idea in both newspaper articles and letters to the editor.

The 14-member council as-

signed a feasibility study to staff members from several tribal departments, including wildlife, fisheries, natural resources, cultural resources and water. Each reported in the past few weeks that the project would have a negative impact on the environment, Tribal Council Vice Chairman Virgil Lewis Sr. said.

"Seeing that and hearing that, we have decided it's not something we wish to pursue at this time," Lewis said. "I guess economically we could have benefited a very large sum of money to the tribe, but do we want to sacrifice an area of extreme cultural significance to the tribe? We're not ready to do that."

Mount Hood Meadows Development Corp., which operates two ski resorts at Mount

Hood, pitched the idea to the Yakama Nation earlier this year.

Dave Riley, vice president and general manager for Mount Hood Meadows, said he believes the idea is not yet dead. Mount Adams is a wonderful location for a destination resort and the idea just needs more time to draw support, he said.

"In my mind, it's still up in the air," he said. "We're going to continue to work with the Yakama Nation and provide additional information to them so they can continue to consider the development."

Mount Adams is one of the largest volcanoes in the Cascade Range. Known as Pahto to American Indians in the region, the mountain was returned to the Yakamas in 1972 by Presi-

dent Nixon following a nearly 50-year boundary dispute.

The area is closed to non-tribal members and remains a culturally significant and pristine site for fishing, hunting and sacred food gathering.

Lewis said a ski resort has been proposed for the mountain in the past and likely will be again, which is why the tribal council wanted to have a feasibility study completed for the record.

"We would be shirking our duty to not at least listen to the proposal," Lewis said. But he added, "I believe we have a lot of other options that have not yet been considered. We don't have to sacrifice an area that's more or less sacred."

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