

Fish carcass outplanting vital to river health

By Leslie Mitts
Spilyay Tymo

Fish biologists with the Department of Natural Resources are making sure to use every resource possible. This is especially evident with projects such as carcass outplanting.

Biologists recently concluded the annual carcass outplanting project that has been conducted in the late fall for approximately six years.

Each year biologists use carcasses of hatchery spring Chinook salmon that were spawned at the Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery.

Carcasses are outplanted into local waters to supplement the carcasses of naturally spawning wild fish.

While the task might not seem especially pleasant, carcass outplanting has been found to be extremely successful in supporting freshwater and terres-



Photo courtesy of Lisa Hewlett

Art Mitchell distributes carcasses.

trial ecosystems.

Research has shown that decomposing carcasses provide an important nutrient source to rearing juvenile salmon, terres-

trial animals and riparian vegetation.

According to Lisa Hewlett, a fish biologist with the Department of Natural Resources,

other research projects that have outplanted carcasses have shown that available nutrients have significantly increased the size and growth rate of juvenile salmon.

As the fish decompose, research has shown that the nutrients are released into the water.

This year biologists outplanted approximately 600 carcasses throughout Shitike Creek, Mill Creek, Beaver Creek and the Warm Springs River.

For certain local waters, this process is vital due to a lack of natural carcasses.

According to Hewlett, "Distributing carcasses is essential in certain areas where the carcasses of wild fish may be removed by predators."

Biologists concluded the outplanting project in late October.

Meteorite program coming to Warm Springs

A free program on meteorites will be held in Warm Springs on Wednesday, Dec. 13, presented by Dick Pugh, scientist from the Cascadia Meteorite Laboratory of Portland State University.

The program will be presented to students at Warm Springs Elementary School in the afternoon and to reservation residents at large in the evening at 6:30 p.m. The evening program will be held in the library at the Family Resource Center, 1144 Warm Springs St.

Pugh gives a 45-minute slide show and brings \$15,000 worth of meteorites and encourages those attending his programs to pick up and handle these rocks from space.

Pugh says to date only four meteorites have ever been found in Oregon, yet scientists believe there is one meteorite lying on every half square mile in the state.

"We're especially interested in eastern Oregon as meteorites would be easier to find on open parts of the high desert, as compared to

forests elsewhere," Pugh said.

"It's just a matter of time until one is found."

Anyone who has found a rock that he or she believes may be a meteorite is asked to bring it to the program.

Meteorites are often heavy, magnetic, pitted and have a surface that appears burnt from being hurled through space. Many are quite valuable. Meteorites belong to the owner of the land on which they are found.

Pugh has presented his program in a few dozen communities in eastern Oregon, sponsored by the non-profit Libraries of Eastern Oregon (LEO) with funding provided to LEO through The Oregon Museum of Science and Industry.

Julie Quaid of the Resource Center was instrumental in helping to bring the program to Warm Springs. For further information, please contact Quaid at 541-553-3438 or LEO director Lyn Craig at 541-763-2355.

Foster care: need for more homes

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"I think just seeing the smile on their faces and having a routine that they know is always going to be the same," Trimble explained.

"I treat them like my own children," she said.

According to Bernaidine Jackson-Spino, who works with CPS, there is currently a shortage of foster homes on the reservation.

"Currently on the reservation we have about 14 foster homes," she said. "We would like more just because we get so many complaints about children being placed off the reservation and not in an Indian home."

Placing local children in local homes is ideal, she said.

"We really encourage our tribal members on the reservation to open up their homes to any child and not just relatives," she explained. "As long as they have the extra room, the extra bed for the child to have its own space."

Foster parents are required to have a valid driver's license and a vehicle with proof of insurance.

Parents must also pass a criminal history check. While licensing in CPR and First Aid is preferred, it is not required. During the application process, policies and procedures are explained to the parent as well as what to expect as a foster parent.

Parents must also provide in-

formation about who is living in the home, how many bedrooms are in the home, safety standards and other information relating to the care of a child.

In addition, foster parents must sign contracts regarding discipline as well as a confidentiality contract.

According to Jackson-Spino, they also like to check on the health of the foster parent in order to ensure that they will be able to properly care for a child.

For Trimble, it's a responsibility that has changed her forever.

It's also an experience that isn't without its difficulties—but mostly it involves communicating with the children and figuring out how to help them.

It has affected her own children as well, she said, but only in a positive way.

"They get attached," Trimble said.

But the children who have lived in her home are often still a part of her life, she said. Trimble added, "When we see them in the community they still come up and talk to us."

Now, as she sees these children in the community, she said she is happy to have helped them and have made a positive influence in their lives.

"It makes me feel good to know there is some good out there," she said.

For more information, or to become a foster parent, contact CPS at 553-3209.

Indian Nite Out Dec. 19

Indian Nite Out is set for Tuesday evening, Dec. 19 at the Agency Longhouse.

Indian Nite Out is sponsored by the Warm Springs Recreation Department at Youth Develop-

ment. Dinner is at 6 p.m., and the games and powwow begin at 7.

There will be door prizes, and prizes for dancers in full regalia.

Eagle-Tech Systems will host a public meeting regarding the development of several projects in the Warm Springs business sector. Appetizers will be provided at the meeting, set for Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 6 to 7 p.m. The meeting will be at the old clothing factor, at 4202 Holliday Street. The Chamber of Commerce, CORE and representatives from the new tech center will answer questions at the meeting.

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