

Ski Day

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Since the children are often skiing for the first time, instructors are instrumental in helping them develop technique.

According to Miller, "Even the kids I saw getting frustrated this morning because it was their first time and it was challenging to balance on a snowboard—well, by the afternoon, after learning how to stop, they were loving it."

"It was so exciting for them to learn something new, and for me to see them really get it and love it was awesome," Miller added.

The trip was one of the most successful ski trips to date.

"With 45 Tribal members riding the bus from Warm Springs and another 32 CRITFC employees and their families, this was the largest and most successful Tribal Member Ski Day yet," said Sue Matters, KWSO Station Manager, who coordinated the event with Julie Quaid of the Family Resource Center.

With each of the five "Tribal Member Ski Days" over the last three years, Mt. Hood Meadows committed significant resources to develop a strong working partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Since the first tribal member visits to Meadows, the logic of tribal member seasonal employment has been evident.

Mt. Hood Meadows employs

up to 1,000 seasonal employees per year—something that became especially intriguing for those who work seasonally during the summer.

The only problem lied in the transportation.

That's why Julie Quaid, of the Family Resource Center, organized a program based on the Kah-Nee-Ta transportation program inaugurated last summer.

After requesting funding for a van to drive employees to Mt. Hood on a daily basis, more than a dozen tribal members were hired and are riding the Warm Springs tribal government-sponsored bus to Mt. Hood Meadows each day.

Jay Scott is one of several tribal members to make the trip between Warm Springs and Mt. Hood Meadows for employment.

"I like working up here," he said. "Everyone is nice, and they are having fun, both employees and guests."

Scott added, "I have guests thank me for being here and working—it really feels good to be appreciated. I appreciate the opportunity to come here and work in such a positive work environment."

For Scott, the job provides extra incentive—he gets the chance to practice his own snowboarding skills.

"I started snowboarding in high school," he said. "Now that I am working up here full time for the season, I have an employee pass with a lift ticket. I can use my own equipment or

rent at a discount and I can get free lessons as an employee too."

In Scott's opinion, "It's a great deal for me, I can come up on my day off or even take 'ride breaks' during my shift."

Scott is one of several employees using winter employment at Mt. Hood Meadows to offset season summertime employment.

"In the summertime I can go fight fires and travel, and in the winter I can work full time up here," Scott explained. "This works really well for me. I hope they continue to provide the van transportation because it makes it much easier for us to get up there."

To find out more about employment at Mt. Hood Meadows, check out their website at <http://www.skihood.com/mountain/jobs/>

Talk to Julie Quaid at the Family Resource Center to submit a job application and secure a seat in the employee van.

(The Spilyay wishes to thank Greg and Rachel Leo for their work on this article, and for the photos.)



Students from Warm Springs enjoy a day at Mt. Hood Meadows.

Greg Leo photo

Fish

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The project will also improve water and habitat quality, Gauvin said.

The tower will blend waters from various depths, and that will improve conditions such as water temperature for downstream fish.

For instance, Manion said, currently water in the reservoir is being drawn 250 feet below the surface of the water.

"The new tower will allow for the majority of the water to be drawn from the top of the res-

ervoir," he said—something that will address issues like oxygen levels in the water as well as temperature control.

Manion said the ability to draw water from the top is also what will accommodate the collection facility for salmon migration out of the project.

Basically, Gauvin said, "We're increasing the habitat that is available to fish."

The facility will pump water through at a rate of 6,000 cubic feet per second, Gauvin said—an extremely high rate that will make the tower even more efficient.

It's a project that will set a

new precedent for future projects as well.

"No one has ever done anything like this before anywhere in the world," Gauvin said.

"We have a lot of confidence that the facility is going to work," Gavin said.

However, Gauvin emphasized, it isn't a project that will have many short-term effects.

It will take several years for the fish populations to be impacted.

"It's not going to be by 2010," he explained.

Updates for tribal members will be available as the project advances, Manion said.



Rachel Leo photo

Young skier prepares for snowboarding.

Passage

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The Yakama Nation, joined by fisheries advocates and environmental organizations, sued to block the move. The Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes filed a friend of the court brief in support of the Yakama lawsuit.

"The tribes were very unhappy when BPA decided it didn't want the Fish Passage Center anymore," said Bruce Jim, Chairman of the Warm Springs off-reservation fish and wildlife committee.

Last year, the Fish Passage

Center's \$1.3 million budget expired. But because of the lawsuit, the appeals court blocked the BPA from cutting funding for the 11-employee center pending its decision last week.

The ruling last week confirms the court's original decision, finding that the BPA does not have Congressional authorization to discontinue funding the Fish Passage Center. The appeals court agreed with the plaintiffs that Sen. Craig's provision did not have the force of law, because the senator inserted it into a legislative report, not in a bill.

"Giving binding effect to passages in legislative reports may thus give binding legal ef-

fect to the unchecked will of a lone person, and that is not what our Constitution envisions," Judge Ronald M. Gould wrote for the unanimous three-judge panel, based in San Francisco.

After the ruling, Fidelia Andy from the Yakama Nation commented, "The Fish Passage Center is just the messenger. Destroying the messenger because you don't like the scientific message is contrary to salmon recovery needs. We are pleased that the court recognized our concerns and supported the continuation of the Fish Passage Center."

(The Associated Press helped with this article.)

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The Late Warren R. Clements
Tribal Leader,
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