

# Fish commission endorses sea lion removal

Leaders of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission member tribes have expressed strong support for a federal recommendation to authorize limited lethal removal of California sea lions.

The sea lions impact on endangered Columbia River salmon has reached crisis levels, commission members said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service, in a draft environmental assessment, recommends approval of a three-state application seeking lethal removal authority.

Tribal, state and federal fisheries managers have documented an exploding population of California Sea Lions coast-wide, and a growing sub-population that has become adept at exploiting endangered salmon seeking to enter the fish ladder at Bonneville dam.

"Today, NOAA took an important step toward giving fisheries managers a critically

needed tool to protect the salmon," said Fidelia Andy, chairwoman of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

"Lack of action toward the real and immediate threat of sea lion predation is unacceptable. We don't want another Ballard Locks-like debacle. We refuse to allow Columbia River spring chinook to be driven into extinction as the Lake Washington steelhead were in the 1990s."

The states of Oregon, Washington and Idaho submitted their application to NOAA fisheries in late 2006 seeking additional authority under section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

The states' request came at the urging of the commission's member tribes and after the multi-year, intensive, hazing effort by state and tribal crews demonstrated little success.

The tri-state application required a convening of a Pinniped Fisheries Interaction Task Force, that consisted of a diverse

group of eighteen parties including tribal, federal and state representatives, NGO's, and independent scientists.

The overwhelming majority of the Task Force's members supported the states' request for lethal take of California sea lions at Bonneville Dam and proposed two lethal take scenarios.

"Salmon has always been the lifeblood to our tribal culture," said Andy.

"Our tribes have, and always will be here to fight for their survival. We remain committed to working with the state and federal management agencies, scientists, and NGO's to adequately address the significant negative impact that sea lions are having on migrating salmon at Bonneville Dam."

In the early 1970s, California sea lion population numbered only around 50,000 animals.

NOAA now estimates the sea lions population of over 300,000 animals and approach-

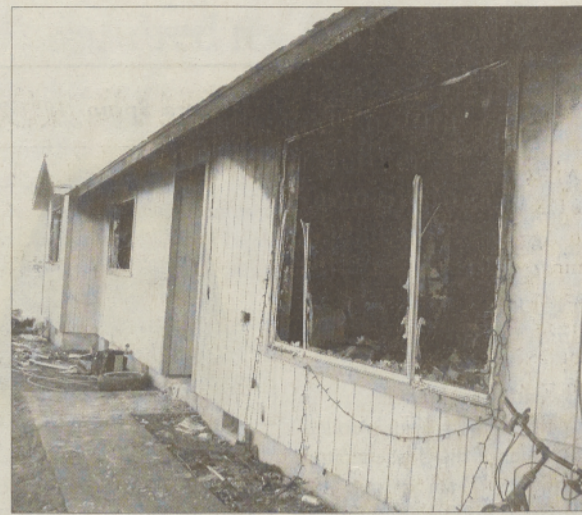
ing carrying capacity.

Sea lion caused mortalities have grown exponentially since 2001 based upon visible observations at Bonneville dam by US Army Corps of Engineers biologists. State and tribal managers estimate the lower Columbia River sea lion population to be approaching 2,000 animals.

The public has an opportunity to comment on the federal recommendation until Feb. 19.

NOAA's draft assessment is available, in its entirety, on their website: [www.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov). The agency plans to release its final decision on the issue in late March.

For more information on sea lion predation at Bonneville Dam visit the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Commission's website at [www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org). This site provides a fact sheet, links to video of predation, hazing activity, as well as photos of sea lion damage done to migrating salmon.



The home of Robert and Marella Sam, at Wolfe Point, burned recently. The cause was still being investigated earlier this week, although bad electrical wiring was mentioned as a possible cause.

## Salmon hatchery won't raise and release chinook

GROVER BEACH, Calif. (AP) - In a setback for conservationists, a Central Coast hatchery isn't raising and releasing Chinook salmon at Port San Luis this year.

The Grover Beach-based Central Coast Salmon Enhancement fisheries conservation group has been hit by recent setbacks, including heavy swells that sent rearing pens onto the beach in December.

The group usually rears up to 140,000 Chinook in pens.

Then, the Department of Fish and Game's Mokelumne River Hatchery in San Joaquin County announced no fish will be available for pen-rearing programs because few fish migrated upstream from the ocean last year.

## 'Indian Head' boulder sparks Kentucky-Ohio rift

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) - When an Ohio historian helped pull a massive sandstone boulder from the bottom of the Ohio River this summer, he didn't think it would set off a charged dispute between Kentucky and Ohio.

It did. One Kentucky legislator is demanding the 8-ton rock's return, and another believes the matter will ultimately be decided in the courts.

Rep. Reginald Meeks, D-Louisville, who is a member of Kentucky's Native American Heritage Commission, is sponsoring a resolution in the Kentucky General Assembly that condemns the rock's removal

and calls for its return to Kentucky.

"Basically, this was a raid," Meeks said of the efforts to extract the rock and take it to Portsmouth, Ohio, about 110 miles southeast of Cincinnati.

"We're going to use all legal means to get them to return it to its rightful place in the commonwealth. And if that doesn't work, we may need to send a raiding party into Portsmouth."

Steve Shaffer, who has a degree in historical interpretation from Ohio University, scoffs at characterizing the operation as a raid. Shaffer says the rock had been submerged since at least 1920.

"After 87 years, we find this rock and we're able to get it out of the water and protect it, and now it's a big issue," Shaffer said. "We just want to protect it and display it."

The rock, Shaffer says, is valuable to Portsmouth's local history, not Kentucky's.

Much about the rock's origin is unknown. It has a crude carving of a face and another of a house, along with multiple names from some of the early residents of Portsmouth etched into it.

No doubt historic, the rock's true history is debatable.

Its existence was known locally during the late 1800s and early 1900s, and some say it was

a geographical marking along the Ohio River for boat travelers.

Locals would picnic near the rock, Shaffer said. Who carved the petroglyphs, and when, is unknown, Shaffer said.

Meeks believes the face carving was prehistoric and left by American Indians. Others, like Shaffer, aren't so sure.

Now that the rock is out of the river, everyone from local prosecutors to the Kentucky State Police has looked into the dispute over ownership. Cliff Duvall, commonwealth's attorney for Greenup and Lewis counties, said he's investigated the case, but has not received a police report.

## Thirty-First Annual Lincoln's Day Pow-Wow

*Sinnasho, Oregon  
February 8, 9, 10 2008*

Grand entry times: new/rejoinders—Friday, 6 p.m.  
All nations—Friday—7 p.m.  
Saturday Feb. 9: 7:30 p.m./Sunday Feb. 10: 1 p.m.  
Scramble contests begin Saturday evening  
Round dance Thursday night February 7<sup>th</sup>

**All dance categories and specials**  
15 years and under Q'xnu Waashat  
(Q'xnu Waashat: Traditional Prairie Chicken Dance)  
16 years and over Q-xnu Waashat  
Outgoing princess contest (TBA)

Single Man Hand Drum Contest  
Group Drum Contests: 1<sup>st</sup> Place—\$3000.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place—\$2000.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place—\$1000.00

(all local drummers please bring your own chairs)  
Sunday Waashat Services and Meal  
For further information: Colin Chief@ (541) 553-1285  
(round dance questions); Mackey Begay (541) 553-9230;  
Austin Green (541) 553-1953, fax (541) 553-3702.  
Vendors: Sandra G. Sampson (541) 553-6619;  
Head Dance Judge: Charles Tailfeathers (541) 553-7906

### Bottle drive to help team travel

See Sammi O'Reilly or Val Squiemphen to get yours!

There is an on-going bottle drive fundraiser benefiting the Rez Express, the All-Indian high school boys basketball team representing Warm Springs. Proceeds go toward travel expenses for the team to travel to the 2008 Native American Bas-

ketball Invitational Tournament in Phoenix. For donations, and pickup, please contact Sammi O'Reilly, Val Squiemphen or Rita Squiemphen.

The fund-raiser will be on-going through July of 2008.

## \$59 STAY & PLAY SPECIAL, SUN - THUR



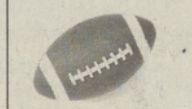
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Especially in the winter, when you can warm up in our 92-degree hot springs-fed mineral pool, full service spa or live action casino. Of course, a great offer doesn't hurt either.



**Williams & Ree**  
The Indian & The White Guy  
**Saturday, February 16 at 8pm**

\$15 advance, \$20 day of show  
\$119 Comedy Package for two includes two tickets and deluxe accommodations  
Seating is general admission. Must be 21 and over.



### Super Bowl Bash

**Sunday, February 3 at 1pm in the Appaloosa Lounge**

\$2 cover includes Nacho Bar. Great prizes and specials including a \$500 Super Score Contest, Post-Game DJ and Blackjack Tournament at 7:30

**Mardi Gras Celebration ~ Fat Tuesday, February 5**

Go to [Kahneeta.com](http://Kahneeta.com) for more details and upcoming events • Warm Springs, OR • 800-554-45UN  
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