

Tribes, PGE award \$3.5 million to resource protection projects in Deschutes Basin

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Portland General Electric have approved for funding more than 20 resource protection projects dedicated to enhancing and improving stream and land habitats and species in the Deschutes Basin.

The funding for the projects comes from the tribes' and PGE's Pelton Round Butte Fund.

The \$21.5 million fund, established by the tribes and PGE in 2005, was created to support the environmental protection measures the tribes and PGE are instituting at the Pelton Round Butte Hydroelectric Project, a 20-mile long complex that includes three dams in central Oregon.

Many of these projects will support the success of a new fish passage system being constructed by the tribes and PGE at the hydroelectric project, which will allow fish to migrate past the three dams for the first time in 40 years.

Wychus Creek

Projects approved for the \$3.5 million funding available this year range from stream restoration and fish passage improvements to fencing improvements and repairs designed to promote stream restoration.

The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council will receive more than \$1.3 million for five projects on the Metolius River, the Deschutes River, and Wychus Creek (a tributary of the Deschutes River), including restoration of 1.5 miles of Wychus Creek stream habitat at the Camp Polk Meadow Preserve in preparation for steelhead that are expected to return to the Deschutes, above the dam, in late 2010.

"This much-needed funding will allow us to launch a number of projects, all dedicated to the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead to the upper Deschutes," said Ryan Houston, executive director of the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. "For a lot of the folks working on the ground, the emergence of this new investment has been tremendous in helping us move forward on 10 years' worth of work people have wanted to do."

Crooked River

The Crooked River Watershed Council will receive about \$850,000 for three projects to provide fish passage and screening on the Crooked River, as well as replace two culverts on McKay Creek.

The Crooked River project

includes a mechanical diversion to help nearby farmers with irrigation.

"We now have an opportunity to move forward with some win-win projects that help fish, farmers and the forest," said Max Nielsen-Pincus, executive director, Crooked River Watershed Council.

Other projects

Other recipients this year include WyEast Resource Council, Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, Sisters Ranger District, Crooked River National Grassland, Bureau of Land Management, WolfTree, Inc., and CTWS Branch of Natural Resources.

In 2005, the Pelton Round Butte Fund awarded approximately \$3.5 million to water conservation and habitat mitigation and enhancement projects. More Pelton Round Butte funds for water conservation projects will be made available in 2011 (\$6 million) and habitat mitigation and enhancement projects in 2013 (\$6.4 million).

The fish passage system, located at Round Butte Dam, is being assembled on the shores of Lake Billy Chinook and will be lowered into place, largely underwater, during the next two years. While the dams were

originally constructed with fish passage facilities, young salmon and steelhead could not find their way to those facilities because currents in the reservoir were disrupted. The new system will redirect water currents and allow fish collection for downstream transport.

Fish passage

PGE and the Tribes are prepared to spend more than \$135 million on the project for improvement measures during the 50-year term of the license, the vast majority going to fish-related measures. More than \$21 million is dedicated to fish habitat improvement on Deschutes River tributaries through the Pelton Round Butte Fund. PGE, the Tribes and many other partners in the Basin are committed to the long term cooperative effort that will be required to make reintroduction a success.

Pelton Round Butte, the largest hydroelectric project within Oregon, generates 465 million watts capacity of electricity to serve PGE customers and the Tribes. Its total annual power production is enough for 137,000 homes or a city the size of Salem. It is the only hydroelectric project in the nation jointly owned by a Native American tribe and a utility.

Weed forum today in W.S.

OSU Extension at Warm Springs will be hosting a weed forum from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. today, Thursday, Feb. 28. The forum is a chance to discuss various aspects, strategies, and ongoing local research concerning weed management.

The forum will take place at the Community Center in Warm Springs. An educational "weed trailer" will be on display, courtesy of the Interagency Weed Management Team.

Presentations will start at 12 noon and will include the following speakers and topics:

Common weeds of the range, seeding for fire rehabilitation, local range treatment plots, grazing for weed management, and how to recognize invasive species.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture, the county weed departments, Central Oregon Agriculture Research Station, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the tribal Fire Management division will all be participating.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Please call 553-1520 for more information.

ACLU files free speech suit against TriMet over salmon ad

PORTLAND (AP) - Worries about the effect of Klamath River dams on salmon have led to a free speech lawsuit against the Portland transit agency TriMet.

The Oregon chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union claims TriMet violated the federal and state constitutions by rejecting an ad as too political.

The ACLU filed the lawsuit last week on behalf of the Karuk Tribe of California and Friends of the River Foundation.

Portland is home to PacifiCorp, owner of the dams.

The tribe and the foundation tried to place an ad on TriMet buses showing salmon blocked by an underwater wall of electrical outlets.

The ad says, "Salmon shouldn't run up your electric bill. They should run up the Klamath River."

Next deadline to submit items to the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, March 7. Thank you.

Casino: five hearings scheduled

(Continued from page 1)

Following the March 3 hearing at Kah-Nee-Ta, the public hearings on the draft EIS will be from 6-8:30 p.m. as follows:

Monday, March 10 at Marine Park, Port of Cascade

Locks Gorge Pavilion 355 W. Na-Pa Str., Cascade

Wednesday, March 12 at Rock Creek Center, 0 S.W. Rock Creek Dr., Stevenson, Wash.

Thursday, March 13 at the Double Tree Hotel, Lloyd-Center, 1000 N.E. Multnomah, Portland.

Monday, March 17 at the Hood River Middle School Auditorium, 1602 May St., Hood River. Public comments will be accepted through May 15.

Horse Race: Suppah remembered for accomplishments

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In Ronald's opinion, the memorial race featured many different people coming together to honor his late father.

In his opinion, recognition like this is something that might be better served before a person's death.

"It's too bad we've got to recognize people when they're dead, that we can't do it when they're alive," he explained.

In fact, Ronald said, one idea might be to create a local athletic hall of fame to recognize tribal members with accomplishments in an athletic industry like those of his father or other horse trainers or local athletes.

Currently, Ronald added, the racing industry in Oregon seems to be slowing down.

"I would hope that somehow it would get better, simply because it is a good way to make a living," he added.

The memorial race was also special to them because of the many people in the racing industry who were involved, Ronald added.

He said, "I think it's neat because I think that just like any group in society there's this thing called the racehorse families. The racehorse families are networks of people that travel to all of the race meets and compete against each other, basically."

Ronald continued, "The friendliness, the generosity of the racehorse family is what made it enticing to be there because the family helped everyone."

According to Ronald, "The family would like to thank the Portland Meadows race track for not only sponsoring but recognizing our father for his accomplishments in the racing industry."

The Suppah family would also like to thank Sam Howard and the Kagees family for helping to organize it.

In addition, Jay said, they would like to thank Jonathan Nance, the trainer of the horse that won the race, for giving a bridal and blanket to Margaret Suppah.

On March 3, a similar race

will honor Martinez Heath.

This July the Suppah family is planning another memorial race for Franklin Suppah in Prineville, Jay said. "To us that's kind of like our home track," he explained.

Franklin Suppah passed away on November 27, 2007. He was born on November 1, 1926 at Simnasho to parents Frank and Clara (Scott) Suppah.

Frank Suppah married Margaret (Frank) Suppah on June 18, 1944 at Simnasho.

He is survived by his wife Margaret of Warm Springs; children Frankie Suppah, Wanda VanPe, Ronald Suppah, Leona Suppah, Lincoln Suppah, Lorraine Suppah, Joyce Suppah and Lore Suppah all of Warm Springs; 9 grandchildren, 32 great grandchildren; brothers Delson Suppah of E. Hall, and Francis Suppah of Warm Springs; sisters Arlita Hoan and Deliah Suppah, both of Warm Springs. He was preceded in death by his son Vernon Suppah, and sister Helen Thompson.

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