



Nola Queahpama prepares salmon for baking at Honor Seniors Day.

Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Questions and answers about the Columbia River Fish Accords

Earlier this month, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and other tribes of the Columbia River, along with federal agencies and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, signed an historic agreement, the Columbia River Fish Accords.

The agreement marked the end of decades of disagreement over how to proceed in restoring and preserving wild fish runs in the Columbia and its tributaries.

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission answers questions about the fish accords:

Who are the partners involved?

The partnership agreement provides the foundation for a new working relationship among the Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

What does the agreement hope to accomplish?

The partnership agreement will utilize the tribes' commitment and know-how to recover salmon populations, and the commitment and resources of the federal water management agencies to address the impacts of hydropower projects on fish.

The partnership agreement identifies specific commitments of the federal government to

help the Columbia River's fish populations through a variety of restoration and recovery projects, incorporating an adaptive management approach into hydropower operations, continuing the operation of the Fish Passage Center, and streamlining the Independent Scientific Review Panel process used to evaluate and approve salmon restoration projects.

What is the timeframe of the agreement?

The partnership agreement's ten-year tenure will provide active on-the-ground fisheries management, create reasonable certainty and stability for fish populations and communities, and allow managers to help the basin's fish populations more in the next ten years than they've been able to in the past.

What is the history behind this agreement?

Since 1973, the tribes have resorted to the courts in order to obtain relief from the effect of the hydro system on salmon runs subject to treaty fisheries.

In 1993, the tribes joined existing litigation as amici parties (or friends of the court) that was filed by NGO's and the states over NOAA's biological opinions for operations of federal mainstem Columbia and Snake River dams.

Oregon Federal District Court Judge Redden overturned the subsequent 2000 and 2004 biological opinions and encouraged the federal government to collaborate with the states and

tribes in the development of the new biological opinion. This agreement is a result of that collaboration.

What will the partnership do to benefit fish?

This agreement provides funding for over 200 projects that will benefit fish runs throughout the Columbia River Basin.

This includes 86 restoration projects, 63 recovery projects, 47 research, monitoring and evaluation projects, and numerous projects that are designed to benefit sturgeon, lamprey and wildlife.

In addition to helping salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act, the agreement provides specific actions that will benefit adult and juvenile lamprey (hydro operations, management and research), sturgeon (genetics research and production), sockeye, coho, steelhead, rainbow trout and other non-listed species.

Can the agreement be modified or reviewed during its ten-year duration?

A comprehensive review of all actions implemented under the MOA and the status of each Ecological Significant Unit will be completed four years from now in June 2012 and seven years from now in June 2015.

At any time during the agreement, the tribes may recommend additional protection measures to the federal water management agencies.

Composite Products

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Composite Products is working closely with the developer to create a unique door system for the hotel part of the Burj Dubai.

The Burj Dubai contract is high-profile, said Darnell, but said Composite Products is involved in other interesting projects.

Among them are the company's main product, Tectonite, a unique mixture of materials including diatomaceous earth, fiberglass, recycled newspaper and other ingredients. Tectonite is used as a base material for a variety of products sold into the fire-rated door architectural door industry.

Composite Products has patented processes involving the use of intumescent materials, which swell when exposed to heat. These materials are com-

bined in unique ways with everyday building materials, providing fire-rated wood door frames that can be matched with architectural fire doors to give architects matching wood species options, said Darnell.

"Our products are revolutionizing the public-occupancy commercial construction market," he said.

The company is involved in sophisticated product development, "probably not what the average person thinks is happening here on the reservation," he said.

Besides the fire-rated materials used in building, Composite Products also has a ballistics division that develops a wide range of bullet-proofing materials used in a variety of products including doors, ceiling panels, military vehicles, boats,

and anywhere else bullet-proofing might be needed.

"There is a big market for that all over the world," said Darnell.

Composite Products recently combined technologies to create unique fire-rated and bullet-proof doors. The company is believed to be the only one in the U.S. to have successfully combined the two technologies.

Composite Products has a thriving business in specialized wood products, specifically a product called squiggle, which is used for installing corrugated PVC roofing and sold through home improvement stores such as Lowes and Home Depot.

This enterprise is doing much to offset the recent production and employment cuts at Warm Springs Forest Products Industries.

Have concerns about your domestic water?

Community members concerned about the water quality of their private wells can arrange to have the water tested through Environ-

mental Health. The testing service for arsenic costs \$25.

Environmental Health also offer a free service for testing for bacteria and nitrates. Please

do not bring your water to the department. To arrange to have your well tested, call Environmental Health at 553-4943.

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Need help with a legal problem?

Legal Aid Services of Oregon provides free assistance to low-income Oregonians in many civil cases. Speak with an attorney during drop-in hours 1 to 4 p.m.

on the first Monday of the month at the Family Resources Center in Warm Springs. Or call us at 385-6944 Monday through Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Steelhead returning to Crooked River Basin

Over 100,000 steelhead fry were set for release this week into McKay Creek, a tributary of the Crooked River.

The release is another step in the effort to restore anadromous steelhead populations to their historic range in the lower Crooked River subbasin.

The restoration plan is part of a larger effort to reintroduce all anadromous species into their historic

habitats.

Cooperating on the project are the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Portland General Electric, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Ochoco National Forest.

In the federal relicensing of the Pelton-Round Butte hydroelectric facility, the tribes and PGE made a commitment to restore migrating fish above the dams.

Passage has been blocked for decades.

The fish passage project involves construction of a tower behind Round Butte dam that will draw in water from the lake, creating a current for the juvenile fish to follow downstream.

Another part of restoration involves releasing the fry in the tributaries above the dams, to restock the fish runs.

The McKay Creek release, which was set for Wednesday of this week, is part of the restocking.

Northwest senators support farm bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — All six Pacific Northwest senators back the wide-ranging farm bill that boosts farm subsidies and money for food stamps to help the poor deal with rising grocery prices.

The bill also includes \$170 million for the disaster-plagued Pacific Coast salmon fishing industry.

The six senators from Or-

egon, Washington and Idaho all voted in favor of the five-year, \$290 billion bill, which now goes to President Bush. Bush has threatened to veto the bill, calling it overly expensive and tilted to wealthy farmers.

Sen. Ron Wyden said the money for salmon fisheries would be a much-needed lifeline for communities and families up and down the West Coast. He

and other lawmakers said they would work with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to help rebuild salmon stocks and businesses that depend on them.

Idaho Sen. Mike Crapo said the bill will provide long-term certainty for farm families as they continue to feed the world's hungry.