

# Celilo Village celebrates new beginning

By Susan Hess  
for the Spilyay

A new Celilo Village opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on the morning of Friday, May 23.

The ceremony celebrated the completion of the 15 new homes for Celilo Village residents. The residents are moving this month into a village with the new homes; new water, sewer and electrical systems; new roads, and a new longhouse, rebuilt through a gift of timber from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Celilo resident Delilah Heemsah's new home.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers financed and directed the redevelopment and sponsored the ribbon cutting ceremony. Corps project manager George Miller welcomed the estimated 100 people who came to share the event.

Following the invocation, representatives from Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith presented Celilo Village Chief Olsen Meanus with an American flag.

Meanus spoke of the elders and of the people who have waited so long for this to happen.

BIA Regional Director Stan



Delilah Heemsah cuts the ribbon to her new home at Celilo. On hand representing the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs were Council Chairman Ron Suppah (far left), and Reuben Henry, Wy-Am board member (third from right).

Speaks thanked all those who worked on this project.

Wy-Am Board Chairman Antone Minthorn said, "I am happy to be here with you today. It is a moment of history where something good is happening - something good that can help lift some people out of poverty."

Warm Springs Tribal Council Chairman Ron Suppah be-

gan his remarks remembering the three fisherman lost recently on the Columbia River.

"But that is not to take anything away from this historic day," he said. He asked the Corps and the BIA to think about the village and any missing amenities.

Corps Portland District commander Col. Thomas O'Donovan presented

Heemsah with a framed letter welcoming her to her new home.

With that, Heemsah, dressed in her grandmother's beaded buckskin dress, represented all the village residents by cutting the ceremonial ribbon to her new home.

The project designers Cooper Zietz Engineers provided refreshments. After the ceremony, the Corps held an award cer-

emony at Shilo Inn in The Dalles. After Col. O'Donovan gave Chairman Suppah his award, the two of them handed out plaques to those who worked on the project.

Cooper Zietz prime contractor, Colville Tribal Services Corporation, subcontractor for house construction Advanced Native Construction, Wy-Am Board members, BIA superin-

tendent Paul Young, and the lead Corps staff.

In July, the contractor will remove the temporary homes residents have been living in the past year and begin construction on a combination classroom and BIA office building, scheduled for completion by this December. With that, the Corps redevelopment of Celilo Village will be complete.

## New US-Canada salmon agreement proposed

(AP) - The U.S. and Canada reached a tentative agreement to prevent overfishing of endangered Chinook salmon off the western coast of Canada and southeast Alaska, officials have announced.

The new 10-year agreement, a revision of the existing Pacific Salmon Treaty, was announced in late May by the Pacific Salmon Commission.

"The reductions in catch in northern ocean fisheries will increase annual returns of summer and fall Chinook to the upper Columbia River by 3-7

percent, a significant improvement from the 1999 agreement," said Olney Patt Jr., executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, and U.S. Tribal Commissioner on the Pacific Salmon Commission.

The agreement reduces Chinook catches in the Southeast Alaska fishery by 15 percent and in the West Coast Vancouver Island fishery by 30 percent from the previous agreement.

The new agreement includes funding to aid harvest reductions in the Canadian commercial salmon troll fishery. Addi-

tional funding improves stock assessments, including estimates of fisheries impacts and escapement.

"Chinook was the most complex piece of the puzzle, because the fish migrate through many jurisdictions," said Patt. "We were able to give something back to the stocks and meet the interests of multiple constituencies."

On the commission Patt, a member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, represented 24 treaty fishing tribes from Puget Sound, the Washing-

ton Coast and Columbia River.

The number of Chinook salmon has declined significantly, even drastically, this year off the West Coast, prompting calls for a federal disaster declaration to aid coastal communities dependent on fishing.

While the new agreement does not address the coastal salmon fishery collapse, officials said that the return of salmon from the north will help with the fisheries problems that Oregon and Washington are having.

Under the proposed treaty change, Alaska will reduce its

catch of wild salmon 15 percent over the next 10 years; Canada will make a 30 percent reduction under the plan. The U.S. would give Canada \$30 million (euro19.04 million) for its effort to reduce commercial salmon fishing. Alaska would receive about \$7 million (euro4.44 million). Washington state would receive about \$7 million (euro4.44 million) in federal money to improve Chinook habitat.

The allocated funds would need congressional approval. Paul Macgillivray, associate

regional director general for the Pacific Region Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans, said that while Canada does have to reduce a large portion of its harvest, it benefits from the Alaskan reduction.

He said that the final agreement was a "balanced approach where both countries made reductions in response to conservation concerns that were brought to the table."

Macgillivray said participants have until the end of the year to get both governments to sign off on the agreement.

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