

Colville: mining clean-up inadequate

WENATCHEE, Wash. (AP) — Five years after a Canadian mining smelter agreed in a historic settlement to assess the impact of its pollution in U.S. waters, an American Indian tribe is calling the effort inadequate, and Washington state officials say they're not fully satisfied.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation also say the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hasn't done its job to oversee Teck Cominco American's analysis of environmental damage in the upper Columbia River and Lake Roosevelt.

A company official said the complexity of the study makes it difficult to come up with sampling plans that please everyone.

The company's lead and zinc smelter in Trail, B.C. — about 10 miles north of the U.S. border with Canada — dumped millions of tons of toxic slag and heavy metals into the Columbia River in Canada, according to an initial investigation by the EPA. Over the course of 100 years, some 10 million to 20 million tons of it ended up in Lake Roosevelt, a 100-mile reservoir

created by Grand Coulee Dam which borders the Colville Indian Reservation, the EPA found.

The June 2006 settlement between the EPA and Teck marked the first time a Canadian company agreed to fund an analysis of the public and environmental damage caused by pollution that traveled from Canada to the United States. The Colville Tribes, joined by the state of Washington, sued to hold the company liable for cleanup costs in a case pending in U.S. District Court in Spokane.

After the agreement was struck, the Colville Tribes said it had reservations about letting the company assess damages. Now, it says, their fears of inadequate work are coming true.

"Teck has delivered deficient work plans and sampling plans to EPA, which make it unlikely that the company can accurately determine the nature and extent of the pollution in the Columbia," said John Stensgar, chairman of the tribal council's natural resources committee. He also said EPA has not adequately enforced the agreement, and the

"We recognize that the stakes here are significant for a lot of parties, but in particular for the tribe."

tribe has been left out of the decision-making process about the study.

Dave Godlewski, Teck's vice president of environment and public affairs, disagreed. "It's been a very, very robust oversight process that the EPA is involved in, and the tribes and state are directly paid by us for their participation," he said.

He said the company has spent more than \$40 million on the study so far, analyzing 2,400 fish, conducting three rounds of surface water samples and taking soil samples from beaches around the 100-mile long lake. Last year, the company removed about 6,000 yards of material from Black Sand Beach near Northport demonstrating they're serious about taking care of problems they caused, he said.

EPA officials met with the state and tribe in Seattle last week. "We recognize that the stakes here are significant for a lot of parties, but in particular for the tribe," said Dan Opalski, head of EPA's Superfund Office in Seattle. "We're talking about the health of the environment in and around their homeland," where tribal members fish, gather food and recreate, he said.

Opalski said a final assessment will not be finished until 2015 at the earliest. He said the agency will not compromise quality in order to get the work done sooner.

Mike Hibbler, the state Department of Ecology's regional manager for the toxic cleanup program, said the state does share some of the tribes' concerns. "We have reviewed everything submitted to us, and in some cases we had some pretty serious comments. In other cases, we found the work was appropriate," he said.

He said he is optimistic after last Friday's meeting with the EPA. "I felt like we made some progress."

Senecas back in court over cigarette tax plans

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — A state judge has issued a temporary order preventing New York from taxing reservation cigarette sales to non-Indian customers.

Lawyers for the Seneca Nation went to state Supreme Court on Tuesday seeking an injunction blocking the tax. The judge gave them until June 1 to make their case that the state adopted the regulations hastily and without required public comment.

The state Attorney General's office opposed the request.

The order comes a day after a federal appeals court lifted orders that had been barring the collections on other grounds.

The 2nd Circuit rebuffed New York Indian nations' arguments that the taxing system unduly burdens reservation retailers and interferes with tribal sovereignty.

The state anticipates collecting \$500,000 a day in revenues. Some tribes appear to be moving toward stocking more Indian-manufactured cigarettes, which remain tax-exempt.

Ancient remains found at SD construction site

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Crews building an addition to a home in Mitchell uncovered human bones believed to be centuries old.

Police Lt. Don Everson tells The Daily Republic newspaper that an archaeologist with the South Dakota State Historical

Society determined that the bones belong to a female who lived between 800 and 1,500 years ago.

Everson says if the remains can be linked to an American Indian tribe they likely will be returned.

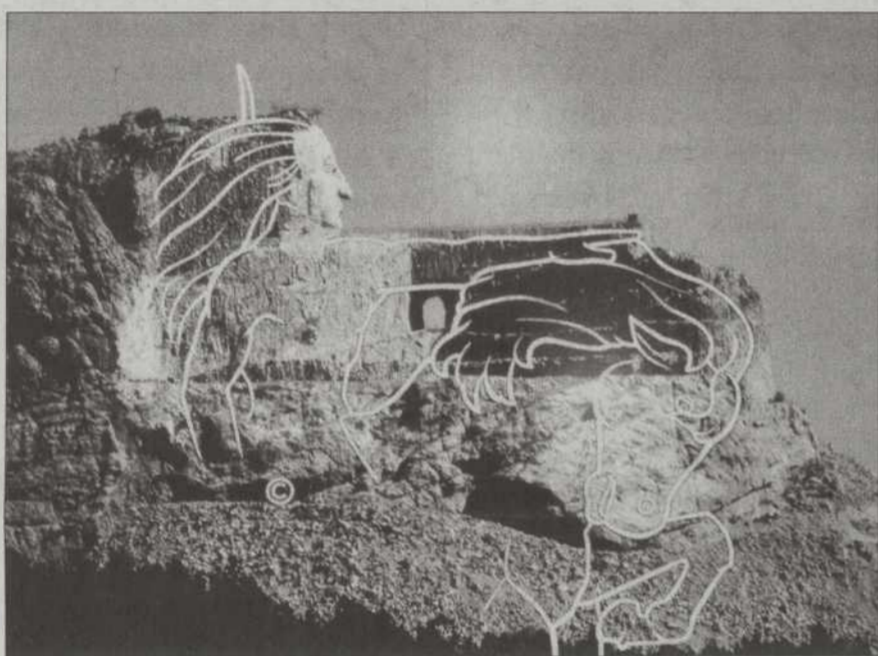
Crazy Horse operations director passes

CRAZY HORSE, S.D. (AP) — Anne Ziolkowski Christensen, the sixth child of Crazy Horse Memorial president and chief executive Ruth Ziolkowski and the late sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski, died on May 6 at her home on the memorial grounds, her family said in a statement. She was 55.

Crazy Horse was a famed Oglala Lakota warrior and leader who played a key role in the 1876 defeat of the U.S. Seventh Cavalry at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana. He died a year later after being stabbed in Nebraska.

Work on a mammoth mountain carving of him in South Dakota's Black Hills has been going on since 1948.

When completed, the carving about 10 miles south-



The mountain carving is being made in the Black Hills.

west of Mount Rushmore will be 641 feet long and 563 feet high.

As the director of memorial operations, Ziolkowski Christensen managed the welcome center, Indian Museum

of North America and Native American Educational & Cultural Center complex. She also oversaw visitor education programs, arrangements for American Indian arts and crafts vendors exhibiting at the site and

annual Native Americans' Day activities.

The memorial drew 1.2 million visitors to the southern Black Hills last year.

Ziolkowski Christensen lived at Trail's End at Crazy Horse with husband, memorial security officer Paul Christensen. She and her brother based their herd of cattle near there, and she and her husband cared for a number of elderly horses, including retired professional rodeo horses.

Her family didn't give a cause of death, saying only that she died unexpectedly.

Along with her mother, she is survived by two stepchildren, Doug and Crystal Christensen; nine siblings; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Historic Fort Klamath barracks found

KLAMATH FALLS (AP) — Archeologists have used ground-penetrating radar to determine exactly where a Fort Klamath soldier barracks stood in the late 19th century.

"It's a pretty exciting moment," said Todd Kepple, Klamath County Museums manager. "No trace of this building was visible for the 44 years the county has owned this property. We had no idea exactly where anything was except for the flag pole."

University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History archeologists on

Wednesday used metal detectors and radar to find where the barracks stood at the Fort Klamath military post, established by the U.S. Army in 1863 to protect settlers as they settled in Klamath, Modoc and Yahooskin Indian territory.

The museum was awarded a Preserving Oregon \$10,000 grant to pay for the work. Archeologists went over three sites, but found substantial evidence only at the barracks site.

"To us, this is wild West history," said Paul Baxter, an archeologist. "To (tribal members), it's family history."

The fort was decommissioned 17 years after the Modoc War, a result of the U.S. government forcing three different American Indian tribes to live together on one reservation. A Modoc Indian the Army called Captain Jack led his tribe off the reservation and the Fort Klamath cavalry was ordered to bring them back.

After a year of battle, Captain Jack was captured and hanged; his grave is at the Fort Klamath Museum.

In 1966, Klamath County acquired 8 acres of the once

expansive fort. In its heyday, the military outpost contained 80 buildings stretching from the museum to the town of Fort Klamath.

But in the 75 years the fort was under private ownership, buildings were allowed to disintegrate, leaving nothing but nails and, archeologists discovered Wednesday, a foundation.

"(Wednesday) was a banner day for us," Kepple said. "It was the first time we've been able to turn back the pages of history and see the fort the way it was 120 years ago."

Guard, tribe receive new 'Lakota' helicopters

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Officials with the South Dakota National Guard and members of the Lakota Nation hope four new helicopters will help promote unity.

A ceremony Sunday at the Crazy Horse Memorial marked the arrival of new UH-72A "Lakota" helicopters that the Guard will use for non-combat missions such

as medical transports. The ceremony included a Native American blessing, singing and dancing, and a commemorative blast on the mountain carving of the Lakota warrior.

"I am proud that we have the National Guard doing something like this," Master Sgt. Kelly Moore said. "This event has brought both the National Guard and the Lakota Nation

together to help promote unity."

U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., and South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard both spoke at the ceremony, saying the helicopters will help strengthen relations with tribes.

Charles Murphy, chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in North Dakota and South Dakota, said the helicopters will honor many.

"'Lakota' is a word that will represent all the people in Indian Country, particularly the seven tribes within North and South Dakota and Nebraska," he said. "And we appreciate that, we really do."

The Guard has four of the new helicopters and is scheduled to get two more in about two years.

Absentee Shawnee tribe building Little Axe clinic

LITTLE AXE, Okla. (AP) — The Absentee Shawnee Tribe is building a 76,000-square-foot medical clinic near Little Axe that's scheduled to open next March.

The tribe's clinic is being designed by the American Indian-owned architectural firm of James Childers of Fort Smith, Ark. The Oklahoman reports the clinic will include a combination of natural stone, brick and glass. Landscaping around the clinic will incorporate native grasses and trees.

Tim Tall Chief, the executive director of the Shawnee-based tribe's health services, says the clinic will include 24 examination rooms, 16 dental chairs, a physical therapy department, a behavioral science division, a diabetic wellness unit, optometrists, a pharmacy and a fitness center.

The clinic will serve members of all federally recognized tribes. Tall Chief says the tribe hopes to eventually open the clinic to the general public.

Tribe gets \$1M for enterprise

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — An Indian tribe in Minnesota is giving \$1 million to the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe to be used in its Lakota Foods business enterprise.

The tribe in central South Dakota sells popcorn and buffalo products produced on its 7,000-acre farm.

The grant comes from the

Shakopee Mdewakanton (mehd'-WAH'-kuh-tuhn) Sioux Community, which operates Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake, Minn., has other enterprises and runs a charitable giving program.

The Minnesota tribe also is giving \$1 million to the Santee Sioux Tribe in Nebraska for various tribal programs.

Indian Country network calls for Geronimo support

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A media network aimed at Native Americans is urging social network users to change their profile pictures to an image of Geronimo in honor of the legendary Apache warrior.

Indian Country Today put out the call to its Facebook and Twitter followers Thursday in response to the U.S. military's use of Geronimo as a code name for Osama bin Laden.

It asks followers and others to use the photo for the next two days to "honor the true spirit" of the 19th century war-

rior. Geronimo profile pictures started popping up at the beginning of the week, after details of the raid that killed bin Laden came to light. The code name also prompted statements of disapproval from tribes, a call for President Barack Obama to apologize and scores of angry comments on social network sites.

At a hearing Thursday, tribal leaders told Congress that comparing Geronimo to a terrorist tarnished the raid's achievement.

Hunter sentenced for grizzly shooting

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A Billings man has been sentenced to three years of probation and fined \$500 for shooting a grizzly bear that scared him while he was deer hunting in northwestern Montana.

Twenty-six-year-old Joseph Cree Medicine was sentenced Thursday by U.S. Magistrate Judge R. Keith Strong.

Cree Medicine told investigators he shot the bear when it approached within 20 yards while he was hunting on the