

Tribes celebrate 31st treaty fishing access site

The Columbia River treaty tribes gathered last week to dedicate the Dallesport Treaty Fishing Access Site. This is the thirty-first, and last, of the sites to be constructed by the Corps of Engineers under the treaty fishing access site program.

The access sites are to mitigate the loss of fishing caused by construction of dams on the lower Columbia, starting with the Bonneville dam in 1937.

Completing the construction of all the sites has taken several years, as the federal law mandating their development passed in 1988. Construction of the first site began in 1995.

The sites are designed with facilities such as boat ramps and docks, fish-cleaning tables, net racks, drying sheds, restrooms, mechanical buildings and shelters. In total, the in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites occupy approximately 700 acres along the Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam.

Representing Warm Springs at the dedication were Councilman Reuben Henry, and Louie Pitt, director of tribal Government Affairs.

"This is a beginning, not an ending," Pitt said. "We're looking for the next generation to come in and take over."

The Dallesport access site is on 64 acres. There are eight campsites for tribal members, a boat launch and 120-foot dock, restroom and shower facilities, net repair racks and



Tribal, CRITFC and Corps team cuts the ribbon at the site.

a fish cleaning table. Total cost was about \$4.8 million. Most of the contract work was done by members of the treaty tribes.

About 150 people attended the dedication ceremonies last week. Representing the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) was executive director Paul Lumley.

He commended the tribes and the federal agencies for their persistence in getting the project to completion.

"This has truly been a tribal project, more than a CRITFC project," he said. "The tribes are to be commended."

The 31 treaty fishing ac-



Warm Springs group on hand for dedication.

cess sites now occupy about 700 acres along the Columbia, from the Bonneville dam to McNary dam.

Warm Springs artist Lillian

Pitt created an illustrative map of the sites. The map was presented at the dedication last week, with a print going to each of the tribes.



Sonya Jim and Kael Hawk of Yakama walk the pier at the site, with the event tent in the background.



Saralyn Hilde, Mikkel Hilde, Louie Pitt and Lillian Pitt at the site pavilion, where stones are set (below) recognizing the tribes and agencies that worked on the project.



MHS Invitational at KNT



Koedy Florendo, a freshman, is the lead-off golfer on the Madras High School team. Koedy and the team were at Kah-Nee-Ta last week for the Madras Invitational. Seven schools participated. There were 40 players. Koedy finished tenth with an overall score of 87. His sister Kecia, a senior, plays for the girls team. The girls were not able to finish their tournament because of lightning.



Dave McMechan/Spilyay



More News from Indian Country

State asks to kill salmon-eating birds

(AP) - Oregon officials were successful in getting permission to kill sea lions that feed on protected salmon trying to swim upriver to spawn. Now they want federal approval to shoot a type of seabird that eats millions of baby salmon trying to reach the ocean.

In an April 5 letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Wildlife Chief Ron Anglin said harassment has "proved insufficient" in controlling double-crested cormorants. He said officials want the option of killing some of the birds to protect endangered wild fish as well as hatchery fish vital to sports and commercial fishing.

Oregon needs federal approval to start shooting dozens of the long-necked, dark gray seabirds on coastal rivers because they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The letter obtained by The Associated Press was a formal request to add Oregon to the 28 states authorized to kill cormorants to protect public resources, such as game fish. The Fish and Wildlife Service is updating the authorization, which expires in 2014.

Anglin said sportsmen's groups have been pressing the agency for years to do something about the growing numbers of cormorants, and research on the millions of fish of salmon being eaten by the big nesting colony at the mouth

of the Columbia River brought the issue to a head.

"Whether it's logging, gravel removal or the fact we've had estuaries constrained through dikes and road systems and everything else, they are not naturally functioning systems anymore," he said in an interview. "Under that kind of system, it doesn't take much of a stressor that could have a significant impact."

Once considered a nuisance bird, cormorants were added to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act in 1972, the same year the pesticide DDT was banned.

Like eagles and other predatory birds, cormorant numbers started to climb. Current estimates are that about 70,000 cormorants live in the West between southern British Columbia, the Mexico border and the Continental

Divide, said Dan Roby, a professor of wildlife ecology at Oregon State University who is studying the birds.

The largest nesting colony in the West is now on East Sand Island, at the mouth of the Columbia, where more than 27,000 birds are blamed for eating 22.6 million young salmon last year, 15 percent of the smolts - hatchery and wild - heading to the ocean, Roby said.

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Friday Grand Entry 7:00 pm
 Saturday Grand Entry 12:00 pm & 7:00 pm
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Catagories TBA

First 10 drums to sign up via: asuonasu@uoregon.edu by April 2nd, 2012 get paid, \$75.00 a session. Drums who don't register, split blanket dance money.

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