

Treaty tribes commit to lamprey

Pacific lamprey were front and center at a two-day lamprey summit last week.

The summit, held at the World Forestry Center in Portland, focused on the entire West Coast, and brought together over 200 biologists, managers, executives and policy staff, and tribal officials.

The summit was hosted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

There was candid conversations on lamprey, and the steps necessary to restore the ancient fish.

"Eels have always had a significant role in our tribal communities," said Gerald Lewis, CRITFC chairman. "Their significance to our culture, and their decline, is something the region cannot



Adult Pacific lamprey.

Courtesy of CRITFC

ignore."

The entire region, he said, has a responsibility to help care for these creatures "and time is running out," Lewis said.

"We cannot afford to lose them from our ceremonies or our watersheds."

During the summit, participants from Oregon, Idaho,

Washington and California discussed:

The current status of lamprey populations; and on-going efforts to conserve and restore lamprey populations collaboratively.

They also explored regional approaches for implementing lamprey restoration actions.

Many entities at the summit expressed firm commitments to lamprey conservation actions. Some signed a conservation agreement while others signed letters of support for the actions.

"At the first lamprey summit eight years ago, the tribes put the Pacific Northwest on notice that lamprey populations were in trouble," said Paul Lumley, CRITFC executive director.

"We sounded the alarm. By the time the second lamprey summit came around in 2008, we needed more. We needed commitments—commitments for restoration. Now, for this summit, we need to move forward with real commitments and on-the-ground actions. Lamprey populations simply cannot wait any longer."

Letters to the Editor

Water rights

Warm Springs recently quantified our Senior Reserved Water Rights with the state to ensure that Oregon administered water resources in the Deschutes Basin to meet tribal municipal, farming or economic development or fisheries needs! Yet I read on a monthly basis where junior water rights are being issued by Oregon with no consideration whatsoever of its legal obligation of reserving enough water resources in the Deschutes Basin to fulfill its legal obligation to the tribes? Oregon and the Oregon Department of Water Resources have been and continue to be very malfeasant in their oversight and administration of the water resources in the Deschutes Basin, so what have our leaders done about this negligence? It is critical for our leaders to hold the Oregon Department of Water Resources to this agreement if we ever hope to actually realize any local economic development. Our Tribal Council can no longer allow Oregon to disregard the legal implications of ignoring our Senior Water Rights, allowing Oregon to continue to issue additional junior water rights in a watershed where we possess Senior Water Rights will make it that much harder to bring economic development to our community. The failure of our Tribal Council to spearhead legal action against Oregon will diminish our Senior Water Right to a "paper water right" of no real economic benefit whatsoever to the people.

Substantial economic growth is dependent on having adequate water, waste water and power supplies before any growth can occur! Our failure to address the local infrastructure required of any economic development has to be taken care of first. We can no longer ignore this fact. Economic development does not happen by chance. It is planned for. That is the primary reason that Redmond and Bend have reeked of economic development and why Madras and Warm Springs have not. They planned for it.

What long-range economic goals have we established for the benefit of our commu-

nity? Warm Springs Ventures presented some outlandish proposals at the last public meeting. The material presented demonstrated two things: 1. That we have been paying these employees way too much and haven't been provided any economic assumptions that are practical or realistic. 2. Why do we continue to fund this department knowing that they haven't the "common sense" to even coordinate with tribal members who have completed their Small Business Plans and build upon that? At least these economic goals would establish a foundation for additional economic growth. How many times do I have to state, It doesn't take a master's degree in economics to comprehend that tribal revenue kept in our community is a good thing, something we can build on. In our situation I am talking of hundreds of millions of tribal dollars leaving the reservation and no economic benefit whatsoever to the people or community. If it was any other entity, Oregon senators and representatives would be holding a dinner in recognition of the economic contribution we inject into Oregon's economy! That's a lot of indirect and direct tax dollars that we have never received even a Thank-You for. Now are you beginning to understand why I question the credibility of tribal employees working in Ventures.

As long as our current representatives choose to ignore the effective leadership style of the leaders of the forties, fifties and sixties, we will continue to suffer. No economic development will ever occur! It is time to lead cohesively as previous tribal representatives did. It is time to prudently state and assert our Reserved Treaty Rights to achieve the economic development that has been talked about for so long with no results. All our leaders need is "common sense and personal commitment" following in the precise footsteps of previous leaders. It is time for our leaders to believe in our Federally Reserved Rights to restore a bright outlook of life to our children.

Thank you,
Randy Smith

School district offers free lunch

The Jefferson County School District 509-J is offering free summer lunches to kids ages 1-18, beginning on June 25 through August 24. (There will be no lunch served on Wednesday, July 4.)

Starting Monday, June 25, the lunches in Warm Springs will be served from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Warm Springs cafeteria. If you would like more information on this program, please call 541-475-0339.

Peaceful Spirit Outing in July

The Peaceful Spirit Outing, honoring wounded warriors through fly fishing and cultural sharing, will be on Tuesday and Wednesday, July 24-25 at Lower Dry Creek in Warm Springs.

The organizers are looking for fishing guides, volunteers and donations of tackle, food or funding.

Contact Casey Green at 541-325-2147 for more information.

Satellite upgrade

The Public Radio satellite system that operates the distribution of Public Radio programming across America, including Native Voice One programs like Native America Calling, is replacing old satellite dishes and upgrading receivers.

KWSO completed installation of their new dish on June 9.



Yvonne Iverson/Spilyay

Wash. state may change fish consumption estimate

(AP) — The Washington Ecology Department wants to raise the estimate of the amount of fish Washington residents eat as a way to improve water quality standards and to protect fish eaters from taking in too many contaminants.

The move comes after the state of Oregon pushed its estimated fish consumption rate to the highest in the nation at just under 6.2 ounces a day. For decades, Columbia River tribes—Warm Springs, Yakama, Nez Perce and Umatilla—have complained that consumption rates are not protecting their people who are large consumers of fish. A low consumption estimate means people could be ingesting more contaminants than are considered healthy.

Washington state currently has a confusing system of two rates. An estimate of .23 ounces a day governs water quality, and an estimate of 1.9 ounces a day is used to regulate cleanup of toxic sedi-

ments.

The Ecology Department wants to set a single, higher rate.

"We feel like it's high time to fix these numbers," said spokeswoman Sandy Howard. "We don't think the current rate is protective enough."

A proposal from Ecology's toxic cleanup specialists is expected next month. After public hearings across the state a new rate could be set by the end of the year, said Ecology spokesman Seth Preston.

"We're still in thinking and listening mode in trying to put a proposal together," he said. "It's starting to firm up."

Something as simple as an estimate of fish consumption has big implications for pollution regulations.

"There's a lot of money involved, obviously. But there's human health issues involved here as well as environmental issues," said Department of Health toxicolo-

gist Dave McBride in Olympia.

Industry is willing to make changes to improve water quality but doesn't want to get hit with unrealistic standards, said Courtney Barnes, the director of environmental policy for the Association of Washington Business in Olympia.

"I think the fear is having environmental standards that are not achievable," she said.

Fish are generally healthy fare. The American Heart Association recommends that people eat about 6 ounces of fish a week.

Washington's water quality rate—.23 ounces a day—was established by the federal Environmental Protection Agency from a national survey conducted sometime in the 1970s. When the EPA in 2000 began recommending a rate of 0.62 ounces a day, the state's rate stayed at 0.23 ounces. And, the cleanup rate of 1.9 ounces was derived from a survey of recreational

anglers at Tacoma's Commencement Bay more than two decades ago.

A 2002 consumption survey conducted by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, which oversees fisheries on the Columbia River, showed that tribal members eat anywhere from 2 to 13.7 ounces of fish daily, said Yakama Nation Environmental Restoration manager Russell Jim.

Yakama tribal member Alan Tahsequah spends each spring and summer along the banks of the Yakima and Columbia rivers, catching fish for his family.

"I have five kids, plus I keep some extra for friends," the 35-year-old said while fishing near the Parker Dam on the Yakima River one recent afternoon.

The Yakama Nation is hoping for an estimated fish consumption rate at least as high as Oregon's, said Emily Washines with the tribal fisheries department.

Head of BIE resigning

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The director of the Bureau of Indian Education is resigning to take a position in his home state of South Dakota.

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced that Keith Moore is leaving the BIE to serve as state director for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes in South Dakota.

Moore, an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux

Tribe in South Dakota, has led the Bureau for the past two years. He was selected for the position by then-Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Larry Echo Hawk.

BIE Chief of Staff Brian Drapeaux will serve as acting director until a replacement is named.

The BIE operates the federal school system for Native American students. It oversees more than 180 facilities on 64 reservations in 23 states.



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