

Lamprey present complex issues

(Community members turned out last week for the Warm Springs premiere of *The Lost Fish*. The half-hour film is produced jointly by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and *Freshwaters Illustrated*. J.P. of Warm Springs Natural Resources made the following observations about the film.)

by J.P. Olney Patt Jr.
W.S. Natural Resources Branch

Elmer Crow Jr., a Nez Perce tribal member and an employee of that tribe's fisheries department, spent much of the past 40 years as a crusader for the lamprey eel.

In particular, Crow worked for the reintroduction of lamprey into the waters of his homeland in the upper Snake River Basin. In one scene in *The Lost Fish*, Crow talks about seeing what he believes was one of the last lamprey in one of the Snake River tributaries.

The Lost Fish is a documentary about tribal efforts to protect and enhance lamprey populations in the Columbia and Snake River systems.

The video presentation, shown at the Warm Springs Community Center on Monday, January 13, is also a last tribute to Crow, who tragically drowned in the Snake River in July of 2013 while trying to rescue his young grandson.

Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) are best known to locals as simply "eels," though they are not really eels. Eels are an ocean species native to the eastern seaboard. True eels have jaws and a skeleton and live their entire life cycle in the ocean.

Lamprey have no jaw, no skeleton, and they are anadromous—meaning they live part of their life in the fresh water, migrate to the ocean, then return to fresh water to spawn.

Large gaps exist in the scientific knowledge of the lamprey life cycle. Much of what is known is associated with the adult phase: metamorphosis from the larval stage to



The Lost Fish
Warm Springs Premiere!
January 13, 2014 6pm
Warm Springs Community Wellness Center
FREE

You are invited to attend the Warm Springs Reservation premiere of the new film "The Lost Fish." This half-hour film produced jointly by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and Freshwaters Illustrated explores the importance of lamprey to the Plateau tribes, how their decline has affected tribal cultural practices, and what the tribes are doing to make sure these ancient fish return to their native rivers and streams throughout the Columbia River Basin.

Following the screening will be a short question and answer period with local scientists working on lamprey restoration projects.

Above: Elmer Crow. And there's the grandson Elmer Crow Jr. releasing lamprey into the wild.

Pattie Tanewasha/Spilyay

The documentary made its W. S. premiere last week.

the juvenile stage, movement downstream, the ocean stage, and the spawning run.

Unlike salmon and steelhead, lamprey don't necessarily return to their natal streams.

What is not known are the exact conditions necessary for larval development. The larval phase of the lamprey's life cycle takes place beneath river sediments. From three to seven years lamprey larva, or ammocoetes, live as filter feeders drawing nutrition from microorganisms and algae. This unknown makes it difficult, if not impossible, to replicate the conditions for successful reproduction, whether in a hatchery or natural setting.

The Lost Fish draws heavily on the experiences of the Umatilla, Yakama and Nez Perce fisheries departments.

Warm Springs is only mentioned in passing (Wilson Weva Jr. talks about the cultural importance of lamprey in the diet and ceremonies of the tribes of Warm Springs), and that is because lamprey are present in harvestable numbers in the Deschutes, Hood and John Day Rivers.

The main reason for the lack of lamprey in upper Columbia and Snake waters

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is the presence of hydroelectric dams.

Dams account for the lion's share of mortalities of downstream-migrating juveniles and upstream-migrating adults of ALL species. But lamprey in particular are vulnerable to the hydroelectric gauntlet.

Screens meant to divert salmon and steelhead smolts away from turbine intakes trap and kill tens of thousands of lamprey juveniles each year. And while lamprey are capable of climbing sheer cliffs of smooth rock at waterfalls, the sharp concrete corners and high water velocities of fish ladders at dams are sometimes an impassable barrier.

The effort to reintroduce

lamprey in upper basin waters has thus far relied on "translocation" of adult lamprey from lower in the system to rivers beyond the dams. This means trapping adult lamprey at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day Dams and transporting them upstream to spawn, in some cases as far as 300 miles.

This raises a number of concerns within the Warm Springs fisheries department:

1) That trapping and transporting the lamprey from lower river dams may adversely impact healthy populations destined for waters where Warm Springs fishers would have the opportunity to harvest them;

2) that "doing something is better than doing nothing" is not a good scientific basis to conduct the removal;

3) that removal of spawning lamprey as part of an experimental exercise is simply short-circuiting a natural process that has served the lamprey well for millions of years.

The most significant action on behalf of lamprey in recent years was the prohibition on harvest for all but food purposes. Beginning in the 1970s, tons of lamprey were harvested each year for sturgeon bait. Testifying before the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, such leaders as Delbert Frank Sr., Claude Smith Sr., Nathan Jim Sr., and Eugene Greene Sr. led the way for the eventual ban on lamprey harvest for bait purposes.

The Lost Fish is a fine tribute to Elmer Crowe Jr. and his tireless dedication to the recovery of lamprey. The video highlights the plight of the resource and points to the gains that have been made. This article simply points out that there are many complexities yet to be sorted out before a clear path to recovery can be chosen and followed.

The Muriel C. Suppah and Jackie Simtustus Memorial and Name Giving Ceremony is set for April 19, 2014 at the Simnasho Longhouse. 9 a.m. Washat, noon lunch, name giving, giveaway.

Please give the gift of life during blood drive

A blood donation truly is a gift of life. In one hour's time a person can donate one unit of blood that can be separated into four individual components. These can help save multiple lives.

From one unit of blood, red blood cells can be extracted for the use in trauma of surgical patients. Plasma, the liquid part of blood, is administered to patients with clotting problems. The third component of blood, platelets, clot the blood when cuts or other open wounds occur.

Blood giving process

Most places require you to weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, be at least 16 years of age, and be generally healthy.

First time donors are usually asked to present two forms of identification, also you will be asked to fill out a donor registration form.

An employee will perform a short health exam, taking your pulse, temperature and blood pressure.

A drop of blood from your finger will also be tested to ensure that your blood iron level is sufficient to donate.

All together this whole process will take 45 minutes to an hour. The actual blood donation takes around 10 minutes.

Location for blood drive: The Warm Springs Health Wellness Center.

Date: Wednesday January 29. Sign up sheet available at the Warm Springs Health & Wellness Center

All information is kept confidential. Brought to you by the Community Health Education Team (CHET) Health Informational Specialist, Anita Davis.

Senior Citizen Prom Night on Valentine's Day

The Senior Citizen Prom Night, "Strolling Down Memory Lane," will happen on February 14 at the Community Center Social Hall.

Dinner will be served at 5 p.m. Dinner will include meat loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, roll, some type of vegetable, dessert and juice.

Picture taking will be from 5-10 p.m. From 6-11 p.m. will be dancing. Crowning of the prom king and queen will be at 8 p.m.

A dance contest, and balloon dance is at 9 p.m. Dancing from 9:30-11 p.m.; cleanup from 11 to midnight.

Birth

Aaron James Jr. and Dorthy James of Warm Springs are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Tatiyana Nalani James, born on January 15, 2014.

Tatiyana joins brother Quincy, 5; and sisters Riley, 9, Samantha, 6, Annalese, 6,

and Aalyssa James, 2. Grandparents on the father's side are the late Aaron James Sr. of Nespelem, Wash., and Brenda Strom of Warm Springs.

Grandparents on the mother's side are LeiLani Polk of Warm Springs, and Don Howtopat Jr. of Yakama.



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TUESDAYS - Nifty Fifty Club Day
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THURSDAYS - Blazer Ticket Giveaway

FRIDAYS - Mountains of Cash - Win up to \$1,000

SATURDAYS - Cold Hard Cash - Win up to \$1,000

Entertainment in the Cottonwood

Friday, Jan 24: DJ Medina

Saturday, Jan 25: Kimberly Hall & Limitless

DON'T MISS OUR FRIDAY SEAFOOD BUFFET IN THE COTTONWOOD RESTAURANT!

