

Team on board at Voc Rehab



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Voc Rehab counselor Mona Cochran, office manager Sharon Jones, project director Jolene Estimo Pitt; Jackie Minson, counselor, Gayleen Poor Bear, lead counselor, and Marcia Soliz, job/coach developer (from left).

Vocational Rehabilitation has a strong team on board to serve clients of the reservation. Voc Rehab director Jolene Estimo-Pitt encourages all qualified individuals to make full use of the department services.

The goal of the program is to improve outcomes of Native Americans with disabilities by providing effective tribal vocational rehabilitation. Orientations for general

information are at 3 p.m. each Monday. The office is located at the industrial park.

Examples of qualifying disabilities include amputations, blindness, hearing problems, learning disabilities, orthopedic problems, seizure disorders, alcohol and drug addiction, among other conditions.

Voc Rehab offers counseling and guidance, diagnostic examinations, assistive devices

such as artificial limbs, hearing aids, wheelchairs; vocational training, transportation during rehabilitation, referrals, job direction, among other services.

The program in Warm Springs started in 1993, and is funded by federal grant. Warm Springs competes with other tribes for the funding. You can contact the department at 541-553-3415 or -4952.

Toward restoring fish runs

by Paul Lumley
CRITFC executive director

A recent meeting in Astoria on the Columbia River Treaty brought together representatives from 15 Columbia Basin tribes. Our discussions focused on the Columbia River and how to best serve its needs along with our own.

During the three-day meeting, we got the opportunity to tour several sites from the estuary to the river mouth. I am always impressed to see the waters of N'Chi Wana return to the ocean from which they came.

Some of this water began its journey 1,365 miles up-

stream in Yellowstone Park. Some of it began 1,240 miles upstream in the Canadian Rockies of British Columbia. The Columbia empties nearly 2 million gallons of water into the Pacific Ocean every second.

Equally amazing to this flood of water flowing into the ocean is the flow of salmon and other fish swimming back up.

Many of these fish swim hundreds of miles each way during their lifecycle, with sockeye travelling the furthest. This year's sockeye run is expected to be quite large, and they are primarily from the Okanogan River in

Canada. The success of this run underscores the importance of restoring upriver passage into Canada.

If we can get salmon into Canada and central Idaho, they can take advantage of their former range, some of which is pristine wilderness habitat.

Reopening passage, improving degraded habitat, and committing to the actions and recommendations in the newly updated *Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit* tribal salmon restoration plan will all play a role in bringing back healthy, sustainable fish runs throughout their entire historical range.

Committees of Tribal Council

These are the committee members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, as appointed by Tribal Council:

Culture and Heritage

Chair, Lepha Smith; vice chair, Joann Moses.

Paiute: Joseph Henry and Joann Moses. Alternate: Brigitte Scott.

Wasco: Radine Johnson and Lepha Smith. Alternate: Ramona Baez.

Warm Springs: Roberta Kirk and Lavina Colwash. Alternate: Priscilla Frank.

Education

Chair, Deanie Smith; vice chair, Ardis Smith-Clark; and June Smith. Alternate: Anita Jackson.

Fish and Wildlife

Chair, Bruce Jim Sr.; vice chair, Donald Winishut Sr.;

Ryan Smith Sr.; Emerson Squiemphen; Jonathan W. Smith; Brigitte Scott. Alternate: Leslie Bill.

Health and Welfare

Chair, Janice Clements vice-chair, Yvonne Iverson; Urbana Manion. Alternate: Lepha Smith.

Land Use Planning

Chair, Jonathan W. Smith; vice-chair, Francelia Miller; Joel Holliday. Alternate: Jimmy Tohet Sr.

Range, Irrigation and Agriculture

Chair, Delford Johnson Sr.; vice-chair, Magdaleno Colazo-Holliday; Stanley Buck Smith Jr.; Magdaleno Colazo-Holliday. Alternate: Terry Squiemphen.

Timber

Chair, Levi Vanpelt; vice-chair, Terry Squiemphen;

Levi Vanpelt; Anthony Holliday. Alternate: Lyle Rhoan Sr.

The Tribal Council members are:

Agency

Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr.; Council chair, Eugene Greene Jr.; Councilmen Kahseuss Jackson, and Carlos Smith.

Simmasho

Warm Springs Chief Delvis Heath; vice chair, Evaline Patt; Councilmen Raymond Tsumpti, and Orvie Danzuka.

Seekseequa

Paiute Chief Joseph Moses; Councilmen Scott Moses, and Reuben Henry.

Jake Suppah, Officer for Tribal Council, Secretary-Treasurer.

Summer meals



Dave McMechan/Spilyay

Many are served at the elementary school cafeteria.

The Summer Lunch program is serving free lunches to Warm Springs youth at two locations each weekday. At the community center cafeteria lunch is served from 11-11:30 a.m..

At the elementary school cafeteria, lunch is served from 11:45-12:30. The program, sponsored by the Jefferson County School District 509-J and the USDA, runs through mid August.

Improved drinking water at fishing sites

Threats to drinking water can come in many ways: Improperly disposed of chemicals, animal wastes, pesticides, human wastes, naturally-occurring substances or improperly maintained distribution systems may pose a health risk.

Eleven of the fishing access sites have water systems that the Environmental Protection Agency is currently reviewing for compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Indian Health Service works with the EPA to establish and monitor drinking water standards throughout Indian Country.

Over the summer and fall, the EPA will designate 8 of the 11 in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites with wells to be public water systems.

The sites are Celilo, Cooks, North Bonneville, Stanley Rock, Dallesport, Maryhill, Preacher's Eddy, Pasture Point and Roosevelt.

Last year, IHS surveyed the water safety status of all

None of the fishing access sites constructed prior to 2001 were designed with safe drinking water standards in mind.

the Columbia River in-lieu and treaty fishing access sites with wells.

The surveys, completed earlier this year, identified possible significant deficiencies that must be corrected before these sites can be designated as public water systems.

None of the fishing access sites constructed prior to 2001 were designed with safe drinking water standards in mind. The sites built after 2001 were designed to meet some of the standards, but not all.

In an effort to protect the

tribal members who use and rely on the these sites, the Columbia River Inte-Tribal Fish Commission and its member tribes are working with IHS and the EPA to ensure they have clean water that meets safe drinking water standards.

To meet the goal of full Safe Drinking Water Act compliance, the sites must undergo retrofit construction and repairs, some of them major.

The retrofit construction and repair projects, already under way, will continue into this month.

The work may require shutting off the water on the site for short periods of time, but notices will be posted prior to any shut off. Water will only be shut off at one site at a time and for as short a time as required to make the necessary retrofits and repairs.

North Bonneville and Cooks will be the first two sites to receive upgrades and repairs. These two sites have

the oldest wells and pump systems and will require the most extensive work. This will be followed by work on the Stanley Rock and Celilo systems.

The EPA goal is to ensure safe, clean water is available to those who use these water systems. The CRITFC's goal is to provide tribal fishers with safe water for drinking and processing their fish harvest.

Potable water is the cornerstone to any sanitary plan and is required for compliance with HACCP standards and the upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act Regulations.

CRITFC's Fishing Site Maintenance Department has worked hard to provide potable water to tribal fishers and their families who use the fishing access sites and will continue to do so. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Michael Broncheau, Manager, FSMD at 503-866-8375.

Tribal summer fisheries in full swing through July

By Stuart Ellis
CRITFC Harvest Biologist

The tribal summer season fisheries are in full swing.

The summer management period runs through July 31. The pre-season forecast for Upper Columbia summer chinook is 67,500 at the river mouth.

The sockeye forecast is 347,100 at the Columbia River mouth, but of that we only expect 1,200 to be Snake River sockeye.

The actual allowed catch for both of these species depends on the actual run size, not just the forecast run sizes.

If the chinook run comes in near the forecast, the tribes should be able to catch about 18,500 chinook.

The allowed sockeye

harvest rate is 7 percent. If the sockeye run comes in near forecast, we can expect an allowed sockeye catch of just over 24,000 fish.

The first two weeks of summer gillnetting were set with two separate three-night fisheries.

A seven-inch minimum mesh size is in place to help control the sockeye catch so we can try to make sure fishing can occur throughout the summer season.

After these first two gillnet fisheries, we expect the tribes to set additional gillnet fisheries. Platform and hook-and-line fishing is planned to continue through the summer season.

Go to critfc.org for information on tribal fishing. The commission can be reached at 503-238-0667.