



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Madras High School sophomore Cole White, 5'4", was able to reject this shot against a 6'2" opponent in junior varsity play.

Court approves plan to help salmon by spilling more water over dams

A federal judge has approved a plan to spill more water through dams in the Columbia River Basin this spring.

It's part of an ongoing lawsuit over how to manage dams to protect threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead.

Last year, U.S. District Court Judge Michael Simon ordered dam managers to develop a plan to spill more water on the Columbia and Snake rivers to help fish.

Spilling more water means generating less power, which could raise the price of electricity.

EarthJustice attorney Todd True represents the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, including conservation groups, the state of Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe. He says spilling more water will help move baby

salmon downriver toward the ocean while avoiding dangerous turbines.

"It's something we can do immediately that will help salmon that are on the brink of extinction," he said. "The federal agencies have refused to provide spill at this level in the past so the court has ordered them to do that."

The court ordered as much spill as the law allows. State laws set limits on how much water can be spilled over dams before the gases produced in the process may become harmful to fish.

Dam managers with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers submitted their new spill plan to the court last month. They will start spilling more water through dams in April.

Scientists: shrinking salmon gene pool

As Chinook salmon populations declined across the Pacific Northwest, scientists suspected the fish lost a great deal of genetic diversity, too.

But until recently, the theory hadn't been tested. Ancient salmon bones are hard to come by, and it's even harder to extract workable DNA samples from them.

"Science finally caught up with what we already believed and allowed us to test it," said Bobbi Johnson, the lead author of a new Washington State University study that raises concerns about the Chinooks' ability to respond to environmental change.

Starting in 2010, Johnson's team collected hundreds of salmon bones from Native American archeological sites — some more than twice as old as the first Egyptian pyramid — and compared their DNA with modern samples from the same areas.

The researchers found that Chinook in the upper Columbia River—where the Grand Coulee Dam cut off about 40 percent of the species' historic habitat—have

lost about two-thirds of their genetic diversity. In the Snake River, they lost about one-third, a difference that surprised the researchers.

That basically supports the longstanding assumption that the Chinook gene pool was much larger before European settlement in the Pacific Northwest.

The researchers also analyzed ancient samples from Spokane River Chinook, finding that population had a large gene pool and at least six lineages. They had no modern samples for comparison. The Little Falls Dam has blocked salmon migration on the Spokane River since it was built in 1911.

Genetic variation is critical for the survival of any species. It would enable salmon to pass on needed traits if disease strikes, water levels drop or temperatures rise.

"You want there to be differences between individuals, so that when change does happen, there's room for adaptation and natural selection," Johnson said.

Movin' Mountains registrations and initial assessments are this Friday, January 19 today from 8-6 a.m. and Saturday, January 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jefferson County Public Health Department in Madras.

Tourney winners, awards

Swantown, from White Swan, won the Warm Springs Indian Holiday Basketball Tournament. Swantown beat United Tribes, of Warm Springs, in the championship game.

Warm Springs Recreation hosted the Fifty-Fourth Annual Holiday tourney. Here are some more results:

Warm Springs team took third place; fourth, Northwest Hoopers of Celilo; and fifth, Chi-Hills of Chiloquin.

The Most Valuable Player award went to Darrin Six, Swantown.

High Scorer: Damean Frank, Money, Warm Springs, 41 points.

Mr. Hustle was Aquino Brinson, Swantown. **Top Rebounder:** Dyami Thomas, Portland.

The All-Tourney team: Tyson Fryburg, Swantown. Aquino Brinson, Swantown. Scott Riddle, United Tribes. Jansen Harrington, United Tribes. Chad Marks, Warm Springs. Dave Smith, Warm Springs.

All Tourney: Keno Gamboa, Northwest Hoopers. Jason James, Northwest Hoopers. Jered Hall, Portland. Chuck Shields, Portland. Joseph Arthur, Tygh Valley. Badger Kimbol, Chi-Hills.

Coach Awards: Darryl Smith, United Tribes. Arthur Mitchell, Warm Springs. Chris Jones, Swantown. JT Ball, Portland.

Joseph Arthur, Tygh Valley. Steven Begay, Northwest

Coming up in Buffs hoops

The Madras High School boys varsity basketball team has a home game this Friday, January 19, against Estacada. On Tuesday, January 23, the boys are away at Gladstone.

The girls play January 19 away at Estacada, and at home on January 23 against Gladstone.

Some of the girls varsity games in so far January: Madras over Sisters, 63-33; and Madras over Mountain View, 59-46.

The girls are in control of the 4A Tri-Valley League, five games ahead of second-place Molalla, and seven games ahead of third-place Crook.

Council approves smelt harvest

Tribal Council approved regulations regarding smelt harvest in the Cowlitz and Sandy rivers.

Harvest may take place seven days per week from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. This is a subsistence fishery, and there is a limit of 2,000 pounds for each river but no individual limit. Sales are not allowed.

Gear is limited to dipnets and the nets must be attended continuously.

The Branch of Natural Resources will have creel technicians to check your harvest. If you are not checked, you are required to report your catch to Natural Resources office within 24 hours.

Tribal members must have their enrollment cards on their person while fishing. If asked you must allow your catch to be inspected by federal, state or tribal officers.

According to the Tribal Council resolution approving the smelt season:

"In recognition of the traditional methods, smelt may be harvested with dipnets seven days a week during the run. Fish may be present through May, with the peak months of February and March. March is expected to be the best harvest month in the Sandy River. Fishing may take place between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m."

More youth sports in January

In Madras High School sports this **Friday, January 19:** Boys' JV and varsity basketball will host Estacada. Games are at 5:30 and 7. Girls' JV and varsity teams travel to Estacada.

Saturday, January 20, Madras High School wrestlers host the Madras Invitational, starting at 10 a.m.

Warm Springs Academy girls basketball plays at Elton Gregory in Redmond on Monday, January 22. Seventh-grade plays at 3:30, and the eighth-grade at 4:30.

In Madras High School sports

on Tuesday, January 23: Freshman, JV and varsity girls' basketball will host Gladstone. Games are at 4, 5:30 and 7 p.m. The boys travel to Gladstone.

The Warm Springs Academy girls basketball team plays at Obsidian Middle School in Redmond on Wednesday, January 24. The Academy wrestlers travel to Crook County Middle School for a meet at 4 p.m.

Madras High School freshman girls basketball plays at Mountain View on Tuesday, January 24.



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Championship game, Swantown over United Tribes.

Hoopers. Derek Kimbol, Chi-Hills. Delbert Bishop, NOW Nevada. Andrew Beers, Burns. Harry

Hisatake, Medicine Society. Aaron Winishut, 'Money,' Warm Springs.