



Jayson Smith/Spilyay

Mariah Stacona, now a senior at Northwest University, this month played her final home game for the Eagles. After the game—a Seniors Night win for the Eagles—family and friends (above) joined Mariah on court for a farewell ceremony. In high school Mariah was an outstanding player for Madras. She attended Northwest, near Seattle, on a sports scholarship.

### Tribal Northwest fisheries reports

#### River temperatures

A move to initiate state regulation of salmon-killing hot water in the Columbia and Snake rivers has been iced by the Trump Administration—for now.

The Washington State Department of Ecology initiated a public comment process on draft permits that would enable it to enforce state water-quality standards at federal dams, including temperature.

But last week the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wrote to the department to announce it is yanking the draft permits that were under review.

That has the effect of stopping, at least for now, Ecology's effort to enforce its water quality standards at federal dams for the first time.

Ecology was surprised by the move and is seeking more information—and not backing down.

#### Bird predation

The federal government killed thousands of double-crested cormorants living on a Columbia River island between 2015 and 2017 in an effort to help young salmon make it to the Pacific Ocean alive.

But Oregon state biologists say the birds just moved upriver—possibly tripling the number of salmon each bird ate.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers killed 5,576 cormorants and destroyed 6,181 nests in an effort to prevent the birds from eating an estimated 12 million young salmon each year as they swim past

#### New law allows tribes to take sea lions

When a herd of sea lions first arrived at Bonneville Dam in 2001, tribal fishermen were the first to notice.

Sea lions had long been absent from that part of the river, having been reduced in the early 20th century to a population of around 10,000 throughout their range.

The pinnipeds eventually recovered after the 1972 passage of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Today, there are around 300,000 of them.

Tribal officials immediately recognized that the upsurge of sea lions—along with the protections established by the 1972 act—would be a problem for the Columbia River salmon runs.

“Even the best laws have unintended consequences,” says Chuck Hudson, intergovernmental affairs director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. “Among those consequences is when a

law protects one species so much that it conflicts with the Endangered Species Act.”

Congress at the end of 2018 passed a bill that would make it easier for the state and tribes to reduce the number of sea lions in the Columbia. President Trump signed the bill into law last month.

The new law amends the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act, allowing some Native American tribes—including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs—to kill sea lions.

This change eases protections on sea lions in the Columbia River, the Willamette River and their tributaries.

Tribes first will receive a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration permit before taking a sea lion.

The law authorizes NOAA to issue the permits to the Warm Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes.

East Sand Island, just east of the mouth of the Columbia as it flows into the Pacific.

Biologists say the mass slaughter may have caused the collapse of the birds' largest breeding colony. It also may have been for nothing.

The Oregon Department of

Fish and Wildlife expects “little to no gain in survival” from the corps' actions for young salmon swimming through the Columbia River estuary.

That's because cormorants are now living farther upriver—still in huge numbers.

### Youth hoops tourney in W.S.

The Warm Springs Cougars Youth Organization is hosting youth basketball tournaments in February.

The tourneys are the All-Indian Third- and Fourth-Grade Co-Ed, and the 15-And-Under (plus two non-Native) Tournaments.

Play is Friday through Sunday, February 22-24 in Warm Springs. The entry deadline is February 15.

#### Twenty-Sixth Annual

Then in April will be the Twenty-Sixth Annual Warm Springs Cougars All-Indian High School Boys and Girls Basketball Championships.

This tournament will be April 5-7. The entry deadline is March 22.

For more information contact Austin Greene, tourney director, 541-553-3243.

### Platform, hook and line fisheries

A new platform, and hook and line season has been set.

The season opened earlier this month, and runs to 6 p.m., Thursday, March 21.

The open area is all of Zone 6. Allowed gear is dip nets, hoop nets, and hook and line.

Allowed sales are salmon, steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye,

bass and yellow perch. Sturgeon may be kept for subsistence use.

Size limits are between 38 and 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool, and from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools.

Closed areas applicable to scaffold and hook and line are in effect.



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# February

A'ami Ushach

*Ichishkiin snwit (Sahaptin Language)*

Ichacha 1q Ak1min

REFERS TO SNOWBRUSH MONTH

*Kiksht awawat (Wasco Language)*

Tokwanadu

*Numu (Paiute)*

## WINTER

Anm

*Ichishkiin snwit (Sahaptin Language)*

Chaxelxix

*Kiksht awawat (Wasco Language)*

Tomo Numu

*Numu (Paiute)*

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