

Tribes, partners add to river habitat preserve

The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation are now the custodians of an additional 1,200 acres of critical habitat along the Middle Fork John Day River.

The tribes, through the Branch of Natural Resources, acquired the property through a land transaction with The Nature Conservancy.

The property—now called the Dunstan Homestead Preserve—includes critical fish and wildlife habitat. The land will remain under perpetual protection and stewardship, through the partnership among the tribes and Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

The Dunstan Homestead Preserve is in the upper reaches of the Middle Fork John Day River—at the heart of Chinook salmon spawning and rearing territory.

The river's wide valley bottoms, gentle gradient and multiple side channels support one of the state's healthiest populations of wild spring Chinook salmon.

The property consists of nearly 3.5 miles of river frontage, with riparian and upland habitats of Ponderosa pine, mixed conifer for-



Big Boulder Creek's confluence with the Middle Fork John Day

Courtesy CTWS - BNR

... Nearly 3,000 acres of important fish and wildlife habitat are now permanently protected along the Middle Fork John Day.

ests, savannah and open meadows.

This diverse property provides important habitat for many of the area's native aquatic and forest species.

The Nature Conservancy purchased the Dunstan Preserve in 1990 from the Dunstan family, who had owned the land since 1899.

For years, the Nature Conservancy has worked collaboratively with neighbors, local partners and the tribes to restore habitat and advance research, monitoring and land management on the property and surrounding area.

With the addition of the Dunstan Preserve to the tribes' existing properties—

also purchased in partnership with BPA—nearly 3,000 acres of important fish and wildlife habitat are now permanently protected along the Middle Fork John Day.

Oxbow project

For a decade the tribes have worked to restore a dredge-mined section of the river on their Oxbow Conservation Area, just upstream of Dunstan.

The tribes are also restoring degraded habitat on the Forrest property, also about

10 miles upstream of Dunstan.

“Our Oxbow and Forrest properties already represent half of the river's Chinook salmon spawning habitat,” said Bobby Brunoe, general manager of the tribes Branch of Natural Resources.

“The Dunstan adds another 10 percent,” he said.

“The Nature Conservancy and tribes have been steady partners for years, and their generosity with the Dunstan transaction has been great for the Tribes

and salmon.”

Under the tribal ownership and stewardship, the focus remains on preserving the rich habitats while allowing regulated public access, including limited hunting.

“That's why the transfer was such a natural fit,” Mr. Brunoe said.

Jim Desmond, Oregon director for the Nature Conservancy, adds:

“The Nature Conservancy is grateful and honored to have collaborated with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and BPA for over 20 years for river conservation along the Middle Fork John Day. This collaborative partnership is a great example of how working together can accomplish great things and is a success for the fish, wildlife and people that call this area home.”

Scott Armentrout, BPA executive vice president for Environment—Fish and Wildlife, adds:

“We are excited about what has been accomplished with the tribes, the Nature Conservancy and other partners to further protect and restore important habitat in this ecologically diverse region. This is another example of how strategically invested ratepayer funds can help Bonneville fulfill its mitigation responsibilities and leave a lasting impact on the region.”

Discovery Center to feature artwork of Apolonia Susana Santos

The artwork and vision of the atwai Apolonia Susana Santos will feature at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum.

The exhibit—*Woman of Vision: Artwork by Apolonia Susana Santos ~ 1954-2006*—opens on Friday, May 31.

An opening reception starts at 5:30. Drumming and the blessing begin at 6:15.

Artist Cheri Hyde will introduce the new exhibit. There is no charge for previewing the exhibit, light appetizers and talk.

An optional dinner will be served in the cafe at 6:45 for a purchase price of \$16. Please RSVP by May 29.

The new exhibit will run through December. For information, visit: gorgediscovery.org



Gathering at Full Moon by Apolonia Susana Santos.

ings and serigraphs often contain the dramatic and diverse landscape and sky of the high desert.

Snowstorms and the elements of wind, water, sun and moon appear with vigor.

Her artistic interpretation of salmon, coyote and big horn sheep express how strongly she was connected to her homelands.

Her interpretation of Native women and men in tra-

ditional dress always has a contemporary flair.

Her desire to preserve Indigenous ways and memory is apparent in her artwork and her activism.

Center and museum

The Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum is the official interpretive center for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Hands-on, multi-media exhibits illuminate the cultural and natural history of the Gorge, including Ice Age geology, Native American culture, Lewis and Clark, the Oregon Trail, trade, transportation, renewable energy, ecology, live raptor presentations.

The museum is wheelchair accessible, and family friendly, with a Kids Explorer room.

Riverfront Trail offers hiking and biking, and a native plant nature trail circles the pond next to the museum.

The Discovery Center is located off I-84 exit 82, at 5000 Discovery Drive, The Dalles. Live raptor presentations are held daily, 11 a.m.

and 2 p.m. most days in high season; weekends only during the low season. The schedule may vary to accommodate tour groups, so call ahead to verify times if you are planning your day around the raptor presentation. The Columbia River Trading Company museum store is open daily. For more information, phone 541-296-8600 ext. 201, or: gorgediscovery.org.

Apolonia Susana Santos

As a painter, sculptor, and writer, Ms. Santos was dedicated to interpreting the rich legacy of her Native people.

She was also a tireless advocate for the rights of indigenous children and tribal fishing.

Her artwork is a vibrant depiction of the Native world using rich colors to create dynamic landscapes and a deep narrative that illuminates historic and contemporary memories.

Apolonia's untimely passing at age 52 left a void in the world of Native American art.

Though small in stature, she stood large in life as she painted, sculpted and created strategies toward social change for Native Youth.

She fought diligently to protect traditional fishing and sovereignty rights of her People.

Apolonia Susana's paint-



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