

Tribes join zebra mussel response planning team

The scenario: A person from out of town launches a boat in Lake Billy Chinook. Meanwhile, no one is yet aware that the boat is contaminated with the tiny shellfish called zebra mussels.

From the out-of-town boat some of zebra mussels escape into Lake Billy Chinook. If this situation goes undetected for a period of time, the consequences could be devastating to native aquatic species, and beyond.... Quick and effective response, on the other hand, could avoid disaster.

The problem: This scenario is not far-fetched: Many waterways in the United States have been infested with zebra mussels, killing the native species, infesting hydro piping, and costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The Confederated Tribes' Branch of Natural Resources is part of a team that is studying how best to respond to a potential invasion

of the quagga, or zebra mussel in the Columbia River basin.

The mussel is native to the Caspian Sea in Asia. About 30 years ago they entered the Great Lakes through ballast water of a transatlantic vessel: Within a decade the mussels had colonized the river basins of the Great Lakes.

In order for a zebra mussel to live, it must attach itself to a hard object. This includes things like things like rocks, logs, boats and hydro equipment. They also attach themselves to native species: In other states native mollusk species are at risk of becoming extinct or endangered because of zebra mussels.

Tribal Natural Resources is part of a zebra mussel rapid response team that also includes local, state and federal natural resources agencies. In May the team conducted a table-top exercise involving a theoretical

scenario of a boat launch in Lake Billy Chinook:

In the scenario the boat is contaminated with mussels picked up from a lake in Arizona. Once in Lake Billy Chinook, the boat is moored for 10 hours before the mussels are detected.

This is a risk to native species in the lake, such as crayfish; to other boats, and potentially to the tribes-PGE Pelton-Round Butte hydro facilities. Quick detection and containment could avoid a worst-case scenario.

In the response team exercise last month, the partners looked at options such as closure of facilities at the lake, law enforcement participation, and mandatory boat inspections and decontaminations.

The exercise helped with identifying potential response problems, such as with effective response communication among agencies, response time, and coordination of the containment.

The threat to hydropower infrastructure is huge. Pipes and pumps would be subject to fouling by the encrusting mussels.

The Great Lakes region spends an estimated \$500 million a year scrubbing them from docks, pipes and intakes. If the species reaches the Columbia, the cost to hydroelectric facilities alone could run from \$250 million to \$300 million a year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has warned.

Zebra mussels are small: A square meter can be covered with up to 70,000 of the mussels. A single mussel can produce up to a million eggs in a year.

The threat is significant: According to a 2018 report, Michigan spends \$500 million a year cleaning docks, pipes and intakes.

Joining the tribe in the exercise were the Oregon State Marine Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the state Department of Agriculture, Parks and Recreation, the Department of Environmental Quality,

PGE, the Invasive Species Action Network, and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

The team has studied the response measures that other states have taken.

For now mandatory boat inspection stations in Oregon are the first line of defense, but most are only open seasonally during daytime hours.

At Lake Billy Chinook there are specific precautions taken at boat launch areas to avoid zebra mussel contamination.

— Dave McMechan

Census

(Continued from page 1)

The easiest way to complete the 2020 Census during the Covid-19 pandemic is to do it online. Got to: my2020census.gov/login

If you don't have your 12-digit census identification, just click on the option below the 'Login' button that says: "If you do not have a Census ID, click here."

If you don't have the ability to do the census online, you can do the questionnaire by phone.

The 2020 Census will ask a few simple questions about you and everyone who was living with you on April 1 of this year. Call 844-330-2020 and follow the prompts.

When you get to talk to a person, let them know you get your mail at a post office box, and you do not have a census ID. You can call in your 2020 census information everyday from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. Pacific Time.

Guided fishing permits approval

Tribal Council last week approved a recommendation from the On-Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee to re-open fishing by permit for non-tribal members.

The areas re-opening are at Lake Simtustus, the Metolious Arm of Lake Billy Chinook, the Deschutes River from Dry Creek to the Wasco County border near Trout Creek and the High Lakes.

Fishing license vendors have been notified, and online sales of permits are available at the present time. Fisheries is still working on removing the shutdown notice from the website but sales began late in the afternoon on May 26.

Summary

Lands identified on the map are open, and areas 1 through 4 are open for fish-

ing.

Area 1: High Lakes. Area 2: Deschutes River. Area 3: Lake Simtustus. Area 4: Metolius Arm of Lake Billy Chinook, Harpham Flats and Sandy Beach boat launches and Sherars Falls.

Tribal guides are allowed to resume guiding per their permits and requirements by Tribal Council. Tribal guides must follow all guidelines in their permits. Guidelines include:

-Using procedures to reduce the spread of the Covid virus.

-No Camping at tribal camp grounds. Areas will be day use only until further notice.

-All these areas are still open to tribal members for fishing and camping.

Motion at Council:

The On-Reservation Fish and Wildlife Committee rec-

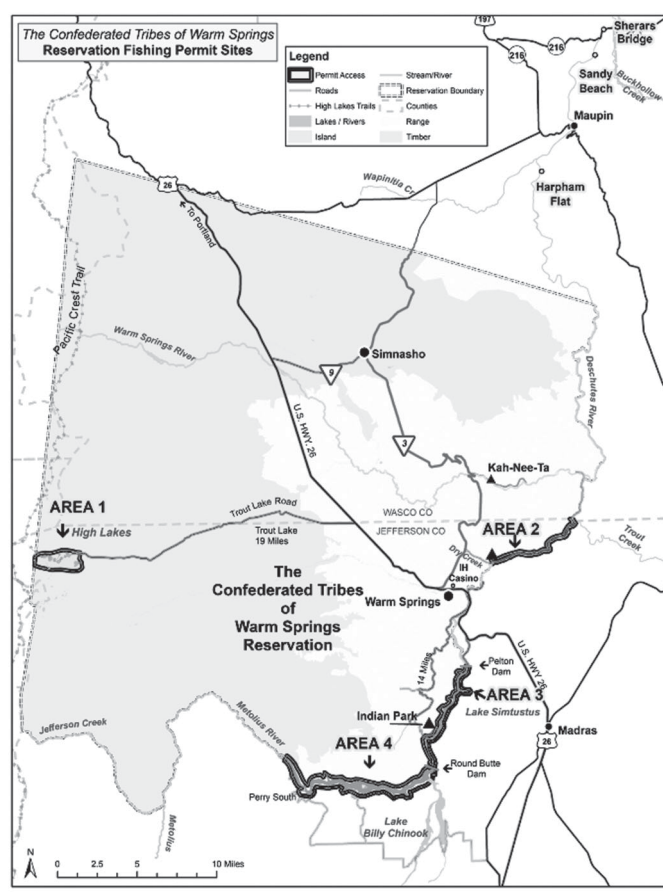
ommends to Tribal Council to re-open fishing, guiding and boating to non-members in waters within and surrounding the reservation.

The Committee believes this should be consistent with Tribal Council's plans for reopening the tribal government and the reservation in general. In addition, tribal fishing guides can resume guide activities with the following requirements:

1. Guides must conduct guide activities to reduce the spread of the coronavirus to themselves, clients and the Warm Springs community.

2. Guides must provide or require clients to provide hand sanitizer, masks and disinfecting wipes and use them to prevent the spread of the virus.

3. Guides must not use local businesses for food and supplies, including bringing clients onto roads marked



Areas opening for guided fishing permit access

'Local Traffic Only', except the specific roads necessary to access fishing locations on the Deschutes River

from the Warm Springs boat ramp to the northern boundary of the reservation.

Safety reminder from Council

The Tribal Council in March declared a state of emergency on the reservation, as the Covid-19 pandemic is a health risk of the highest priority. And the declaration of emergency remains in place.

Community members are asked to utilize the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center call number at 541-5532-5512, available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you are ill, or a family member is ill, please stay home in quarantine. Please keep yourselves and your family safe by continuing to

thoroughly wash your hands and use good hygiene practice. Consider keeping your distance from others at 3 to 6 feet.

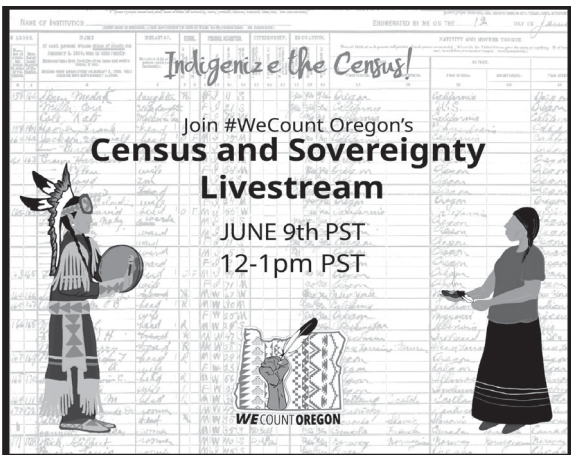
Be aware of personal contact and limit handshaking or high fives, and be aware of potential exposures by limiting your activities that involve large crowds or groups of people, elders and others that have compromised immune systems.

Keep in mind the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is to prevent the spread by frequent and thorough handwashing, avoiding contact with your face, eyes,

note or mouth. Cover your cough or sneeze with tissue then dispose of the tissue. Please clean and disinfect surfaces of your home and the points of entry to your home and vehicles.

The COVID-19 symptoms include fever, cough and shortness of breath. If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, please call the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center at 541-553-5512.

Please do not go straight to the clinic: Call first so that your condition can be assessed.



#WeCountOregon's Census & Sovereignty Virtual Live event, June 9 from noon-1 p.m., celebrates the vibrancy and history of the Native peoples of Oregon. This event will be MC'd by Delson Suppah and broadcast on Warm Springs KWSO radio. The event will open with a moving song and drumming by Brian Krebbiel. We'll hear from Willa Powless from the Klamath Tribe Council, Rep. Tanna Sanchez, William Miller from Naya Family Center, Jim Tucker, Vice-Chair of the National Advisory Committee to the Census Bureau, and Nicole Adams among other Native voices connecting the census with our sovereignty. We'll laugh with the brilliant Ryan Redcorn from the 1491's and talk about Indigenizing the census!

Registration here: <https://tinyurl.com/y7jhnw9l>

State addressing Oregon unemployment claims backlog

Many who lost their jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic have been waiting on their unemployment benefits. It's a problem seen to varying degrees in many states around the country.

Last week, the Oregon

Employment Department, amid growing pressure, launched a new multi-faceted effort, "Project Focus 100," to clear the 38,000-claim backlog.

Damon Runberg, the agency's regional econo-

mist, said part of the project's goal is to improve service by modernizing the technology and database software used to process claims.

He said the software was meant to be updated ear-

lier this year, but the update came too late for the Covid-19 crisis.

Runberg said 91 percent of all claims filed since March 15 have been processed. He said the other 9 percent of claims may be

taking longer to process due to their complexity. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports Oregon's unemployment rate jumped to 14.2 percent last month, the highest on record. In March, it was just 3.5 percent.

CRITFC position

The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission is advertising for the following position:

Administrative Specialist - CRITFC Law Enforcement Division. Full-time, regular, non-exempt. \$42,745 to \$47,180. Location: Hood River. Closing date to apply is July 1.

Primary Responsibility: The Administrative Specialist is responsible for maintaining department purchasing records. Keeps immediate supervisor informed of administrative related matters as they affect the agency. Assists the Chief and the Captain as necessary in the fulfillment of their various administrative duties.

Experience: Two years of general clerical experience, with proficiency in typing, word processing, or other experience generating documents; OR an Associate's degree in Office Occupations or Office Technology; OR Graduation from a private school of business with a Certificate in Office Occupations or Office Technology, plus one year of general clerical experience. Apply to:

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission - Attn: Human Resources. 700 N.E. Multnomah Street, Suite #1200 - Portland, OR 97232. Phone: 503-238-0667. Email: hr@critfc.org

For additional details, you may also contact the HR department in Portland, 503-238-0667, or the Captain at the law enforcement office in Hood River, phone number 541-386-6363