

# Confederated Tribes now have more ownership in hydrodams

At the start of this year, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs purchased an additional ownership interest in the Pelton Round Butte hydroelectric project, increasing the tribes' share from 33 and 1/3 percent to 49.99 percent.

Pelton Round Butte is an emissions-free, three-dam complex on the Deschutes River, co-owned and operated by the tribes and Portland General Electric.

The tribes became co-owners of the facilities in 2001 through an agreement that provided the tribes with an additional opportunity to purchase another 16.66 percent in 2021.

"Our longstanding relationship with this resource is something that is very important to our current tribal membership and to future

generations," said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

"We will continue to be good stewards of this precious resource that we have the responsibility of co-managing."

Maria Pope, president and chief executive officer of PGE, added:

"This agreement is a testament to our close partnership and shared commitment to the Deschutes River Basin. PGE is honored to continue working together with the tribes in Central Oregon for years to come."

For more than forty years, the tribes and PGE have worked together to generate power and advance an ambitious set of environmental goals, including the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead runs to the Deschutes River.

## Help Improve the Columbia River Fishing Access Sites!

Congress has authorized safety and sanitation improvements to be made at the Zone 6 fishing access sites through the federal *Columbia River In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Sites Improvement Act*.

We want to hear from **tribal members who use these sites to exercise their treaty-reserved fishing rights.**

- How do you use the sites?
- How well do the sites fit your needs?
- What problems have you seen or experienced while using the sites?
- What are your suggestions on ways to make the sites better?

In-person interviews will be held on the sites and on the four reservations by Akana or Nch'i Wana Housing staff in February and early March. An online survey option will also be available. Participation is voluntary and participants will get a \$50 gift card for their time.

Scan the QR code for the interview schedule, online survey information, and more details. ▶



## Improved ocean conditions 'a blessing' for fish

Much-improved conditions off the Oregon coast may signal a reprieve for Columbia River salmon and steelhead that have endured a string of lean years in the northern Pacific Ocean.

According to scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, 2021 posted the second-best ocean condition score across a 24-year data-set and was the best year on record in one key category—the density of northern copepods. The tiny, energy-rich organisms are packed with lipids and, when abundant, can cause an explosion of growth for dozens of

species.

That should mean when juvenile salmon and steelhead flushed out of the Columbia River and into the ocean last spring and summer, they found plenty to eat. The good ocean conditions—which include cold water and abundant upwelling—often lead to higher than average survival for salmon and steelhead during their time in salt water, and thus higher freshwater returns.

For David Johnson, director of the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resources Management, the change in ocean fortunes

couldn't have been better timed. Last year, the tribe found 42 percent of wild Snake River spring chinook populations and 19 percent of wild steelhead are tipping toward extinction.

"It is really a blessing that the ocean is looking like it does," Johnson said. "We are just really happy about that."

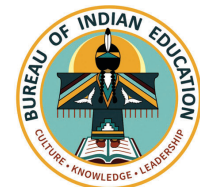
While the recent data on ocean conditions could be good news for struggling salmon in the Northwest, advocates for the species warn this isn't enough to stop their alarming slide, largely due to conditions in the rivers themselves.

Meanings in the new Bureau of Indian Education logo: The open book represents lifelong learning. The Indigenous student is wearing a fancy shawl regalia including moccasins, ribbon skirt, shawl, yoke, beaded headband, and eagle feather with hair long and braids.

The student embodies the spirit of ancestors by dancing with honor, and carrying out prayers with every step. The eagles emblazoned on

the shawl represent acknowledgement, strength, and determination. Finally, in the background, there is the sun which gives growth, abundance and hope. The four lines on the book represent the four directions, the four seasons, the four stages of life and four sacred plants.

And the logo itself represents the ongoing commitment of the BIE to its mission as it provides educational services to students and Tribal communities.



## WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, THE TOUGH GET VACCINATED.

COVID fatigue is the biggest threat to keeping Oregon schools open and kids safe this winter. But, getting vaccinated is just one of 11 health and safety measures we can take to protect what's most important. Find out more at [Oregon.gov/readyschools](https://Oregon.gov/readyschools).

