

Important update from Vital Statistics

It is important for members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to make sure your address and contact information is up-to-date with the Vital Statistics Department. Their phone number is 541-553-3252.

If you received your October-November distribution checks, then your Vital Stats information should be fine. If you did not, please reach out to Vi-

tal Stats: Tribal Council has approved a financial distribution to go out with the December per capita and pension distributions on December 12. Council had hoped to transition to a digital distribution platform in December; however, the legal review needs to be completed.

Over 35 checks were returned as undeliverable from the October-November distributions. You

can call the number above, or email:

vitalstats@wstribes.org

Request an address change form.

Vital Stats reminds everyone that it is important to keep your information up to date not only for distribution purposes, but for services in general, like for Human Services, Tribal Court, Credit, or Housing.

Community notes...

The Warm Springs **Commodities Food Bank** is open every Tuesday and Friday at the Commodities warehouse in the industrial park. The Madras Community **Food Pantry** is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 370 SW Culver Highway.

The Jefferson County Senior

Center at 860 SW Madison Street in Madras serves free meals for people age 60 and older every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at noon.

The **Maternal Child Health** program at the Health and Wellness Center offers car seats for each new child born; home visits, prenatal and post-partum support, and breastfeeding support. If you are IHS eligible, call 541-

553-2352 or stop by the MCH Office in the Community Health side of the clinic.

Tuesdays at the **Behavioral Health Center** there is an Alcohol and Drug Education class for adults at 4 p.m., and the Youth Wellbriety Court Program meets at 4. Those are for open clients. If you want to learn more call 541-553-3205 or stop by the Behavioral Health Center.

Newsom's Salmon Strategy for a Hotter, Drier Future, introduced in 2024 to chart important priorities and actions needed to support California's struggling salmon populations.

Klamath River following the removal of the four dams reveals the return of natural, seasonal fluctuations of water temperatures benefiting salmon.

Post-dam removal water temperatures are cooling sooner in the fall when adult fall-run Chinook salmon are returning and need that cool water most followed by warming temperatures in the spring when juvenile salmon are rearing and out-migrating to the ocean.

Scientists are seeing a lower prevalence of Ceratonova shasta – or C. shasta – a parasite that plagued juvenile salmon prior to dam removal. Harmful algal blooms in the Klamath River are smaller now and less frequent since dam removal.

A primary goal of Klamath River dam removal was the reestablishment of viable, wild, self-sustaining populations of salmon and other anadromous fish species for conservation, for their ecological benefits, and to enhance Tribal, commercial and recreational fisheries.

To that end, CDFW has invested more than \$30 million to support fish habitat restoration projects within the Klamath Basin. These investments include:

\$20 million in grants awarded to 10 projects within the Scott and Shasta rivers and watersheds, crucial salmon strongholds within the Klamath Basin. These projects, which include improved fish passage and post-McKinney Fire restoration, were developed in collaboration with and in support of local Tribes, ranchers, farmers and nonprofit fish conservation organizations.

A \$130,000 grant to Trout Unlimited to remove a manmade concrete barrier on Jenny Creek to reopen approximately one mile of additional salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.

A \$1.4 million grant to Trout Unlimited to install buffer fencing around the Iron Gate and Copco I reservoir footprints. The fencing will protect approximately 3,235 acres of riparian habitat within the reservoir footprints, support restoration plantings and reduce erosion that negatively impacts water quality and salmon and steelhead populations.

A \$582,915 grant to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) to develop new public access and a recreational boating launch facility in the Copco Valley, site of the former Copco Lake reservoir, to provide new public access to the restored Klamath River for boating, fishing and other recreation.

The historic Klamath River dam removal project was a key milestone of Gov. Gavin

River sees salmon in recovery...

A little more than a year after the historic removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, biologists are seeing salmon recolonizing just about every corner of their historic habitat.

"The speed at which salmon are repopulating every nook and cranny of suitable habitat upstream of the dams in the Klamath Basin is both remarkable and thrilling," said Michael Harris, environmental program manager of the California Department of Fish Wildlife Klamath Watershed program.

"There are salmon everywhere on the landscape right now, and it's invigorating our work."

While adult returns of salmon are ongoing and final estimates won't be available until January, initial reports indicate a stronger fall-run Chinook salmon return than last year with widespread dispersal of the fish. Recent signs of salmon recovery throughout the Klamath Basin include:

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Klamath Tribes report seeing widespread salmon spawning within the Oregon portion of the Klamath River, including within multiple tributaries upstream of Klamath Lake where salmon haven't been seen in more than century.

Fish-counting stations on newly accessible tributaries within the former reservoir footprints in California have recorded 208 adult Chinook salmon in Jenny Creek and 260 adult Chinook salmon in Shovel Creek to date.

While multiple state and federal agencies, tribes and non-governmental organizations are monitoring salmon throughout the Klamath Basin, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, CDFW, is particularly focused on monitoring these newly accessible tributaries. CDFW field crews are surveying regularly for salmon nests and adult fish.

CDFW snorkel crews this summer documented juvenile salmon and/or steelhead occupying nearly all of the newly accessible tributaries in the reservoir footprints. In Fall Creek, one of the newly accessible tributaries upstream of the former Iron Gate Dam location, approximately 65,000 wild juvenile Chinook salmon were counted.

The CDFW Fall Creek Fish Hatchery, a \$35 million state-of-the-art facility in its second year of operation, began spawning returning fall-run Chinook salmon in mid-October. To date, the hatchery has spawned 416 female fish and collected roughly 1.27 million eggs—four times the number of salmon spawned this time last year. More than 1,200 Chinook salmon have entered the hatchery so far.

Temperature monitoring in 2024 and 2025 along the mainstem

Assessment on how residents access news and information

by Sue Matters
KWSO station manager.



KWSO 91.9 FM earlier conducted an Information Ecosystem Assessment, to better understand how residents of the Warm Springs Reservation access news and information, what content they value, and where significant communication gaps exist. The project was guided by the Listening Post Collective and supported by the National Federation of Community Broadcasters.

The findings consistently demonstrate that KWSO remains one of the most trusted and effective sources of local news, cultural content, and emergency information; however, community members rely on a broad, mixed ecosystem that includes digital platforms, printed flyers, interpersonal networks, and tribal government communications.

Community members across all age groups identified a strong desire for more timely updates, more consistent event postings, expanded cultural and language content, and in-

creased transparency from tribal leadership.

The assessment also highlighted the role KWSO can play in strengthening partnerships, improving information flow, elevating community voices, and filling long-standing gaps in access to reliable local information.

As part of the assessment, KWSO created *Reservation Information, a Warm Springs History*, a book designed to provide historical context and deepen community understanding of how information has been shared across generations. There is a video version of the book at: youtube.com/watch?v=gRa5FxaQRtc

We will also have copies available at the Warm Springs Recreation Christmas Bazaar on Saturday December 13.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

JOLLY JAMBOREE

15TH & 16TH DEC 9AM - 7PM EACH DAY
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PARENT/GUARDIAN REQUIRED.
Children need not attend.

Drug & Alcohol Free Event.

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