

Stronger salmon protection needed

(AP) — Oregon Representative Elizabeth Furse (1st District) has begun a drive to focus White House and Congressional attention on saving the declining Columbia River salmon. In a letter to all 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Furse cited a poll published by *The Oregonian* in December which found that the dwindling salmon population leads Oregon residents' environmental concerns.

"The results show that there is an enormous citizen concern about the decline of salmon," Furse wrote.

"There is a tremendous citizen support for more effective recovery programs, and a willingness of citizens to pay for those programs."

Some members of Congress are picking up her call to action.

"This poll should be Al Gore's breakfast reading material," Rep. Peter DeFazio (D—OR.), said of the Vice-President. "I have always assumed that there is a very deep feeling for protecting a supporting salmon. That is quantified now."

The White House is already involved in salmon recovery. But Katie McGinty, President Clinton's top environmental advisor, told *The Oregonian* in October that it was up to the region's Northwest leaders to find new solutions. Clinton's leader of Northwest salmon efforts, however, called Furse's appeal for better federal coordination of salmon policy a "reasonable request."

"It's something that the administration has worked hard to achieve," said Will Stelle, Regional Director of the National Marine Fisheries Service. "But obviously we are not there."

The failing effort to restore Columbia salmon, financed mainly by the Bonneville Power Administration, has consumed \$3 billion in the last 15 years.



Furse said her goals are:

- To help create a regional forum of state, federal, and tribal leaders to make decisions on managing the Columbia River. Governor Kitzhaber began last summer a drive for a regional forum.

- To thoroughly evaluate the costs and benefits of significant actions to help salmon, such as lowering reservoirs or breaching some dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is now analyzing a proposal to breach four dams on the lower Snake River, but Congress has refused money for a similar study of lowering the reservoir behind John Day Dam on the lower Columbia.

■ To improve the Clinton administration's coordination of federal agencies working on Columbia salmon recovery. The BPA, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bureau of Reclamation are at the center of the salmon policy.

Some members of Congress however, oppose a bigger federal role. Senators Larry Craig (R—ID.), and Slade Gorton (R—WA.), said *The Oregonian* poll confirms widespread support for salmon but does not demonstrate that Northwesterners would be willing to make sacrifices to ensure the salmon's survival.

"I agree that if you walked out on the street and asked if salmon are important, 85 percent of the people would say yes," Craig said. "But I am not sure the science of the opinion is there to take a specific direction."

Rep. Bob Smith (R—OR.), and Rep. Mike Crapo (R—ID.), expressed concern that stepped-up salmon saving efforts could hurt Columbia Basin economies.

Indian totem artifacts at Kalama in jeopardy

■ *The Friends of the Totem committee seek to preserve tribal history*

By Cheryl Spaulding, News & Bulletin

Standing in silence for 23 years, four giants gaze out across the Columbia River. The weather beats against them relentlessly, yet even as their features disintegrate under the strain, they never utter a word.

The Friends of the Totem committee, led by Dianne McCallum of Cowlitz Bank, have come together in an attempt to preserve Kalama's four deteriorating totem poles. She said the poles are in danger of being lost forever if restoration work is not performed soon. Carved from a single cedar tree that grew in Cowlitz County, the great totem, standing at a height of 140 feet, is reportedly the tallest single tree totem pole in the world, she said.

"We want to protect the poles as well as the history behind them," said John (Mac) Maciellawicz, member of the restoration committee. He said without knowing the amount of structural damage done to the poles, it is impossible to know how much the cost of restoration will be.

The committee is currently searching for a painting contractor with the capability to survey the poles and estimate the recovery cost, he said. But so far, the committee has not been able to find anyone willing to take on the project. Tsungani Fearon "Smitty" Smith will be working with the committee on the repair of any structural damage and the repainting of each creature.

While picnicking at the park with her son one day in 1992, McCallum said they found a piece of wood on the ground which was later determined to be a wooden beak from a legendary animal on one of the smaller poles.

She said the poles are one-of-a-kind and cannot be replaced. They are part of the history of Kalama and the history of West Coast Indian tribes. These historical artifacts were carved and painted by the late Chief Lelooska (Don Smith) in Kalama in the 1960s.

McCallum said the poles were originally painted in only four colors — red, black, turquoise and white — which were tribal colors. But they were repainted in 1974, when they were moved from their original site. However, she said, the paint colors used at that time were incorrect.

The committee wants to develop an organization that will partner with the Lelooska Foundation of Ariel, local school districts, libraries, community colleges, port districts and tourism agencies to provide for the preservation of the poles, she said. She outlined the plan as also providing ongoing education about the poles and their history as well as promoting tourism opportunities in southwest Washington and in Kalama.

McCallum said the poles represent the legends and lineage of the now extinct Nass River Indian Tribe of British Columbia. Each section features a symbolic animal from Nass tribal history, besides depicting south by sea.

Because of a controversial dispute, the largest pole remained in a prone position for 12 years after being completed. Later, Kalama citizens donated almost \$4,000 and labor to finish and erect the poles after the Kalama Chamber of Commerce negotiated with the Port of Kalama for the donation of the site.

To volunteer for this project, call (360) 636-0605 or 673-2587.

Women's conference to be held in Portland

Native women from across the United States and Canada are invited to join together for two upcoming Wellness and Women conferences, slated March 8-11 in San Diego, CA., and March 30-April 3 in Portland, OR.

The Wellness and Women conferences are presented annually by Health Promotion Programs, a department of the University of Oklahoma College of Continuing Education. Co-sponsoring the 1998 conferences are the Albuquerque Indian Health Service Cancer Control Program, the Portland Area Indian Health Service, and the Northwest Portland Indian Health Board.

"Connecting Within the Circle" is the theme for the 1998 conference, signifying the long-lasting and meaningful relationships formed by many women during these conferences in previous years.

The south regional conference will take place March 8-11 at the Town and Country Hotel in San Diego. Keynote speaker Lori Speck is committed to getting the community involved in cultural events and bringing generations together.

The north regional conference is set for March 30-April 3 at Doubletree's Hayden Island in Portland. Keynote speaker is Dr. Bea Medicine. An inter-

nationally recognized scholar and research anthropologist, Dr. Medicine has contributed extensively to such areas as Native American studies and women's studies. She conducts research concerning mental health, education, and alcohol and drug use issues among American Indians. In addition, she is president of Warrior Women, Inc., a not-for-profit ethnographic films and archive-research organization.

Workshop presentations for both conferences include Female Sexuality; Aboriginal Liaison Awareness; Cancer Prevention for Native Women; Native Infant Mortality; Presentation Skills; Healing Grief; ADD/ADHD and FAS/FAE; and Being Well While Walking in Two Worlds. A health fair with screenings and health promotion information will also be held.

During the conferences, Health Promotion Programs will honor Cecilia Fire Thunder for her history of service and contributions to native women's health issues. For more information or to receive a conference brochure, call Health Promotion Programs at (405) 325-1790; fax requests to (405) 325-7126; or write the department at 555 E. Constitution, Norman, OK 73072.