

NATIVE NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

Tribes, States Agree on Salmon Protection; BPA Announces Conservation Measures

PORTLAND, OR. (AP) — Indian Tribes have agreed with the states of Oregon and Washington to develop a plan for doubling Columbia River Basin salmon runs within 25 years.

"The agreement marks the first time we have had a coast wide, conservation-based approach to wild salmon management," said Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Jeff Koenings.

Under the agreement, reached after months of negotiations, the Tribes and the two states will attempt to produce a joint long-term plan to save fish by December 2003. It will focus on rebuilding Snake River spring and summer chinook, Upper Columbia spring chinook and Snake River sockeye. Harvest rates will be adjusted based on the number of wild fish projected to return in a given year.

Officials hope to increase the salmon runs to 5 million fish and raise the proportion of wild salmon and steelhead to hatchery fish, said

Guy Norman of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The agreement also sets guidelines for Tribal, commercial and sport harvest of an unprecedented return of 364,000 spring chinook.

Hatchery fish will provide the bulk of the catch. Biologists expect nearly 300,000 will be adults released from hatcheries two and three years ago.

Leaders from the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla and Warm Springs Tribes and the governors of Idaho, Washington, Oregon and Montana say a long-term plan is vital to meeting Columbia River salmon recovery goals.

"This agreement has both logic and vision but, importantly, it provides the resource and fishers some level of certainty, something they haven't had much of in recent years," said Randy Settler, Chairman of the Yakama Nation's Fish and Wildlife Committee.

Tribal and state fisheries manag-

ers said the agreement will provide stability in both harvest and hatchery production and will allow managers to spend more time improving salmon habitat and their passage past hydroelectric dams.

The long-term plan will include a sliding scale to restrict harvest for the protection of threatened salmon stocks, ways to protect wild salmon from being caught along with hatchery salmon and a resolution of disagreements over hatchery policy.

Officials expect the federal government to endorse the plan as consistent with the conservation requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

Recently, the Bonneville Power Administration said it has decided to launch a \$200 million energy conser-

vation and renewable resource development program several months early in order to help relieve the electricity shortage and save salmon.

"This is a program we had intended to start next fall, but, with the current shortage, we are offering it immediately," said Bonneville Power Acting Administrator Steve Wright. "With the energy shortages and the high cost of purchasing power in this market, we and our customer utilities wanted to kick conservation into high gear now."

Regional utilities that buy power from Bonneville Power and choose to participate will get a discount on their wholesale power bill if they agree to invest in conservation measures or renewable resources.

ON THE NET

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION: <http://www.bpa.gov>
 WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE: <http://www.wa.gov/wdfw>
 OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us>
 COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION: <http://www.critfc.org>

Yakama Nation will be featured in Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

TOPPENISH, WA. (AP) — The Smithsonian Institution has asked the Yakama Nation to tell the story of its people in a new exhibition being developed for permanent display in Washington, D.C.

The Yakamas will be among nine Tribes from North and South America featured in the "Our Lives" exhibition at the National Museum of the American Indian, scheduled to open in 2003.

"It will give us a chance to share our story and our culture with the rest of the nation," said Marilyn Malatare, Curator of the Yakama Nation Museum.

Smithsonian curators were interested in the 9,000-member Yakama Nation because it is composed of 14 separate bands and Tribes. They

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~ Marilyn Malatare, Curator of the Yakama Nation Museum

were pushed together on the nearly 1.4-million-acre reservation in Central Washington after their leaders signed an 1855 treaty with the United States, ceding 10 million acres to the federal government.

The forced confederation raises interesting questions about identity, said Cynthia Chavez, curator of the "Our Lives" exhibit on contemporary Tribal life.

"What makes you Yakama people? What makes this a Yakama community?" she asked.

Smithsonian employees were in

Toppenish recently, meeting with the Yakama museum's four-person staff to plan for a year of research.

The Yakama staff will work with the Tribe's members to decide what should be included in the exhibition. That's still to be determined, but it's likely to include personal narratives from Tribal representatives.

"We're just beginning our collaborative work with the Yakama Nation," Chavez said.

And one of the goals is to let Native people tell their own stories, said Susan Secakuku, another Smith-

sonian staffer.

The National Museum of the American Indian also will have sections titled "Our Universe," on the world-views and philosophies of eight Native communities, and "Our People," featuring the history of 12 Tribes.

The new building is currently under construction on the National Mall. Smithsonian staffers estimate it will draw 3 million visitors annually. The National Museum of the American Indian also includes satellite museums in Suitland, Maryland and New York City.

In 1990, the Smithsonian acquired 800,000 artifacts from the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian in New York.

On the Net: www.nmai.si.edu

Tribe Awarded Self-Regulation

The Grand Ronde Gaming Commission was recently awarded a Certificate of Self Regulation from the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC). The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is one of only two Tribes in the nation to be awarded self-regulation. The self-regulation program provides a process that allows the Tribal Gaming Commission to assume greater regulatory responsibility over class II activities. The award demonstrates that the Grand Ronde Tribe has made a concerted effort to establish a strong, independent Tribal regulatory commission.



Tribal Council Vice-Chair Ed Larsen, (right) accepted the award from Theresa Poust, NIGC Commissioner and Randy Sitton, NIGC Region Chief.

Photo by Justin Phillips

Thorpe Family wants Body Brought back to Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK. (AP) — Several relatives of Jim Thorpe, one of the greatest athletes of the 20th century, are working with an attorney and are trying to raise money to move Thorpe's body from Pennsylvania to his home state of Oklahoma.

The body is now in a town that renamed itself Jim Thorpe.

"I think the timing is right," Thorpe's son, Jack Thorpe, said in a news conference recently. "We will help Jim Thorpe (Pa.) all we can. The bones of our father will not make or break (their) town."

However, one of Jim Thorpe's descendants thinks the body should be left where it is.

Grace Thorpe, who was born to Thorpe and his first wife, said the City of Jim Thorpe has acted in good faith.

"They have done what they said they would," she said.

The community has become a tourist stop.

"They've gone out of their way to honor Dad," she said.

In 1912, Jim Thorpe became the only Olympian ever to win the de-

cathlon and pentathlon. The Olympic committee later stripped him of his medals because he had played semi-professional baseball. In the early 1980s, the Olympic committee returned his medals and restored his name to the record books.

Jim Thorpe died in March 1953. He was born on May 12, 1887.

The issue of Thorpe's final resting place was raised last month when Jack Thorpe told a reporter that he wanted his father's body returned to Oklahoma.

Thorpe's third wife, Patricia Thorpe, signed a contract with the town of Jim Thorpe that guaranteed the body would remain there as long as the town abided by certain conditions.

He said the family wants to bury Jim Thorpe near his father in an ancestral burial ground.

Members of the Sac and Fox Nation believe that until a person's body is laid properly in the ground, the person's soul continues to roam. Thorpe's body is in a mausoleum in Pennsylvania.