

SALMON

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He said fishing is open to anyone who has a fishing license and follows the other regulations for the river, such as no live bait to protect bull trout. The season lasts until Aug. 15 from Blue-bucket Creek, which is south of Malheur Ford, up to the headwaters of the Malheur, including tributaries such as Summit Creek, Bosonberg, Big Creek and Lake Creek.

"The intent is to encourage harvest by tribal anglers or other anglers, so there is not a Columbia Basin Endorsement required for this. There's not a salmon/steel-head harvest card record that is required for this. They have to have a fishing license, but other than that the intent is to promote harvest of this resource."

The general public can catch two salmon per day and can have two daily limits in their possession, Banks said.

Members of the Tribe can also use traditional methods, such as spears.

Jason Kesling from the Tribe's Natural Resources Department said they hosted a spearfishing demonstration, and a relative tribe helped teach methods to develop the spears. He said the salmon provided a traditional cultural experience for the Tribe.

"If you really think about it through the history of settlement, the Tribe has been pretty suppressed from doing historic activities," he said. "This is a fantastic opportunity for them to relearn the skill of salmon fishing."

A large group attended the last fish transplant June 15. Many stood in the river,

stalking salmon with spears.

After several attempts, Gabe Portillo, another youth from the Tribe from Burns, speared one of the salmon, which then jumped out of the water, trying to get away. He fought to lug it to shore for about a minute as it splashed and churned, turning a portion of the clear stream to a pool of whitewater.

When he finally got the fish ashore, Portillo said he enjoyed using the spear.

"It was crazy," he said, short of breath. "It was insane."

Roderique said the Tribe is actively engaged to restore fish passage, and she hoped the salmon transplants would continue in future years for members of the Tribe such as her grandson.

"It's just something that I feel, as his grandmother, he needs to experience," she said. "For him to experience using a spear — I think it's something he'll remember."



The Eagle/Sean Hart

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife employees prepare to transplant salmon in the Malheur River June 15 to provide fishing opportunities that were available on the river before dams blocked fish passage.

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PALMER

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also said she was sure she heard shots coming from the Coalwell residence.

Mobley said in the report he then interviewed his niece at the Coalwell residence, but he did not record video of the interview as he had with Koitzsch and Thexton.

"I then went to the Coalwell residence and spoke with (my niece) and asked her if there were any guns out and she said no," Mobley said in the report. "I asked her if they were all in the safe and she said yes. I asked (her) if anyone had been shooting at their house and she said no."

Mobley then returned to Koitzsch's residence, arrested him for initiating a false report and booked him in the Grant County Jail, according to the report.

District Attorney Jim Carpenter declined to charge Koitzsch, according to a Jan. 29, 2015, memo obtained from the district attorney's office.

"It is clear that shots were fired in the area, which is what Koitzsch reported," Carpenter said in the memo. "While your policies may differ, LE (law enforcement) investigations of relatives and close friends will be reviewed with a skeptical eye. Every precaution should be taken to avoid this situation."

Carpenter also mentioned that the interview at the Coalwell residence had not been recorded.

Mobley declined to speak to the Eagle.

Palmer said in an email to the Eagle last week that Mobley was following orders to arrest Koitzsch.

"There was no one else to take the call and based on what I was told I directed Mobley to arrest him for initiating a false report. I did not know and I am not sure if Mobley knew it at the time that (there) were other witnesses," Palmer said in the email. "From where we were told the shots were coming from and at the time, I didn't believe that the suspect was being up front. There is a long history of finger pointing back and forth over a long period of time in the neighborhood."

Records obtained from the sheriff's office show multiple complaints against the Coalwells from Thexton as early as 2008 and Koitzsch as early as 2011. The Coalwells and neighbors Shane and Sherri Giffin had also filed multiple complaints against

Koitzsch and Thexton. The disputes were over a variety of complaints, including dogs, burning, trespassing and easements.

Palmer also pointed out a June 8, 2013, criminal trespassing complaint Koitzsch filed against Palmer. James Burgett, a former sheriff's office deputy, investigated the incident.

Burgett said in his incident report that Koitzsch claimed Palmer and Terry and Leann Coalwell were trespassing behind Koitzsch's house with body armor and guns. Palmer told Burgett he had responded to a complaint by the Coalwells the day before Koitzsch claimed Palmer had trespassed and that he had declined an invitation from Koitzsch to look at tomato plants behind his house.

Leann Coalwell told Burgett Palmer had responded the day before when she complained Koitzsch was yelling at her children. She said Palmer spoke to Koitzsch for about an hour before returning to her residence to inform her he could not charge Koitzsch with any crimes. Terry Coalwell told Burgett he was at work.

In a Feb. 13, 2015, email to the county's insurance provider, which was investigating Koitzsch's complaint, Palmer summarized the Jan. 26, 2015, incident and mentioned previous incidents involving Koitzsch.

"My main issue is the facts are the facts that someone

heard shots fired. My issue is that these neighbors continually point the fingers at the Coalwells and did so again when they weren't home," Palmer said in the email. "(...) We have other reports on file where Koitzsch alleged that I was involved with the neighbors in giving them body armor and it gets bizarre....I wasn't even there."

In a series of emails responding to questions from the Eagle, Palmer stated the district attorney had declined to charge Koitzsch before Mobley had finished writing his incident report.

In response to the Eagle's records request from the district attorney's office, Carpenter said in an email he had three segments of video of Mobley's interviews — both interactions with Koitzsch and the interaction with Thexton — and even if Mobley had not been related to the Coalwells he would not have pursued charges against Koitzsch.

In an email Monday, Palmer said he still believes there was probable cause to arrest Koitzsch.

"It was not based solely on this one call per se but based on a history of false info," Palmer said in the email. "This was not the first of call(s) from (Koitzsch) that would fit the initiating a false report statute. The arrest was for the shots fired call and for nothing else. Based on (Koitzsch) stating that they came from that house right there....pointing to Coalwell's, and there was nothing to corroborate that shots were fired, I believe there was probable cause to believe that the info was false."

Palmer said he only recently learned of the settlement with Koitzsch, and he was upset by it.

"I thought it was still pending up until a couple weeks ago, I had no idea that it was settled without us having input or giving direction or I having input with (the) insurance company," he said in an email. "I am not happy with the results of this outcome myself."

Palmer said this is the first time the sheriff's office has been "litigated with a settlement or a judgment" in the 16 years he has been sheriff.

The Oregonian, which sued Palmer and the sheriff's office to release records, first reported the settlement.

Oregon Attorney General Settlement Notice

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