



*Yakama Nation Fisheries Management Program*

# SIN-WIT-KI

**All life on earth**

*Volume 12 Issue 1*

*Spring 2007*

Special Edition—Celilo Commemoration



*Celilo Village Chief, Olsen Meanus, Jr. raises eagle feather to welcome Puyallup canoe crew request to come on land. Clinton McCloud, Puyallup, said it would be a day of healing for all those who gathered there. Photos by Carol Craig. More inside.*



# Sin-Wit-Ki

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*Points of interest—Lots of Celilo Commemoration photos, Still cold weather time, Wild horses on the reservation, Wetlands restoration continues, American Rivers says White Salmon among most endangered and Celilo Resolution introduced.*

**T**he Yakama Tribal Council consists of 14 elected member representatives of the tribes and bands. Seven are elected every second year at the annual General Council.

Tribal council members serve four-year terms with half elected every two years. The Tribal Council elects its chair, vice-chair and secretary from the 14 elected members each two years.

Tribal council members are appointed to several committees with eight standing committees including Fish and wildlife and Law and order. New Fish and Wildlife committee members include:

- Chair—Sam Jim, Sr.
- Secretary—Fidelia Andy
- Member—Richard George
- Member—Athena Sanchez



### Mission Statement

*“To protect, restore and manage existing and historical fish populations throughout the Yakama Nation and protect and preserve the opportunity of the Yakama Nation to use these populations according to their religious and cultural needs as guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855.”*

*Sin-Wit-Ki translated from the Yakama language interprets to “All life on earth.” It is published three times a year, and written, edited and photographed by Carol Craig, public information manager for the Yakama Nation Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Program.*

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50 Years of Silence—

# Thousands Gather at Celilo to Witness Commemoration

**C**elilo Village, OR.—Since the beginning of time Wy-Am (Echo of the Falling Water), sustained tribal people year round as multiple runs of salmon returned to their natal streams.

The roaring of the falls could be heard from a great distance; standing near the falls, one could feel the rumbling of the earth.

It was an important fishing ground that the Yakama, Umatilla, War Springs, Wasco-Wishram, Nez Perce and many other tribes continue to revere.

It has been 50 years since Celilo Falls was submerged under the Columbia River after the concrete gates were closed at The Dalles Dam March 10, 1957.

The death of the falls was a great loss to all of the tribal people that gathered there each fishing season.

It took a mere six hours to be flooded over and some tribal people did not want to witness the death so they left. Others could be heard in the re-located village moaning and crying. Still others stood on the sides of the hills dressed in their regalia to witness the death of Celilo Falls.

*Chief Olson Meanus, Jr. waits for five canoe families. Photos by Carol Craig*

This year on March 10 people from all over the country arriving in the early morning hours came from as far away as the Washington coast, Nez Perce Nation, Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts to witness the 50th commemoration since the falls were buried.

Across from the village adjacent to the boisterous I-84 freeway at Celilo Park, many people were waiting for the arrival of the Puyallup, Wanapum, Chinook and Squaxin canoes. All were quiet and respectful of

wishes not to take any photos or videotape when the sacred songs would be sung to the arrivals.

The canoes came from downriver circling in mid-stream and one-by-one they traditionally requested permission to visit. Clinton McCloud, Puyallup shouted from the canoe, "We come here in hopes of lifting the spirits of our elders and all the people here."

As each canoe approached the shore Chief Olson Meanus, Jr. would raise his eagle feather officially greeting them. "We welcome you to our shores."

The sun shined through the few clouds setting the stage for perfect weather conditions during the two-day commemoration here. Tribal and non-tribal people

numbered more than 3,000 going from the park to the village .

*"We come here in the hopes of lifting the spirits of our elders and all the people here."*

But this was not considered a celebration by the many tribal people in attendance. "It has been 50 years of silence," said Klickitat

Chief, Wilbur Slockish, Jr. "This is a sad time. Maybe this event will take the cloak of invisibility off our people so we can be seen and heard and understood."

Inside the standing-room-only longhouse, people listened to the voices of tribal elders talking about Celilo Falls and what it meant to them. They were asked to stand in recognition by Thomas Morning Owl, Umatilla, serving as master of ceremonies.

Women sat on one side while the men on the other. Tribal men wore ribbon shirts, some were in white buckskin, and eagle-feather war-bonnets could be seen. All tradition, many in their best regalia, to mourn the falls.

Other officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) sat quietly listening to the speakers comments. "This is part of the healing and properly commemorating the loss of Celilo Falls," tribal leaders repeated. Stan Speaks, BIA area director told the crowd that if The Dalles Dam was proposed to be in that loca-

*(Celilo—Continued on page 5)*



# Canoes Arrive

**F**ive canoes slowly paddled towards Celilo Park with the Wanapum canoe coming from upriver. Meanwhile the Squaxin, Puyallup and Chinook canoes oared from downriver near another in-lieu fishing site.

The calm waters provided a path to the landing area where Chief Olsen Meanus, Jr. stood waiting to greet them. The Wanapum had two canoes, one with three paddlers and one in the other.

As each came to the park, the others would wait patiently for their turn to ask permission to visit.

Many people lined the banks and huge rock outcrop at the Celilo in-lieu site to witness the traditional greeting.



*Puyallup canoe crew patiently waits their turn to come forward as the Squaxin crew inches towards the park land area.*

*Photos by Carol Craig.*



*Below—Chief Olson Meanus, Jr. raises his eagle feather as each canoe approaches, meaning visitors are welcome to their part of the country.*

*Below—Puyallup canoe leader requests to land while the two Wanapum canoes sit alongside after receiving verbal consent from the chief. On the water the reflection of the enforcement safety crew is visible as is canoe.*





*(Celilo—Continued from page 3)*

tion today, it would never be built. Elder Nez Perce, Allen Slickpoo, Jr. thanked the federal officials for attending, “It’s not your fault, what happened to us. Perhaps, it’s a spiritual spanking, though, for you forced our forefathers to agree to this Dalles Dam, and you told us we would not remove our sacred burial grounds or our petroglyphs. They are underwater now.”

### Colorful garb brightens kitchen area

Traditional colorful wing-dresses and beaded moccasins were worn by the some 20 young girls and women working in the kitchen. The younger set of girls were learning how to serve the meal listening carefully to directions from Lucy Jim Begay. “Take the tule mats and place them on the floor near the front. Before you set the tule mats down you turn a complete circle.”

The women were cutting the deer, elk and buffalo meat. Some were using huge bowls to mix ingredients for frybread, cleaning roots and to prepare non-traditional foods like potato and macaroni salad.

Near the fire outside James and Ralph Kiona cooked the salmon and meat. James roasted about 700 pounds of salmon over alder wood. “This is the best wood to use to cook the fish,” he said as he turned over a large screen of fish to finish cooking.

Ralph quickly turned the meat as smoke continually rose. “It takes only about 10 minutes for both sides. It cooks quick,” he said. Ralph does this for longhouses and other events and does not want anything for doing the chore. “This way I’m helping out a lot of people and make sure there is enough for them to eat.”

Both days the Kiona brothers were answering questions from non-tribal visitors about how they cooked the meat and fish. “This way they will know who we are,” said James.

The overflowing crowd filled the longhouse with three columns of tables and a long line of people outside stretched around the arbor and continued down the driveway.

### People, people everywhere

**T**he entire day crowds of people gathered not only at the village but the Wy-Kan-Ush-Pum Village at Celilo Park. “This is to educate the public about culture, tradition, economics, environ-

mental damage done by the flooding of the falls and to prevent any further destruction in the future,” said Rebecca Elwood from the Yakama Nation Sacred Breath Project.

Many photos of Celilo Falls and tribal people were on display at the park and inside the huge white tent near the longhouse for crowd overflow. At the park Bobbie Conner, Umatilla said she had people identified in some of the photos.

“We want people help us name people in the old photos so we can finally have identification,” said John Platt from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). He was helping at the CRITFC booth inside the white tent. “We sold out on our ‘Celilo’ t-shirts and jackets.” CRITFC also had a DVD continuously playing with tribal people talking about the meaning of the event and history of the falls. “We may have to get some copies made because people kept asking us how much the DVD was and we only have this one,” he said.

Other tribal vendors had bead work, shawls, moccasins, memorabilia and their own photos of Celilo Falls.

That evening people left and came back in their traditional garb to participate in the longhouse powwow. Drummer and singer groups each took turns as the dancers did their best. In the meantime outside in the arbor area a stick game tournament took place. Several teams were signing their songs and trying to out-guess one another and locating which hand the painted bone was in, left or right. Finally a women’s stick game team took first place in the wee hours of the morning.



*Erika Jefferson with her grandmother, Josephine George, Yakama, are ready for the evening powwow.*

*(Celilo—Continued on page 13)*



Lin noted for Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial in D.C.

# Celilo Park Blessing of Monument Site

**O**n March 18 many people gathered to follow tribal tradition of blessing the grounds where noted artist, Mya Lin will place her Celilo Falls Memorial later this year.

"We are blessing this place as the Confluence Project goes ahead to build a legacy here for generations to come, so all may understand this catastrophic event," said Antone Minthorn, chair of the Confluence Project and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation (CTUIR).

Lin is recipient of several awards for her architecture and art work. She has created works that include large-scale, site-specific installations throughout the country and abroad. Her most notable piece of architecture is the Viet Nam Veteran's Memorial in Washington, D.C. and also her very first piece of work at age 21.

She was commissioned in 2000 by tribal nations and civic groups from Washington and Oregon as part of the bi-centennial commemoration of the Corps of Discovery. Lin is designing art installations along the Columbia River focusing on nature, science, art and history known as the Confluence Project.



*Wilma Roberts, her photo collection is in the book, Celilo Falls: Remembering the Thunder, Lin and Karen Jim Whitford after the ceremony.*

She was among the many who came to the park to take part in the blessing led by religious and tribal leaders from the Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe,

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon and CTUIR.

"Through some kind of magical interconnection, we all agreed that Maya Lin would be the best person to design this," Minthorn said.

Celilo Village Chief, Olsen Meanus, Jr. welcomed Lin and guests to the project site.

"Maybe the elders who are still here will get to come to some kind of soothing of the minds and hearts for



*Nez Perce Tribal Executive Chair, Rebecca Miles chats with another Nez Perce, Jeremy FiveCrows, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.*

the water."

Chair of the Warm Springs Tribal Council, Ron Suppah told the crowd many tribal people came from all over the Northwest to honor Celilo.

"This was the center of our nation, the trading center of our world," he said.

Lin thanked the tribes for inviting her. "You asked me to be here, not Lewis and Clark. You are the reason I am here. Thank you for having faith in me to tell the story of what is lost beneath the water," she said.

This was the final weekend of events commemorating Celilo Falls.

Later Lin met with tribal fishers and elders to discuss how they thought the memorial should honor the falls. Several suggestions were made by the tribal fishers who wanted those who gave their lives at the falls to be remembered as well.

Lin said she would carefully think about their ideas and had to rush back to Portland, Ore. to catch a flight back east. She stood and shook hands with everyone and said she would stay in contact.



*Lin met with left-Celilo elder, Ada Frank, center, Virgil Lewis, Yakama fisher and Gerry Lewis, Yakama fisher and religious leader.*

the last 50 years." "When I was young, I used to see them standing here looking out at the river and I would ask why. They told me they could still see the falls in their mind, still hear the thunder, the roar of the falls, the mist of



# Wild horses, Wetlands, Wildlife Update



*Near Satus Creek two horses seem to agree. "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."*

tats along the Yakima River, and Toppenish and Satus Creeks. They purchase former farmland to restore. "This has been on-going since 1993 and will continue on for many years to come. We do one or two large wetland restoration projects per year, and replant about 300 acres of native grassland each year," said Tracy Hames, biologist.

The goal is to protect and restore 27,000 acres under the Bonneville Power Administration funded portion of the program. "More acreage should also be added when the Toppenish Creek Corridor Plan gets underway in a couple of years," he said. The wetlands area can be seen driving up Hwy. 97 towards Satus Pass just out of Toppenish, Wash.

**H**orse lovers wanted is the sound bite for people who would like to adopt a wild horse.

The Yakama Nation Wildlife Management Program is currently working on thinning the wild horse herds on the Yakama Reservation lands including the closed area.

According to Jim Stephenson, wildlife biologist, the herds are too numerous. "Of course we don't want to just eliminate them and instead, would like to have people adopt them," he said.

Each Tuesday people are invited to view the horses at the former McBride Ranch now known as the Satus Ranch. The program is amiable to those interested in adopting a horse but may not have any space or home for the animals. "We'll even keep them if they don't have a place for them," said Stephenson.

Since last year more people from around the Pacific Northwest are interested. "We just need some volunteer drivers to get the horses to the outside reservation areas." For more information contact Stephenson at 509-949-2189 or e-mail [jstephen@yakama.com](mailto:jstephen@yakama.com)

In other Wildlife news, the program is currently protecting and restoring over 21,000 acres of wetland, riparian and grassland habi-



*Above—A large herd just as you come over the hill from the valley and below—Wetlands view as you go uphill on Hwy. 97 towards Satus Pass.*



# Fish wrap



Bits & pieces of information

## Wildlife Staff Keeping Check on CWD

**T**he Yakama Nation Wildlife Program is requesting tribal hunters to bring the heads of deer and elk for testing at their headquarters.

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal brain disease of deer and elk and makes the brain spongy-like.

Although it was diagnosed in Colorado back in 1967, it has not reached the Pacific Northwest. Tribal biologists want to keep a check on it. Heads brought to the Wildlife Office must be no more than 24 hours old.

Like any other disease, when animals are close together they can transmit the disease. CWD affects elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer over six months of age affecting both male and female animals.

Three years ago a CWD conference was held here attracting over 100 biologists from the Pacific Northwest.

For more information contact Dave Blodgett at 509-949-2257 or Jim Stephenson at 509-949-2189.

## Indigenous Leadership Selection Process Begins

**E**cotrust, the conservation organization in Portland, Ore. Is opening nominations for the 2007 Buffett Award which recognizes and honors Indigenous leadership.

The award goes to an outstanding tribal individual serving as a leader in their community in all capacities and whose leadership improves the social, economic, political or environmental conditions in their community.

Eligible individuals are tribal members over 35 years of age and work, or have, worked with an indigenous organization or community within the Pacific salmon territory of North America.

Nominators from tribal communities, leader families, and partner organization gather stories, materials, and letters of support for the Reading Panel. The panel is comprised of indigenous readers and Ecotrust representatives who select five finalists. The five finalists are forwarded to the Final Jury made up of senior tribal leaders along with one non-voting member, Ecotrust President Spencer Beebe. Then the Jury selects the recipient.

The Buffet Award ceremony will be held in Portland on Oct. 10, 2007.

For complete Buffett Award nomination guidelines and a nomination template, got to [www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/guidelines.html](http://www.ecotrust.org/buffettaward/guidelines.html) or for a hard copy contact Elizabeth Woody at 503-467-0751.

## Facility Operation Delay

**N**ot expected to open this spring as anticipated, the fish processing facility at an in-lieu fishing site near White Salmon, Wash. will not open until next fall.

The full-scale operation of the facility built for tribal fishers designed to give tribes more control over natural resources and make tribal fishers larger players in the salmon market is on hold.

Although construction was completed late last year it was to be in operation this spring. Now the opening has been pushed back to this fall.

The 8,000-square-foot facility built by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CoE) includes cutting/gutting tables, a blast freezer, refrigeration unit and freezer, and an ice machine that can produce up to 10 tons of ice a day. About 40,000 20-pound salmon could be processed in the first year and in compliance with FDA food-safety.

The CoE transferred operations to the Bureau of Indian Affairs who would normally transfer the operation and maintenance to the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). A new entity should be created to oversee operations said CRITFC. The four Columbia Treaty Tribes will have to make the decision on guiding policies, business plans, contract with the BIA and get start-up funding.





# Two Wildlife Staff Head Back to College

**I**t has been almost nine years since Laurel James came home from college but she did not complete her Bachelor's Degree in the science field.

"I kept saying it's time to go back and now I know it is," she said. Her intention was the complete her degree at Central Washington University (CWU) in Ellensburg, Wash.

Instead she contacted her former counselor at the University of Washington in Seattle who talked her into completing her schooling there. "Once I get done I also found out I can start the Master's Degree program and complete it in one year."

James has been with the Wildlife program for the nine years and is excited about going back to school.

Gabriel Swan, Wildlife Program, is also heading back to college. He's decided he will attend CWU to further his education as a graduate student this fall 2007. He completed his Bachelor of Science in 2005 from Heritage University here on the Yakama Reservation. Swan is the only tribal member biologist in the Wildlife Program. He was awarded the Native American Graduate Fellowship in Resource Management supported by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. He will complete his degree in the spring of 2009.



**A** good idea becomes a model. A miniature fishing scaffold rests near the newly dug out dirt pond at the Prosser Acclimation Facility.

Complete with a hoop net setting on the scaffold, it was the idea of Yakama tribal fishery technician Leroy Senator.

Prosser gets hundreds of school students during the year who visit and learn about salmon and what the tribe is doing to help the fish.

The scaffold addition will delight all visitors. The water rushes down into the pond making the almost real-like fishing area appear to be authentic. Photo by Carol Craig.

**I** was thinking about last year and the tribal fishermen who approached me at the agency as I walked down the hallway.



I saw a group of tribal men talking. One of them turned around and said, "Hey, there's the fish lady. Let's ask her." Hmm, now I'm the fish lady I thought. So I went over to see what the latest group discussion was all about.

One of the men asked me, "What the heck are we going to do about all of those sea lions that are eating our fish?"

"Yeah, what can we do?" said another tribal fisher as they stood waiting for an answer. I began talking with them about the adult salmon being eaten by the pesky sea lions.

For the last several years the sea lions know just when to show up as salmon began their journey back to their spawning grounds.

Some say the sea lions have always been predators of salmon, others don't believe it. Even video footage online shows one of the sea lions trying to attack a sturgeon a couple years back. Eventually the sea lion gave up trying to gobble down such a huge meal.

Sea lions are protected by paper so we cannot attack them. Federal and state agencies have used rubber buckshot, chased them by boats, harassed them by firecrackers and rockets, and even used underwater speakers to scare them off but to no avail. The sea lions leave but always come back.

They even tried erecting a gate so they wouldn't get through the bypass to get further upriver. The sea lions slid right through until they got so fat eating fish that they couldn't get through any longer.

Finally I told them I watched a special on global warming and how it is affecting the polar bears in the Arctic who are starving and resorting to cannibalism. There's simply no food for them. Are the other animals dying off or leaving, or both? "Let's trap the sea lions and transport them up for the polar bears since that is part of their food source that they hunt."

"Yeah, but who would pay for all that?" one of them questioned. "Well, there's always something isn't there," I replied. The group discussion continued and I had an appointment to get to. Let's see if the problem can be more addressed this year.

*Views expressed in this column are solely of the editor of Sin-Wit-Ki and not the Yakama Nation or the Fisheries Program.*



**Forestry and fisheries crew do—**

# Spring cleaning at Lyle Falls

**T**he sound of the river resonates throughout the canyon as water cascades down and continues its way to the Columbia River.

Near Lyle, Wash. the two-lane road winds and a bridge crosses the Klickitat River where tribal fishers spend time during the fishing season.

The one-lane dirt roads leads to the thunderous Lyle Falls. Wood slats for scaffolds, hoop nets and dip nets rest beside the basalt riverbank.

This is the tribal fishing center for Yakama fishermen who come to the river to catch Coho, and different species of Chinook salmon each year.

But over the years the fishing site has endured an accumulation of debris, piles of lumber, old bed springs and even an older model trailer dot the area.



*From bridge crossing the river winds up to the falls.*

Bright orange and green bags were loaded with debris and other materials at the site.

The crew scoured the area and collected rusted wire, car parts, tires and railroad beams. "I was worried about all of the wood that was there. Hoping that it would not catch on fire someday," said John Longfellow from Klickitat County Solid Waste.

Loretta Zammarchi, Yakama Nation Forestry Management coordinated with Klickitat County Solid Waste Division to waive the dump fees. "That alone was a huge cost savings," Sharp said.

"And Rose Longoria, Yakama Nation Fisheries, coordinated initial meetings and got everybody really pumped up. This was truly a Yakama Nation Team effort," he said.

But there is still more to do according to Sharp. Zammarchi is working on signage that encourages people to be respectful of the area and pack out their trash.

"We need funding for this signage to keep this area clean, and a safe place for tribal members to exercise their treaty rights. There is also a need for increased patrols to stop illegal dumping and other problems in the area," said Sharp.



*Steve Andringa walks the basalt rocks with other crew to collect and put debris in pastic bags. Photos by Carol Craig.*



"We wanted to get this place cleaned up and now we're finally doing it," said Bill Sharp, tribal biologist

and the main figure that got the work started.

It was a cold, wet morning when several forestry and fishery crew headed to the location to began gathering the debris to put in dumpsters and haul away. The two-day clean-up March 26-27 added additional noise to the falls and river as heavy equipment including dump trucks were used.

Yakama/Klickitat Fisheries Project maintenance staff did all of the heaving lifting according to Sharp. "There truly was a lot of heavy lifting with over 40 cubic yards of loose garbage, an abandoned car and old trailer that were all hauled away," he said.

Steve Andringa's forestry crew numbered 30 and Derald Ortloff's Yakama Nation Facilities Maintenance (YNFM) crew were instrumental in logistics and dump truck shuttles.



*Chuck Carl tugs as J.J. Waltermann uses blow torch to disconnect the trailer hitch from the old trailer.*



# Investigation Continues on Illegal Fish Dump Near Harrah Drain Site



*Forestry crew hoists debris including box springs, old car parts, tires, trash and rubbish.*



*Travis Hull maneuvers caterpillar to tip over deteriorated trailer. Then it was cut into pieces by using blow torch before it was loaded up and taken away. Hull also loaded stack of railroad ties onto huge haul truck, opposite page.*

*Adam Holmes. White Swan Forestry, gives a huge heave-ho to box spring onto one of two dumpsters at the site.*

*The first day the crew already cleared much of the unsightly garbage and were done the early part of the following day.*

*Photos by Carol Craig.*



**N**ear the Harrah Drain Yakama Nation Fishery Technicians were called out in early March to retrieve a load of illegally dumped fish.

“This is not how we take care of the fish and what we do to them,” said Joe Jay Pinkham, III. Fishery technicians were sent out to the site to get the some 72 carcasses. They cut the heads off

and some were hatchery fish according Pinkham. “We can tell because their adipose fin is clipped which tells us they are from a hatchery and are not wild fish.”

The dump appeared to be done by backing up a pick-up truck to the canal said Carl Tewee, Fish and Wildlife Officer. There were deep tire tracks in the wet and muddy dirt along the canal bank. “This is not the first time this has happened” he said.

Tewee said the investigation will eventually identify the person or persons. “But in the meantime, it’s like finding a needle in the haystack,” he said.

The fish were taken to various locations along the Yakima River to place in the water.

“The decomposing fish provides nutrients for all life in the river,” said Pinkham. “This will help the life in the river.”

Tewee also suggested rather than dumping the fish the perpetrators could have donated it to one of the longhouses on the reservation.

“They could have even taken them to the fisheries program and we could have frozen them and handed it out for funerals and memorials,” Pinkham added.



*In back Officer Tewee writes report while forefront Pinkham cuts up fish while Andrew Lewis and Quincy Wallahee put fish heads in plastic bag. Photo by Carol Craig.*



*Yakama descendent, Karan Matta, assists Warm Springs elder, Geraldine Jim cook salmon on sticks over fire at Celilo Park. Both spent the day preparing the fish. Visitors were treated to taste samples.*



*Smoke gets in your eyes—Cooking brothers, Ralph Kiona, top, grills deer and elk meat while below, James Kiona keeps close eye on salmon being grilled on outside fire. People milled about waiting for lunch.*



*Salmon heads were also cooked over coals. Deer meat takes about five minutes to cook. If the meat rips apart easily, it is done.*



*Yakama women, don colorful wing dresses and scarves. Yvonne Colfax and Kris Sampson keep slicing away at the meat before it was taken to the smoldering coals outside.*



*Bernice Jim, Yakama elder, gets assistance cutting deer meat from young girls wearing wing dresses during kitchen duties. The beautiful bright colors adorned the kitchen area.*



*Above—Anna Wahtony, Yakama, pats out fry-bread also done over outside fire. She tosses bread into pan for a minute, flips it over then it's done. The huge round bread was quartered to share with many hungry visitors.*



*Say Cheese! The young girls were standing in line and ready to set the lunch table. Iona Frank, left and Jenny Meanus respond to camera and give big friendly smiles.*





*(Celilo—Continued from page 5)*

On Sunday, Mar. 11 again the longhouse kitchen was abuzz along with some new faces. Yakama, Debra Whitefoot in her wing dress and moccasins said salmon is still important to the tribes. Her family continues fishing on the Columbia almost year-round. “It feels great to be by the river, it’s calming,” she said as she continued preparing food.

Inside the longhouse tribal drums were conducting Washut services. Several tribal religious leaders from the region dressed in their regalia sung and drummed seven songs, seven times. Then the young girls set the table placing water first. “The choosh is there because we take a drink before our meal to thank the Creator for bringing these resources to us,” said Morning Owl. The salmon was the first to be set at the tables, then the elk, deer and buffalo. Later came the roots and other foods. “Then after the meal we take another drink,” he told the massive crowd lining the three long string of tables.

After the meal, Yakama elder Lola Stahi was honored for her 95th birthday. Although she was born on March 10 she requested she be recognized on Sunday after Washut services. Family members and friends handed several gifts to her she responded with huge smiles each time.

As the day wound down people began packing up their goods to travel back home just as tribal people did at Celilo Falls after visiting, fishing, gambling, dancing, singing and thanking the Creator for such abundance.

Three days before the commemoration Oregon Congressman, David Wu introduced a bill to mark the flooding of the falls and the change of life it imposed on the tribal people.

“For thousands of years the Columbia River has been a life-line for people of the Pacific Northwest. For some though, the decision to harness its power changed their way of life forever. With this resolution we recognize their sacrifice,” he said on March 6.

*(See Resolution page 18).*



*Inside the Celilo Longhouse there were three aisles of tables from the entry to the front of the longhouse.*

*Water is served to begin and end the meal and traditional foods were served including, salmon, deer, elk, roots and berries along with salads, fruit and juice.*



*Young tribal women dish out the lunch for the hundreds ready to eat.*

*The outside lunch line kept on going as the crowd meandered around arbor and along Celilo Village driveway.*



*Children entertained themselves by climbing the hillside at the village and sliding down the pathway. I climbed the hill to take photo at right and came down just time as an adult hollered to the kids, “Get down, you’ll fall and get hurt.”*

*Photos by Carol Craig.*



*From hillside view Celilo Village filled with cars and lots of people. Outside the overflowing crowd waits for lunch to be served in front of the longhouse.*



# Give-away, speeches, visits, honors, all part of commemoration



Inside tribal elders talk about the memory of Celilo Falls as the crowd quietly listens. The longhouse traditionally has men on one side and women on the other.



Corps of Engineers (CoE), General Stroock makes time to visit with everyone. He was instrumental in construction of the new longhouse at Celilo.



Far left—CoE Lt. Donovan presents picture to longhouse and Bobby Begay. Many tribal elders were acknowledged during the giveaway. Left. Yakama elder Louis Cloud gets help from Robert Jim, Jr. who carries blanket. Right—Nez Perce elder, Horace Axtell gets his gifts from Celilo elder Ada Frank.

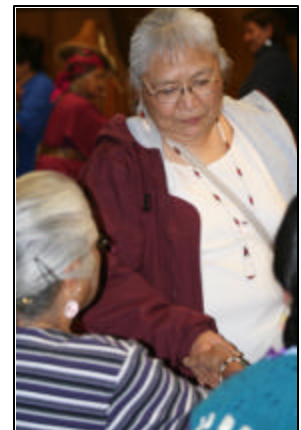


Children eye the gifts placed on tule mats as they patiently wait for permission to take them. Then it was a scramble for the toys, fruit and other goodies.

Right—Whipper woman, Satuyah Slickpoo asks the children to stay still and be quiet before the gifts were given to them.



Umatilla tribal leader, Kathryn Brigham was one of the recipients of the many gifts given by Thomas Morning Owl and Ada Frank.



As visitors received their gifts during give-away they traditionally went down the line to shake hands with those seated near the dirt floor located at center of the longhouse.



Purchase provides critical habitat for salmon & other wildlife—

## Columbia Land Trust Conserves Wild and Scenic Klickitat River

**T**he conservation of 17 miles of critical spawning, migration and rearing habitat for the federally threatened steelhead, Chinook and Coho salmon has been secured through Columbia Land Trust's (CLT) purchase of 500 acres along the Klickitat River.

It is the longest free-flowing river stretching 98 miles flowing south from the slopes of Mt. Adams to its confluence to the Columbia River. And nearly half of the river runs through Yakama lands.

The CLT purchase will assure protection of 500 acres along river frontage including an old timber haul road and five parcels bought from the Hancock Timber Resource Group. "This reach of the river has the greatest habitat complexity of any reach in the lower Klickitat and provides critical spawning, migration and rearing habitat for the fish, said Will Conley, Yakama Nation fisheries biologist.

The river is rich habitat for returning salmon and for the abundance of wildlife species supported by the life cycle of the salmon because it remains wild and is sparsely populated.

The parcel is located in the heart of the 14,00-acre Washington State Klickitat Wildlife Area according to Yakama Fishery Biologist, Bill Sharp.

Sharp said the road along the river was historically used for hauling logs from the forested canyons to the mill in the town of Klickitat. "This created an unnatural barrier between the river and backwater channels, preventing salmon from accessing ideal spawning and rearing habitat."

A grant from the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board provided almost 85 percent of the money with the remainder coming from the Wildlife Forever Fund. "The Yakama Nation partnered with CLT and has already received grant funding to begin restoration on the property," Sharp said.

CLT has worked with local landowners since 1998 to conserve more than 2,000 acres and about 18 miles of riparian and floodplain habitat in the Klickitat and Lit-

tle Klickitat watershed. It is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to conserving landscapes and vital habitat together with landowners and communities of the Columbia River area. CLT also conserves lands in both Washington and Oregon from the east side of the Cascade to the Pacific Ocean.

### White Salmon River Among America's Most Endangered

**F**or almost a century, Condit Dam in Washington State has cut off salmon and steelhead from the White Salmon river and is one of the Most Endangered Rivers of 2007.

The dam owner PacifiCorp has agreed to remove it, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has yet to approve the deal.

"There's a lot riding on this settlement for the benefit of people near the river and throughout the Northwest, but only if FERC follows through and backs this carefully-negotiated deal," says Rebecca Wodder, president of American Rivers. "We need to see this through to the finish line, so this is a very crucial year for the fate of the White Salmon."

Built in 1913 to generate hydropower, Condit Dam played an important role in the history and development of the area and the benefits have come with a high cost to the river's integrity.

The dam produces little electricity—an average of 10 megawatts, which is only 0.1 percent of PacifiCorp's total power production—and a 2002 study conducted for the local public utility district concluded that the dam is not cost-effective.

Faced with the mounting costs of operating the aging dam, PacifiCorp signed an agreement in 1999 with diverse interests including the Yakama Nation conser-

*(River—Continued on page 18)*



# Court Ridicules Feds Claims

**A** federal appeals court rebuked the Bush administration on April 9 for failing to consult with tribes in the Pacific Northwest who are co-managers of the resources.

The three Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal judges in San Francisco ridiculed the U.S. government's claims of defending dam operations with a blunt message for the administration to shape up on salmon and get it done now.

The Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho, the Umatilla Tribes of Oregon and the Warm Springs Tribes of Oregon signed treaties in 1855 to preserve their fishing rights on the Columbia and Snake rivers.

The four tribes agree the four hydroelectric dams in the Snake River have harmed salmon which is so important to their way of live and should be breached.

Their campaign was dealt a blow in December 2004, when the Bush administration issued a biological opinion that rejected breaching as a means of protecting endangered and threatened salmon runs.

"This plan is a step backward and fails the charge of serving longstanding recovery goals and tackling problems wrought by the federal dam system," said Olney Patt, Jr. executive director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). "Instead this plan relies on the word "no"—no jeopardy, no recovery, no breaching and no back-up plan," said Patt.

The district court determined the jeopardy analysis of the 2004 Bi-Op contained structural flaws and was incompatible with the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In May 2005, a federal judge threw out the biological opinion, saying it was based on flawed science, and ordered the administration to consult with the treaty tribes. Government attorneys appealed the decision and said the consultation directive was out of bounds.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rejected those arguments and in a unanimous decision, said the biological opinion "amounted to little more than an analytical slight of hand" and violated the ESA.

The court further agreed that the consultation requirement was reasonable, given the history of the case. At

one point, near the end of the Clinton administration, the federal agencies in charge of the dams said breaching was an option.

But when President Bush took over in January 2001, the landscape changed and dam removal was taken off the table. "We hold that on this record, requiring consultation with states and tribes constitutes a permissible procedural restriction rather than an impermissible substantive restraint," Judge Sidney R. Thomas wrote for the majority.

"Under this approach, a listed species could be gradually destroyed, so long as each step on the path to destruction is sufficiently modest," wrote Judge Thomas. "This type of slow slide into oblivion is one of the very

*"Under this approach, a listed species could be gradually destroyed, so long as each step on the path to destruction is sufficiently modest. This type of slow slide into oblivion is one of the very ills the ESA seeks to prevent."*

ills the ESA seeks to prevent." The decision doesn't mean the government must remove the dams but advocates said there is no other choice in order to save the salmon. "Our region needs a scientifically sound, economically viable solution, and that solution includes removing the four dams on the lower Snake River," said Steve Mashuda, an attorney with Earthjustice, one of the many groups involved in the case.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes participated in the case through friend of the court brief. In February of this year, the tribes reached an agreement with the government to cover operations for 2007.

A fifth tribe, the Kootenai of Idaho, intervened in the case as a defendant on the side of the government but has supported efforts to protect salmon and has called on federal agencies to include tribes in their efforts in the Pacific Northwest.

The court's decision also requires the federal agencies to consult the Spokane Tribe of Washington and the Colville Tribes of Washington.

Separately, the Yakama Nation won a court decision last January to require the government to keep operating the Fish Passage Center, which counts salmon on the Columbia River. Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) inserted a rider into an appropriations bill aimed at killing funding for the center in direct response to the case in November 2005.





# Longhouse being desecrated

**A**sacred and archaeological site in Klickitat County is being disturbed as a residential development continues.

The Yakama Nation has consistently requested the development be halted and has written letters to the Washington governor as well as the Washington Attorney General's Office.

The project began two years ago when land developer, Michael Clements and Archaeological Investigations Northwest (AIN) was informed by the tribe that he was disturbing the pre-European component at the site and was in violation because he did not obtain an excavation permit.

"The tribe began commenting on Clements proposed residential development in July 2005. At each step of the planning process the tribe and others submitted comments," said Jim Matthews from the Yakama Nation Timber, Fish and Wildlife Program.

On record seven times Clements was informed that he is knowingly disturbing archaeological resources without an excavation permit. Clements received three letters from the Dept. of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) in June and August last year.

The residential development is on a small terrace west of the large meadow where Jacob Hunt built his Feather Dance longhouse in 1904. The site is a sacred Traditional Cultural Property eligible for the National Register of Historic Places according to Yakama Nation archaeologist, David Powell.

Governor Christine Gregoire has not answered the Yakama Nation Tribal Council's letter sent to her last August and instead the tribe received a response from the director of the Dept. of Archaeology (DOE), Allyson Brooks.

"That was an inadequate response and excusing the failure of the Director of Governor's Office of Indian Affairs to contact the tribe is unacceptable," Powell said.

"It is the right of sovereign nations to elevate an issue of importance to the executive office which the staff repeatedly tried to do for over eight months," said Phil Rigdon, Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resource, deputy director. Rigdon urged Governor Gregoire to strengthen and reinforce commitments to the Tribes. "We are continuing to document the facts sur-

rounding this case and determining what actions to take."

The Jacob Hunt longhouse site is at the confluence of Rattlesnake and Indian Creeks in Klickitat County. In March and June 2006 tribal staff met with DAHP. At both meetings tribal staff were told an excavation permit is required as soon as artifacts are found.

To determine site boundaries without a permit, the archaeologists must start outside the site and work toward the middle according to Rigdon. "AIN did not follow this methodology when they returned to the site in April of 2005 and this was a violation," he said.

Then in February of 2006 the DOE required Clements to conduct a professional reasoned archaeological survey of the project area. AIN conducted the survey during April of 2006.

"Artifacts were found in the footprint of the proposed house. Even AIN said the upper terrace should be completely avoided and no construction activity or other excavation occur above the slope within the upper terrace," Powell said. Clements continued and trenched onto the upper terrace and installed a utility pole.

Cultural deposits have been removed from their origi-

## Feather Religion

**D**uring the 1860s, as Smohalla's teaching spread across the Pacific Northwest, Jacob Hunt was born in the Klickitat village of Husum, Wash. He would rise to become a prominent holy man among the tribes of the region.

Raised in the Washani faith he was influenced by the Shaker Church. Hunt would borrow from the teachings of Washani leaders and the Klickitat Prophet, Lishwailait. Yet, unlike the Washani followers, who believe in the superiority of God and Mother Earth, the followers of Waptashi believed that the Eagle was the supreme being. One individual could receive the wisdom of the Eagle through dreams, visions, and songs. That person was Jacob Hunt.

The Hunt family believed in the sacredness of the earth and followed the first foods ceremonies. Jacob Hunt eventually drifted away from the old teachings but remained at his village and was considered a decent and respectable individual

(Clements—Continued on page 18)



*(Clements—Continued from page 17)*  
 nal location and sit in piles around the house construction. Obsidian artifacts can still be recovered and analyzed.

“I think AIN and Mr. Clements should share the costs for recovery and analysis,” said Powell. “Rather than have him remove his foundation and house and put the cultural deposits back, site restoration costs should be interpreted to include data recovery,” he said.

AIN was aware of the large archaeological site where the longhouse stood on the large upper terrace east of the little middle terrace they were investigating for Clements. AIN did not contact the tribe to learn the tribal significance of the area and the site where the Feather Dance religion originated.

AIN said the depth and homogenous nature of the sediments of the middle terrace imply a long-term stable landscape. “If the artifacts distribution was uniform through the whole deposit, there may have been over 59,000 artifacts on the middle terrace, including over 19,000 obsidian artifacts,” said Powell.

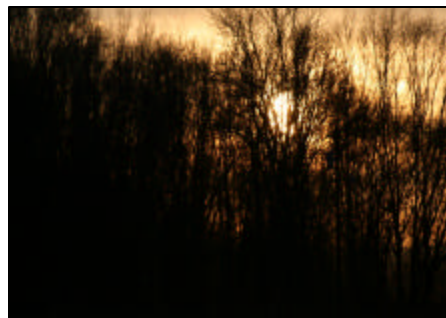
AIN dismissed the significance of the middle terrace saying it lacked complex cultural activities and the integrity of the site because roots and rodents disturbed the soil. “AIN was wrong to dismiss the importance of the cultural deposits on the middle terrace,” he said.



*Satus Creek in early Feb. still had ice clinging to the edge of the waterway.*



*Above—Cold weather in Feb. keeps thick ice gripping to the rock formation located 28 miles out of Toppenish on Highway 97.*



*Golden light shimmers during sunset peeking through throng of trees during evening hours on the reservation. Photos by Carol Craig.*

*(River—Continued from page 15)*

vation and recreation groups, and government agencies, to remove the dam.

“Restoring the sacred salmon to the White Salmon River has long been a goal of the Yakama Nation,” said Sam Jim, Sr., chair of the Yakama Nation Fish & Wildlife Committee. “Working in partnership with PacifiCorp and our other partners will once again allow us all to witness the salmon’s cycle of life which nourishes the watershed and our people.”

The 125-foot tall dam has no fish passage, and that is why the river’s salmon and steelhead populations are listed as threatened or endangered. Removing the dam will give salmon and steelhead access to high-quality habitat, contributing to regional salmon recovery efforts and

benefiting other wildlife.

“A lot of us have put decades of work into protecting and restoring the White Salmon,” said Pat Arnold, Friends of the White Salmon. “We simply can not pass up this opportunity to remove the dam, bring the salmon back, and restore the health of the whole river.”

“Thanks to settlements, utilities across the Northwest are finding a better balance

between power and natural resources in their dam operations,” says Rebecca Sherman of the Hydropower Reform Coalition. “Condit Dam is the classic case of all stakeholders doing the math together and finding that the dam won’t pencil out. FERC has already agreed that we did our math right. Now FERC must simply put that confirmation into a final order.” “PacifiCorp is doing the right thing by agreeing to remove this aging dam,” says Wodder. “Now it’s time for FERC to honor the carefully crafted agreement so that the restoration of this unique river can begin.”



# Prosser sturgeon in great shape



*The dark line is a natural line not the actual cut as Parker stitches it up.*

ponds covered with tarp.

“Some of them are now in a earthen pond we dug out near the river,” said Mark Johnston, Yakama Nation tribal biologist. “So this is their first experience in a soft-dirt pond.”

Johnston and other fisheries staff were learning how to test the sturgeon to see what sex

they are, their development and if the females are carrying eggs.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission biologist, Blaine Parker spent the two days April 18-19 showing them how to work up the sturgeon.

It was sturgeon testing 101 for some of the tribal biologists during the two-day process.

“I did this on the Columbia but it was difficult to find the fish,” said Parker. “I worked on the project until funding was cut,” he said.

It was a busy assembly line of work. One-by-one the hefty sturgeon were lifted out of the pond by a caterpillar tractor, dumped in a huge circular tub and lifted into a make-shift gurney. Each one was hoisted to a hanging weight meter and Joe Hoptowit yelled out, “This one weighs 148 pounds. That’s pretty big!”

*(Sturgeon-Continued on page 20)*



*Left—Joe Blodgett watches Joe Hoptowit and Gerry Lewis put sturgeon on front of cat transferring them back to the pond.*

**R**escued from the K-Ponds on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation about a decade ago, 70 sturgeon were relocated to the Yakama Reservation next to the Marion Drain.

They finally ended up at the Prosser Acclimation Facility situated next to the Yakima River in dug-out



*Samples of sturgeon eggs. Photos by Carol Craig.*



*In early March Pahto has cloud cover creating shadow on base of the mountain and even a hovering UFO-like cloud above the cap. Along the Columbia River morning fog rises up in early hours on March 10 on way to Celilo Village. Photos by Carol Craig.*



### ***In the House of Representatives— Resolution Submitted by David Wu***

***Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives concerning the 50th anniversary of Celilo Falls.***

*Whereas Celilo Falls, located near The Dalles, Oregon was a great fishing and trading location for Indian tribes and has been called the “Wall Street of the West” by historians;*

*Whereas artifacts suggest tribes as far as Alaska, the Great Plains and the Southwest United States came to trade and fish at Celilo for over 10,000 years;*

*Whereas the Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama and Warm Springs tribes reserved their fishing rights at their usual and accustomed places, including Celilo, when they signed treaties with the United States;*

*Whereas March 10, 1957, to provide hydroelectricity and irrigation, The Dalles Dam was constructed;*

*Whereas the completion of the dam inundated Celilo in six hours, quickly changing the way of life for tribes that fished at Celilo;*

*Whereas tribes still live and fish along the river, exercising their treaty rights agreed with the Congress of the United States: now, therefore, be it Resolved, that the House of Representatives recognizes the 50th anniversary of the flooding of Celilo Falls and the change of life it imposed upon tribal peoples.*

*(Sturgeon—Continued from page 19)*

The huge fish were turned over on its back and a water hose placed over the top of its head to help the fish breath.

Parker would grab a medical slicing knife and make a two-inch cut to probe the inside lower portion with a microscopic device. “You have to look right inside to see if it’s a male or female.” Some of the sturgeon lay still while others would squirm. Parker stitched the cut and then it was placed on the cat and taken back to the pond.

“When we were putting one of the sturgeon in the tub it jumped up so high splashing water all over us and it’s tail slapped me and Gerry both,” Hoptowit said.

Each fish completed the check-up in a matter of minutes. Once done Johnston would tag them identifying male from female.

Of the 70 sturgeon Parker said there were 12 males and five females so far that were ready to spawn. He would also take egg samples to see if they were healthy. “The females carry the eggs for two years so we want to see how they are doing,” Parker said.

“I’m showing these guys how to do this. I really liked the experience when I worked under a Bonneville Power Administration grant,” said Parker. “They’ll be able to do this next year.”

The 70 sturgeon are around 17 years old. “We’re glad we still have them,” said Johnston. “There was talk of getting rid of them but we want to continue on with this project and learn more about them.”

They are one of the oldest genera of fish in existence and can live up to 100 years. Sturgeon living in the river are bottom-feeders. They use their projected wedge-shaped snout to stir up the river bottom, and their sensitive barbels can detect shells, crustaceans and small fish which they feed on. Having no teeth, they are unable to seize larger prey.



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