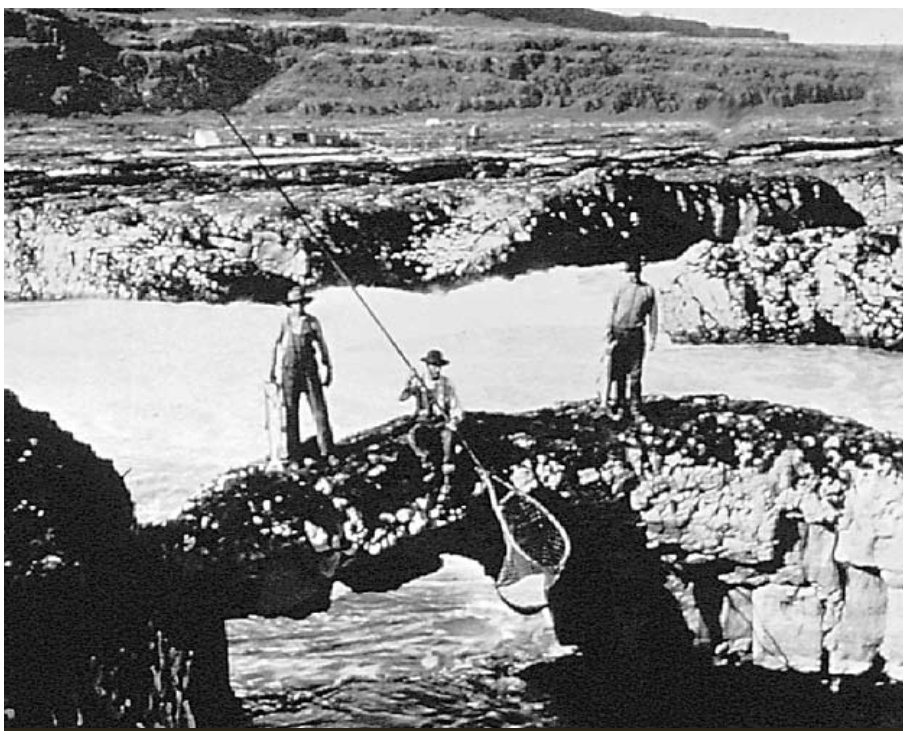

The Dipnetter

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CRITFC
Executive Director
Paul Lumley

Executive Director's Message
The Economic Impact of Salmon Restoration

The right to take fish at all usual and accustomed fishing places not only provides benefits for Indian people; the right also benefits the rural communities and ecosystems where salmon are present.

The usual and accustomed fishing places of the Columbia River treaty tribes are located throughout the Columbia River Basin. Though development and agriculture has diminished salmon populations throughout the basin, the treaty fishing right is the supreme law of the land and the tribes are using their best efforts to restore salmon populations at all usual and accustomed places, both in the mainstem Columbia and in its tributaries. The expected outcome is more treaty fishing opportunity but the restoration projects will also result in a boost for sagging rural economies from both the creation of jobs and the continuing stream of benefits that returning adult salmon provide in terms of angler trips and food for local and regional residents.

In the case of the John Day River, for instance, the John Day River Watershed Restoration and Passage Improvements Project sponsored by the Warm Springs Tribes and funded by BPA as an Accord project, is estimated to have accounted for 15 full-time jobs and 1,400 hours of seasonal employment. In addition, 80 individual private landowners are cooperating to support riparian habitat improvements and water use efficiency measures.

In Klickitat County, the Yakama Nation, in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, has undertaken passage improvements at Lyle Falls and Castile Falls. Bonneville Power Administration and the Yakama Nation estimate that the project will provide work for 67 people through labor costs of $5 million and materials and equipment costs of $6 million.

In addition to economic benefits, salmon restoration affects the entire food web of the ecosystems that salmon inhabit. Tribal restoration projects will provide more tributary spawning which provides important marine nutrients for the many populations of animals and plants that are located in the basin's river and stream corridors. A recent study of consumption of salmon by vertebrate wildlife found that 137 species of birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles were predators or scavengers of salmon at one or more stages of the salmon life. 82 of these species were scavengers of the carcasses.

Salmon thus provide important transportation of energy and nutrients between the ocean, estuaries, and freshwater environments. This flow of marine nutrients back upstream in the salmon's body not only feeds young salmon and their predators but also the animals, particularly the invertebrate, that salmon eat. In other words, salmon support the ecosystem that supports them.

Electric utilities and federal agencies such as BPA and the Corps of Engineers once looked upon salmon as an "amenity" that they had to accommodate in a manner that created minimal expense. With the agreement to suspend litigation for ten years in the Columbia River Accords process, the agencies now look upon the tribes' salmon restoration projects as an opportunity to demonstrate that salmon restoration projects can restore salmon to abundance in the tributaries thereby alleviating the need to remove dams. In addition, the projects provide a source of support for sagging economies and damaged ecosystems.

Sue Seven, one of the first employees of CRITFC, passes away

Sue Seven
1950-2009

Susan Rose Waters McCarty Case Seven was born September 20, 1950 in Cottonwood, Idaho and passed on November 3, 2009 in Portland Oregon. She had been hospitalized for pneumonia for the past month.

Sue was born to Vernon E. Watters, Sr., and Mazie M. Moses. She was the granddaughter of the late Samuel M. Watters and Blanche Hung and the late Elias and Lillian Corbett Moses.

Sue graduated from Lapwai High School in 1968. After graduating, she worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs for several years before being hired by the then newly-formed Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in 1977.

In 1992, Sue took a position with the American Indian Community House, a social support agency and cultural center serving the estimated 27,000 Native Americans in New York City. There she served as the Women's Wellness Coordinator and was nationally recognized for her work. While in New York City, Sue met her husband Ed Levene. She returned to the Commission in 1999 to become the Assistant to the Executive Director, serving several executive directors in that capacity.

Sue lived her Nez Perce culture and traditions that she was taught as a child by her parents and grandparents and passed this knowledge on to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Nez Perce religious camp of Talmaks was very dear to Sue and she returned there each year. She also enjoyed gathering huckleberries at Mt. Adams and traveling to the Wallowa Mountains to attend Tamkiliks. Her hobbies included reading, sewing, puzzles, and swimming.

Sue is survived by her husband, Ed and her son, Cyrus Case. She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Jonas and Vernon E. Watters, sister Vonetta Watters, and nephew Calvin T. Siems, Jr.

For most of her life, Sue lent her formidable organizational talents to non-profit organizations advocating salmon preservation and recovery, tribal rights, community health, women's wellness, education, and sobriety. She was an outstanding champion for virtue and fairness and set an example for quiet strength, self-control, temperance, and courage.

Her favorite quotation was: "No one can make you feel inferior without your permission…" by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Sue will be remembered as a beautiful Nez Perce woman who brought much joy into our lives, she made us laugh, she was tough, she didn't fear leaving her comfort zone and she was blessed with many talents that caused her to succeed. She represented herself, her family, and her tribe in an honorable manner.

Sue was laid to rest at the Watters Family Cemetery in Juliaetta, Idaho.

Salmon Marketing News

Tribal Fishers' Workshop Series

The December workshop is an introduction to the fundamentals and HAACP-approved techniques that commercial processors use to properly freeze, can, vacuum pack, and package fish to be safely offered for sale to the public. Custom processing options, labeling, and marketing your product will also be discussed. It will take place at The Dalles Discovery Center on Tues., December 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. A lunch will be provided.

There is limited space so register early by calling Kris Sampson or Les Brown at (503) 238-0667.

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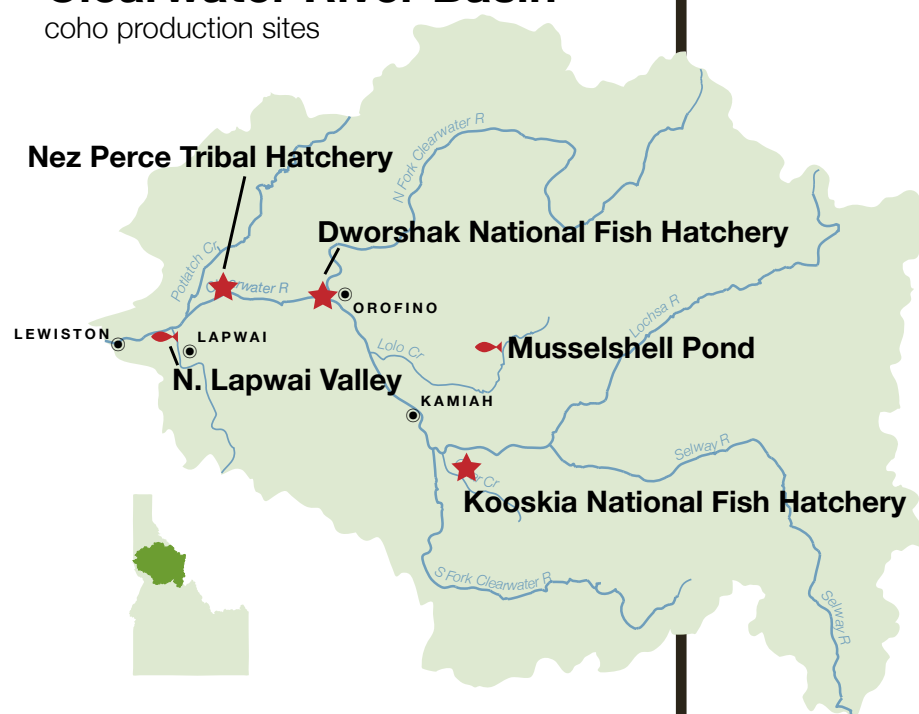
Nez Perce Tribe's Clearwater Coho Project

Project Goal: *The Nez Perce Tribe envisions developing an annual escapement of 14,000 Coho salmon to the Clearwater River Subbasin. This escapement goal would support broodstock needs, natural production, and harvest for both tribal and non-tribal members.*

Coho salmon were extirpated in the Clearwater River following the installation of the Lewiston Dam in 1927. Although early restoration efforts by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game were tried from 1962 to 1968 in the South Fork of the Clearwater River, the restoration efforts were largely unsuccessful and discontinued in 1968. As a result, coho salmon were officially declared extirpated from the Clearwater River in 1986. This loss was unacceptable to the Nez Perce Tribe, which recognized the cultural and ecological importance of coho salmon to the Clearwater River. In 1994, the Nez Perce Tribe's Clearwater Coho Restoration Project (CCRP) was initiated.

The CCRP began in 1994 as a result of a *U.S. V. Oregon* agreement, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (representing the four Columbia River Treaty Tribes) with State and Federal agencies and is funded by the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund. In this agreement, surplus coho eggs from Lower Columbia River hatcheries were used to reintroduce coho salmon in the Clearwater subbasin.

Clearwater River Basin
coho production sites



The overall goal of the CCRP is to restore coho to the Clearwater River Subbasin at levels of abundance and productivity to support sustainable runs and annual harvest. This includes: establishing a localized Clearwater River coho salmon broodstock via supplementation; establishing natural spawning populations of coho salmon in the Clearwater subbasin; utilizing hatchery production to achieve optimal production effectiveness while meeting priority management objectives for natural production enhancement, diversity, harvest, and minimizing impacts to non-target populations; restoring and maintaining treaty-reserved tribal and recreational fisheries; and monitoring and evaluating program activities and communicating program findings to resource managers.

◤ Current production activities for the CCRP occur at Dworshak National Fish Hatchery (Ahsahka, ID),Kooskia National Fish Hatchery, (near Kooskia, ID) and Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery (near Estacada, OR). The other points on the map show acclimation sites throughout the Clearwater Basin.