

From the Eagle's Nest



Published Quarterly by the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

Volume 13, Winter 2000

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TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PRAISED BY HOOPA TRIBE

by Duane Sherman, Chairman, Hoopa Valley Tribe

AFTER 40 YEARS of dams and declining fish populations on the Trinity River, the federal government is about to take a step toward fulfilling its obligation to restore Trinity River fisheries.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt is coming to the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation in Trinity County today. He will announce a plan to undo the damage caused by diverting much of the Trinity Basin runoff to the Central Valley.

As we have long maintained, and as the science shows, restoration must begin with sufficient water for fish during all their life stages.

For 500 generations, the Hupa people have lived along the Trinity River in the Hoopa Valley. The river and its fishery are part of the fabric of our culture and religion, and the source of our sustenance.

Sadly, two generations of Hupa have known a different river—a dying one.

In 1955, Congress authorized the Bureau of Reclamation to construct two dams on the Trinity River. Project planners did not realize the importance of 109 miles of lost mainstem fish habitat or that up to 90 percent of the water would be diverted from the river. Their only thought seems to have been to divert as much water as

possible out of the river and into the Central Valley for irrigation and power generation.

After 30 years of diversions, the consequences have been devastating. Today, most Trinity River fish populations are either listed, proposed for listing or under status review for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Every Hupa family has a personal story of what the damage to the fishery has meant to our families and communities.

Congress promised to protect the communities of the Trinity River basin, including the Hoopa Valley Tribe, by prohibiting the delivery to the Central Valley of Trinity River water needed for fish and wildlife. The Interior Department, however, ignored the promise until the Hoopa Valley Tribe challenged the secretary of the interior to honor it. As historic guardian of the Trinity River, the Hoopa Valley Tribe has led the 20-year fight to restore the

(See page 7, Trinity River)

LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS

In this article, the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society revisits an old issue of "From the Eagle's Nest" (Fall 1990) for an interesting message from the Executive Director at that time Mr. Dewey Schwalenberg, in his quarterly message to the Society membership.

The NAFWS as an International Organization

Expansion of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (Society) beyond the boundaries of the lower 48 United States has been discussed for many years now. During the early years of the organization, representatives from Alaska were participants of regional and national conferences and one individual even became a member of the Board of Directors. The expenses of such involvement hinders participation by Alaskan representatives, although during the joint Society/Western Division American

(See page 10 - Looking back)



Hoopa Tribal Chairman Duane Sherman, right, and tribal member George Blake, left, with Department of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, second from left, and Rep. Mike Thompson, D-Calif., head down the Trinity River on their way to approve a landmark federal order restoring water to the river in Hoopa, Calif., on Dec. 19, 2000.

(See next column)

216 MEMBER TRIBES of the NAFWS

Agdaagux Tribal Council/Akiachak Native Community/
Akiak Native Community/Akutan Traditional Council/
Alakanuk Traditional Council/Alderville Indian Band/
Allakaket Village Council/Arapaho Business Council/
Asa'carsamiut Tribal Council/Atmautluak Traditional
Council/Barona Band of Mission Indians/Bay Mills
Indian Community/Beaver Tribal Council/Big Sandy
Rancheria/Birch Creek Village Council/Blackfeet Tribe/
Bois Forte Reservation/Bridgeport Indian Reservation/
Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma/Catawba Indian
Nation/Chalkyistik Village Council/Chemehuevi Indian
Tribe/Cherokee Nation/Chevak Traditional Council/
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma/Cheyenne
River Sioux Tribe/Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky
Boy Reservation/Chippewa of Nawash Band/Chitochina
Village Council/Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana/Citizen
Potawatomi Nation/Clarks Point Village Council/
Coeur d'Alene Tribe/Colorado River Indian Tribes/
Colville Confederated Tribes/Comanche Tribe/
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw
Indians/Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes/
Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation/
Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde/Confederated
Tribes of Siletz Indians/Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Reservation/Crow Creek Sioux Tribe/Eastern
Band of Cherokees/Ekwok Village Council/Elk Valley
Rancheria/Ely Tribe/Evansville Tribal Council/False
Pass Tribal Council/Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa/Port Belknap Community Council/Port
Independence Paiute Tribe/Port McDowell Mohave
Apache/Port Mojave Indian Tribe/Port St. Charles
Warm Springs Apache/Port Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe/
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa/
Hannahville Indian Community/Hoopa Valley Tribal
Council/Hopi Tribe/Hopland Band of Pomo Indians/
Houlton Band of Maliseets/Husila Tribal Council/
Hydaburg Cooperative Association/Iowa Tribe of Kansas &
Nebraska/Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Iqurmiut Traditional
Council/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe/Jicarilla Apache
Tribe/Katbab Band of Paiute Indians/Karuk Tribe/Kaw
Nation of Oklahoma/Kenaitze Indian Tribe/Ketchikan
Indian Corporation/Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/
Kickapoo Nation of Kansas/Klamath Tribe/Klawock
Cooperative Association/Kodiak Tribal Council/Kotlik
Traditional Council/Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake
Superior Chippewas/Lac du Flambeau Chippewa/Lac
Vieux Desert Chippewa Tribe/Leech Lake Chippewa
Tribe/Little River Band of Ottawa Indians/Little
Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians/Louden Village
Council/Manokotak Village Council/Manzanita Band of
Mission Indians/Marshall Traditional Council/
Mashantucket Pequot Tribe/McGrath Native Village
Council/Menominee Indian Tribe/Mentasta Tribal
Council/Mescalero Apache/Miccousukee Tribe/Mississippi
Band of Choctaw Indians/Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma/
Morongo Band of Mission Indians/Nambe Pueblo/
Nanwalek IRA Council/Narragansett Tribe/Native Village
of Alka/Native Village of Barrow/Native Village of
Deering/Native Village of Eklutna/Native Village of
Elim/Native Village of Eyak/Native Village of Port
Yukon/Native Village of Goodnews Bay Traditional
Council/Native Village of Kotzebue/Native Village of
Kwinhagak/Native Village of Mekoryuk/Native Village of
Shaktolik/Native Village of Shishmaref/Native Village
of St. Michael/Native Village of White Mountain/
Navajo Nation/Nenana Native Council/Nez Perce Tribe/
Nightmute Traditional Council/Nimilchik Traditional
Council/North Fork Mono Rancheria/Northern
Cheyenne Tribe/Nottawaseppi Huron Band of
Potawatomi/Nulato Tribal Council/Oglala Sioux Tribe/
Ojibway 1850 Treaty Council/Oneida Indian Nation/
Oneida Tribe of Indians/Organized Village of Kwethluk
Osage National Council/Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma/
Passamaquoddy Tribe/Pedro Bay Village Council/
Penobscot Indian Nation/Picayune Rancheria of
Chukchansi Indians/Pilot Point Traditional Council/
Pilot Station Traditional Council/Poarch Band of Creek
Indians/Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians/Ponca
Tribe of Nebraska/Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe/Prairie
Band of Potawatomi Nation/Pueblo of Acoma/Pueblo of
Cochiti/Pueblo of Isleta/Pueblo of Jemez/Pueblo of
Laguna/Pueblo of Pojaoque/Pueblo of San Ildefonso/
Pueblo of Santa Ana/Pueblo of Santa Clara/Pueblo of
Taos/Pueblo of Tesuque/Pueblo of Zia/Pueblo of Zuni/
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Nebraska/Santo Domingo Tribe/Sault Ste. Marie
Chippewa Band/Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians/
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Sioux Tribe/Swinomish Tribal Community/Stevens
Village Council/Stillaguamish Tribe/Summit Lake
Paiute Tribe/Swinomish Tribal Council/Tanana Tribal
Council/Three Affiliated Tribes/Tlingit & Haida Central
Council/Tribal Government of St. Paul/Tsawwassen
Indian Band/Tuolumne Me-Wuk Tribal Council/Turtle
Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians/Unga Tribal
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Ute Mountain Ute Tribe/Walker River Paiute Tribe/
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of Minnesota/White Mountain Apache Tribe/Winnebago
Tribe of Nebraska/Yakutat Tlingit Tribe/Yankton Sioux
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Thanks to the Following for
Contributing to Our Publication:

*Michelle Davis and the staff at the
Alaska Region Office*

*Duane Sherman, Hoopa Valley
Tribe*

*Patrick Durham, U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service*

*Skip Lisle, Penobscot Nation
Department of Natural Resources*

*Craig Springer, U.S. Fish &
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FROM THE EAGLE'S NEST

Is a communication tool to inform and facilitate the exchange of NAFWS news and information nationally, including Canada. We seek relevant information from our members and others who are interested. However, at times we do have limitations, so please understand if we should select another vehicle for your valued information.

Season's greetings. Christmas day will have come and gone by the time the membership receives their newsletter and has the opportunity to read my year-end message. Albeit belated, I sincerely wish everyone an excellent Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.

I'm sure most everyone is aware that January first of 2001 is actually the true beginning of the new millennium. Unlike last year at this time, there has been no mention or warnings about this monumental transition. I find it interesting that the concern and border-line hysteria last year of the new millennium centered on computers' ability to recognize and accept the actual date change from 1999 to 2000.

Considering the capability of computers, not to mention their ever advancing speeds, I find it amazing that the world, as we know it, continued to depend upon the machines accepting a simple numerical transition from 99 to 00. People across the country, and throughout the world were in various stages of preparation for the big event. Some even appeared anxious for the catastrophes to begin.

As the time neared, I clearly recall that the media started to devote more coverage to the topic which in turn generated more public concern. Practically every day you could read or hear talk about how the economy, transportation, industry and ultimately the government would cease to exist. Then, to add fuel to the fire and play on the public's collective nervousness, graphic predications began to circulate that ranged from nation-wide mass riots and civil disobedience to uncontrollable and violent armed groups fighting one another over remaining resources needed to survive.

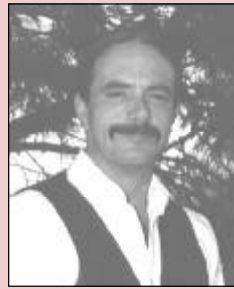
My opinion at that time was that many people over reacted and the government, and private sector, spent

millions upon millions (perhaps billions) of dollars to safeguard and prevent a global catastrophe from occurring. In the end, mayhem was prevented and the transition from the twentieth to the twenty first century went, just like clock work. Of course there were a large number of people feeling foolish and embarrassed on New Year's Day due to their pre-new year's paranoid behavior. But, on the other hand there were as many, if not more, people who were able to capitalize and profit from that paranoia and overall situation.

Personally, I wasn't worried or even slightly concerned about the computer glitch issue. I never once entertained the slightest thought of filling up even a quart jug of water, much less go out and purchase a generator and stock pile food. I must admit though, when it was all over, I came close to stopping and buying a new used generator at more than one area yard sale.

Ironically, I have been experiencing the same degree of concern and paranoia witnessed last year regarding the computer clocks, but the cause of my unease and growing fear is the recently concluded presidential election. My fears and concern for the future aren't nearly as dramatic and global in scope as those mentioned above pertaining to the millennium issue. But, over time, can have the same far reaching and comprehensive negative impact. I can't help feeling that the window of opportunity, albeit small, that the Clinton administration opened to benefit Indian Country has been slammed shut. The next four years will be a challenge for the Society as well as a test of its professionalism, relevancy and strength.

Although Native organizations like the Society and individual tribes are separate and distinct from one another, it will take a concerted and



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Ken Poynter, NAFWS Executive Director

collective effort and strong mutual support from across Indian Country to successfully address the different obstacles and challenges that are surely bound to come. As is generally the case after any national election, time will be needed to meet with and educate new members of Congress about the purpose and importance of an organization like the Society.

If the new administration

"The next four years will be a challenge for the Society as well as a test of its professionalism, relevancy and strength."

is serious about delivering the astronomical tax relief and cuts it promised during the election campaign, I suspect all future budget cuts will be broad and deep. The Society has a number of attributes that are positive and supports its continued existence. The most obvious is the cost effectiveness of the services and programs it provides. The unique organizational structure, supported by its 220 plus member tribes and over 2,000 individual professional members ensures informative, professionally trained and well attended training sessions and programs

resulting in a more efficient and cost-effective use of federally appropriated funds.

Finally, the Society is the strongest it has ever been since its conception. National direction provided by a volunteer, all Native group of natural resource management professionals, staffed by dedicated professionals, strong time tested policy that is in part responsible for the last three years of exception-free audits. These points and facts speak volumes about the integrity and ability of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society.

Okay, I feel a little better now. If anyone has an idea or question, concern, complaint, etc. please feel free to contact me to discuss it. I hope everyone has a safe and prosperous New Year.

Woliwon.



GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL NEWS

The Great Plains Region will be hosting their regional conference in Billings, Montana the week of February 11, 2001 at the Sheraton Hotel. For more information contact: Ron Skates at (406) 585-9010; Todd Hall at (701) 627-4760 or Patty Jo Thomas (701) 759-3311 (day), (701) 764-5086 (evening).

The Great Plains Region will be hosting a conference entitled: Environmental Protection Future Leaders Conference on April 4-6, 2001 at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana. The conference intent will be "Increasing interactions between students, teachers, tribal professionals, tribal elders, and community members. For more information: Beau Mitchell at (406) 994-6079 or Shilo Comeau at (406) 585-9010.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 2000 Southeast Region Conference was held on August 14-17, 2000 in conjunction with the Harmony Workshop of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). The conference was held at the Silverstar Resort & Casino at Philadelphia, Mississippi. The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians hosted the conference. The first two days of the conference were sponsored by the USFWS and the third day was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency located on the Choctaw reservation.

All three days were very informative to Tribes and USFWS and USDA. The purpose of the conference was to improve working relations between tribes and agencies.

Elections for the alternate

directors were filled by Charles Wilson of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians and Joe Don Billie of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Teresa Harris was re-elected to the Director position.

The 2001 Southeast Region conference will be held the week of March 5, 2001 at the Hollywood, Florida location of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The Southeast Region is also making preparations for the First Annual NAFWS Southeast Region Youth Practicum which will be held at the Swamp Safari at the Big Cypress Reservation of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Applications will be sent to all Southeast Region tribes.

LONG TIME MEMBER AWARDED

Mr. Kirk Loring, Game Warden Supervisor for the Penobscot Indian Nation Warden Service recently received an award recognizing 25 years of service in the field of Conservation Law Enforcement. The award was presented to Mr. Loring during the 2000 Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Northeast Region Conference that was held in West Greenwich, Rhode Island on August 24, 2000.

The NAFWS recognized Mr. Loring's 25 plus years of outstanding work in tribal fish and wildlife law enforcement. Kirk Loring's successes include the organizational development of the Penobscot Nation Warden Service, securing of cross-deputization arrangements with the Maine Warden Service and the Passamaquoddy Tribal Warden Service, development and approval of grants with the United States Department of Justice for additional warden positions and equipment, and development of the Penobscot Nation's Indian Warden Service SOP

(See next column)

ALASKA TO HOST MORE WORKSHOPS

Submitted by Marty Waters, Alaska NAFWS

The Alaska Regional Office of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (NAFWS) will again be hosting a series of Water Quality Aquatic Environment Monitoring workshops during 2001, designed for Alaskan Native village environmental departments.

Our summer 2000 workshops were successful. The majority of the workshop time was spent conducting testing and hands-on assessment in the field. Tribal representatives learned about rapid bioassessment, fisheries habitat assessment, and water quality testing for over 10 analyses, and they did it with style. While learning about aquatic monitoring the participants learned that their concerns and goals were shared by NAFWS staff and instructors. We all learned that we can work together. While learning about the issues of our environment and learning how fragile ecosystems are, we joked with each other, laughed and made friends.

The workshop instructors include Elaine Major and Mike Kelly from the UAA Environment and Natural Resource Institute (ENRI) and Ray Ralonde UAF Marine Advisory Program (MAP). This NAFWS / EPA cooperative

(See top of next column)

(Standard Operational Procedures) manual, among his many accomplishments.

Mr. Loring also served as the Regional Shoot Team captain and coordinator for the NAFWS Northeast Regional tribal law enforcement officer's competition shoot team, having won several awards for marksmanship.

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is a national membership organization whose mission is to support

(See next column)

agreement provides Tribes with the equipment and training to conduct monitoring. These will be used by the Tribes to monitor the health of the water for environmental planning. The workshop also provides assistance with the interpretation of water quality testing results, helping Tribes analyze past research.

Many of the Tribal Environmental Departments that sent representatives to the summer 2000 workshops are already gathering data, teaching monitoring skills in schools, and interpreting past research. Much thanks is due to the EPA for funding this project and sharing our vision of building environmental monitoring capacity in the villages to encourage Tribal land management. Any Alaskan Tribal Government that is interested in sending a representative to the workshop in summer 2001, please call Elijah Donat, Project Coordinator at 907/257-2719. Tentative dates are May 1-5, July 17-21, and September 4-8. Additionally, a follow-up course will be available to our summer 2000 participants. This intermediate course will build on the first beginning course and will provide Tribes with further technical assistance to develop their own monitoring programs. Dates for the intermediate class have not been chosen.

tribes in the development of sound fish and wildlife management programs and policies.

For additional information contact: John Banks, Director of Natural Resources, Penobscot Indian Nation, (207) 827-7776, ext. 7330.

Dear Family & Friends of the Society:

As always, we here at the national office of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society hope you are well. We also hope that you accomplished everything you wanted to this past fall and are ready to take on the new year.

Please note that applications for the 2001 Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum will be ready in early January. You may contact me and I will mail you an application or you can download one off our web site (www.nafws.org). I'm hoping that you will help us recruit for the program and help get applications out to students. As you remember, our national program accepts five (5) students from each of the Society's Regions. You can also contact your Regional Director or National Education & Training Council representative for an application.

In late October, I was fortunate to be able to attend the National Indian Education Association conference in Sioux Falls, SD and to have the chance to talk with many of our students, parents, teachers, counselors in Indian Country. It was good to catch the Sioux Falls flight and find the plane packed with Indians.

Then in early November I had to opportunity to represent the Society at the AISES national conference in Portland, Oregon. Society member and Native American Liaison for the USFWS in Portland, Scott Aiken (Prairie Band Potawatomi), hosted a meeting just prior to the conference for students from Haskell Indian Nations University (HINU) Natural Resource Program and Northwest Indian College's (NWIC) Tribal Environmental Natural Resource Management (TENRM) Program. Scott invited the Society to this meeting and it was great to share in the enthusiasm of everyone there. It's good when the Society gets to make relationships.

Not only did we get to participate in the meeting, the Society shared a booth with the USFWS at the career fair. Together, we made a great looking "Indian booth" and we all were delighted to have so many people come by to visit the joint booth — we gave out all our Society materials and candy. I noticed that the students who attended the previous day's meeting at Scott's office came to our booth repeatedly and used us as a home base. It was good for the students to see Scott's role as a professional, then to see his wife and daughter involved in the conference and finally to see him in his Traditional clothes dancing at the pow wow.

All the natural resource students from HINU and NWIC joined the Society as did students from Colorado State University, University of Michigan, DQ University, Portland University, Amherst, Lake Superior State University, and the University of North Carolina. The small group from Michigan and the TENRM students at NWIC are extremely interested in starting a NAFWS student chapter at their schools. I hope that the Society gives them support and guidance.

It was good to have Society people represented at that huge conference. John Antonio was a key presenter on a panel and Buzz Cobell looked cool styling around in his AISES Board Member vest. It was an honor to attend the Scholarship Awards Banquet and to see that Great Plains representative to our National Education & Training Council and SYP staff member, Shilo Comeau (Standing Rock Lakota), is a recipient of the Motorola Scholarship. We should also be proud of Vivie Maryboy (Navajo) for receiving the 3M Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation Scholarship Award.

Sometimes my husband calls me "Salzheimer" for obvious reasons (although I'll never be as bad as Pat Durham). Anyway, in our last newsletter, I forgot to acknowl-

EDUCATION UPDATE

by: Sally Carufel Williams, Education Coordinator, NAFWS

edge Bill Reeves with Dart International. You might remember during the Society's trade show at its May national conference, the Dart system booth. The Dart Target system was designed by hunters and its video footage captures the sights and sounds of an actual hunting experience. Its scenarios teach animal and environment recognition and provides instant feedback on shot selection and shot placement. Mr. Reeves brought the system to camp and allowed Dusty Miller to be in charge of it all week for participants' use. Not only was it fun for all and a good way to keep students on task, it enabled Practicum instructors to teach about firearm safe handling practices. The Dart firearm system allowed the students to handle and shoot without recoil and noise (much to staffers' relief). One night when the students were at the astronomy lab, the male staff members had their own top gun competition with "Grampa Dead-Eye Dust" showing his younger colleagues the benefits of years of experience. Thank you, Bill Reeves, for the great experience.

More good news: the recipient of the Diane Van Dyke scholarship award was Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College student, Mike King. Mike is a member of the Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, is a member of the bear clan and his Indian name is "La net to ta kwas" which translates to "he picks the pines or pulls up the pines". He served as Great Lakes Regional Director from 1991-92 and will be transferring to the University of Wisconsin-Superior in the spring. To



qualify, the applicant must be a member of a federally-recognized tribe or Alaskan Native, must be a full-time student at an accredited institution of higher education in of the related natural resource field, and applicants are encouraged to be a member of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society. Keep an eye out for an announcement this coming fall.

Please keep in mind our upcoming national conference. It's scheduled for May 21-24, 2001, in Lincoln City, Oregon, hosted this year by the Pacific Region. Conference chairmen are Pacific Region Directors, Joe Jay Pinkham III and Ted Lamebull. Also, keep in mind this year's Chief Sealth, Biologist of the Year and Conservation Officer of the Year Award nominations. Keep in touch and hope to see you somewhere.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2001 CHIEF SEALTH, BIOLOGIST/MANAGER AND CONSERVATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Society members in good standing may nominate individuals for the 2001 Chief Sealth Award, Biologist/Manager and Conservation Officer of the Year Awards.

For more information, please visit our web page www.nafws.org or to request an award policy and nomination form, please call the NAFWS at (303) 466-1725. The deadline for nominations is March 15, 2001.

PENOBSCOT BEAVER PRACTICES OF INTEREST TO EUROPEANS

by: Skip Lisle, Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources

In September I traveled to Poland to give a presentation at the 2nd European Beaver Symposium. It was a great opportunity to share information about our beaver management program at the Penobscot Nation and to learn more about the European beaver (*Castor fiber*).

Although European beavers are a different species than North American beavers (*Castor canadensis*) they are very similar and look almost identical. One particularly important trait that the two species share is that they create, maintain, and improve wetlands. Wetlands are generally the most productive wildlife habitats on Earth. For this reason, beavers are considered a “keystone species.” They have an ecological importance greatly disproportionate to the biomass they represent in ecosystems. This status demands that beavers be managed with greater sensitivity than other species that we routinely harvest.

What are the differences between the two species? From what I can tell, European beavers may be more prodigious diggers, but our beavers may be more aggressive dam builders. Perhaps for this reason, “clogged culverts” are not as serious an issue in Europe as they are here. Damage seems to be more associated with forests and agricultural lands than roads. In both continents, beaver-human conflicts are the major theme of beaver management.

In a familiar pattern, the European beaver is mounting a dramatic comeback after having been nearly destroyed by the fur trade. They number

500,000 individuals and much of their former range is still vacant. Densities are highest in the Scandinavian countries while reintroduction efforts have recently been undertaken in many areas to the South, including Germany, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Scotland, one of the most altered landscapes on Earth, may be next on the list. The return of beavers, if society allows it, could be the beginning of a great ecological turn-around in that beautiful, but largely deforested, country.

So why would the Europeans be interested in the beaver management

“The return of beavers, if society allows it, could be the beginning of a great ecological turn-around ...”

practices of a humble North American Indian tribe of 2,100 people? For one thing, the recovery of *canadensis* is decades ahead of *fiber*. Therefore, our experience with beaver-human conflicts is generally more advanced on this continent. In addition, at the Penobscot Nation we have developed a unique and progressive beaver management strategy. It includes the widespread use of “flow devices” to protect properties by controlling damming behavior. We have designed what I believe are three of the best types of flow devices in the world and have devised a “flow device strategy” that ensures success at almost any site. As a result, we are probably the first major landowner in North America to totally beaver-proof their lands without the need to remove even one “nuisance” beaver. This has been a five-year record despite high beaver populations and the presence of beaver colonies

near each of our 20 flow device sites.

What compelled us to do this? In a word, culverts... *clogged* culverts. Before our culverts were protected with flow devices, washed-out roads were a common phenomenon. The routine and involuntary transfer of large segments of our gravel roads into downstream wetlands, ponds, and stream sections represented an expensive problem and a serious “non-point” source of pollution. While flow devices have ended these messy events, their most exciting quality is that they translate directly into wetlands.

The only way to protect roads and other properties without using flow devices is to eliminate beavers from a fairly large surrounding area. No beavers, no wetlands. And if beavers are already present, but are then removed, dams go un-maintained and the wetlands drain. We used a Global Positioning System to measure the area of beaver-created wetlands near six of our flow device sites. These rich, “marsh-like” wetlands totaled 112 acres.

improving their habitat through forestry practices that favor a preferred food type: early-successional hardwoods. Furthermore, in addition to allowing beavers to occupy all roadside areas, we are hoping to implement regulations that better protect their overall populations by restricting the number of animals that can be harvested by any one person, and in any one area. These measures will all lead to more wetlands in more places. For just a few examples, this means more waterfowl, otters, mink, and muskrat, and more food for moose, deer, and bear.

(In most states, by contrast, there are basically no limits on beaver harvests. As a result, some trappers take hundreds of beavers a year, invariably affecting many wetlands. This occurs even during times when pelt prices are low. Beavers, and their wetlands, would be particularly vulnerable to a whim-of-fashion increase in pelt prices and therefore the incentive to trap. This smacks of “pest management” not “keystone-species management.”)

Our flow device-based



Andreas Nitsche and Andrzej Czech at the Polish National Park observing beaver habitats. Nitsche chaired the First European Beaver Symposium (three years ago), and Czech, chaired the 2nd European Beaver Symposium.

With our properties protected we have been freed to exploit beavers for their ecological values. For example, we have developed a program that encourages the presence of beavers by

management strategy is possible because the beaver threat is limited. Even in the absence of trapping or a significant non-human predator, the presence of

(See top of next page)

beavers is greatly restricted by their need to be near "escape cover:" water. Moreover, their densities in these areas are quickly capped by territorial behavior. Beaver colonies, which rarely exceed ten individuals, defend relatively large territories against older, related beavers (>two years) and all unrelated beavers. In other words, they spread themselves thinly over a small percentage of the landscape. The number of potential conflict sites, therefore, is finite. As long as high-quality flow devices are used that will last a long time with little or no maintenance, I believe it is possible to largely eliminate the beaver-human conflict on any scale: tribal, state, or even continental. It may take awhile and population management may be a necessary tool in the interim, but it can be done. By comparison, this may not be possible with a wide-ranging, non-territorial herbivore like deer. As many people are finding out along the eastern seaboard, conflicts with this species are so numerous and widespread that there may be

no adequate non-lethal solution. And over such an expansive, highly urbanized area, large predators - human or otherwise - don't offer much relief either.

I enjoyed sharing our experiences with an audience that is just beginning to grapple with beaver-human conflicts within their own continent. For me, it was also nice because it gave me an opportunity to visit another country. Poland is a wonderful country, but one with a difficult history. This flat, indefensible land in central Europe has often suffered the ravages of invaders from both the East and the West. This, and a half-century of communism, has left her economically poor. But Poland is wealthy in other ways. Like Indian tribes, she is proud, resilient, rich in culture, and has a few remaining ecological treasures that are carefully protected.

Conference highlights included a ride through the countryside in a long caravan of horse-drawn carts. Other than the "clip-clop" of hooves on pavement, the roads and

villages were quiet. Cars were pleasantly rare. Momentarily, the pace of life seemed saner. At our destination we had a feast and, using long sticks, cooked sausages over a bonfire.

On another day we visited a remnant pocket of primeval forest. Through the centuries the trees, many of which are six feet in diameter, were spared as a refuge where long-ago Polish kings and Russian czars came to hunt boar, bison, deer, and bear. The canopy was tall and stratified. You could hear birds above, but rarely see them. Little light penetrated to the forest floor, which was open and easy to walk through. Despite the day being hot and sunny, it was cool in that majestic, largely deciduous forest. It must have been what much of the eastern U.S. looked like before it was cut.

The best part of the conference was meeting many wonderful people from the United Kingdom, Latvia, Yugoslavia, Norway, Lithuania, Romania, Russia, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, and Poland. There was also one other North American there, although he was a "defector." Several decades ago, Howard Parker, an American, was a ski bum in Norway when he fell in love with a local woman. Suffice it to say that he hasn't been home since. It was also a treat to meet Andrzej Czech, the conference chairman. Andrzej is continuing a long and distinguished tradition of beaver research in Poland that naturally includes hosting a great conference. Many of these people reminded me of folks I have met at various beaver conferences on this side of the Atlantic. They are drawn to beavers because of the very real hope this animal offers for renewing a small degree of ecological vibrance to a world that is sadly becoming more sterile everyday.

The Europeans were very appreciative of our efforts to bring them useful information from afar. As always it was
(See next column)

(Trinity River, cont. from page 1)
river.

On Nov. 17, the federal government published a final environmental impact statement that adopts a restoration plan based on the best available scientific information. That plan, which Babbitt is set to announce, is good not just for the people of the Hoopa Valley Reservation, but for the commercial and sport fishermen and recreation industry of the North Coast. It will benefit all Californians.

The preferred alternative combines physical restoration and an enhanced water-flow schedule to restore fish populations.

The plan calls for an average annual increase of 250,000 acre-feet of water to be released to the Trinity River for fishery restoration.

A restored Trinity River is the keystone to economic revival of California's North Coast communities. At the same time, this plan enables the continued diversion of more than half — 53 percent — of the Trinity River's flow to be diverted to the Central Valley for irrigation, power generation and municipal uses. This plan is fair all around.

An estimated 98 percent of the comments received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to the draft environmental impact statement were in favor of additional water.

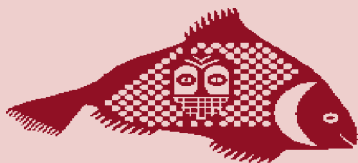
Yet our fight is not over. Central Valley Project farmers
(See page 11, Trinity River)

gratifying to speak of the great potential that beaver management offers. To have had this opportunity in a foreign land as a representative of the Penobscot Nation, the United States, and North America was an honor I won't soon forget.

Skip Lisle is a Penobscot tribal member and has worked as a wildlife biologist with the Penobscot Nation Department of Natural Resources for six years.

2001 NAFWS National Conference May 21 - 24, 2001

Lincoln City, Oregon



Hosted by the Pacific Region
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Carufel-Williams (303) 466-1725; Matthew Vanderhoop (508) 645-
3233.

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C...

LIAISON'S UPDATE

by: Patrick Durham, Native American Liaison, USFWS

Hey folks! I am starting to hear from many friends from the Society now that you know how to get in touch with me in my new position as the Native American Liaison for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thank you for all of the nice e-mails and phone calls. I even got a Christmas card from the Society today! My life is starting to settle down now that I've moved into the new house in Virginia and as soon as Sandy and the beagles get here I'll be set.

Working for the Service is exciting and challenging. Recently I had a long conversation with the Director, Jamie Rappaport-Clark, to discuss my perspectives on how the Service can enhance its relationship with tribes.

Before I talk about what my input was in this meeting, let me tell you what I got out of it. This was my first opportunity to have a lengthy discussion with the Director and I was encouraged by her knowledge of Indian Country and some of the problems that we face. It meant a great deal to me that she wanted to hear my thoughts and ideas. I really feel as though my being here creates an opportunity for the Service and the Society to begin to interact on a more personal level.

Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Native American Tribal Governments (posted at <http://nativeamerican.fws.gov>)

was recently signed and holds Federal Agencies accountable for their (you guessed it) consultation and coordination with Native American governments. I wanted to make sure you knew how to get a copy. If you have any questions about it let me



know and I'll try and get you a proper response.

Here is what my meeting with the Director covered with some of the not-so-exciting-parts cut out. Keep in mind, this is just a discussion and does not mean that everything I talk about is going to happen but it does let you know what my thinking is and you are welcome to offer your comments.

Since its inception in 1995, the Service's Office of Native American Liaison has made important strides in increasing Service awareness of its own Native American Policy, as well as the meaning and value of the government-to-government relationship with tribal entities. Thanks to these earlier efforts, the Office of the Native American Liaison is prepared to embark on a larger mission. Now is the time for a more programmatic and personal approach to the Service's relationships with the 573 federally recognized tribes. With the support of the Directorate, the Office of the Native American Liaison hopes to lead the Service in pursuing its mission and goals with Native American governments by enhancing interactions and improving relationships with them.

Native American tribes have a controlling interest in over 100,000,000 acres, a total area slightly larger than the Service's National Wildlife Refuge system and it includes some exemplary habitat conditions for threatened and endangered species. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) reports over 150 listed plants and animals on approximately 50 million acres of tribal lands. Northern Spotted owl, Marbled murrelet and Blackfooted ferret receive

direct management and recovery funds from the BIA on ten reservations. The Service and tribal efforts to conserve species and habitats open a myriad of partnership opportunities. The Native American traditional reliance on and respect for natural resources bring a special perspective to any partnership.

Having interacted with so many tribes, I am aware of the funding and training needs in the tribal natural resource management community. In my new job I intend to help make Service programs more readily to tribes using mechanisms that are already in place. The key lies in making a focused effort to let you (tribal resource managers)

"Thanks to these earlier efforts, the Office of the Native American Liaison is prepared to embark on a larger mission."

know what programs are available and in identifying mutual ecosystem resource management goals.

For instance the Partners for Wildlife is not usually thought of as a Native American initiative but tribes can certainly participate. Similar initiatives will be explored with programs like Partners in Flight, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Coastal Wetlands Conservation Partnerships, etc..

The Service's Rocky Mtn. Region (Region-6, Denver) has taken the lead in training tribal Conservation Enforcement Officers, filling a need that would otherwise be left unmet and will conduct one or two

training sessions this year when it is logistically feasible. Preliminary discussions indicate favorable support by the Division of Law Enforcement for the R-6 training cadre to conduct a train-the-trainer course (possibly at NCTC) for Special Agents in other Regions. This would empower each Region with the option of pursuing similar training initiatives independently.

Although the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) initiative is under-utilized for Native Americans several Regions have taken the lead in bringing these young students aboard. Each of the Service's Regional Native American Liaisons has the opportunity to make use of the SCEP program. A set of standardized job descriptions developed by the Native American Liaisons is being compiled to use in order to bring Native American students into the Service, as well as provide some much needed assistance.

The Service's National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) could play an instrumental role in Native American environmental education and capacity building. It would be beneficial to bring the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (Society) Education Council, representatives from the Tribal colleges and high schools to visit the NCTC to experience the training capabilities and opportunities that may exist.

Distance learning could be instrumental in developing a Service relationship with Society and AISES Student Chapters, and curricula tailored for target groups such as Conservation Enforcement Officers or capacity building programs would enhance the Service's outreach capabilities to tribes. In support of the ~~new~~ *Executive Order #13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, I will be working to help the Service update and revive its training program on tribal issues and the Native American Policy.

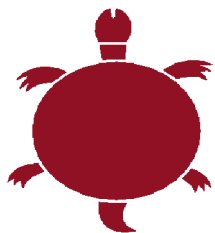
(See Liaison Update - next page)

(Liaison Update - Cont. from page 8)

The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society is the only national Native American organization devoted solely to natural resource management concerns affecting tribal lands and people. Because its regional boundaries are very similar to the Service's, Society conferences provide a convenient forum for federal employees to keep abreast of the needs, successes and goals of tribal natural resource managers - - and an excellent opportunity to advance future conservation partnerships.

As I read through this article I have a few additional comments to make. The Assistant Director of External Affairs, Robyn Thorson, recently asked me what my "Vision" for the Native American Program was. She asked me, "What do you want to look back on and see that you accomplished with the Service."

I want to look at the Fish and Wildlife Service and see that all things possible are being done with tribal governments to advance the mission of the Service and the goals of the Tribes and that both Service and Tribal representatives are educated and empowered to act on this common ground.



BREAKING BARRIERS, CONNECTING HABITATS

BY CRAIG SPRINGER, U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Who hasn't heard about the monumental migrations of salmon and steelhead? Unimpeded, they can swim hundreds of miles for the single-minded purpose of procreation. Freshwater fish also migrate, but not nearly as far. Small fish like minnows and darters move about; so do bass and trout. In terms of scale though, these smaller fishes move a long way. These fishes need to find the right habitats as the seasons change. But like salmon and steelhead of the Northwest, they run headlong into barriers.

Huge dams without fish ladders are obvious barriers to migrating fish. But that culvert you drive over on your way to work could keep fish from reaching necessary habitat, too. Culverts on small streams often block fish from reaching upstream areas. A culvert may have water in it and it may look swimmable, but the flows may be too shallow or too swift for fish to swim through. The culvert could be too long. And typically, flows are uniformly fast throughout the culvert, so fish have nowhere to rest and are washed downstream. Round culverts make fish passage nearly impossible. On the downstream end, concentrated flows often erode the stream bed and scour pools making a small waterfall too large for fish to jump over.

When fish populations become disjointed, inbreeding can occur. Isolated fish may not be able to reach all the habitats necessary to fulfill their requirements; the number of fish could be depressed and the general health weakened.

To remedy such a situation in southeast Oklahoma, the

(See next column)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Oklahoma Fishery Resources Office and Tulsa Ecological Services Office partnered with John Hancock Natural Resource Group to open up miles of stream on commercially forested land. A box culvert with the bottom on the natural stream grade replaced a round culvert. Two species of fish are immediate beneficiaries: the federally threatened leopard darter and the Ouachita-strain smallmouth bass. Both occur in the Little River watershed. The Ouachita smallmouth is a fairly recent discovery, a form of smallmouth bass unique to that part of Oklahoma and Arkansas. Removing the barrier has connected habitats crucial for these unique fishes.

"It's not uncommon for Little River headwater creeks to stop flowing in the heat of summer--culverts become barriers to fish seeking out habitat at lower flow," said Brent Bristow, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist. "With the barriers gone,



darters and bass can once again reach habitats they really need seasonally."

Spawning is one such season. According to Paul Balkenbush, stream fish biologist for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, improved culvert designs allow native smallmouth to reach necessary habitat at high flows. That helps assure a good mix of genetics and a robust fish population.

(See next column)

Finding spawning habitat may not be the only need to move about. In small streams, fish find refuge in deep pools to ride out the winter. Getting to the same pools may mean the difference of surviving a summer when flows drop and temperatures climb. Without the access to these necessary habitats, fish populations may suffer. Mobility is everything.

The Service's Arizona Fishery Resource Office is similarly engaged. The East Fork White River is important habitat for two fish, both federally listed as threatened, the loach minnow and Apache trout, an important sport fish. But a low-head dam that delivered irrigation water also blocked fish movement. The White Mountain Apache Tribe and Arizona Fishery Resources Office redesigned the dam to continue delivering irrigation water. Flows are now concentrated midstream over a natural bottom that easily passes fish.

"Many small, in-stream structures look innocuous," said Lynn Starnes, the

Service's Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries in the Southwest Region. "But even small structures if not properly placed can have big consequences on fish populations. The Service is committed to connecting with stakeholders to connect fish habitat--to improve the lot of stream fish--to improve conditions for fishing and conserve imperiled species."

ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR. PUSHES FOR MONUMENT STATUS OF ARCTIC REFUGE

BY: STACY ARONOWITZ, CHANNEL 9NEWS, DENVER, COLORADO

His family spent more than a half century in public service, and now Robert Kennedy Jr. is joining in the push to protect a controversial Arctic Refuge in Alaska from oil exploration. He wants the refuge declared a national monument...

Kennedy is joining forces with the Alaska Coalition to deliver 650,000 postcards to the White House in support of efforts to protect the refuge.

Kennedy joined Colorado 9News in Denver to talk not only about the refuge, but about his take on the end of the election battle between George W. Bush and Al Gore.

Kyle: Good Morning Robert.

Robert: Good Morning

Kyle.

K: Now before we get to the refuge controversy, we have to get your take on last night President-elect Bush saying that its time for unity.

R: I think I agree with that. I think Vice-President Gore did a very graceful withdrawal. I think there's a lot of us disappointed the votes weren't counted. But I think we all have to accept the Supreme Court's decision and try to move forward as a nation.

Gary: The refuge question has come up several times during the presidential debates. George W. Bush believes that we need to drill in Alaska and obviously you don't agree with that.

R: It's about energy policy. It's a get rich quick scheme for a few oil executives that will do absolutely nothing. Nobody makes a serious argument that this will lower gas prices in this country. The amount of oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is relatively trivial from a global marketplace. And this is our largest wilderness area in America. It is the only place left where we have nomadic

tribes following vast herds of caribou. Its part of our culture, it connects us to our history. It's really a monument to the America's relationship with the wilderness. And for us to say as a nation now that we're going to dismantle it, that we're going to turn it over to the oil industry and let them liquidate this jewel - the American Serengetti for cash. There's really no justification from a national energy policy. It doesn't make any sense.

K: We understand you're helping to deliver more than 650,000 postcards to the White House to hopefully convince.

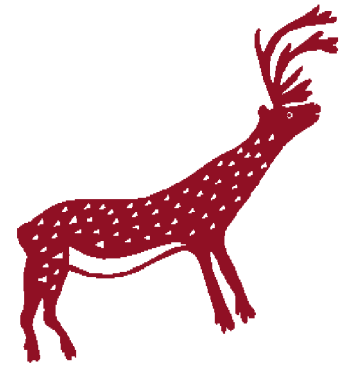
R: Yeah, the point of most of those postcards is that there's better ways to get that oil. There's cheaper ways through conservation. If we would raise average corporate fuel efficiency by less than two miles per gallon, we'd get far more energy, far more gasoline than we have in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and it would be cheaper for consumers. It would clean our air. It would be better for all of us.

G: Are you optimistic that you're going to win now that you're facing a Republican

president and Congress

R: It's difficult because of the past six years, the congress has twice passed bills to turn the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge over to the oil industry. The only thing that stopped those bills from going through was a Clinton veto. Governor Bush has promised that he will open it as soon as he gets into office. So our only hope at this point really is to get President Clinton to designate it as a monument area.

K: All right. Thanks so much for joining us this morning Robert.



(Looking back - Cont. from page 1)

Fisheries Society Indian Fisheries Symposium in July of 1989, representatives of both Alaskan and Canadian native communities were participants. It is important to note that at times throughout the Society's history, we have had indigenous representatives in attendance at our meetings from the South Pacific Islands, Hawaii, Guam, and Australia. These representatives were interested in the role of Native Americans in fisheries and wildlife management, the relationships between Tribes and the respective federal governments, and how the Society supports the Tribal management effort.

The Exxon oil spill in 1989 drastically demonstrated to the Pacific Rim native communities the need for
(See next column)

direct involvement in their resource management. The search and planned drilling of oil on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge graphically illustrates the lack of cultural awareness that historically existed within the federal government concerning issues such as the Gwich'in Caribou peoples' lifestyle, traditional values, and religious affiliation to the wildlife resource. Perhaps this trend is beginning to change, in that Congress has recently made the first appropriation of funding to an Alaskan Native Corporation for fish and wildlife management purposes. This initial funding could lead to the development of a comprehensive Native Alaskan fish and wildlife management initiative and could grow to include all Native communi-
(See next column)

ties of Alaska. We feel that this development represents an appropriate area for the Society's involvement.

More recently, the Society has been asked to participate in meetings with Canadian Bands to explore an international working relationship. The native communities of the Canadian Government and are exploring the fiduciary responsibility that such a trust relationship entails. The Pacific and Great Lakes Regions of the Society have taken the lead in establishing contact with British Columbia and Ontario native communities respectively. The content of meetings held thus far has centered on how the Canadian native communities can develop fish, wildlife and recreation management programs, maintain the process of traditional
(See next column)

management of the resources, and use the most recent court decision in the 'Sparrow Case' to confirm their ability to be resource managers. Over 200 native communities have been represented at the two meetings that Society representatives have attended. The total number of individual native people in these communities is substantial and will require a massive effort to provide information, educational opportunities, and technical assistance in fish, wildlife and recreation issues.

We, of course, cannot assume such an awesome responsibility in and of ourselves, but are in the position to assist the Canadian people with developing a companion organization to the Society or an affiliated
(See next page - Going back)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

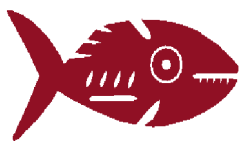
January 27-30, 2001 - AQUACULTURE AMERICA 2001 - Aquaculture on Indigenous Lands will be held at the Town & Country Hotel in San Diego, California. For more information on the conference see the website: <http://www.was.org> or contact Dr. George Brooks, Jr., (520) 562-6706 at e-mail him at: gbbrooks@gilariver.com

January 30 - February 1, 2001 - Developing a Tribal Air Program (TAP) to be held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University, (520) 523-7792.

February 8-9, 2001 - The 2001 National Whirling Disease Symposium, Salt Lake City, Utah. To view the meeting agenda, see: www.whirling-disease.org To reach the Whirling Disease Foundation contact: (406) 585-0860.

February 16-18, 2001 - Bald Eagle Conference, sponsored by the Klamath Basin Audubon Society, will be held in Klamath Falls, Oregon. See website: www.eaglecon.org

February 21, 2001 - Environmental Justice Grants Workshop, sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 8, Environmental Justice Program, will be held in Leadville, CO. For more information: Robin Littlepage at (719) 486-3488.



March 8-9, 2001 - Western Water Law (Water Rights, Quality and Policy in the West), Adams Mark Hotel, Denver, CO. This conference is not just for attorneys. For more information: (303) 377-6600.

March 26-30, 2001 - Wildlife Management Shortcourse, sponsored by the Department of Fishery and Wildlife Biology at Colorado State University. This course is designed for agency personnel and lay people with non-wildlife training. The course will be held at the CSU campus. For information: (970) 491-6222.

April 11-13, 2001 - Retain 2001, Retention in Education Today for All Indigenous Nations, sponsored by the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. For more information: 1-800-203-5494, or visit: <http://www.conferencepros.com/Retain/retain.htm>

April 4-6, 2001 - Environmental Protection Future Leaders Conference, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT. For more info: Beau Mitchell at (406) 994-6079 or Shilo Comeau at (406) 585-9010.

ASIAN SWAMP EEL

Kevin Pierce with the Florida Environment radio show:

Scientists are concerned about a new predator invading Florida. Called the Asian Swamp Eel, it has no known enemies, and efforts at controlling it have failed. Now found in Florida, the nation's first sighting was at a nature center in Georgia (John Curnutt, Research Ecologist, Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey)...
"Some school kids

(see next column - eel)

(Looking back - Cont. from page 10)

organization with the Society. Given the relationship between Canadian and U.S. Tribal communities and the international flavor of U.S. Canadian anadromous fish, wetlands and migratory bird initiatives, we feel that excellent partnerships could be developed for mutual benefits.

As the Society proceeds with developing a relationship with Canadian Natives, we must determine the relationship that Tribal Governments have with one another. Is there truly an international relationship or have Tribes retained a common historical relationship that supersedes country boundaries. Perhaps the answer to this question would provide the common thread to the expansion of one Native American Fish & Wildlife Society to support the interests of all Tribes, bands and indigenous communities. Whatever the outcome of these early explorations into the inter-Tribal relationships in resource management, it is clear that common resource issues exist, common resource concerns are prevalent and common cultural interests need to be addressed. What better reason is there for cooperative working relationship into the future. I hope that we are all up to the task that lies ahead.

-Dewey Schwalenberg

TRACKING THE

(eel - continued)

apparently went to this nature center all the time and would dip for fish, and they were catching these things like crazy. And nobody knew what they were."

John Curnutt is a research ecologist, studying the Asian Swamp Eel...'

"Eventually, a fisheries biologist happened there and was fooling around and dug up one of these things and he couldn't figure out what it was

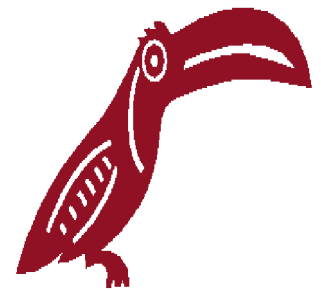
(see next column - eel)

(Trinity River, Cont. from page 7)

and major power companies are poised to protest the plan in court. The Westlands Irrigation District served notice on Friday that it plans to sue to block implementation of the Trinity River restoration project.

After years of working in the courts, with Congress and with staff of the Department of the Interior, the Hupa people are about to learn whether the nation's promise to the Trinity River will be kept.

Duane Sherman is the tribal chairman of the Hoopa Valley Tribe.



(eel - continued)

and actually had to look up and found out it was this eel."

The Swamp Eel is a predator that may survive better in Florida's swamps than Florida's natural swamp wildlife. And now that the eel has been found in Florida, there's concern it might prosper in the Everglades, to the peril of native wildlife...

"It showed up near Tampa in a greatly modified river. Then it showed up again in Miami, in a canal. And for the third time in Florida, it showed up in canals right next to the Everglades...Everglades National Park."

For more information, visit floridaenvironment.com.



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