

SHO-BAN NEWS

Covering Idaho & Indian Country

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2023

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LOCAL

Health Resource Fair assists in Medicaid redetermination



SPORTS

Braves little league football action



SPORTS

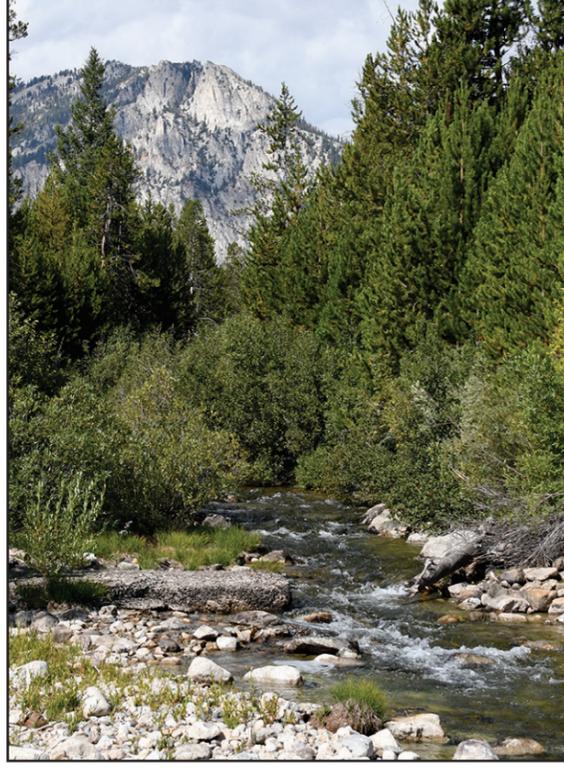
Lady Chiefs volleyball season begins



Petit Lake weir tour educates on Snake River sockeye salmon preservation



Petit Lake sign explaining the Shoshone-Bannock connection to the area. (Lori Ann Edmo photos)



Petit creek. (Hoss Suppah photo)

By LORI ANN EDMO
Sho-Ban News

SALMON RIVER BASIN — The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes connection to the Snake River sockeye salmon species are many — cultural, subsistence and historic.

And for Kurt Tardy, Tribal Sockeye Program manager, he wants to maintain that connection to the species for current as well as future generations. “It’s something we can’t lose,” he said.

He has worked for 18 years in sockeye program including 12 to 13 years with the late Doug Taki and Ken Ariwite, also deceased, who laid the program’s groundwork.

Tardy, along with Rebecca Croy, sockeye project leader/biologist, gave a tour to the Petit Lake weir in the Salmon River basin August 26 during the Saw-



Kurt Tardy in front of the weir.

tooth Salmon Festival.

The Tribes petitioned the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1990 to have the Snake River sockeye salmon to be on the Endangered Species list and were placed on the list in 1991. If the species wasn’t listed, it could

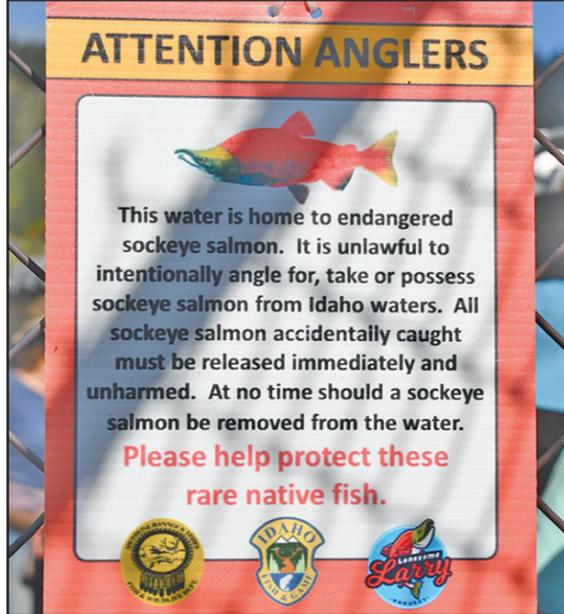
likely be extinct.

He explained to those present the fish started to decline with the construction of the eight dams. The recovery is a multi-agency effort with Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), U.S. Forest Service and University of Idaho. A single sock-

eye “Lonesome Larry” returned back to Redfish Lake in 1992. Sperm was saved from Larry, after a couple of years there were six returning brood females.

The captive brood stock program is in place

See TOUR, page 8



Sockeye weir sign. (Hoss Suppah photo)

Dancers perform at Sawtooth Salmon Festival



Women dancers lined up at the Sawtooth Salmon Festival performance on August 26.

LOWER STANLEY, Idaho — A group of Shoshone-Bannock tribal dancers did dance exhibitions at the Sawtooth Salmon Festival August 26.

Despite a brief rain shower, the sun came out and the performance went on.

Kara Tsosie explained the dances starting with an intertribal. Fancy shawl, teen fancy, women’s traditional, grass dance and women’s jingle dress was danced.

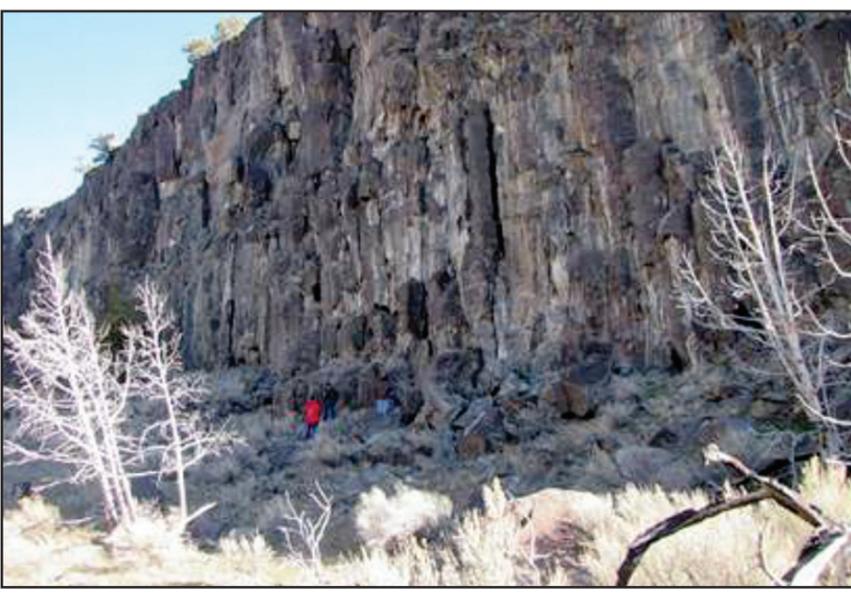
Alex Graves, AJ Graves and Wyatt Eaglespeaker



Drum group included Alex Graves, AJ Graves and Wyatt Eaglespeaker. (Lori Ann Edmo photos)

Leona Ariwite and family cooked frybread. Beadwork and other crafts were also sold.

SBT’s support American Falls Archaeological District closure



American Falls Archaeological District. (Submitted photo)

By ECHO MARSHALL
Tribal Public Affairs

FORT HALL — On August 17, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a decision to close the American Falls Archaeological District and a portion of the Lake Channel area to rock climbing and off-highway vehicle use in Power County, Idaho.

“The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Tribes) are pleased with the decision as it is not often that a federal agency closes public lands to specifically protect cultural resources,” said Lee Ivan Tyler,

Fort Hall Business Council Chairman. The Tribes want to thank Mike Courtney, the Twin Falls District Manager, and Ken Crane, the Burley Field Office Manager, and all staff involved in the efforts to navigate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to change the Monument Resource Management Plan to protect tribal cultural resources.

Since the early 1990s, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have been working with the BLM and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) managers to protect the

From page one



Rebecca Croy explains the weir. (Hoss Suppah photo)



Salmon journey map. (Lori Ann Edmo photos)

TOUR, continued
that's help maintain the genetic legacy of the species. "Catastrophically we never lost the genetic legacy of the species. What you see today – Snake River Sockeye salmon at Petit and Alturas is genetically same as 100 years ago," Tardy continued.

He said they started with egg boxes, smolts and habitat work – some of it was successful and some of it wasn't. There are three populations now in Redfish Lake, Alturas Lake and Petit Lake. The Tribes focus is Petit and Alturas Lake while IDFG is Redfish Lake. There were several things that happened affecting the sockeye – Sunbeam Dam that blocked passage, Breckinridge Diversion that dewatered Petit and Alturas Lakes creeks and others noting every agency may make a decision that wasn't wise. He said the Tribes acknowledge them and move on.

Tardy said IDFG chemically treated Petit Lake, put trout in there and non-native kokanee. The Tribes had to start from ground zero but one of the coolest things that

happened by utilizing captive brood stock eggs and put those into the lake, "We created a residual population – there's an anadromous population – anadromous sockeye spawn here, rear here, go to the ocean then come back, kokanee that are the same nerca species but different genetically – we consider those landlocked sockeye – spawn here, rear here, stay here, residual, a lot like kokanee but genetically different." He explained they're looking for spatial diversity and life history diversity – spatial diversity means they have fish across the landscape in three different lakes. Life history diversity – they have two, three, four different life history traits, if something happens the anadromous sockeye salmon fail, why it's important, once that was initiated. "Nobody believed us, of course nobody ever believes the Tribes right off the bat, we have to prove what we are doing is the correct way," he said.

The whole purpose is to adaptively manage, Tardy continued. From a tribal perspective two

things are very important – they don't believe it's important to handle every single fish, "we take enough science of what we need without having to handle, harass, clip, if we do that what are their chances of getting to the ocean?" Less than 30% of the fish are handled.

He noted it's important to use the landscape. Petit Lake is its own hatchery, "we don't need to build a one million smolt facility. The point is to use what's given to you and that's the lake." He said now what they do is use adults from captive brood programs that started the residual program. Those adults come in here in the fall, they spawn in that hatchery, which is the lake and they produce migrants.

Tardy said for 30 plus years they didn't see a return for all the work but three years ago they returned 37 fish from the ocean. After that was a handful of fish and this year they expect anywhere from 10 to 80 fish. Sockeye salmon are one of the most sensitive species noting it was monumental when they built the weir



Sockeye salmon balloon at the Sawtooth Salmon Festival.

three years ago saying, "The weir is a stepping stone for the Tribes Snake River Sockeye program. It shows we are moving in the right direction, it gives us power, it gives us a boost in management authority, it shows what we are achieving here in Petit is adults returns." "We are moving fish on their own to the ocean, producing juveniles on the lake heading out to the ocean," he said.

When asked about climate change, Tardy said it's changing everything – it changes water temperature, impacts snowpack that's crucial. The mountains hold a whole bunch

of snow and it needs to run the whole year cool and cold. When temperatures rise for example 90 degrees at Petit it's outrageous. "We need a lot of snowpack, we're forcing that snowpack higher 6,500 hundred feet and not getting snow to the lower elevations." He said rain does not contribute over the course of a long period summer.

He noted many outside agencies contact them to gain information on what they're doing in the upper Salmon basin including Canadian and Alaska agencies. "Snake River sockeye salmon are longest traveling in distance, highest elevation returning species in the world. They're going the

furthest distance, going from sea level when they return as adults, all the way up to 7,000 feet – it's something that has to be maintained in the future."

A tour of the weir commenced where Croy explained how it works from down below and Tardy stayed above. A metal sign is placed at the top of the weir that pays tribute to Doug Taki and Ken Ariwite (both deceased) acknowledging them who laid the program's foundation.

Snake River sockeye salmon could be viewed as cultural legacy to the Tribes – if their wasn't an intervention to petition the fish, it's likely they would be extinct at this point.




TAMME TEVA YEKWIKUANTOI (S)

TAMMI TEVAKA MIAKWE (B)

"WE WILL GATHER PINE NUTS"

TRIBAL MEMBER PINE NUT GATHERING & PINYON SEED BANKING

September 1 - 4, 2023
City of Rocks National Reserve
Castle Rocks State Park
Almo, ID

AGENDA

Friday, September 1, 2023 All-Day Harvesting On-Your-Own
 2:00 PM Camper Check-In Opens
 - Smoky Mountain Campground at the Equestrian Trailhead
 o Has tent space & RV parking space however no service hookups
 o Shower facility and restrooms are available at Smoky Mountain
 - City of Rocks Juniper Group Campground reserved for youth & chaperones
 6:00 PM Hotdogs and Hamburgers at Smoky Mountain Campground Equestrian Trailhead

Saturday, September 2, 2023 All-Day Harvesting On-Your-Own
 12:00 PM Meet at Visitor Center, 3035 S Elba Rd, Almo, ID 83312
 12:10 PM Welcome and Blessing
 12:15 - 2:00 PM Box Lunch
 1:00 - 1:30 PM Pine Nut Harvesting Lesson by LCPD
 1:30 - 1:45 PM Seed Bank Collecting Presentation by BLM and LCPD
 6:30 PM Meet BLM Tribal Liaison at Visitor Center to donate portion of harvest for seed bank

Sunday, September 3, 2023 All-Day Harvesting On-Your-Own
Monday, September 4, 2023 All-Day Harvesting On-Your-Own
 1:00 PM Campground check-out
 1:30 PM Meet BLM Tribal Liaison at Visitor Center to donate portion of harvest for seed bank

Information & Sign-Up at LCPD, Bldg 109. For more contact:
 Nolan Brown, Original Territories Historical Research Manager,
 (208) 478-4025 or email nbrown@sbtribes.com
 You may also contact the Language & Culture Preservation Dept.
 Louise Dixey (208) 236-1185 or Theresa Bache (208) 236-1187





CLOSURE, continued

archaeological resources along the Snake River. The Fort Hall Business Council and the Land Use Policy Commissioners, have appealed to the BLM and BOR to make every effort to preserve the tribal cultural resources. As public use of the area by rock climbers, hikers, and off-highway vehicle users increased throughout the past few years, controversy increased. Public land use managers implemented closures and restrictions to specific public recreational users to protect the archeological resources.

According to Carolyn Boyer Smith, Cultural Resources Coordinator for the Tribes' Heritage Tribal Office/Cultural Resources (HeTO/CR) it has been a thirty-year process. She described the damage made to the rocks in the area from rock climbers' bolts and spikes, and that campers were destroying cultural features on the surface of the land. "Many artifacts have been picked up and not returned," explained Smith.

According to a BLM news release, "The area will remain open for compatible recreation uses, including big game and waterfowl hunting, fishing, horseback

riding, camping and hiking. More than 300 routes remain available to rock climbers on adjacent state lands and public lands in the Lake Channel area. Off-road enthusiasts will retain motorized opportunities on public lands immediately north of the Archaeological District."

The Tribes have fully supported the public land managers' efforts to prevent further damage to those cultural resources that is important to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes and are pleased to see Federal agencies upholding their trust responsibility. "Since precontact, the Tribes have been protecting our history and culture throughout our ancestral territory," expressed Ladd Edmo, FHBC Treasurer. The Tribes' presence in this area dates back thousands of years.

The BLM issued a Record of Decision based on the analysis provided in the Cedar Fields Plan Amendment and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Monument Resource Management Plan. Those and other documents are available at BLM National NEPA Register <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/36660/510>.