

NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT NEWS



CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter, 2003

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Special points of interest:

- Flathead Outdoors Radio Show is aired every Saturday morning at 8:15 on KERR 750 AM and KQRK FM.
- Shoreline Protection Board Meets on the Second Friday of each month at the Tribal Council Chambers at 9 a.m.
- The Flathead Reservation Fish and Wildlife Board will meet Wednesday, February 26 at the Polson City Library



MATT SELECTED TO DIRECT NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Council appointed Clayton Matt as Natural Resources Department Head on November 25, 2002.

“I’m pleased to have earned the confidence and respect of the Tribal Council,” Matt said. “It’s an honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve the department and the Tribe’s natural resources.”

Fred Matt, Tribal Council Chairman, said, “Clayton’s 20 years of experience with the Natural Re-

sources Department, most recently as Water Rights Division Manager, well qualifies him to step up to this top leadership position.” According to Chairman Matt, Clayton has proven to be an excellent leader in the department and is well prepared to manage a smooth transition.

Matt is a graduate of the University of Arizona and holds a master’s degree in Water Resource Administration. Matt began work for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes in 1981 and worked on water rights issues



in the Water Resource Administration. He was Environmental Protection Program Manager before being appointed to the position of Water Rights Division Manager.

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

For thousands of years our ancestors were natural stewards of the land they occupied. One of their purposes was the preservation of resources for future generations. Today, Tribal government employs sophisticated scientific methods, technical tools and cultural knowledge to meet goals that were natural to our ancestors.

The Tribal Council established the Tribal Natural Resources Department in the 1980’s. At that time the department consisted of a collection of a few loosely organized resource programs. Today the department consists of three divisions and more than 130 full time regular employees.

Natural Resource programs must communicate

effectively to fulfill their goals. This newsletter represents another step in our continuing effort to communicate with the public about the programs and projects of the Natural Resource Department. The Tribal Council was presented with a draft of this newsletter and they endorsed it whole-heartedly. This first edition represents our first ideas about a newsletter. As our ideas evolve we hope the newsletter will evolve with it.

It has been a pleasure to see this newsletter come together in such a short period of time. We plan to make this a seasonal newsletter.

The Natural Resource Department appreciates the support of the Tribal

Council and the Tribal membership. Our ability to accomplish our goals depends on your support. We hope to continue earning your support and trust. If you have comments or questions about this newsletter or any of the information in it please contact me, Germaine White or the Division managers, Tom McDonald (Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Division), Rich Janssen, (Environmental Protection Division) or Bill Foust, (Water Management Division). Our offices are located in Polson, Montana and we can be reached at (406) 883-2888 or by contacting the Tribal Complex at (406) 675-2700. Our mailing address is Box 278, Pablo, Montana.



Air Quality Technicians Allan Bunce (left) and Lewis McLeod (right) are shown here recording data at the Polson Monitoring Station

MCLEOD RECEIVES AWARD

Most of us look out the window and don't see it. You don't see it, but you breathe it, feel it, and sometimes you can hear it. When you can't see it and you can't feel it, you don't notice it. What is it, it's the air we breathe, feel, and hear. One person who helps keep the air we breathe clean is Lewis McLeod.

Before McLeod kept our air clean he spent eight years in the Marine Corps as a platoon leader and served his country in Vietnam. McLeod left the Marine Corps in 1973 and began work at a saw mill. McLeod then joined the Air Force in 1973 and retired as a First Sergeant in 1986. McLeod then went to work with an air craft company in Portland, Oregon, and then

to Waco, Texas before settling in Pablo in 1988.

McLeod's current position with the Tribes allows him the "responsibility for monitoring air quality (on the Flathead Indian Reservation) and maintaining air monitoring data equipment."

The four person air quality program headed by program manager Randy Ashley has two other technicians within the program. All program personnel have the responsibility to monitor the Flathead Reservation air shed for fine or coarse particulate matter.

"We are looking for meteorological conditions that have impacts on human health," said McLeod. "We are very fortunate to have some of the cleanest air in the world, and it's our job to keep it that way."

Since McLeod has been with the Tribes, he has been involved in five enforcement suits against individual, business, or industry interests on the Flathead Reservation. The latest case earned McLeod the Frank DeCoteau Award for his outstanding technical support of air quality enforcement on the Reservation. Regional US Environmental Protection

Agency administrator Jack McGraw presented McLeod with the award this past September. McLeod was also congratulated by the Tribal Council during a recent council meeting.

McLeod enjoys working for his Tribe and this "is

"The latest case earned McLeod the Frank DeCoteau Award for his outstanding technical support of air quality enforcement on the Reservation."

probably the best job I have ever had in my life."

When asked what advice he has for our youth, McLeod responded with "get the education, it increases your ability to perform in the outside world and have a good work ethic, work hard, and the rest

FISH & GAME SHOWCASE ICE RESCUE SAFETY



Officer Mike McElderry (left) is shown here outfitting a student attending the ice rescue training.

Officer Mike McElderry, Tribal Fish & Game Warden for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, recently taught an ice rescue training session for Natural Resources staff. The benefit of Ice Rescue training is to increase safety in basic cold water rescue skills. "The training session objective was to insure that the rescuer not become another victim", said McElderry.

When lakes, ponds, or rivers begin to freeze over in the winter, outdoors sports on the water become more dangerous. This year in particular we have dangerous conditions because of the freezing then warming of water which causes weaker ice according to McElderry.

With the coming of the first snow we need to be especially careful. Snow provides a layer of insulation that can protect either strong hard ice or weak ice whichever has formed before the snow falls.

"The only absolute ice safety is to stay off of the ice", says McElderry.



NATIVE FISH IN SCHOOLS



Westslope cutthroat trout at St. Ignatius Middle School race through the new aquarium

Beginning last month the smell of a mountain stream and the sound of running water filled Reservation middle and high classrooms. Westslope cutthroat trout swim in the stream current but travel no further than the length of their new 55 gallon cold water aquariums.

These trout and their middle and high school host classrooms are part of an in-

novative educational project called Native Fish Interactive.

Michael LaFlamme, project director said, "...a better understanding of these fish can give us insight into ways to maintain a healthy environment for future generations." Along with aquariums, trout, and curriculum, technical guidance is provided to each school.

Tribal fisheries biologist, Barry Hansen, said that restoration of native species cannot be achieved without the full support and involvement of our entire community. This project facilitates the direct interaction between students, fish, and their environment.

"We hope that knowledge of native fish species will allow a conservation ethic to develop in these students", said Hansen.

Native Fish Interactive is funded by the Natural Resources Department in cooperation with Salish Kootenai College-Rural Systemic Initiative.



St. Ignatius middle school students examine the chiller and other aquarium parts to assemble

GIS PROGRAM CONVERTS TO WINDOWS

In early January 2003, the GIS Program (Program Manager, Pete Gillard) migrated from the UNIX Operating System platform to a Windows 2000 environment. The reasons for this are two-fold. First, the ESRI software we use will be phasing out it's support of UNIX based programming over the next several years and secondly, today's PC's have become so powerful and versatile, that working with them on large format data files is no longer an issue. Additionally, it brings the GIS Program more into line with the Tribes' overall move towards integrating Windows 2000 into all programs. The changeover required a major upgrade of equipment and the 'look' of our old familiar software will be running in an entirely new format.

Working closely with the IT Department, the GIS Program purchased a 500-gigabyte (half a terabyte!) server and array. The terminal server was rebuilt for the GIS software only and is accessible by the non-GIS Program GIS users. The server is of sufficient size and capability, that upgrades should not be necessary for years to come.

All GIS personnel received new DELL PCs with a minimum of 50-60 gigs of processing space. With the replacements of our old SUN Workstations, GIS capabilities are now all on Windows 2000 with plenty of processing memory available. The GIS software currently loaded on our new machines is vastly different from previous versions. Command line capabilities still exist, but the user

interface has changed completely. Creating and manipulating data is now done through a series of button and tool 'clicks' that looks much like most Windows applications.

The new capabilities and performance enhancement provided by this upgrade ensures that the GIS Program will remain at the forefront of the GIS field. Increased capabilities to handle larger and varied data formats means the GIS Program will be able to expand its' current abilities by working more quickly and efficiently with data such as satellite imagery, aerial photos, elevation models and ortho-photos. Recent requests from various NRD Offices for just such data, was one more reason to upgrade now. The GIS staff is looking forward to working with the new software format.

**HELP SAVE MONTANA'S
LARGEST AND RAREST NATIVE
TROUT -- THE BULL TROUT**

Check the dorsal fin: No black? Put it back.

- Pale yellow spots on back; red/brange spots on side.
- Tail slightly forked; shortest ray more than 1/2 length.
- White leading edges on fins.

TO LEARN MORE:
<http://www.fwp.state.mt.us/bulltroutid/default.htm>
 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNT FROM CSKT DFWR, 406/675-2700

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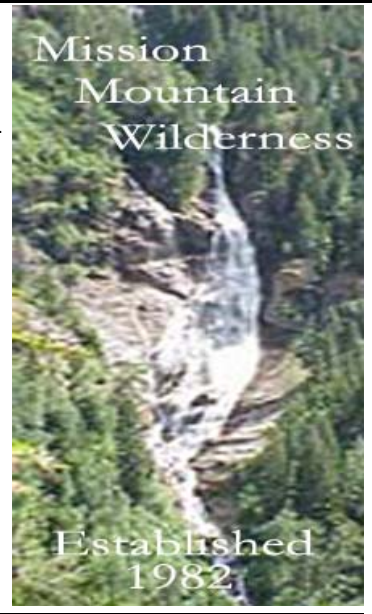
COMPUTER TRAINING IN POLSON

The main NRD conference room became a remote compute lab for the month of January. NRD along with other tribal department were offered the opportunity to participate in computer training.

The training was made available through a Department of Education grant awarded to the Human Resources Department for technology training. This job retention and job development training opportunity provided training in Microsoft Word,

Access, Excel, Windows, Publisher and PowerPoint programs.

According to the Teresa Wall-McDonald, Human Resources Department, "Over 2700 hours of training for nearly 700 participants has taken place so far and we continue to offer more courses at the stationary lab in Pablo." The training will be ongoing through March and possibly June. An extension for the grant has been filed, and is pending.



NRD EMPLOYEE FOCUS C. FRANK ACEVEDO



Clean water, no Flathead Lake erosion, a healthy environment, what does it mean? On the Flathead Reservation most of us have always known or just assumed that our surroundings are healthy. One Tribal employee who works with other folks in the NRD Environmental Protection Division to keep it that way is Frank Acevedo.

Before Acevedo kept our water clean and lakeshore free of erosion, he grew up near Dog Lake, and attended high school in Plains Mt. In 1978, after graduation, he spent three years as a wildlife technician and was encouraged to become a wildlife biologist. However, Acevedo felt he could better protect the game as a wildlife enforcement officer. Acevedo proudly earned his police certification through the police academy in 1981, and spent 13 years in the Tribal

Fish and Game law enforcement department and in 1983, was promoted to Chief of fish and game and Sergeant Position's.

Acevedo's current position, one he has held since 1994, is that of the compliance officer, in charge of enforcing two Tribal Ordinances which protect our environment, Ordinance 87A (Aquatic Lands Conservation Ordinance), and 64A (Revised) the Shoreline Protection Ordinance.

Acevedo's current position with the Tribes allows him to "investigate alleged violations of the two Ordinances. I obtain the facts from individuals who are in non-compliance status and then piece the case together and report these findings to the Administrator and seven members Shoreline Protection Board for their direction. As of November 14, 1995 the Shoreline Protection Office maintains 100% compliance on registered owners on Flathead Lake." The five person Shoreline Protection program headed by Program manager Dan Lipscomb has two other specialists within the Shoreline office. All program personnel have the responsibility to ensure both ordinances are followed. Acevedo enjoys working for his Tribe.

When asked what advice he has for our youth, Acevedo responded with "to gain work experience and to get your education, achieve your goals to get your degree which will carry you a lot further that just work experience.

