



# Fish Tales

July 2003

## Chinook Salmon Fishery

The salmon season opened on June 18th. According to Kim Apperson of Idaho Fish and Game, the expected number of fish to return is 7,000 hatchery fish and 500 wild fish. The fishing season will close when the quota of 5,500 fish have been caught. Since the fishery is shared with certain Native American tribes, these numbers only apply to the 50% of the fishery allocated to "sport" fishermen who are regulated by the IFG. The other 50% is allocated to Native American Indian Tribes. The Nez Perce and the Shoshone Bannock tribes both make claim to the portion allocated to tribal fishermen. Joe Oatman of the Nez Perce tribe states that they regulate members of their tribe who fish.

They have an enforcement officer on the South Fork during most of the time that tribal members fish. Although there are no time restraints on the season of the tribal fishermen, the Nez Perce close their season to dip nets only when approximately 100 native fish are caught by tribal members. All tribal fishermen are entitled to sell their catch. If you do purchase fish from them, it is your responsibility to get a written receipt.

Having seen the tremendous amount of impact on the river corridor last year, I asked Ron Julian what the Forest Service did this year to mitigate the impact. He reports that "After the tremendous success and turnout of anglers for the sport's fishing

season and reviewing the effects of between 800 and 2,000 anglers per day for a 5 week period, it was readily apparent that we needed to step up management of this event considerably. So we did." Ron says they have installed 16 river access points to eliminate the erosion caused by indiscriminate trails, many areas were closed to parking and camping, and many bathrooms and trash containers have been installed for the season. There will be to USFS enforcement patrollers both day and night. Fish and Game will also have officers in the field.

Great efforts have been taken to improve the management of the fishery and the people who enjoy it. Let us all hope for good results.

### Special points of interest:

- Many cabins do not have the owner's name on the cabin. Some do not have an address number. If someone observed actual or threatened damage to your cabin, they would not be able to look your name up in the directory in order to notify you.
- The Potluck Brunch is to be held on Sunday, July 13th at 1:00 pm at the Shoreline campground. Everyone should have received an invitation. If you have not, contact Diane Barker 632-5555.
- Both the Northshore Lodge and the Warm Lake Lodge are both for sale. The Northshore Lodge is represented by Arthur Berry of Boise and is listed for \$475,000. Warm Lake Lodge is for sale by owner and is being offered at \$650,000. If you know of anyone who is innkeeper material, let them know.
- Juniper Mountain Outfitters located at Stolle Meadows offers horseback trail rides. Two-hour rides cost \$25.00 and are offered on Saturdays and Sundays at 9:00 am, 1:00 pm, and 5:00 pm. Just show up. The take cash or check.



## Fish Trap on South Salmon

The fish trap was installed in late June. If you have never seen the trap, you might consider a visit this summer

The trap is river wide and catches every salmon trying to make its way up river past the trap to the Stolle Meadows area. The Idaho Fish and Game employees then segregate the fish into three categories. The wild salmon are tossed upstream, the hatchery spawned salmon that prove to be robust specimens are kept for spawning, and the remainder are put in a water-filled truck to be transported back down stream to the Goat Creek area where they are re-

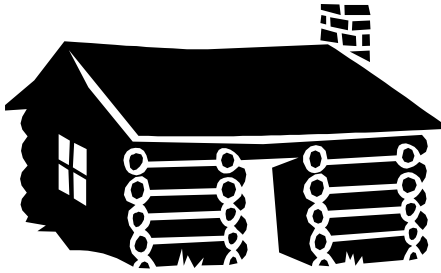
leased into the SF of the Salmon to give the fishermen another try at them.

The fish that are kept at the trap are then spawned beginning the first week of August. The females are sacrificed as their eggs are removed. The males however will have their sperm used 3-4 times before they wear out and are sacrificed as well. The carcasses are tossed into the river upstream of the trap where the bears have a terrific feast. You can pretty much count on seeing bears there everyday during spawning. The more edible of the sacrificed fish are given to Native American

tribal members and to a local welfare agency.

The trap is open to the public seven days a week, however workers are only present Monday thru Friday from 8-5. Usually the action begins after 9:00 am. The trap is located off the Warm Lake Highway about 1 mile up the Two-Bit Six-Bit road. You have to walk about a quarter mile down their driveway so bring comfortable walking shoes. They will open the gate for you to drive down if you are unable to walk.

## Why We are Here



Having a cabin in the Boise National Forest is sheer bliss. But as an owner of such a cabin I have come to realize that with the bliss comes a nagging and looming thought: "Will our leases be renewed?" I decided that the answer, in part, may lie in another question, which is: WHY were the leases established in the first place?

The Organic Act of 1897 was established to permit federal lands for several uses including recreation use. It appears that at first cabin owners were given annual permit only. The Legislature determined that the public was not willing to make a substantial investment on the forest with a permit that was renewed annually. On March 4, 1915 the Term Permit Act was established. The 1915 Act allowed for multi-year permits which gave some degree of protection to those interested in building structures, including cabins.

The momentum of summer homes really began in the 1920's. By then the Forest Service had a considerable amount of land under management in the west, but it had very few users. Tracts of land, usually on lakes or streams, were platted with lots marked for family cabins. Sometimes, newspapers in large nearby cities were used to advertise their availability. The ads tried to coax people to build on the forest and enjoy the woods as a vacation destination.

The purpose of "coaxing" the public to build on the National Forests is best explained by Paul Brouha, Associate Deputy Chief National Forest Service, who asserts in a March 22, 2000 testimony to the United States Senate, "The Forest Service

has encouraged people to use the national forest since 1908. We encouraged them to recreate, watch for fires, render emergency aid, and report damages or abuse of forest resources".

So you see, the leases were established to fill a need that could not be fulfilled in any other way. In this essentially contractual relationship the Forest Service granted a permit in exchange for our predecessors' promise to watch over the forest and assist other users of the forest.

Today, we cabin owners still hold up our end of the bargain. We provide an indispensable service. We are stewards of the land and hosts to the many people who visit the forest. In my four summers at Warm Lake I have already witnessed a dozen acts of stewardship. Just a few weeks ago I assisted four hikers and their two infant children when they hiked from the Fireman's Memorial to go around the lake. They had no idea how long the hike was, and to tired to hike on, they came knocking at my cabin for assistance. I offered them food and water and gave them a ride back to their car. Last October Dale Stillwell and my husband responded to two canoeists who tipped over their canoe and were clinging to the side of it shouting for help. They were frightened and hypothermic by the time Dale hauled them into his boat and took them to a cabin to warm up.

The Irons, Skinners, Nelsons, Larrandos, Hunters, Coffmans, lodge owners and their employees and many others have countless times reported forest fires, fought forest fires, assisted lost hikers, reported vandalism, questioned forest management practices and given advise. Bonnie and Gene Rodwell use to clean up and rake the Billy Rice Swimming Beach on a regular basis. Many of you make it a habit to take trash bags with you on walks and visits to hot springs just to clean up after the previous visitors. The list goes on and on, and in my short time here, I can only know a few of the hundreds of acts of

stewardship you and your families have been responsible for over the years. But I can say with utter confidences that the REASON we are here still exists, and the recreation residence program makes as much, or more sense today as it ever did.

All that said, I encourage you all to remember why we are here and to continue to fulfill the agreement. I believe that the leases we hold will go on into perpetuity if we continue to do the job that is so natural to all of the good folks who make this special place their second home.

I know many of you keep a journal of your life at the cabin, and I implore all of the rest of you to do so as well. You should record the dates and numbers of people who visit you, and you should also record any acts of stewardship. These journals could save our leases someday if ever the Forest Service gets the a notion to discontinue them. In the case of a certain summer home tract in California, the Forest Service wanted to take out the cabins and put in a camp ground for the reason of increasing visitorship to the forest. In the ensuing court case the cabin owners were able to produce factual guest numbers from their journals that showed that user days were higher with the cabins in place than the user days would be should a campground be created.

So that is what I have learned about the history of our leases. It is a purposeful history and a worthy legacy. As a community and as individuals we need to own the legacy, live it, and pass it on.

