

INDIAN NEWS NOTES

Navajo Paper Urges Outside Groups to Go Save the Whales:

The *Navajo Times Today*, editorializing about activists protesting the Navajo-Hopi relocation program, said, "It's time that the Navajo and Hopi tribes jointly take steps to encourage outside groups to go home."

Acknowledging the potential for violence arising from the impasse between the two tribes, the tribal paper said: "The potential for violence, moreover, is increased by groups of non-Navajos and non-Hopis, who don't understand the dispute at all."

The editorial makes clear there is a real dispute between the tribes, which needs to be settled by the tribes and not outsiders and that the development of energy resources is an irrelevant issue since both tribes jointly own and benefit from any development, which they must jointly approve.

The editorial identifies some of the misinformation disseminated by these outside groups: 1) There is no real dispute between the two tribes; 2) A conspiracy involving energy companies is at the bottom of the dispute; and 3) Big Mountain is where the Navajo traditions are strongest and where the bulk of the Navajo resisters live.

The editorial says: "The propaganda has been flowing freely from the so-called support groups and too many in the media are addicted. These groups are composed of people who fight apartheid, oppose Contras and save the whales. It's a mix and match of political zealots of all stripes... The support groups should find a whale to save and move on."

Shoshone-Bannock Tribe Given Role in Columbia River Fish Planning:

A federal judge has allowed Idaho's Shoshone-Bannock Indian tribe to be included in the management of salmon and steelhead fishing in the Columbia River. U.S. District Judge Edward Leavy agreed July 25 to allow the Shoshone-Bannock Indian tribe to participate in the planning but postponed a decision on the exact nature and scope of their involvement. The tribe had argued that existing management practices depleted salmon and steelhead runs in their treaty fishing waters in central Idaho.

The tribe fishes the Salmon and Snake Rivers, where the fish spawn before making their way to the Columbia, the ocean and back again.

The judge warned the tribe that he will curtail their role if they try to block a fish management plan that is close to being implemented after almost three years of negotiation.

The plan, which will govern Indian fishing practices on the Columbia River, is being negotiated by the Columbia River treaty tribes — the Yakima, Warm Springs, Umatilla and Nez Perce — with the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and several federal agencies.

Tribes Vote to Change Distribution Formula for Johnson-O'Malley Funds:

By a vote of 118 to 110, American Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages chose to distribute Johnson-O'Malley funds on a simple per-pupil basis. The distribution previously used had been based in part on state ex-

penditures for education.

The Johnson-O'Malley funds, administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, are used to provide supplemental education programs to Indian and Native students in public schools. Under federal law, the distribution formula used by BIA must be chosen by majority vote of the tribes and villages.

A June 18 vote count, certified by an independent public accountant, determined that contractors providing the education programs would receive an equal per pupil amount for all eligible students. The losing option would have weighted the allocation amounts in favor of those states that spent more on education programs.

Legal Review Discusses Dangers to Alaska Native Lifeways:

Alaska Natives are struggling to achieve equity with the Native American tribes of the Lower 48 states, says the *Legal Review* of the Native American Rights Fund.

Analysing efforts by Alaska Natives to have the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act amended by Congress, the *Review* says the Alaska Natives are in danger of losing their lands, their powers of self-government and their subsistence rights.

The settlement act gave title to the lands to Native corporations created by the act, rather than having it held in trust for them by the United States, as it is for Lower 48 tribes.

About self-government, the *Review* reports: "The state contends that there never were tribes that exercised powers of self-government similar to tribes in the Lower 48, and that even if there were, ANCSA impliedly terminated them. Further, the state argues that even if the tribal powers were not extinguished by ANCSA they cannot be exercised because, aside from the Metlakatla's reservation, there is no 'Indian country' and therefore no territorial jurisdiction within which to exercise them."

The article criticizes the federal government for not taking a stand to support tribal self-government in Alaska.