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TAMÁSTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE



Lamprey

PEPSI PRIMETIME @ THE MUSEUM PRESENTS THE LOST FISH FILM DOCUMENTARY AND SPEAKER

For immediate release - Pendleton, OR

On Saturday, March 28 at 1pm Pepsi Primetime @ the Museum presents film documentary, "[The Lost Fish: The Struggle to Save Pacific Lamprey](#)", to be shown in the Theater at [Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute](#). Following the movie, Aaron Jackson, Project Leader for the [Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Lamprey Program](#), will provide a question and answer period. Live lamprey will be on display as well.

Pacific lamprey are the oldest known fish in the Columbia River System. Fossils indicate they were here 450 million years ago.

But in mid-20th century tribal fishers started noticing their numbers dwindling.

Rivers once clogged with lamprey reached a historic low in 2010. One of the Pacific Northwest's oldest fish was disappearing, and along with it the sacred place it holds among many American Indian Tribes. For a species that has squeezed through most of the earth's great extinctions, the sharp declines in Pacific Lamprey populations are a signal of how severely we have changed river ecosystems.



The toothy, eel-like fish are an important part of tribal diets and a good indicator of ecosystem health. But salmon and steelhead recoveries have overshadowed the decline of the lamprey, which some non-tribal fishers considered a "trash fish."

To help raise awareness about the lamprey, the [Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission](#), the [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and [Freshwaters Illustrated](#) have released "The Lost Fish" about efforts to recover the Pacific lamprey -- before the fish are put on the endangered species list.

The documentary travels to all the Columbia River tribes highlighting different lamprey projects, from harvesting lamprey at Willamette Falls to trucking the fish around dams.

Pepsi Primetime @ the Museum is free and open to the public. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

For more information, go to www.tamastslight.org.

About Tamástslight Cultural Institute

Tamástslight Cultural Institute is owned and operated by the [Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation](#). A Blue Star museum, Tamástslight is one of the many museums across the nation that offers free admission to families of active duty servicemen and women year-round.

In addition to the museum and interpretive center, Tamástslight operates a museum store, café, and offers meeting room rentals. Tamástslight is open six days a week, 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Kinship Café is open from 11am to 2pm on the same days the museum is open.

Tamástslight is located at 47106 Wildhorse Boulevard at the far end of the main driveway of the

Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton, Oregon. Tamástslíkt can be reached via Exit 216 off Interstate I-84 or by following the “Mission-LaGrande” sign south off Highway 11 onto Highway 331.

For more information, contact Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute at 541.429.7700 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org.

Media: for more information, photos, interviews, please contact Michelle Liberty at [Attitude Marketing](http://AttitudeMarketing.com), 509.540.0931 or email liberty@getattitude.net.

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