



THE OREGON CONSERVATIONIST

SUPPOSE A RIVER DRIES UP AND TAKES BEAUTIFUL SALMON WITH IT, AND SUPPOSE THERE'RE LOTS OF PEOPLE WHO REALLY CARE ABOUT THEIR RIVERS AND THEIR SALMON AND WILL DO ANYTHING TO BRING THEM BACK—EVEN FORGET THEIR DIFFERENCES—WELL THEN YOU'D BE TALKING ABOUT THE PEOPLE IN OREGON AND HERE'S THEIR STORY.

Once upon a time there was an Indian tribe who lived in synch with the cycle of the Umatilla River in Oregon. For thousands of years, the river told them when to hunt deer, when to pick huckleberries, when to dig for roots—the river was very bossy. But the most important thing the river did was fill up with big, beautiful salmon. But one day the river began to quiet down and eventually the salmon disappeared. So the Umatilla Tribe did what every good Oregonian would and set out to bring back their river. They went to the nearby farmers who had been using water from the river for their crops and asked for their help. Now, they could have argued back and forth about whose water it was but of course they both knew that if one had fish and the other did not have crops, the fish would not taste truly satisfying. And if one had crops and the other did not have fish, the crops would not grow so proudly. So they instead did things the Oregonian way: They worked together and didn't stop until they found a solution. And now when you visit the Umatilla in Oregon, you will hear the river barking orders loudly once again—along with occasional whispers of, "It's good to be back."

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