

# Karuk Tribe of California

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Something Smells Fishy!**

#### ***Local Youth Get Hands-on Experience with Local Fish***

Orleans, CA – One hundred rainbow trout eggs arrived at Orleans Elementary School (OES) on February 22, 2006. The Karuk Tribe's Department of Natural Resources Environmental Education Program provided the trout eggs to OES as part of the Aquarium Incubator Project. The tiny fish eggs traveled all the way from Mt. Shasta Fish Hatchery with the help of Jason Singleton, Natural Resources Education Program, Siskiyou County Office of Education, Jessica Graff, AmeriCorps' Watershed Stewards Project, and Jeanette Quinn, Education Coordinator, Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources. LeAnna Carson-Hansen, sixth-eighth grade teacher at OES, placed the trout eggs in an aquarium incubator, where the fish reared and were available for observation by all three classes at OES.

Mrs. Carson-Hansen and Mrs. Shelly Slusser, third-fifth grade teacher at OES, attended an Aquarium Incubator Inservice at Siskiyou County Office of Education in Yreka in January 2005. They received salmon and trout curriculum to use in their classes and training that certifies them to raise Chinook salmon, steelhead trout and rainbow trout in their classrooms.

Students from Mrs. Linda Laramie's K-second grade class observed the rainbow trout on March 30, 2005 and provided these comments:

"Fish live and breathe in the water. They swim and hear sounds in the water. I like to see the fish grow." 2<sup>nd</sup> grader.

"They are small fish. I like them hiding and swimming." 2<sup>nd</sup> grader.

"I like them swimming down to the bottom to the rocks." 1<sup>st</sup> grader.

The Aquarium Incubator Project provides students, teachers and community members an excellent opportunity to learn about the life cycles and habitat requirements of salmon and trout, important natural resources in the Klamath River Basin. During the Project students participate in activities such as fish dissections, making fish prints, and playing salmon survival games. According to Mrs. Carson-Hansen, "The Aquarium Incubator Project is an important part of the science curriculum at Orleans Elementary. Our students have enjoyed having fish here either in the spring or fall for many years and look forward to having them here again if possible. These kids are knowledgeable about salmon and trout; they are also concerned about what's happening to a resource they and

their families depend on. Tribal youth are especially concerned about the salmon and trout because the fish are not only an important food source, but have cultural and spiritual significance for them.”

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Editor’s Note: For downloadable photos of this project go to <http://www.karuk.us/press%20&%20campaigns/press.php>



*Mrs. Carson-Hansen places rainbow trout eggs into the aquarium incubator at Orleans Elementary School.*



*An OES student adding fresh water to the rainbow trout aquarium.*

Deleted:



*Mrs. Slusser's 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders playing the Salmon Survival Game, which helped them learn about the odds of a fish returning from the ocean to spawn in a stream.*