

## **Winnemem Wintu Tribe Run4Salmon Curriculum**

Slideshow Narration for Teachers

Jessica Abbe • April 2020

### **Lesson 4: Slideshow Part 2, The Winnemem and the Newcomers**

- 1) The Winnemem Wintu lived on their river for thousands of years before newcomers renamed it the McCloud River.
- 2) After the first European explorers and trappers reached the river in the early 1800s, many Native people died from foreign diseases.
- 3) The discovery of gold in 1848 brought a rush of Americans and foreigners to California.
- 4) Not much gold was found in the McCloud River...
- 5) ...but that did not protect the peaceful Winnemem people from government bounty hunters, or from massacres by settlers during those violent times.
- 6) In 1872, a government fish hatchery was established at a prime Winnemem salmon fishing spot. Despite their fear and anger towards the outsiders...
- 7) ...many Winnemem went to work for the hatchery, which sent salmon eggs to rivers across the U.S. and as far away as New Zealand.
- 8) A copper mining boom brought a new rush of people to the region. The air, land and water were fouled by the mining.
- 9) Trees near the copper smelters died from sulfuric gases.
- 10) The fish hatchery closed down.

- 11) Born in 1907, Florence Jones was a Winnemem healer. She went on to lead her people through the 20th century—a difficult time.
- 12) The Winnemem Wintu were forced off their lands by miners, settlers, and government agents. Many traditional Winnemem lands were bought by wealthy San Francisco families.
- 13) In the 1930s the United States government built Shasta Dam.
- 14) Winnemem lands were flooded for the new reservoir, and the people had to leave their river.
- 15) As the dam was built, the needs of the salmon were also ignored.
- 16) No passageway was constructed to allow the world-famous McCloud River fish...
- 17) ...to reach their spawning grounds in the upper rivers.
- 18) Blocked by the dam, the Chinook salmon are now an endangered species.
- 19) But they do not give up. They continue to migrate up the river from the sea and lay their eggs to become the next generation of fish.
- 20) The Winnemem people still return to the McCloud River, above the dam and reservoir, for ceremony.
- 21) Caleen Sisk, in the center, has succeeded Florence Jones as Chief.
- 22) The Winnemem people continue to speak up...

- 23) ...for the restoration of their sacred lands, and for bringing back the salmon.
- 24) And the McCloud River salmon that were sent from the hatchery long ago?
- 25) Of all the rivers they were sent to, it appears they only thrived in one other place: a river in New Zealand.
- 26) The Winnemem tribe has proposed reintroducing Rakaia River salmon back into the McCloud, and the creation of a fish swimway around Shasta Dam.