

## SKOOKUM CHUCK WEDDING

Dearly Beloved,

We are gathered here together in the presence of Mother Nature to witness and bless the joining together of Whychus Creek, the Deschutes River and the Pacific Ocean in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by Mother Nature in creation and the Chinook Salmon, the Steelhead, the Redband Trout, the Caddisfly, the Warblers, Osprey, Mink and the Crayfish have joined in this miracle. This bond of marriage signifies to us the mystery of the union between land and water and Mother Nature commends it to be honored among all people, all plants, all animals and the four winds. The union of free flowing waters in heart, body, mind, currents, gravel and fish is intended by Mother Nature for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one and another in flood and drought; and when it is Mother Nature's will, for the procreation of fish and their nurture, knowledge and love of the stream. Therefore, this marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedably or lightly; but reverently, deliberately, with great effort by all of the people gathered here and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by Mother Nature.

Into this holy union Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River have now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else forever hold your peace.

I speak now to Whychus Creek and the Deschutes River and I require and charge you both here in the presence of Mother Nature, that if either of you know of any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with Mother Nature's Word, you do now confess it.

This union is a celebration of joy for now and the future.

I now pronounce you river and stream.