

Cinquo Strings

American Heritage River

Once osprey, waterfowl, salmon, fish thrived here;
oaks, maples, forests, floods, fisher, marten, banks.
Swamps, chest-high grass, nature could change the stream course.
Deer, bear, elk, fish, fir, oaks, Kalapooya leave.

Hogs rooted starchy bulbs. Camas grass foes.
Snags, drift-piles, debris, jams, river channels gone.
Off-channel aquatic zones, revetments bind.
Dredge, mine, farm, irrigate, angle flow and shore.

Paved, plowed, drained, diked, dammed, fenced, herbicided flow.
Farm, urban runoff, pulp, furans, sewage spoil.
Spilled toxins, waste discharge, contaminants bring
us deformed fish, osprey nests in power poles.

Fish, wildlife, aquatic organisms, us—
we need health, planning, laws, river's return. Hope
can restore a river. Connect Willamette!
We treat your waters to drink, swim, fish, boat, live.

Heal again. Leave murky, dirty, algaed past.
Cleanse. Restore riverteeth. Scour our valley clean.
Swim salmon in rescued riparian zones.
Fly osprey over a river that runs freed.

Cinquo Strings: A Cinquo with syllable pattern of 1-2-3-4-1 written in 11 syllable lines.