



OUR COLLEGE GRADS, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Dennis Moore graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2015 with a bachelor's degree in biology with a fisheries emphasis. While attending EWU as a full-time student, he received financial assistance to help pay for college through the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Management Intern Program. The program not only helped pay for college but it also provided him with a job interning at CTFW in the summer months.

Shortly after graduating from EWU, Moore began working as a fish habitat biologist in the Resident Fish Division at CTFW. "My current position is as a project lead for the Lake Roosevelt Habitat Improvement Project. I oversee a team of technicians and biologists as well as subcontractors and consultants to help improve habitat for redband trout in the Sanpoil watershed and tributaries to Lake Roosevelt," said Moore.

Prior to this position, Moore worked as a fisheries technician and worked on the Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Project, the Lake Roosevelt Habitat Improvement Project, and the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Project, as well as others.

Moore said he remembers listening to an audio recording of his grandpa Paul James Sr. years ago after he passed. He

talked about how tribal members used to fish for salmon in the Sanpoil River before the dams blocked them from returning. "I like to think that my efforts will help the fish that we have there now but also by restoring and protecting that habitat for redband trout, it will also benefit the salmon when we get them back in great enough numbers to sustain a fishery again," said Moore. "The projects that we've done and the planning are all aimed for the long term benefits to our resources. Our land and our natural resources are vital to being able to pass down our traditional ways to future generations."

Moore wants youth to know that fisheries science can be done in different ways. "You might be in a stream or on a boat collecting data, in a lab identifying aquatic insects, processing samples collected in the field, or analyzing data using modeling and statistical analysis or even managing construction projects for habitat as I am currently," said Moore. "There can be lots of hands-on work or technical components in fisheries. Some individuals will do a little bit of everything and others may specialize."

Outside of work, Moore enjoys hunting, fishing and gathering berries. He also enjoys grilling, and smoking meat and fish.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE



Another season has come to an end for the harvest crew and Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) staff as they collected the needed broodstock for the hatchery, distributed thousands of salmon to Colville tribal members, and filled the community freezer with fish.

Harvest biologist for Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife (CTFW), Isaiah Martin, said they filled the freezer with mostly sockeye and struggled to fill the freezers with fish this season.

"We distributed 2,170 chinook and 3,449 sockeye to the membership this year," said Martin. "We processed 823 chinook and 4,681 sockeye for the rest of the year and we did give roughly 500 sockeye to the Spokane Tribe of Indians."



On August 24, 200 summer chinook adults were collected at the CJH ladder and were distributed to tribal members that day. The ladder was turned off on August 31.

Chinook brood collected for the CJH program:

- Spring chinook broodstock collected, but none currently on station as spawning has concluded for the season: 300 females, 261 males and 7 jacks
- Summer chinook collected for the integrated program: 333 females, 297 males and 41 jacks
- Hatchery summer chinook collected for the segregated program: 277 females, 249 males and 28 jacks
- Collection goals have been met for all programs.

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The hatchery staff have been collecting summer chinook broodstock since early July and are now caring for spring chinook eggs, juvenile fish, and prepping for spring chinook spawning. "In the beginning of August, staff continued collecting brood and on August 9, they focused on spring chinook spawning which was completed by August 30," said Matt McDaniel, manager for CJH.

CJH was built to increase spring, summer, and fall chinook numbers in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. The hatchery's goal is to produce up to 2.9 million smolts annually, and provide salmon for tribal ceremonies, subsistence needs for tribal members, and increase recreational fishing opportunities for all. The hatchery was completed in 2013 and is located in Bridgeport, Washington.

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Jarred Erickson worked for the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Department for a number of years. In his last position at CTFW, he worked as the resource protection biologist and conducted biological studies, research and provided analysis of fish, wildlife and habitat data. He also served as the Wildlife Program's assistant 3P biologist where he represented the Colville Confederated Tribes in the Timber and Fish and Wildlife Program where he reviewed forest practice

applications, water type modifications, and worked to protect wildlife and habitat resources. As the resource protection biologist, he responded to Burned Area Emergency (BAER) fires, wrote assessments, and worked with tribal programs, federal and state agencies, and the public. Prior to this position, Erickson worked as a weed control biologist and fisheries technician.

While attending college at Eastern Washington University, he took part

in the CTFW Management Intern Program which helped him pay for school and provided him with summer internship experience. While interning at CTFW, he captured adult and juvenile sturgeon, collected larva and DNA samples, electro-shocked predator fish, and worked on kokanee and rainbow trout projects. Erickson graduated from EWU in 2015 with a biology of science degree.

Erickson ran for council and won a seat at the table in 2019. He has been the Chairman of the Colville Business Council for the last two years.

"I enjoy being able to represent my tribe and bring our issues to the forefront on the state and federal level," said Erickson. "I'm doing my best to make sure our membership is taken care of and that we're moving towards financial sovereignty which I believe is true sovereignty from being reliant on any state or federal funding." He continued, "I enjoy working on our natural resource issues and working towards seeing salmon reintroduction back into the upper Columbia become realized." Outside of work, he says he loves to spend time with his family and kids. If he has any extra time, he spends it out in the woods hunting.

HUNDREDS OF CHINOOK RELEASED IN UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER



Hundreds of adult chinook were transported this summer from local hatcheries and released upstream of several Columbia River dams that block salmon from reaching spawning grounds.

Local tribes including the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) released hundreds of chinook upstream of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams for spawning and research purposes, and for cultural, harvest and educational purposes.

Research Scientist for the CCT, Casey Baldwin, worked with a team of people to get salmon prepped and ready for transport from the Wells Hatchery, which is operated by Douglas County PUD.

"Wells Hatchery provided surplus summer chinook and we worked with staff from other tribes and/or Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) to sample those fish for length, genetics, pathogens, tags and marks," said Baldwin. "The fish are then either held in quarantine at Wells Hatchery while the tissue samples are processed in Olympia at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fish health lab, or put on a truck and taken to their release site."

According to Baldwin, all of the fish that were released in the Sanpoil River were PIT tagged and some of the fish that were released in Rufus Woods were also PIT tagged. These tags help biologists and scientists track fish movements, behavior and survival.

Since 2019, the UCUT have released over 1,600 adult chinook in cooler waters of the upper Columbia River, where salmon used to spawn over 80 years ago.

"In the past few years, the releases have met a number of

objectives, including tribal ceremonies and ecosystem restoration as well as supporting studies to provide information about post-release survival, behavior, spawning and production of juveniles," said Baldwin.

Conor Giorgi, Anadromous Program manager for the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STI), said the tribe released a number of fish into Spokane River tributaries for ceremonies and studies. These fish came from the Wells Hatchery. "The tribes and their partners are continuing to work together to bring salmon back to the upper Columbia and Spokane Rivers," said Giorgi. "Over the years, we've held ceremonies, seen these fish harvested, watched them spawn, found their carcasses scavenged on shore, and documented their offspring migrating from our tributaries. If you give these fish a chance they'll do what they've always done, support the people and the ecosystem of this region."

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDAT) released 100 adult spring chinook into lower Hangman Creek in June for a tribal harvest event. These fish came from the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, which is operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Returning salmon to the upper Columbia River has been a coordinated effort between the CCT, CDAT, STOI, the UCUT organization, WDFW, Douglas County PUD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and many others.

Adult chinook releases: June 22- August 24, 2023

- 100 spring chinook released in Hangman Creek
- 177 chinook released in the Sanpoil River
- 249 chinook released into Rufus Woods
- 109 chinook released into Tshimikain Creek
- 50 chinook released to the Little Spokane River