

# COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

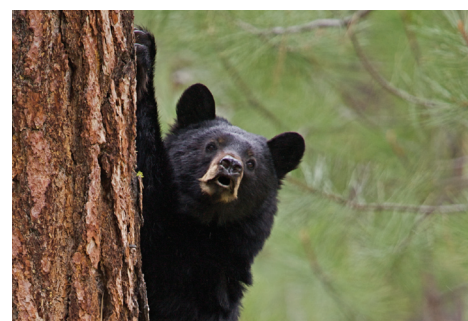
## THE OKANOGAN RIVER PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

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process conducted by these agencies will result in timely approvals so that the project can proceed.”

In the meantime, staff is working to prepare the equipment necessary to conduct the weir operation. Components are being ordered or built, and a small on-shore work area is being developed to provide space for the assembly stage. The team is also conducting public meetings to provide information about the weir project.

CCT Fish and Wildlife plans to utilize a temporary or pilot weir for the next two summers and will be operating (one week in July, August, and September). “We want to observe and monitor fish behavior of summer Chinook, sockeye, and steelhead,” said Joe Peone, CCT Fish and Wildlife director. “It is important to not interrupt migration of any fish present in the Okanogan River.” For more information about this project, contact CCT Fish and Wildlife at 509.634.2113.



### If you encounter a bear:

If a bear approaches, move your family indoors immediately

Try to remain calm, don't panic

Respect the bear's space, never approach a bear

If you see a baby bear, don't try to pet them

Don't scream or yell as this may provoke a bear

Don't run as this may trigger a pursuit by a bear

Make yourself as large as possible and speak in a calm voice to the bear and move away giving the bear some space and leave the area

When out camping keep children close

If you spot a bear in a residential area call Rick Desautel at 509.631.1224

## BEAR AWARENESS

The Colville Confederated Tribes Fish & Wildlife Department would like to inform you on what you can do to keep bears from visiting your neighborhood. This is a serious problem considering there were 128 bear complaints last year on the Colville Indian Reservation.

“Last year, there were a lot of bear complaints called in, I put them down on the list and get there when I can. Once I trap a bear, I don't kill them, I relocate them miles away in the woods but if they have found a good food source, they may come back,” says Rick Desautel, animal control technician for CCT.

There have been reported sightings of bears in residential areas of Nespelem and Inchelium and this year there have been several bear complaints.

“May and June is when they are coming out of hibernation and they are hungry searching for food,” says Desautel.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

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## CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

At the end of May, the Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) project was just over 40% complete. About half of this work included the two acclimation facilities at Omak and Riverside, plus the housing located about a mile northwest of the hatchery. The housing site provides four houses for hatchery staff and six camping sites for visiting tribal members. The remainder of work to be completed is the hatchery and the water supply systems.

A major function of Phase 2 has been focused on site work and underground pipelines along with getting materials and equipment detailed and fabricated for the entire project. Over two and a half miles of groundwater pipeline have been placed and successfully tested. This pipeline will carry up to 18,000 gallons of water per minute from the well field to the hatchery. Additionally, several thousand feet of underground pipelines (up to 42" diameter) have been placed on the hatchery site. Work at the face of the dam along with the pipeline and controls through the dam's irrigation port are scheduled to start soon. Work on the relief tunnel water pump station has been deferred until the capacity of the well field is determined.

Site restoration is underway on pipeline corridors with seeding of disturbed areas and re-paving of roadways and pedestrian trails. The Colville Confederated Tribes, Corp of Engineers, State Parks, and the contractor are collaborating to ensure that all areas are restored back to pre-construction conditions. In addition to underground utilities and water pipelines, good progress is being made on the well pump stations

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and several hatchery site facilities. Much of the structure is in place for the headbox, which receives the incoming water and sends it along to incubators, starts tanks, raceways and rearing ponds prior to exiting via the fish ladder. The base slabs and portions of the walls have been cast for concrete raceways.

The hatchery building is also underway. Concrete hatchery walls and the storage building are scheduled to proceed in July. Work on the hatchery office building and the broodstock/fish ladder complex will begin soon. Currently, there are approximately 40 tribal members working on-site in various positions.





## 2011 FIRST SALMON CEREMONY

The 2011 First Salmon Ceremony took place on Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11th at the Omak Creek and Omak Longhouse. On Friday, CCT Fish and Wildlife staff were busy drying salmon and deer meat. Later that evening at Omak Creek, about 50 people came to enjoy the food and peoples company. The sunrise ceremony began at 5:30 am on Saturday at the Omak Creek where Colville tribal elder Tom Louie gathered everyone together to speak about the importance of salmon and to pray for their return in higher numbers. Colville tribal elder Mary Marchand began the 10am morning session at the Omak Longhouse with an opening prayer and Mike Finley, Colville Confederated Tribes chairman welcomed everyone in attendance.

Tribal leaders from the Okanogan Nation Alliance (ONA) also participated throughout the event. Grand chief Stewart Phillip, chair of ONA, commented on how it is good that their tribes and the Colville Tribes continue to work together and mentioned how they were happy to be a part of the celebration. Modesta Betterton, Osoyoos Indian Band elder discussed topics such as trade, traditions versus today, and how her tribe use to trade in the old days. Byron Louis, chief of the Okanogan Indian Band, spoke about waterways and cultural ties and about concerns for the salmon.

Andy Joseph Sr., a Colville tribal elder, talked about stories handed down from generation to generation. He shared his new book of stories and pictures of when he and his friends use to fish from the backs of horses.

Omak High School National American Indian Science & Engineering (NAISEF) student award winners Elena Harry, Josiah Moses, and Vince Carden along with Will Kraske, Omak research studies teacher, attended the ceremony to do a presentation. NAISEF provides an opportunity for American Indian/Alaskan Native students to



actively participate in a science-based learning environment and create science projects that can be shared with peers, teachers, and educators.

Later that afternoon, Mary Marchand and Andy Joseph Sr. blessed the new fish processing facility.

## FISH AND WILDLIFE HIRES CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY MANAGER



In his new position, Phillips will be responsible for planning, coordinating and directing the fish culture operations necessary to meet the annual fish production objectives of the Chief Joseph Hatchery. He will oversee all phases of construction of the new hatchery and will be responsible for developing policies and procedures necessary for the safe and efficient operation of the facility.

Pat Phillips was recently hired as the Chief Joseph Hatchery manager. He comes to us with over 20 years experience working for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife where he did hatchery work and provided oversight to eight facilities, trapping operations, and several acclimation sites.

Phillips will also be responsible for staffing the new hatchery and providing employee training and development. He will formulate long and short-term plans and goals related to production, operations, facilities and equipment

*“Many things have changed from the original design of the facility, and pouring over engineering drawings and negotiating with the contractor have been my focus. While these changes do increase the overall cost, I believe they are well worth the effort. Our goal is to have a fully functioning, modern hatchery that will serve the Tribe well into the future.”*

- Pat Phillips

maintenance and site improvements. “So far it has been both challenging and very rewarding. Most of my energy and time is devoted to project management in the design and construction of the Chief Joseph Hatchery,” said Pat.



## COLVILLE TRIBAL MEMBER GRADUATES FROM MT. HOOD FISHERIES PROGRAM

Lincoln Feddersen, a Colville tribal member from Omak, Washington, recently graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree (A.A.S.) in Fisheries Technology from Mt. Hood Community College. The commencement ceremony took place on Saturday, June 11, at the Earl L. Klapstein Track and Field Stadium in Gresham, Oregon.

After working for the Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife program for approximately 14 years, Feddersen wanted to earn his degree and pursue a career at the Chief Joseph Hatchery. “I wanted to obtain my degree from Mt. Hood when I learned of the new hatchery, I wanted to work there,” said Feddersen. “This is a very important project and I wanted to be a part of it.”

The Fisheries program at Mt. Hood is a two-year program offering a variety of classes such as fishery techniques, fish biology, and equipment maintenance and repair to name a few. “The fisheries classes are in-depth on all aspects of fish culture and field work,” said Feddersen. “The first year is mostly books, some lab classes, guest speakers and field trips. In the second year, you put what you’ve learned to use. You learn step-by-step the process of raising rainbow trout in the college hatchery from incubating eggs, ponding fry, to release of the fish.”

After graduation, Feddersen plans to work for the Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife hatchery program. Lincoln carried a 4.0 in his last quarter of college with a 3.82 accumulative grade point average. We are proud of his accomplishments. Feddersen is the first of six students to graduate from Mt. Hood Community College with an A.A.S. degree in Fisheries. In addition, four tribal members are attending different colleges to earn their Bachelor of Science degrees in Fisheries.

For more information regarding the Salmon Intern Program, contact Joe Peone, CCT Fish and Wildlife director.

## THE OKANOGAN RIVER PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

The plan to operate a temporary weir on the Okanogan River this summer is progressing forward for the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT). The picket-style fish trapping facility is scheduled to be tested for the ability to safely and effectively manage summer Chinook salmon for brood stock collection and harvest in support of the Chief Joseph Hatchery.

Recently, all tribal environmental compliance permits to conduct the operation were secured. Stephanie “Pete” Palmer, land use shoreline administrator for the Colville Tribes, submitted the necessary permit applications and tracked their progress through the review process. Tribal permits were then used to support the submission of a permit application to State and Federal agencies to obtain the appropriate authorizations. Bryan Nass, consulting biologist for the Colville Tribe, prepared the detailed Joint Aquatic Resources Permit (JARPA) application.

“You would probably find it hard to believe the amount of environmental documentation required to obtain government permits,” Nass said. “We needed to accurately explain all the various structural and operational aspects of the weir project and provide an assessment of the potential impacts on the environment. Every agency has unique resource issues to address, and we had to answer to all of them.” He said, “We hope that the public

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