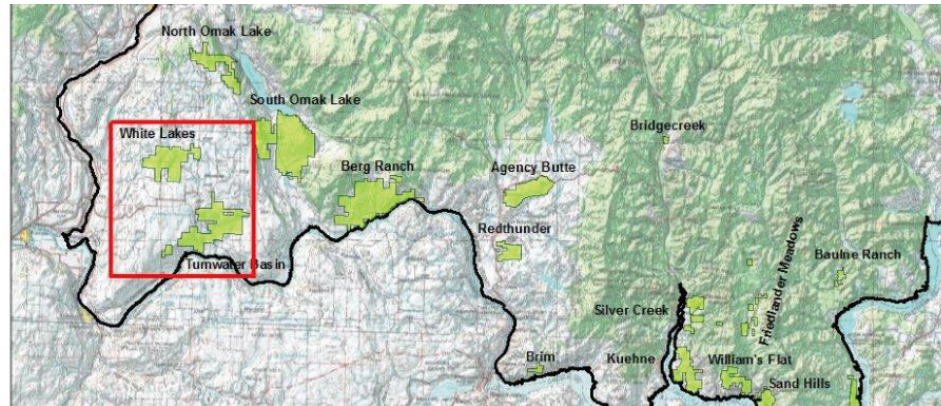


COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS



PRONGHORN ARE A NATIVE SPECIES TO THE HOMELANDS OF OUR PEOPLE

A wildlife team from the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Department will head to Nevada this coming January to assist with capture efforts of up to 100 pronghorn antelope. The animals will be released near the Tumwater Basin and White Lakes Mitigation Areas, which are located on the southwest corner of the Colville Indian Reservation.

"Our staff will work with the Nevada Department of Wildlife," said Richard Whitney, wildlife manager. "We will utilize an aerial capture company from Nevada to roundup and corral the pronghorn groups into a capture area. From there, the ground crews will move them to a processing area."

Once in the processing area, each animal will receive shots, veterinarian check-ups, have blood drawn for disease testing, and get GPS-collars attached (to aid in monitoring efforts), and other basic information will be gathered. After they are processed, the pronghorn will be loaded into livestock trailers. Wildlife officials say the release should happen within 24 hours after being captured.

The Wildlife Management Areas where the animals will be released were purchased by the Colville Tribal Wildlife Mitigation Project, and are primarily managed for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats. These parcels of land were purchased using funding

supplied by Bonneville Power Administration to offset a portion of their wildlife mitigation obligation for Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph hydropower projects. Wildlife staff have protected these lands from livestock, conducted planting and seeding efforts, removed unneeded fencing and made existing fencing more wildlife friendly by removing the bottom wire and using smooth wire so pronghorn can go under fences without injury.

"There is enough native habitat on the plateau to support them," said Whitney. "We chose to move forward with the reintroduction at this time since a primary goal of the wildlife program is to restore native and desired non-native species to the Colville Reservation. Pronghorn are a native species to the homelands of our people. Since they have been extirpated from Wash., our tribal members have had to go to other states in order to utilize these animals for subsistence."



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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Fish ladder

CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) staff have been busy with numerous end of the season projects. Staff operated the fish ladder for trapping hatchery-origin summer and fall Chinook. Summer Chinook spawning took place throughout October and November. Also, approximately 820,000 fish were transported to the Omak, Riverside and Similkameen acclimation sites in November.

The Omak acclimation site received about 331,035 juvenile summer Chinook, the Similkameen site received about 282,848 summer Chinook, and 206,642 juvenile

spring Chinook were transported to the Riverside site. "We currently have 418,037 summer Chinook and 532,872 spring Chinook on hand," said Taylor Scott, CJH assistant manager. "Though this fall has been challenging due to battling disease outbreaks, the fish are on track to meet target release goals."

Staff are constantly working in the incubation room caring for the eggs by monitoring their development, picking mortality, and enumerating the number of eggs on hand. They have been cleaning

raceways in preparation for ponding brood fish in December and have been battling a bacterial infection in the large rearing ponds. Removing mortality from a large deep pond and administering therapeutic chemicals has been time consuming for staff.

"We have a total of 2.5 million eggs in the incubation room currently, and about 1.5 million of those have hatched. Our first group of fish comprised of about 180,000 will be ready for ponding from incubators into rearing troughs to begin feeding the third week of December, marking the beginning of a new brood year cycle," said Scott.

CJH staff spawned 650 wild-origin fish and 559 hatchery-origin fish in 2015. "These figures represent fewer spawned fish due to above average mortality caused by a bacterial infection (columnaris), which ran rampant in the warm water conditions this year," said Scott. "Due to the extremely high mortality rate, we unfortunately did not meet our egg-take goals for the summer Chinook programs."



Fish-eyed eggs



Staff selecting salmon for spawning

NEW PROJECT BENEFITS TRIBAL MEMBERS



You might have seen Fish and Wildlife employees handing out canned sockeye salmon in each district recently and received a can yourself. The canned salmon was handed out with a short survey the department hopes you will fill out and send back after you try it. Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) would like to hear from the tribal membership on this product including packaging, taste, and how it compares to others you may have tried.

This is the first year CTFW has distributed canned salmon and they partnered with Okanogan Nation Alliance (ONA) and customized a product for tribal members that will have a longer shelf life.

“Our tribe has done a lot of fresh fish distributions and frozen fish,” said Randall Friedlander, CTFW director. “We are trying to figure out other things that we can do with salmon to give the membership more options. We currently have one freezer and that is one reason why we chose to can some fish. ONA had many of the tools that we needed to accomplish this goal.”

The Colville Confederated Tribes and ONA have a Unity Agreement that allowed them to provide equipment and fishermen to assist with operations and work closely with Colville tribal fishermen. Together they caught about 20,000 pounds of salmon. ONA transported



the sockeye in their refrigerated truck to the Swinomish Tribe's fish processing plant in La Conner, Wash. The plant processed 8,000 cans of salmon which was divided between ONA and the Colville Tribe.

ONA distributed their share of canned salmon to seven community health departments, including the Lower Similkameen Indian Band, Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Osoyoos Indian Band, Penticton Indian Band, Westbank First Nation and Okanogan Indian Band. “It was great getting the opportunity to meet and work with fishers from other tribes and catching fish for all our communities,” said Tessa Terbasket, ONA harvest coordinator. “It was also awesome to see so many youth out learning and doing the fishing on the dream catcher because they are the ones that are going to be continuing this work.”



ONA fishers Navarero Nanpuya, Andy George, Solomon Brooks



(From left to right: Kelly Singer, Denise Condon, Brian Miller, Jolene Francis, Shay Wolvert)

EMPLOYEE AND SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

KELLY SINGER, land and mitigation biologist, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Wildlife Division. He was nominated based on his knowledge and experience with BPA and wildlife mitigation. Singer uses his knowledge to make great changes with land management. He is respected among employees because of his good nature and honest character and builds confidence in the employees that he oversees.

DENISE CONDON, fish technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Resident Fish Division. She works on the Lake Roosevelt White Sturgeon and Burbot Projects and has done an outstanding job. Condon has proven to be an asset to our crew. She is observant, organized, attentive to detail, and learns new skills quickly and is self-motivated. She takes pride in her work and that is reflected in her job performance.

BRIAN MILLER, senior biologist, was chosen for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Anadromous Fish Division. He directs all field activities and provides oversight of professional and technical staff. BPA frequently uses reports that he has authored as an example of how others should report monitoring information. Miller is quick to recognize the efforts of others yet is willing to give freely of his own time. His commitment to the tribe and natural resources, as well as

his skills as a biologist have greatly benefited the program and helped maintain CTFW as a regional leader in fisheries monitoring and evaluation.

JOLENE FRANCIS, budget and business analyst, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Administration Division. She has done an amazing job keeping up with accounting processes and additional duties as the administration department has been understaffed for about a year and some of our staff took on fire-related duties. During this challenging time, she maintained her cheerful demeanor and was a pleasure to work with. Under her leadership, we have seen great improvements in a number of accounting areas.

SHAY WOLVERT, senior biologist, was awarded “Supervisor of the Year” for the Resident Fish Division. She is responsible for implementing the Chief Joseph Kokanee Project and supervises several technicians. She has demonstrated an exceptional ability to foster collaboration, communication and cooperation among her colleagues. She encourages professional development among her staff and creates a positive work environment.

JOSEPH CONDON, CJH maintenance technician, was awarded “Employee of the

Year” for the Anadromous Fish Division. Much of the equipment and tools needed for the hatchery are not off the shelf items, and need to be manufactured. Condon has proven himself as an extraordinary employee that has done an outstanding job at not only designing and building these specialty items, but has also been instrumental in obtaining all necessary maintenance tools and supplies, and has helped improve operations and efficiencies with his experience in the field of maintenance and fabrication. He works well with vendors, consultants and other staff.

BILL ROSENBAUM, wildlife technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Wildlife Division. He was nominated by a few employees and is always ready to help out anyone that needs it. Rosenbaum is a hard worker and is a fun guy to be around and boosts the morale of other employees throughout the day. He is honest and dependable when the work load is on his shoulders.

VANESSA SANCHEZ, senior office assistant, was awarded “Employee of the Year” for the Administration Division. She is eager to understand all aspects of the department. She keeps right on top of things and at times is ahead of the game. Sanchez is a go-getter and someone who is not afraid to seek out answers. She is enjoyable to work with.