

COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

NORTHERN PIKE REWARDS PROGRAM



Michael Peoples, Natural Resource Tech, holds 26 lb Northern Pike female

Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) paid out just over \$10,000 to anglers since the Northern Pike Rewards Program began on May 1, 2017, as a way to reduce pike numbers in Lake Roosevelt. Anglers have turned in 1,095 pike heads and six anglers have reached the maximum payout of \$590 this year. But there's more good news, the program will continue from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018.

"We want to remind anglers that we want them to be a part of the solution to protect the Lake Roosevelt ecosystem," said Holly McLellan, fisheries biologist for CTFW. "The 2017 program has been successful with anglers turning in a significant number of fish."

Anglers can go to www.cct-fnw.com/news/ to get the full program details. Anglers should turn in their fish heads at the end of each month. Participants will receive \$10 for every pike head turned in. The fish heads must be in good condition. All pike count for a payout whether big or small.

"Northern pike are a non-native invasive fish species that have the potential to decimate fish communities through excessive predation," said McLellan. "We are concerned about the

impacts pike are having on native fish in Lake Roosevelt, primarily redband trout, kokanee, white sturgeon and burbot. If the northern pike are allowed to expand downstream into the mid and lower Columbia River, they have the potential to compromise recovery efforts for ESA listed salmon species."

CTFW thanks the local communities and anglers for their support and commitment to protecting the Lake Roosevelt fishery. If anglers would like to share their photos of pike they have caught, you can send them to: holly.mclellan@colvilletribes.com



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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SECOND PRONGHORN RELEASE ON COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION

Ninety-eight pronghorn antelope were released on the Colville Indian Reservation recently; this is the second transplant operation since January 2016. The Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Department worked with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to coordinate efforts that included helicopter captures from several antelope populations near Elko, Nevada.

"We captured 12 males and 87 females from Nevada," said Eric Krausz, wildlife biologist for CTFW. "The total composition included 26 fawns, 20 yearlings, and 53 female adults. We lost one female antelope due to injury." He said, "We collared 50 adult female antelope with GPS/VHF collars. The collars will track their locations approximately every 12 hours, detect mortalities after 24 hours of inactivity, and last for up to four years."

Prior to the relocation effort, NDOW staff used a fixed wing reconnaissance flight and ground monitoring to locate antelope groups. Processing stations were set up to collect samples, give injections, apply collars or ear

tags, and load antelope into trailers.

"Our interest in targeting these animals was due to the loss of critical winter range caused by wildfires in Nevada during 2017," said Cody McKee, big game biologist for NDOW. "Our objective was to reduce densities of pronghorn in these areas, and allow for those being transported to Colville lands time to acclimate to their new environment before the arrival of winter. McKee said, "Since animal welfare is our primary priority, we scheduled the captures for October. The pronghorn had body temperatures and stress levels that were consistent with healthy transport. We are optimistic that the pronghorn that remain in Nevada will have less competition for food on degraded winter range."

About 50 people were brought together in Elko for the operation. The team consisted of a helicopter capture crew, veterinarians from Omaha Zoo, NDOW, and Utah Department of Natural Resources, wildlife biologists and technicians, and volunteer youth workers from NDOW.

"We all had a great sense of what our individual roles were in the capture effort and what we could do to make the process run smoothly," said Sam Rushing, wildlife biologist for CTFW. "The main factors that helped this capture to be more successful were the fact that there were multiple target populations and the ability to move quickly to different capture sites."

"Once we arrived at a new capture location, we set up base camp and the helicopter would receive current antelope locations via radio from NDOW biologists scouting in the hills," said Krausz. "The helicopter pilot and capture crew would then locate an antelope group and proceed to net gun an animal. Once an animal has been net gunned, a mucker from the helicopter capture team exits the helicopter to untangle the antelope from the net, apply blind folds, apply hobbles on their legs, and place them in transport bags that were connected by a carabiner to the long line under the helicopter. Immediately after capture each antelope received an injection of a drug to help calm the animal."

The pronghorn were released on land that is managed for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats through funding by Bonneville Power Administration. BIA funds were used for the capture efforts.





Staff spawning female Chinook

CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

During the month of October, staff were hauling juvenile spring and summer Chinook to the Omak, Riverside, and Similkameen acclimation ponds. The adult summer Chinook were spawned on a weekly basis throughout October. In November and December, staff have been caring for yearling juveniles in the rearing ponds, as well as eggs currently in incubation. Incubation work entails shocking and picking eggs, and performing chemical treatments to prevent fungus from establishing on the surface of the eggs.

Also in December, “Salmon in the Classroom” tanks will be set up in Keller, Okanogan, and Inchelium Schools. Omak Elementary School, Paschal Sherman Indian School, and Nespelem will receive their tanks in January.

“In early spring when the alevin have absorbed their yolk and are emergent fry, hatchery staff will go to the schools to check on the tanks and deliver some fish feed,” said Taylor Scott, CJH assistant manager. “We anticipate doing this program every year with schools across the reservation.”



CHINOOK SALMON SPAWNED OUT:

Wild Summer Chinook:

167 males and 162 females

Hatchery Summer Chinook:

263 males and 266 females

CURRENT NUMBER OF EGGS IN INCUBATION:

Segregated Spring Chinook: 381,350

Integrated Spring Chinook: 218,288

Segregated Summer Chinook: 864,725

Integrated Summer Chinook: 820,000

FISH RELOCATED TO THE ACCLIMATION PONDS:

Omak Pond

(integrated summer chinook): 303,734

Similkameen Pond

(integrated summer chinook): 381,716

Riverside Pond

(integrated spring chinook): 204,634

EMPLOYEE AND SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



(LtoR) Brooklyn Hudson, Michelle Smith, Vince Adolph, Ossian Laspa, Dennis Moore, Kary Nichols

DANIEL MONAGHAN, fisheries technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Resident Fish Division. He has been working seasonally for the Chief Joseph Kokanee Enhancement Project since 2014 and the Northern Pike Removal Project this year. He is dedicated to his work and is always reliable. Staff can count on him to work extra hours and weekends to ensure the projects are successful. Monaghan is a pleasure to work with, treats others with respect, and promotes a positive working environment.

MICHELLE SMITH, records technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Administration Division. She does a great job routing documents, updating spreadsheets, and communicating with staff and customers. She goes above and beyond her job duties. She has assisted Wildlife with bear complaints, tag processing, and any other miscellaneous duties. She also fills in at the front desk when needed. Smith informs the public on regulations and policies and conveys this information well. She is always willing to assist customers either on the phone or in person.

OLIVER PAKOOTAS, fisheries technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Anadromous Division. Pakootas has been invaluable, keeping the PIT tag arrays in operation and implementing the steelhead electro-fishing and tagging effort. Pakootas has been a great contributor to the electrofishing crew since the onset of the project years ago and is always there at every site, every day - you can count on him. He doesn’t hesitate to help out, grab a bucket, or the heavy electrofisher on a long hike in.

KARY NICHOLS, deputy director, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Administration Division. She is a tremendous asset to the department and is calm under stress, doesn’t shy away from difficult tasks, and is solution-oriented. She is familiar with the tribes’ policies and procedures and has formulated and implemented important internal policies and guidance on contracting, accounting, and administrative matters. Nichols is a team-player and most recently stepped up and took the lead on clarifying and forecasting the Accords unspent funding with BPA.

BROOKLYN HUDSON, fisheries biologist, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Anadromous Division. He has grown in his position this past year. He took over personnel planning and led the remote PIT tagging crew. Hudson made landowner contacts and conducted snorkel surveys. He and other key staff kept the electrofishing project moving forward. He always double checks all the information and uploads all files to PTAGIS before leaving each day.

VINCE ADOLPH, wildlife technician, was selected for “Employee of the Year” for the Wildlife Division. He consistently works to increase his knowledge and skills in his profession. Adolph is a hard worker that sets a great example for other co-workers. His work ethic is impeccable and his desire to do his best is always apparent. He shows a lot of pride in his work, respect of others, and shows appreciation to all the people he works with. Adolph was recently promoted to a supervisory position due to his work ethic and individual job performance.

OSSIAN LASPA, wildlife biologist, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Wildlife Division. He has a great attitude, works well with others, and is willing to come in on his days off to get things done. He worked on the irrigation project in Hellsgate, pronghorn fence modifications, and worked extra hours in order to prep the livestock trailers before the crew left for Nevada. Laspa also took it upon himself to teach other employees how to safely use the tractors and equipment. He’s always willing to work long days and responds timely to phone calls and messages regarding work matters even on weekends.

DENNIS MOORE, habitat biologist, was selected for “Supervisor of the Year” for the Resident Fish Division. He was hired in 2016, when the Lake Roosevelt Habitat Improvement Project experienced substantial turnover at the biologist level. Throughout this time, he has taken on more responsibility and has handled the increased duties exceptionally well. Moore has a relaxed demeanor, but a strong work ethic and high expectations of himself and the project crew. The crew morale has improved and project tasks have been completed in a high quality manner.