

As of mid-June, the CTFW Dept. received 40 bear complaints; here are some helpful tips to keep bears from visiting your neighborhood.



BEAR AWARE

HERE ARE SOME HELPFUL TIPS TO AVOID BEAR AND HUMAN INTERACTION:

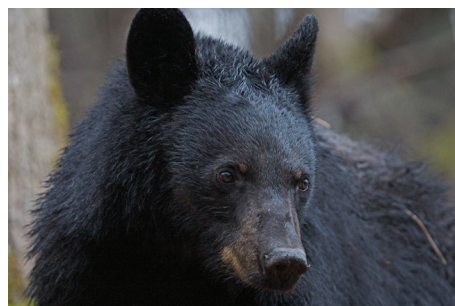
- Bears are drawn to smells such as garbage, pet foods, bird feed, compost piles, fruit trees, berry bushes, livestock feed, dirty barbecue grills, beehives and petroleum products
- Keep yards clean
- Pick fruit from trees as it ripens; do not leave fruit on the ground
- Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight
- Keep outdoor grills clean; when not in use, store grills inside a garage or building
- Never store food or garbage outdoors for long periods of time

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE BEARS

- Feeding bears creates a major problem and may cause harm to the bear and the general public - you will be cited with a fine
- If a bear doesn't find food it will move along
- Bears are naturally curious and opportunistic

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
- If you see a baby bear, don't try to pet them
- Don't scream or yell as this may provoke it
- Don't run as this may trigger a pursuit
- 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

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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2014 salmon ceremony

FIRST SALMON CEREMONY

The 9th Annual First Salmon Ceremony event was held on Friday, June 20 in Omak, Wash. The morning session began at 5:30 a.m. near Omak Creek with prayer and song. John Smith, master of ceremonies, Randall Friedlander, Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) director and the Colville Business Council spoke a few words and invited others to speak.

"The work that the CTFW program does is very important to our reservation here and in Canada," said Smith. "I would just like to acknowledge those people who work hard for us and also remember those that came before us. Managing fisheries, wildlife and habitat for the tribes is not easy work." The celebration continued at the Omak Longhouse at 9 a.m. where Smith and the Colville Tribes' Land and Property Director, Cody Desautel welcomed guests.

Friedlander and Okanagan Nations Alliance (ONA) Executive Director, Pauline Terbasket spoke about the work the Colville and ONA Tribes has engaged in to bring salmon back

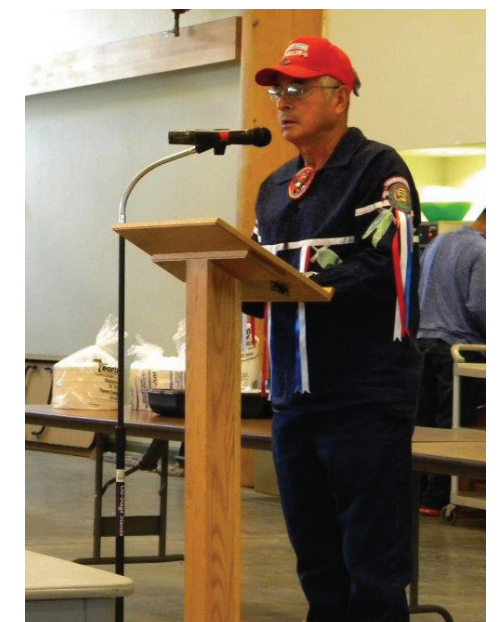
to the region. "We've really had to rely on deer, elk, and moose and with the salmon coming back in higher numbers, this will help to restore the balance," said Friedlander. "The Colville and ONA Tribes have been working together on fisheries projects, and we are seeing sockeye numbers increase to about 275,000 coming to the Okanogan River again."

"I have been actively involved with our fisheries department to advance and protect our land, water, and fisheries resources," said Terbasket. "If we don't keep our vision, our peoples' views then we get consumed with what's not working as tribes. In terms of the big picture, we've been working on salmon restoration for 30 plus years." Terbasket stated, "We started working with the Colville Tribes with a letter of understanding signed by council members from both the Colville Tribes and ONA Tribes. With the unity principle in mind, it was a testament on how we were going to work together to advance this fishery of the great Columbia River."

Fish passage was another topic on the agenda which Friedlander, Terbasket and Upper Columbia United Tribes Executive Director, D.R. Michel discussed. "I believe fish passage past Grand Coulee Dam and Chief Joseph Dam is possible but there is still a lot of work to do," said Terbasket. "There's a lot to be discouraged about, and there's always a challenge."

Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) Manager, Pat Phillips and CJH Fish Culturist, Jim Andrews gave a presentation on the hatchery in its first year of operation. "Everyone at the hatchery is dedicated in their work to bring salmon back," said Andrews. "There was a lot to do in our first year, from collecting brood on the purse seine fishing boat in July to spawning activities in October and November. We sure handled a lot of fish eggs."

At the noon luncheon, tribal elders sung a table song and the Colville Tribes' History and Archeology Dept. showed a video that included interviews of tribal elders titled: Salmon and the People, the Chief Joseph Dam Fishery Story.



John Smith, Master of Ceremonies

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Fish Culturist, Lincoln Fedderson, gives youth tour

ARMY CORPS EARTH DAY

Approximately 200 students from area schools toured Chief Joseph Hatchery on April 24, 2014 for the Army Corps Earth Day event. Students went to the hatchery building to see small salmon fry, picked up educational brochures and watched videos on the tour.

SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL

The CTFW Dept. set up its fishing pond at Paschal Sherman Indian School on Friday, May 23 for the Sunflower Festival. Kids of all ages were able to fish for trout. Fishery staff from the Colville tribal trout hatchery packaged the fish for each child to take home. Educational materials, stickers, and pencils were handed out during the event.

KOULEE KIDS FEST

We had a few runners (some kids who caught their first fish) at the 10th Annual Koulee Kids Fest that was held on Saturday, June 14. The CTFW staff set up its fishing pond next to the Colville Tribal Museum in Coulee Dam, Wash. Staff taught youth how to fish, and handed out educational materials to each child as they headed toward the museum to make paper salmon. There were approximately 150 kids that participated in the day’s events.

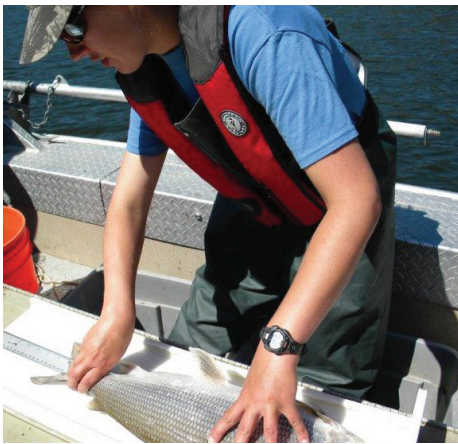
MILL POND DAYS

The CTFW staff set up their fishing pond at the park in Nespelem, Wash. for the annual Mill Pond Days event on Saturday, June 21. Other activities for youth included: 5k run/walk, 3-on-3 basketball tournament, parade and talent show.



2014 Koulee Kids Fest

PREDATOR REMOVAL IN THE SANPOIL RIVER



Shay Wolvert, CTFW Kokanee Biologist

A crew of six fisheries staff will work on the Sanpoil River from mid-May to July to catch as many walleye and smallmouth bass as they can in hopes to improve redband rainbow trout and kokanee runs. This work is part of the Chief Joseph Kokanee Enhancement Project that began in the spring of 2011 and is expected to continue through 2017.

Over the past three years, fisheries staff has been working to reduce the number of walleye and smallmouth bass from a focused area (Manilla Creek upstream to the reservoir/ river interface), which has been well-known to have the highest predation rates or put simply where most of the kokanee and rainbow fry get eaten by the larger walleye and smallmouth bass.

“Every fish we catch gets weighed and measured,” said Shay Wolvert, kokanee biologist for CTFW. “The walleye and bass are checked for coded wire and PIT tags to see what they’ve eaten. We catch them by using gill nets, which are 200 feet in length and six feet wide. We use two boats and each boat checks 10 nets a day.”

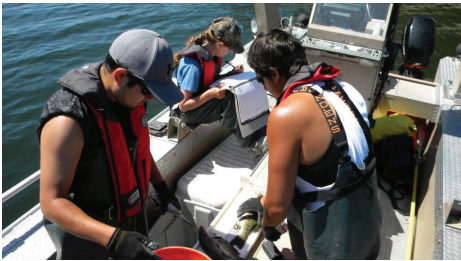


2014 Sunflower Festival

In 2013, staff removed approximately 3,000 non-native fish between May and July with gillnets and boat electrofishing in the Sanpoil River. They expect to have a similar catch rate this year. “We set nets during the day and shock the fish at night,” said Charlie Joseph, fisheries technician for CTFW. “The shocking doesn’t kill the fish, it stuns them, this allows us to capture our target fish and we let the native fish go. Night time is usually the most successful time to electrofish because fish are active and near the surface.”

“We have been able to reduce the concentration of walleye and smallmouth bass in the Sanpoil River during the critical out-migration period of redband rainbow trout and kokanee salmon,” said Holly McLellan, fisheries biologist for CTFW. “The objective is to suppress these fish during this sensitive period so that juveniles have an opportunity to escape predation and reach the Lake Roosevelt reservoir. The overall goal is to increase redband rainbow trout and kokanee abundance in the reservoir and in the Sanpoil River to support tribal and recreational fisheries.”

In January of this year, fisheries staff planted one million kokanee eggs in the Sanpoil River. At the end of August, the crew will do surveys on adult fish returns.



Resident fisheries staff, Levi Picard (left), Todd Nanamkin (right) & Shay Wolvert (back)



Staff carrying fish from Purse Seine to trucks



Staff mix milt with salmon eggs

CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY YEAR IN REVIEW

CJH is a state-of-the art facility that was built to increase spring, summer, and fall Chinook salmon in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. The hatchery will produce up to 2.9 million chinook fry annually by 2015. It will provide salmon for tribal ceremonies, subsistence needs for tribal members, and increase recreational fishing opportunities for all. The \$50 million hatchery was completed in May of 2013 and has been running at 60 percent production capacity in its first year of operation. Here is a look back at the year’s activities.

- CJH Ribbon Cutting Event, June 20, 2013
- Transferred 422 adult spring chinook from Leavenworth Hatchery – June 18 and 19
- Began spawning activities on August 19, completed by September 10
- 566,854 total eggs down to hatch, egg loss was 11.98%

- Eggs began hatching December 3
- CJH Summer Chinook Goals:
 - Integrated Program, enhance status of natural-origin population (NOR) and provide tribal and non-tribal harvest opportunities consistent with conservation
 - Re-establish “late arriving” spawning population
 - Improve spawner distribution in the Okanogan River Basin
 - Improve spawning habitat in the Okanogan River Basin
 - Segregated Program-Provides consistent and reliable tribal and non-tribal harvest opportunities
- A total of 339 hatchery-origin (HOR) and 409 (NOR) Chinook were captured and transported to the hatchery

- Summer Chinook brood collection began July 10, via the Dream Catcher (purse seine)
- A total of 865,000 NOR eggs were collected
- A total of 800,000 HOR eggs were collected
- Spawning activities began on October 9 and concluded November 20
- CJH 2013 Production Goals:
 - Spring Chinook production - 420,000 for harvest
 - Summer/Fall Chinook production – 180,000 sub-yearlings and 480,000 yearlings for release into the Okanogan basin, and 240,000 sub-yearlings and 300,000 yearlings for release from the hatchery.
- CJH had two successful releases: 265,000 sub-yearlings from the hatchery and 198,000 sub-yearlings from the Omak acclimation pond



Jim Andrews, CJH Fish Culturist watches as fingerlings come through the automated marking trailer

RICHARD WHITNEY HEADS WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Richard Whitney was recently selected to head the Wildlife program for the Colville Tribes’ Fish and Wildlife Dept. Whitney will provide strategic planning and oversight of the Wildlife program and will be responsible for evaluating and managing both reservation and off-reservation programs. This work will include habitat assessments, restoration activities, biological studies and research and harvest management. He will also develop and implement projects that support tribal goals of providing subsistence and harvest opportunities for the membership. “Wildlife management is very rewarding and a lot of fun too,” said Whitney. “Working for my tribe and strengthening our sovereignty through the management of natural resources have always been dreams of mine.”

As the Wildlife program manager, Whitney will have frequent contact with county, state, and federal agencies, and other tribal governments. He will oversee the management and protection of wildlife and its habitats on the 1.4 million acres of reservation land, the North Half and within the Usual and Accustomed areas. He said, “One of the challenges that I see right away is to try to regroup as a program and start working as a team to identify and achieve attainable goals.”

Whitney recently completed his master’s degree in natural resource sciences at Washington State University while working full-time for the Wildlife Dept. “My wife was very understanding and supportive. If it wasn’t for her, I couldn’t have succeeded,” Whitney

said. “I was allowed to work nonstandard hours and weekends to complete my field work associated with a grant that we wrote to study sharp-tail grouse. During the school year, I would drive back and forth to Pullman twice a week. I did my homework whenever I could.”



Richard Whitney, Wildlife Program Head