

COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS



HOOP NET/DIP NET WORKSHOPS

Colville tribal members, Leroy “Chaz” Williams and his son Mylan Williams have been busy training kids and adults on how to construct hoop nets and dip nets. Workshops were held in Okanogan, Nespelem and Keller and the last workshop will be held at the Inchelium Community Center and will run until April 6, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

“So far our participants have completed 22 dip nets and three big hoop nets,” said Mylan. “We’ve had more adults than kids participate in the workshops except in Nespelem, we had a lot of kids at that one and the kids sure do pick it up quick. It’s more than just about fishing and making a net, this teaches them patience, discipline, it’s a bonding tool with kids and we learn from each other.”

It takes 300 feet of wire, long wooden poles and electrical tape to make a dip net; the poles are wrapped with electrical tape to protect them and the hands of those who are using them.

“It’s been a lot of fun teaching people how to make them and the momentum is really picking up,” said Chaz. “I have received calls from tribal elders who are from California, Michigan, Tulalip, and Lummi and they were glad that we were teaching this to others. They told us not to let it die out and to keep teaching the younger ones. It’s good to hear from other tribes.”

Chaz mentioned that the best thing they see is when a young person’s eyes get big

when they are finished making a net. “They sure are proud of themselves and the adults too, watching their face light up is the best thing of all.”

“The Spokane Tribe, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, and Kalispel Tribe will also be participating at the Inchelium workshop,” said Chaz. “I received calls from these tribes asking us to save them a spot and they will be sending folks from their History and Archeology Departments.”

The Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife Department plans on building two scaffolds near CJH this year for tribal members to fish from using their hoop nets and dip nets. Currently, there are two scaffolds for tribal members to fish from that were built last summer and are located next to the tribes’ trout hatchery. Tribal members can fish from these scaffolds using hoop nets and dip nets only.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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HATCHERY CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) project is nearing the 75 percent complete mark. All five well pumps in the Bridgeport State Park area have been tested as PCL and its subcontractors and Fish and Wildlife staff prepare for startup. Once the overflow pipeline is completed, final startup and testing of all five wells can be done. The well houses will be completed by early April. Final grading, site work, and fencing are being readied for the spring opening of the park.

At the hatchery site, the storage and hatchery buildings are scheduled for completion by the end of March. The office building will follow by the end of April. Final pipe connections are being made to the raceways so that finished grading and gravel bases can be placed in preparation for paving when the weather warms up. Steel frames to support predator netting are in place on all forty raceways, and the bird netting itself will be installed later this summer.

Soon work will begin on three large rearing ponds. They will be located at the westerly end of the site near the concrete raceways. Fish to be released from the hatchery site, as opposed to the acclimation sites on the Okanogan River, will be prepared for downriver migration in these ponds. The cleaning/waste facility is ready for concrete and will be completed by the end of April.

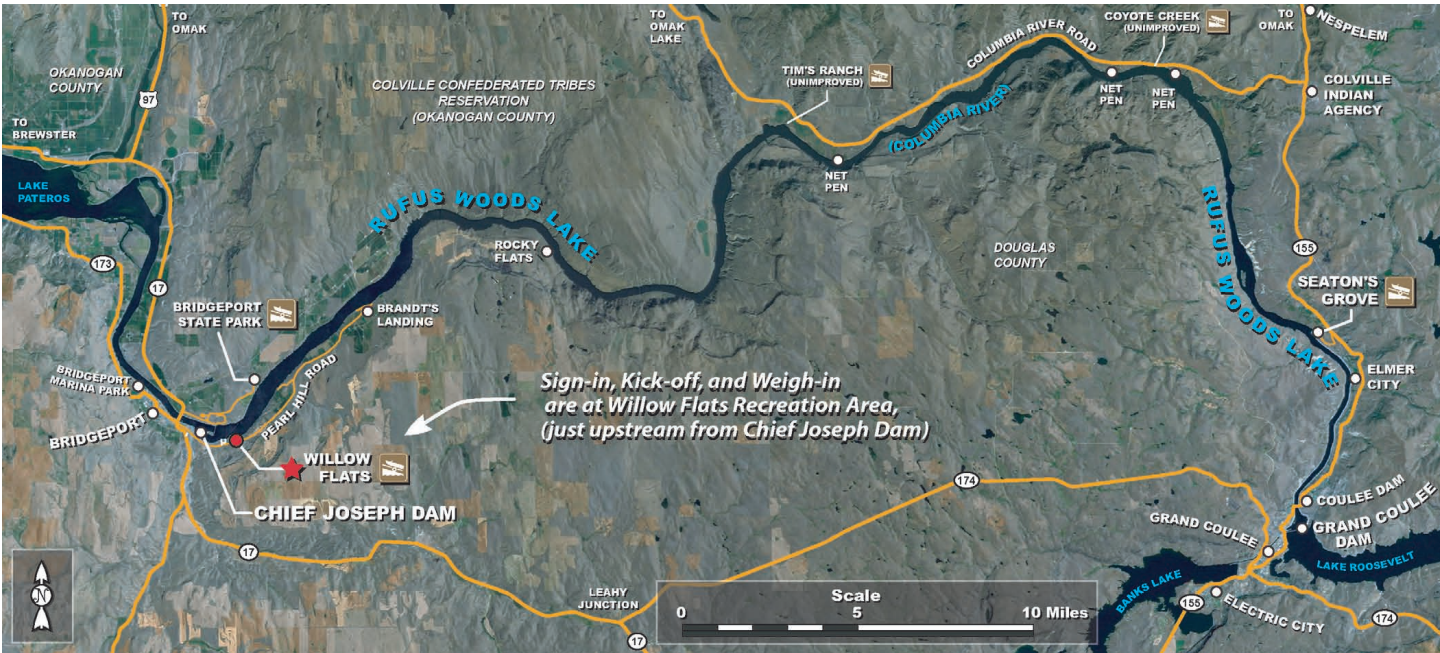
The work being completed at the cofferdam is progressing well. Final pours for the fish ladders will be completed in March. The fish crowding chamber and vertical lift shaft which are part of the fish ladder are nearly completed and work is progressing in shore toward the adult raceways. Due to the oncoming of spring runoff, work is being re-sequenced to allow for the removal of the cofferdam sooner than planned. This will allow work on the dissipation chamber to begin. Treated water discharged from the hatchery will flow down a 42-inch pipe into the dissipation chamber to release the energy in the fast moving water before flowing into the fish ladder or being returned to the river.

Work on the last major component of the project, the reservoir water system, is underway. Pipelines are in place past the adult raceways to within several hundred feet from the dam. The first large steel bracket is in place, just below where the pipeline is coming down the face of the dam and it will meet the buried pipelines to the hatchery. The work plan for the in-reservoir work is being reviewed by US Army Corps of Engineers and once approved, will take place immediately.



Water supply lines being prepared for installation from left to right: 42-inch river water and 28-inch relief tunnel water pipelines to hatchery building; 12-inch well water pipeline to adult raceways.

“TRIPPIN’ WITH THE TRIPLOIDS” FISHING DERBY TAKES OFF



The excitement is growing for the first annual “Trippin’ With the Triploids” fishing derby that will take place on Saturday, May 12, 2012 beginning at 5:30 a.m. on Rufus Woods Lake. Derby contestants have a chance to win a boat valued at over \$40,000.00 and other cash and prizes! Tickets are \$50.00 for adults and \$30.00 for kids. All contestants will receive a t-shirt and can enjoy a free barbeque dinner at the awards ceremony.

“This has been one of the best projects that I have ever been involved with,” said Nancine Lorz, derby coordinator. “It has been a pleasure working with representatives from the Colville Tribe, US Army Corps of Engineers, Bridgeport State Park and Bridgeport City Council. All committee members are focused on making this a fun, safe and all around pleasant derby,” she said. “This is a win - win situation for all, with all

the net proceeds going to buy triploids to be stocked in Rufus Woods Lake. People from all around the Northwest are coming and will see what our area has to offer - this is just exhilarating. We still have room for more fisherman and campers, so people should sign up as soon as they can.”

Anglers 18 and above (adult division) can fish for one of five specially tagged fish for a super decked out boat from The Fishin’ Magician, Dave Graybill sponsored by Bob Feil Boats and Motors and four cash prizes. Prizes will also be awarded to youth entrants. Prize categories for both divisions will include: Biggest fish, heaviest limit, smallest fish, mystery weight and many other categories.

Shore and boat fishing is allowed and there will be a total of five boat launch sites: one at Bridgeport State Park, Willow Flats, Tim’s Ranch, Coyote Creek, and Seaton’s Grove areas. Each of the boat launches will have a derby official present. Derby fishing time is between 5:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. - you must be in line to weigh your fish by 3 p.m. at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Willow Flats area.

Contestants can pick up there registration packets (tickets, wristbands, boat identifiers, t-shirts and any other derby info) May 6 to May 10, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Friday, May 11, from 7a.m. to 4 p.m. at Nell’s Café in Bridgeport, Washington. Packets will also be available for pick up at the Friday

evening event on May 11, at the US Army Corps of Engineers, Willow Flats area from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

“I am excited for the first annual fishing derby on Rufus Woods Lake,” said Jill Phillips, derby coordinator. “This has been a great collaboration between the local agencies and it will be a wonderful opportunity for anglers to get out there and have a good time fishing Rufus Woods, possibly win some cash or other great prizes, and support local businesses and the fishery.”



The event is being sponsored by Grizzly’s Bait and Tackle, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Bridgeport State Park. All net proceeds will go to buy more fish to be stocked in Rufus Woods Lake. For more information about the derby or becoming a sponsor, call David or Nancine at 509.449.3542 or go on-line to bridgeportwa.com.



Justin Williamson, Electrician



Harley Swan, Pipefitter



Lacey Quesnell, Equipment Operator

EMPLOYEES HARD AT WORK

Justin Williamson (Asa), electrician for Colville Electrical Contractor’s (CEC), has worked for the company for three and a half years, prior to that he worked for Colville Tribal Service Corp. for about two and a half years. Asa started working at CJH last February and has been doing electrical work on the irrigation units, underground installation, raceways, the hatchery and headbox buildings. While working for CEC, he has been attending the Northwest Washington Electrical Industry Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program, the center is located in Mt. Vernon, Wash. “As an apprentice, you have to put in 8,000 man hours of on-the-job training, 1,200 hours of classroom training, pass a union exam and state exam in order to become a journeyman,” said Williamson. There are 10 CEC employees working at CJH, most are certified electricians or are obtaining their certification. For more info about this program, go to nwejatc.org

Harley Swan, pipefitter for JP Francis and Associates of Spokane, Wash. began working at CJH last September. Swan has been working in the plumbing and pipefitting industry since 1997. He is currently working in the water treatment facility setting up the support beams, plumbing and piping systems that supply water to the incubation trays (which hold the fish eggs). Once he completes this work, he will be hooking up the drains and waste water supply system to large rectangular tubs that the fish go into once they are mature enough to be moved from the incubation trays. “I like to take ownership in the work I’m doing,” said Swan. “I will tell my grandkids about the work I did here. I can’t wait to see this place when it’s completed, it will be a beautiful hatchery.”

Lacey Quesnell, an equipment operator and pile driver for Pacific Pile and Marine (PPM) has worked for the company for two years. She has been in the trade for almost 14 years. Her company was hired to install a cofferdam that encloses the area where concrete will be poured for the fish ladder. The cofferdam consists of driving sheet piling and bracing, called a whaler system. “I was the crane operator, so in a normal day we would drive sheets, install whalers and maybe even do some digging, it is always a team effort,” said Quesnell. “It can be challenging at times working in a predominantly male workforce and the work that we do can be dangerous and at times very physical, so as a crew it is imperative that we work well together and care for one another’s safety.”

Linda Hermeston, Fish and Wildlife project manager for Bonneville Power Administration



Linda Hermeston, BPA Project Manager