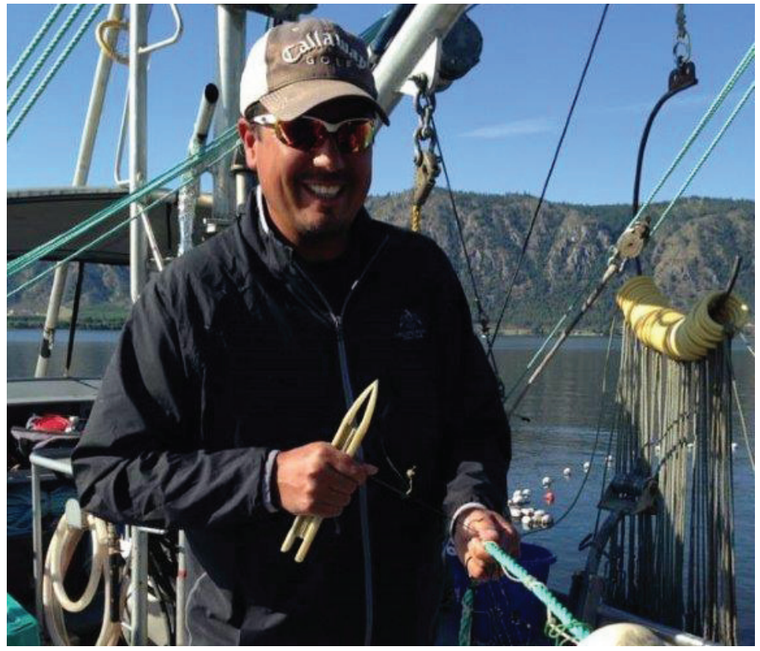
COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS



Randall Friedlander, CTFW Director

TRIBAL PROGRAM HAS NEW DIRECTOR

Randall Friedlander, a tribal member, was recently hired as the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) director. Friedlander served as the interim Fish and Wildlife director for approximately a year. Prior to this position, he worked for the CTFW Department as the Wildlife Program manager for three years where he provided oversight and direction to about 20 staff. In his current position, he will provide strategic planning and management oversight of 130 employees with an operating budget of over $20 million.

"I look forward to maintaining and protecting our Fish and Wildlife resources and habitats, while meeting the cultural, subsistence, recreational and economic needs of the Tribe," said Friedlander. Friedlander will work closely with Fish and Wildlife managers, policy analysts, and scientists on complex projects in various locations throughout the reservation. He will also serve as a key liaison with outside agencies, interacting with state, federal and tribal entities, as well as with other organizations.

Friedlander has worked for the Colville Tribe since 1995. He earned his B.S. Degree in Natural Resource Management from Washington State University (WSU) and studied Forest Management for two years at Humboldt State University prior to transferring to WSU. He enjoys golfing, basketball, hunting, fishing, snowboarding and participating in cultural activities. He and his wife Julie have three children, Kylie, Mikel and Will.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS

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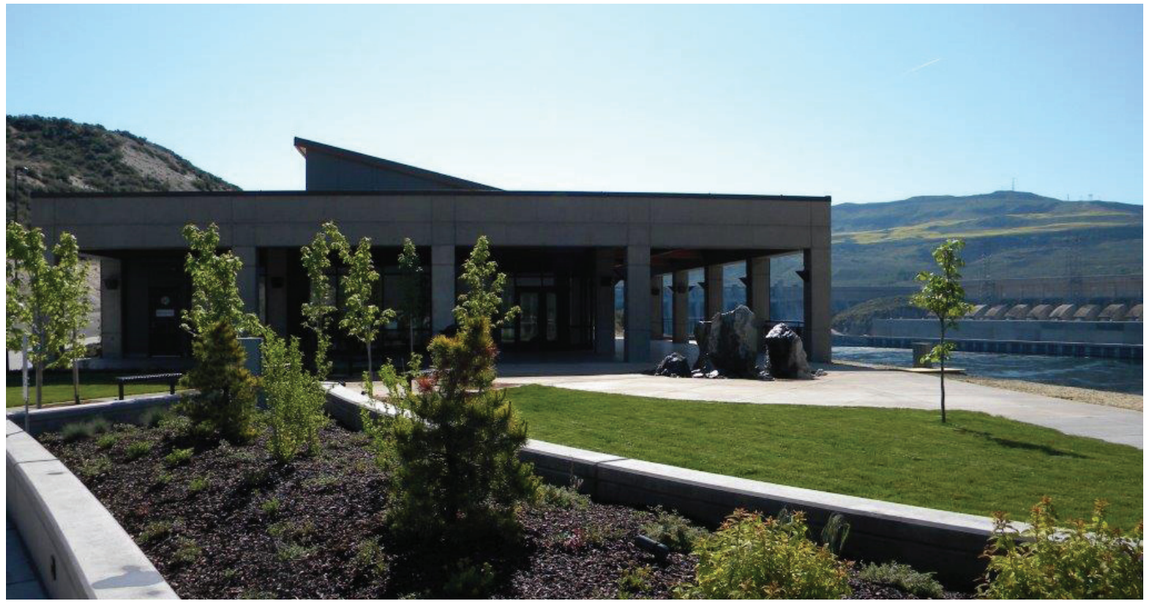


Chief Joseph Hatchery Admin Building

CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) fish culturists have been raising young Chinook salmon fry since January of this year. The small alevin are moved from the trays (each tray can hold about 5,800 eggs) in the incubation room to blue starter tanks once they utilize the remainder of their egg sacs and become a fry. Once the fry are in the blue start tanks, they remain there for about two weeks. Each tank can hold approximately 40,000 young Chinook fry. The staff feed the fry one time each hour for eight hours per day. "After two weeks, we move them to the outdoor raceways," said Amber Cate, fish culturist at CJH. "We do a weight sample every Monday, monitoring their length and weight which determines how much we feed them. The outdoor raceways where they grow to finger length in size can hold up to 50,000 fish."

By mid-April fish culturists will begin marking and tagging each salmon by removing their adipose fin when they are about four inches in length. This is accomplished by using a brand new trailer that has an automated system that sorts, clips and tags juvenile salmon. This system is so fast and accurate that it can process over 60,000 fish in an eight hour period. Once these fish are processed, they are reared at the hatchery until they are ready to be released or they will be taken to the Omak and Riverside ponds for rearing and release into the Okanogan River.

The hatchery will produce approximately 620,000 spring Chinook and 1.2 million summer Chinook this year.

Chief Joseph Hatchery 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 salmon annually by 2015, and 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 is located in Bridgeport, Wash., next to Chief Joseph Dam.

An automated fish system like this one will be used to clip and tag juvenile salmon

WILDLIFE PROGRAM RECEIVES GRANT, CONTINUES WOLF RESEARCH

Julie Lawrence, Wolf Haven International

"Our cultural knowledge of the wolf and what they mean to us as Colville's is yet to be defined because we have been without them for so long. It will be interesting to see how that relationship develops over time."

– Randy Friedlander, CTFW Director

Managing the gray wolf population on the Colville Indian Reservation (CIR) has been no easy task for the Colville Confederated Tribes' (CCT) wildlife program with a large land base of 3.1 million acres (north and south half of reservation) to cover and limited funding available. In recent months, wildlife staff has been able to continue their research work on gray wolves with a $187,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The data gathered will assist in the development of a Gray Wolf Conservation and Management Plan for the tribe.

CCT wildlife staff will monitor gray wolf activity through DNA sampling and analysis, tracking and howling surveys, remote cameras, and trapping and collaring efforts. "We are monitoring gray wolf movements and identifying home ranges by capturing wolves and deploying GPS and VHF collars," said Eric Krausz, CCT wildlife biologist. "The radio signals from these collars allow us to locate wolf packs during the winter months using radio telemetry equipment from an airplane in order to observe the number of wolves occurring in each pack." GPS (Global Positioning System) collars record location data of each collared wolf which is transmitted to a satellite and back to a computer giving biologists information of wolf home range sizes, distribution, denning activity, kill site locations, and dispersal. This winter, wildlife biologists successfully conducted aerial helicopter captures and deployed GPS collars on an adult female wolf from the Strawberry Pack and an adult female wolf from the Nc'icn Pack.

Throughout the year, fecal (scat) samples are collected from each wolf packs home range and are sent to the Laboratory for Ecological, Evolutionary and Conservation Genetics at the University of Idaho. The DNA extracted from these samples identifies individual wolves and the number of wolves within each pack. "The DNA taken from these scat samples will not only tell us what they are eating, but also what percentage of each species they are selecting during different times of the year,"

Federally Listed and Delisted Wolf Areas of Washington State

said Krausz. "The data gathered will also help us to estimate annual consumption rates of prey species such as elk, deer, and moose."

New to the CCT wildlife team is Justin Dellinger who was recently hired in January of 2014 as a wildlife biologist. "Dellinger is a welcome addition to the CCT Wildlife Management Program with experience in wolf, cougar, and deer research," said Rich Whitney, interim wildlife manager. "He will primarily be working on the tribes Gray Wolf Monitoring Project. He is currently a PhD candidate through the University of Washington, examining the differences in white-tailed deer and mule deer behavior in areas where wolves are present and in areas without wolves."

Wildlife biologists will continue to deploy remote cameras and conduct tracking and howling surveys within the North Half and South Half Reservation in areas where wolf presence is suspected but not confirmed. Ground trapping efforts this spring and summer will focus on collaring additional adults from the Nc'icn Pack and any new packs located during surveys or through public reports. Wildlife staff encourages the public to call 509.722.7681 and report any wolf sightings.

A wolf reporting form can also be found at www.colvilletribes.com.

HOW CAN I TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A GRAY WOLF, COYOTE OR A LARGE DOG?

GRAY WOLVES

COYOTES

Sometimes it can be difficult to distinguish between wolves, coyotes and dogs, especially in poor light, the sighting is brief, or if the animal is far away. Wolves and coyotes can be differentiated by their size, color and other physical characteristics. Wolves and dogs can be differentiated by their tracks and how they hold their tails. When walking, wolves typically place their hind foot in the same spot that they placed their front foot so the tracks overlap. The front and hind foot tracks of domestic dogs do not typically overlap. Tracks of domestic dogs are seldom longer than four inches. Many domestic dog breeds have curled tails, coyotes and wolves tails never curl.

	GRAY WOLVES	COYOTES
LENGTH:	4.5 to 6.5 feet	3.6 to 4.4 feet
HEIGHT: *(at the shoulder)*	26 to 32 inches	16 to 20 inches
WEIGHT:	60 to 115 lbs	20 to 50 lbs
COLOR:	buff tans grizzled with gray and black, but can also be black or white	gray or reddish brown with rusty legs, feet and ears, and whitish throat and belly
EARS:	rounded, relatively short	pointed, relatively long
MUZZLE:	large and blocky	petite and pointed

RESOURCE EXPERTS GATHER AT CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY TO SHARE IDEAS AND IMPLEMENT PLANS

The Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Dept. hosted the 4th Annual Program Review (APR) at Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) in Bridgeport, Wash. to discuss program goals and develop strategic plans for the coming year.

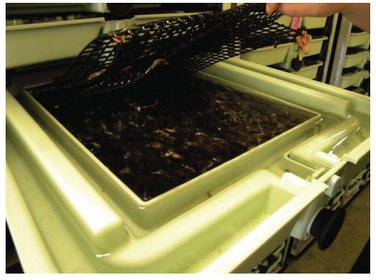
Workshop topics included: habitat restoration, the Okanogan adult fish weir and design, fish passage, harvest activities, hatchery and natural fish production and fish marking and tagging activities. These undertakings require monitoring ecosystem and fish population status and trend conditions. Keith Wolf, CJH science program manager, discussed research, monitoring and evaluation activities and facilitated this year's workshop. "The 2014 APR was another step forward in putting hatchery reform principles into full practice with CTFW resource management goals and achieves a high degree of scientific defensibility to support informed decision-making."

Representatives from the Tribes' Anadromous Fish Division, Hatchery Science Review Group (HSRG), Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), The Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, area experts and regional Public Utility Districts attended the annual meeting and provided input.

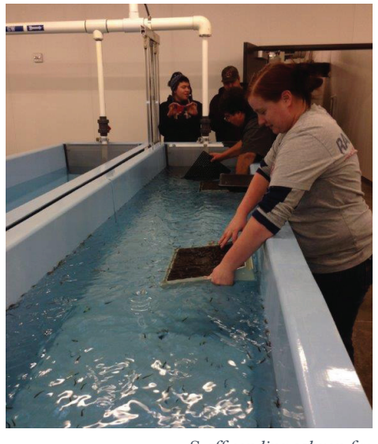
"The APR demonstrated the commitment of all parties involved, to an integrated process where habitat, harvest and hatchery strategies are well coordinated to meet sustainable natural production and harvest goals over time," said Dr. Lars E. Mobrand, senior biometrician for DJ Warren and Associates, a congressionally-appointed member of the Hatchery Science Review Group. "I was impressed with the spirit of team work and commitment to a shared vision for the Okanogan Basin demonstrated by the CCT staff. The quality and relevance of the presentations have improved from year-to-year and the CJH program should serve as a model for adaptive management of hatchery programs," he said.

"The annual CJH meeting was very informative and professional and demonstrated the significant role the Colville Tribe has in resource management," said Lynn Hatcher, NOAA Upper and Middle Columbia Basin salmon recovery coordinator. "The Okanogan Basin has an exciting future under Colville direction and leadership."

For more information about the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program, go to www.colvilletribes.com/cjhp.php



Small alevin grow in incubation trays



Staff ponding salmon fry