

# COLVILLE TRIBES FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS



*Beach Seine effort Similkameen River*

## FISH WEIR PROJECT HIT OR MISS

Fisheries staff began trapping salmon in the Okanogan River on August 22 at the fish weir located near Malott, Wash. The goals this season were to collect 84 natural-origin adult Chinook broodstock and remove hatchery-origin Chinook in order to reduce their numbers on the spawning grounds. Trapping efforts ended on September 22.

“We collected 16 natural-origin adult Chinook for the hatchery program, 20 percent of the target goal,” said Andrea Pearl, CJH fisheries biologist. “The program also trapped and removed 33 hatchery-origin adult Chinook for distribution to the membership.”

About a dozen CJH staff worked at the weir this season and the difficulty they experienced was being able to install the weir early enough to effectively capture the majority of the summer Chinook that were migrating up the Okanogan River.

“Unfortunately with our current design we are only able to install the weir when Okanogan River discharge is less than 2,500 cubic feet per second. This year, we were able to operate in August and September, when we were within this allowable range but there had already been a breakdown in the thermal barrier at the mouth of the Okanogan,” said Pearl. “Many of the adult Chinook returns passed the weir site before installation. The current weir design will continue to be

assessed in order to effectively meet the CJH program’s needs.”

Staff tried out a new tool this season called a Whooshh system that was used to transport adult Chinook from the weir trap to a truck. The system transported adult fish in four to six seconds. “It eliminated potential safety issues that we could have encountered with staff wading across the river carrying large fish during high flows. We leased the system with the plan to purchase it in the near future,” said Pearl.



*Whooshh system set up to assist with transport of adult salmon at fish weir site*

### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

#### CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

Randy Friedlander,  
Director of Fish and Wildlife  
1 Colville Street PO Box 150  
Nespelem, WA 99155  
randall.friedlander@colvilletribes.com

#### BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Dave Roberts,  
Fish Biologist/Project Manager  
905 NE 11th Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232  
daroberts@bpa.gov

## CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE



*Chinook in holding pen near ladder*

Staff collected 1,124 adult summer Chinook from July through August using the purse seine fishing boat at the mouth of the Okanogan River and from the CJH fish ladder. In September, an additional 84 natural-origin (NOR) brood were expected to be collected at the fish weir near Malott; however, due to low numbers of summer Chinook encountered at the weir in late August and early September, 74 of the 84 NOR fish were collected in a beach seine effort in the Similkameen River on September 15.

August was a busy month with collecting, transferring, spawning, and marking and tagging activities. Staff spawned 308 female spring Chinook brood and marked and tagged 1.567 million fingerlings using an automated trailer system that can process 60,000 fish in an eight hour period. The hatchery currently has about one million eggs in incubation.

When staff began collecting summer Chinook brood they also operated the fish ladder at the same time to remove hatchery Chinook from the river; these fish were distributed to tribal members. Both spring and

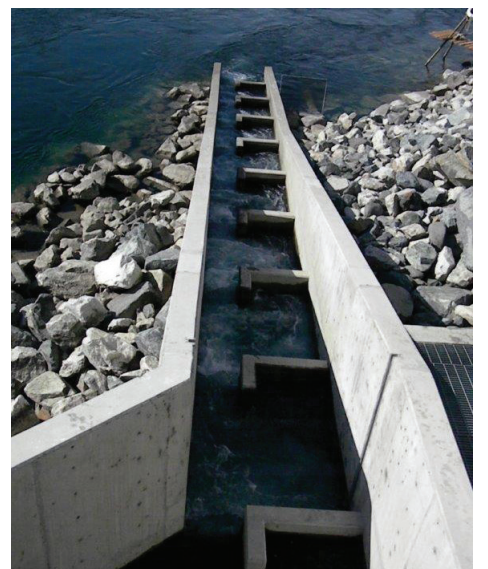
summer Chinook went through two rounds of inoculations prior to spawning beginning. The fish are injected with antibiotics and a drug that helps prevent Bacterial Kidney Disease, predominant in all Chinook stocks.

Maintenance activities during this time frame consisted of vegetation management throughout the complex, and upgrades or repairs that can only be completed during the summer. This year, modifications were made to the adult holding ponds and upgrades were made to the chiller system.



*Staff inoculate fish prior to spawning*

“In October, CJH staff will begin spawning summer Chinook,” said Pat Phillips, CJH manager. “We will be transferring our integrated yearling summer Chinook juveniles to the Omak rearing pond, as well as transferring out MetComp spring Chinook to the Riverside pond.”



*CJH Fish Ladder*





Harvest Tech Tony Stanczak assists with collecting brood

## 2016 SELECTIVE HARVEST SEASON

The selective harvest crew fished from July 5 to August 29, collecting natural and hatchery-origin (HOR) broodstock for the hatchery while at the same time harvesting HOR Chinook to minimize the proportion of hatchery salmon on the spawning grounds. By the end of the season, 1,016 Chinook brood were collected for CJH, 1,802 sockeye and 517 hatchery Chinook adults were harvested for the membership. A total of 1,590 NOR Chinook were released.

As of September 20, 5,197 adults and 921 jacks have been collected at the CJH ladder and distributed to the membership.

The Upper Columbia United Tribes, the Coeur d' Alene, Kalispel and Kootenai Tribes received one round of fish and the Spokane

Tribe received salmon from the Wells Hatchery this season.

"We didn't encounter the high water temperatures in the Okanogan River mouth like last year, so the sockeye immediately swam to Canada and were less available to catch from the purse seine," said Mike Rayton, CTFW senior biologist. "And because there were fewer hatchery-origin Chinook returning to the Okanogan for harvest, the catch for Chinook was also low this year."

Due to the low catch of sockeye this season, the Okanogan Nation Alliance traded 500 sockeye to the Colville Tribes in exchange for Chinook salmon. This salmon was surplus from the CJH fish ladder.

### THE SELECTIVE HARVEST GOALS ARE TO:

- Support CJH broodstock collection efforts
- Secure the Colville tribal harvest allocation and protect resources
- Release natural-origin fish unharmed to create healthier salmon runs
- Recover listed species (spring Chinook and summer steelhead)
- Prevent future listings (summer/fall Chinook and sockeye salmon)
- Interrogate fish for tags
- Create harvest opportunities for individuals, while serving the communal effort to protect our resources for present and future generations
- Reestablishing subsistence and ceremonial harvest for Native Americans while increasing recreational sport fishing opportunities in the Columbia and Okanogan



Staff collect Chinook brood

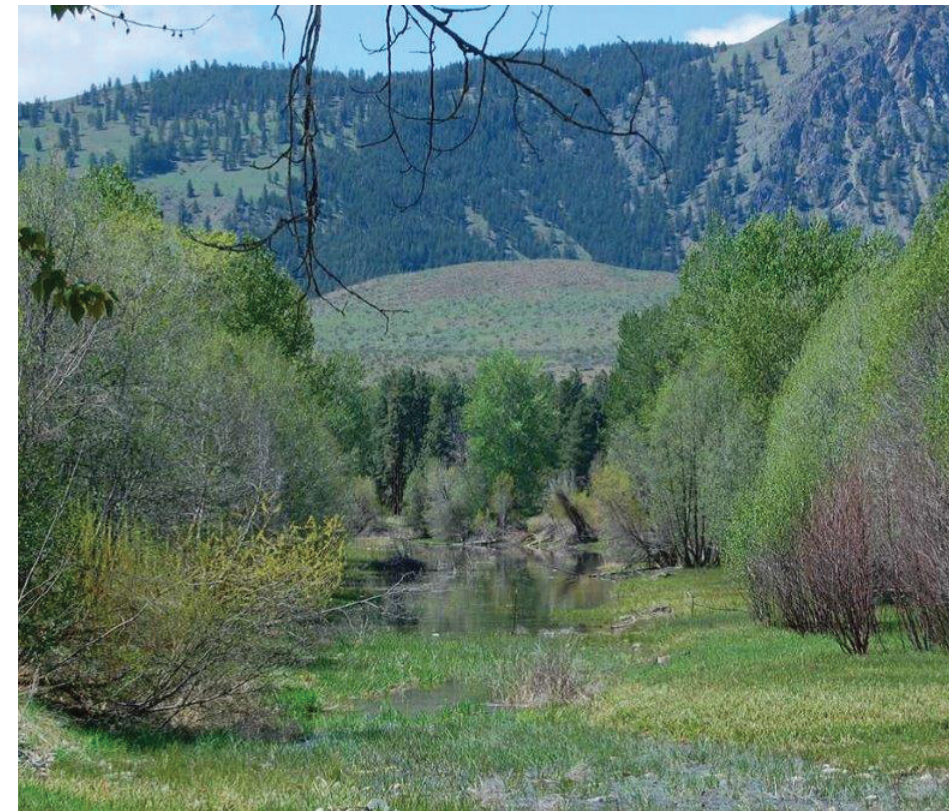


Nicole Peone, harvest tech



Selective harvest boat

## TRIBE CONTINUES RESTORATION WORK IN THE METHOW RIVER



Silver Side Channel Before Construction

The Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Department is currently working on a restoration project altering a one-mile long channel located on the east side of the Methow River and west of Highway 153. The \$91,251 project will increase rearing habitat for federally-listed "threatened" Upper Columbia River steelhead and "endangered" spring Chinook salmon, coho and summer Chinook salmon.

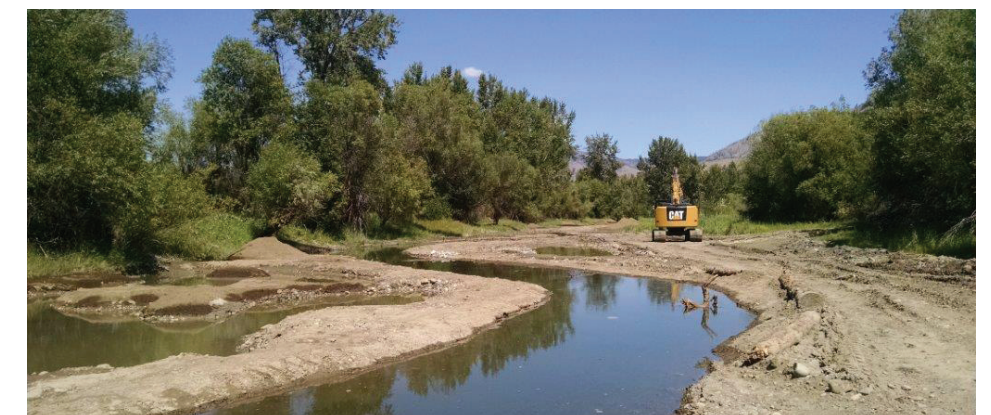
"We partnered with the Columbia Cascade Fish Enhancement Group, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to improve the quality of habitat within an existing side channel in the Silver Reach of the Methow River," said Paul Wagner, fish biologist for CTFW.

The 2,000 foot of existing river channel will be re-configured into a 2,500 foot single thread channel that is appropriately scaled for current hydrologic conditions.

"This project will increase habitat complexity by increasing channel sinuosity, adding woody debris clusters and vegetated point bars, and creating riffles and in-channel alcoves; all

necessary components of salmonid habitat that are currently lacking within the existing channel," said Wagner. "Wetland and riparian plant communities will also be established along channel margins and newly constructed channel features."

Funding for this project is through the Bonneville Power Administration, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, and the Douglas County Public Utility District Habitat Conservation Plan Tributary Committee.



Silver Side Channel During Construction

### OTHER PROJECTS CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT:

- A roughened channel to replace an irrigation dam on Frazer Creek to facilitate fish passage
- An irrigation production well project to replace the surface withdrawal irrigation system on Beaver Creek to reduce the amount of water withdrawn from the stream
- Revision to the Barkley Irrigation Company irrigation system to prevent the construction of push-up dams in the aforementioned channel and retain more water in the main stem Methow River for fish
- Assessment of wetland habitat adjacent to Twisp River for potential use as rearing habitat for native-salmonids
- Initial engineer design of an instream structure project to increase habitat complexity in the main stem Methow River
- A public outreach project to construct a trail loop with informative signage at a restoration site on the Upper Middle reach of the main stem Methow River
- Floodplain restoration feasibility and alternatives analysis on the mainstem Chewuch River
- Relocate beavers into the Methow drainage

Project partners include the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, Trout Unlimited Washington Water Project, and the Columbia Cascade Fish Enhancement Group.