



WILDLIFE MITIGATION AERIAL SEEDING PROJECT



Creek Road and Agency Cutoff Road. The property is managed for sharp-tailed grouse, which is a Threatened Species in the state of Washington. The seeding occurred along the south and west portions of the WMA on steeper slopes that lacked adequate amounts of native grass species. The seeding area included a total of 723 acres.

• Berg Ranch WMA is located approximately 10.5 miles southwest of Nespelem along the north side of the Columbia River (Lake Rufus Woods). The property focuses on the management of habitat for mule deer and pronghorn antelope. The seeding was conducted primarily along the south side of the WMA on steep sandy slopes that are of significant concern for erosion. Prior to the burn, the slopes had good amounts of antelope bitterbrush but the understory vegetation was dominated by the non-native and invasive species cheat grass. The project area totaled 591 acres of which 557 acres on the WMA and 34 acres is tribal land that is within the boundaries of the WMA.

• Leading Edge Aviation was hired to conduct aerial seeding on the Reservation. The company has been conducting aerial big game surveys and seeding projects for the tribe for over two decades.

• The species seeded included one (1) native shrub, six (6) native grasses, and one (1) desirable introduced (alfalfa).

• The project was funded by Bonneville Power Administration (97%) and with tribal funds (3%). Total cost of project is approximately \$219,000.

Project details:

• The two locations that were seeded include: Agency Butte Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and Berg Ranch WMA. The project began on February 11 and was completed on February 17.

• Agency Butte WMA is located east of Nespelem and lies between Cache

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:

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For more information go to <https://www.cct-fnw.com> or our Facebook page @ CCT F&W

ANGLERS GET REWARDED FOR CATCHING NORTHERN PIKE



Anglers have an opportunity to get paid to fish for northern pike in Lake Roosevelt.

The Northern Pike Reward Program offered by the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) will pay anglers \$10 for every pike head turned in at a designated drop off location.

Anglers can drop off their pike heads at the Noisy Waters Gas Station, Kettle Falls boat launch, Hunters boat launch, Fort Spokane boat launch, or at the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office.

In 2021, anglers were paid \$1,860 for the pike heads that were turned in and in 2020, just over \$11,000 was paid out. The reward program has paid out almost \$34,000 since the program began in 2017.

“The co-managers of Lake Roosevelt, CCT, the Spokane Tribe of Indians (STI), and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

(WDFW) mutually agree that northern pike pose a significant threat to the Lake Roosevelt fishery and salmon fisheries in the Columbia River through competition, predation and the introduction of diseases,” said Holly McLellan, Aquatic Invasive Species manager for the CCT.

“The co-managers are particularly concerned with the negative impacts northern pike pose to tribal and state resources,” she said. “The CCT currently invests \$6.1 million, the STI invests \$3.1 million, and WDFW invests \$560,000 annually into protecting and enhancing the fish of Lake Roosevelt through hatchery programs, native fish conservation programs for redband trout, white sturgeon, and burbot, as well as habitat restoration projects through 15 Bonneville Power Administration sponsored projects (<https://www.cbfish.org>). Northern pike compromise the \$9.8 million annual investment into the Lake Roosevelt fishery by the tribes and the state.”

Northern pike are found in slow-moving streams and in shallow, weedy places in lakes and reservoirs. They are an ambush predator and can lie perfectly still for long periods and attack prey with remarkable speed. They eat frogs, insects, birds, trout, steelhead and salmon.

Anglers participating in the pro-



gram must adhere to the following:

• All anglers must be 17 years of age or older to participate in the program.

• Anglers must completely fill out the tag information at the designated drop off area. Fish heads must be placed in a freezer bag with the label and dropped into the freezer or brought to the Inchelium Fish and Wildlife office.

• Fish heads must be in good condition and clearly identifiable. Unidentifiable heads will not be accepted or awarded.

• Fish must be caught in the main stem Columbia River from Wells Dam upstream to the Canadian border, the Spokane River upstream to Little Falls, the Kettle River, or the Okanogan River.

• There are no size restrictions on northern pike that are eligible for the reward.

• Anglers must adhere to all applicable state/tribal fishing regulations for the area in which you fish. Contact your local state or tribal agency for license requirements and current fishing regulations.

• Please allow 2 to 3 weeks to receive your reward.

For more information about the Northern Pike Reward Program, go to <https://www.cct-fnw.com/northern-pike>

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CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY



A lot of effort and attention goes in to raising salmon at a hatchery.

Since January, staff monitored and cared for fish eggs and alevin, prepped outside raceways for fish transfers, fed fish multiple times a day, picked out dead fish eggs, cleaned ponds regularly and ponded fry from the incubator room into troughs.

There were a total of 856 incubation trays utilized this year (one for each adult female that was spawned). As of March 10, fish have been ponded from 92 of those trays:

- 50 trays for spring chinook (10J) equating to an estimated 241,000 ponded fry
- 42 trays for segregated summer chinook sub-yearlings equating to an estimated 127,000 ponded fry

“Fish usually stay in the starter tanks for 10 to 14 days, depending on how many fish are in the starter tanks and when fish need to be ponded from the incubation trays,” said CJH Manager Matt McDaniel. “The tanks are cleaned daily, morts are picked from the tanks daily as well and the fish are generally fed anywhere between 6-8 times per day, about once every hour.”

Once the chinook salmon grow to fingerling size, they are run through an automated system that sorts, clips and tags them. This system can process about 60,000 fish in about eight hours.

“Once they reach that size, they are pumped into the marking trailer, then sorted by size so that like size fish go to the same tagging/clipping line,” said McDaniel. “The automated machines insert the coded wire tag and/or clip the adipose fin, depending on program. Those fish are then transferred to different ponds and continue to grow until they are moved to the acclimation ponds or released from CJH.”

Total eggs/alevins on station:

- Integrated Summer Chinook: 684,579
- Segregated Summer Chinook: 614,440
- Spring Chinook (CJH): 942,969

Due to flooding of the Okanogan River in November, all fish in the acclimation ponds were released early due to deteriorated health caused by the flood waters. The fish released were:

- Integrated Summer Chinook, Omak Pond, 207,773 released Dec. 3, 2021
- Integrated Summer Chinook, Similkameen Pond, 386,943 released Dec. 6, 2021
- Spring Chinook (10J), Riverside Pond, 229,978 released Dec. 7, 2021

Current fish populations at CJH:

- Spring Chinook (CJH), Brood Year 2020: 800,000, to be released from CJH in April 2022
- Segregated Summer Chinook, Brood Year 2020: 453,000, to be released from CJH in April 2022
- Segregated Summer Chinook, Brood Year 2021: 147,000, to be released from CJH in May or June 2022.
- Spring Chinook (10J), Brood Year 2021: 240,000, to be released from Riverside Pond in April 2023.

CJH Employees of the Month:

January 2022: Leo Amundson and Virgil Michel
February 2022: Leo Amundson

CJH New Employees:

Makayla Andrews, Fish Culturist I (December 2021)
Jessica Weathers, Fish Culturist I (January 2022)
Ricardo Angel, Sr. Fish Culturist (March 2022)



LYNX PROJECT UPDATE



The Colville Confederated Tribes in partnership with Conservation Northwest, Upper Columbia United Tribes, Okanogan Nation Alliance, and others have been capturing lynx in Canada and relocating them to the Colville Indian Reservation to help establish a healthy, self-sustaining population.

Project details:

- Nine adult lynx were released on the Colville Indian Reservation by mid-February of 2022.
- CTFW has received support and funding from the BIA's Endangered Species Program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Tribal Wildlife Grant, Conservation Northwest and others.
- In Washington state, lynx are listed as a federally threat-

ened species, their range includes the North Cascades, primarily north of Lake Chelan and east of Ross Lake, including the Pasayten Wilderness and Loomis State Forest as well as a few animals in the Kettle River Mountain Range and Selkirk Mountains.

• Lynx are among the most endangered felines in North America, with only a few hundred animals suspected to remain in the lower 48 states. In late 2016, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife listed lynx as endangered in our state.

• Currently, biologists estimate that fewer than 50 lynx remain in Washington.

• The goal of the project is to relocate at least 50 Canada lynx to the reservation in the next five years.

