

Colville Confederated Tribes Chief Joseph Hatchery Program



February 21, 2014

Welcome to the Chief Joseph Hatchery's – 4th Annual Program Review (APR)

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation's Fish and Wildlife would like to invite you to the 4th Annual Chief Joseph Hatchery Program Review. This year's meeting will be held on March 11th at the Chief Joseph Hatchery's Central Facility in Bridgeport, Washington.

This gathering provides a unique opportunity for our staff to work with regional partners in support of the Colville Tribes' Anadromous Fish Division and its Hatchery Program. The technical and management expertise each of you brings to the APR is a key component for success.

The first day of this year's meeting is set aside to present results from 2013 activities and to discuss what we've learned. We will review our monitoring and evaluation designs, habitat restoration efforts, harvest regimes and our fish culture and production operations. Our goal is to increase the overall scientific rigor and effectiveness of the programs that inform management decisions. Previous APRs have helped in this regard, and we expect this year to be no different.

The rest of the agenda, on Days 2-4, are structured to examine the key analytical assumptions, biological targets and the decision rules which guide our plans and activities. While these workshops typically are a Colville Tribes staff exercise, all invitees are welcome to attend beyond Day 1.

The Hatchery Program's chief goal is to provide for long absent ceremonial and subsistence needs for our members while increasing recreational and commercial harvest opportunities for all. Our objective is to do this through a conservation-based approach to increase the abundance, fitness and health of natural and hatchery-origin fish populations. Lastly, the Fish and Wildlife program will continue to provide leadership for the recovery and protection of listed and non-listed fish, and their habitat, throughout the Columbia Basin.

Sincerely,

Randall Friedlander, Director
Fish and Wildlife Department
Colville Confederated Tribes

The Chief Joseph Hatchery Program –Principles¹

The Colville Tribes assert that hatchery production is an indispensable part of a multifaceted strategy to improve destabilized fish abundance and diminished system-wide survival. Unsustainable harvest regimes, migratory impediments, habitat degradation and other environmental factors have contributed to historic declines that require substantive action.

Put simply, we cannot replace lost habitat or overcome multiple human-caused limitations to sustainability, or maintain viable natural fish populations, unless hatchery programs are part of the overall approach. Therefore, individual program components must be viewed as tools that can be managed as a comprehensive policy to meet conservation and resource goals.

The actions being implemented by the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department represent an extraordinary effort to recover Okanogan and Columbia River natural salmon and steelhead populations. The Tribes have embraced hatchery reform efforts that seek to find a balance between artificial and natural production and address the often conflicting goals of increased harvest and conservation.

Hence, the purpose of this document is to confirm that sound principles, and an adaptive framework, are incorporated into the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program. This insures that production plans and activities are guided by science-based standards and that rigorous monitoring and evaluation designs are applied. These principles are:

1. *Manage hatchery broodstock to achieve proper genetic integration with, or segregation from, natural populations;*
2. *Promote local adaptation of natural and hatchery populations;*
3. *Minimize adverse ecological interactions between hatchery- and natural-origin fish;*
4. *Minimize effects of hatchery facilities on the ecosystem;*
5. *Maximize survival of hatchery fish in integrated and segregated programs;*
6. *Develop clear, specific, quantifiable harvest and conservation goals for natural and hatchery populations within an "All H" (Hatcheries, Habitat, Harvest, Hydro) context;*
7. *Design and operate hatchery programs in a scientifically defensible manner;*
8. *Monitor, evaluate and adaptively manage hatchery programs;*
9. *Institutionalize and apply a common implementation framework;*
10. *Use the framework to set priorities, guide project review, and determine return on investments;*
11. *Provide training for all program staff;*
12. *Host the Chief Joseph Annual Program Review as part of the adaptive management principle, and*
13. *Develop and maintain a state-of-the-art CJHP database and a highly functional web-presence.*

¹ Adapted from the Hatchery Reform Project, the CJHP 2012 Implementation Plan and other key program documents developed under the CJHP Master Plan (3-Step Process), Hatchery Science Review Group reports and independent science review.