



NEWS RELEASE

*Colville Confederated Tribes PO Box 150 Nespelem, WA 99155 * (509)634-2110 * Fax: (509)634-2126

**Contact: Randy Friedlander
Interim Fish & Wildlife Director
(509) 634-2113**

Chief Joseph Hatchery Meeting Brings Purpose

(Nespelem, Wash. March 20, 2013) – In early March, a group of over 30 natural resource experts attended a four-day workshop at Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) located in Bridgeport, Wash. to discuss activities surrounding the hatchery program. The purpose of this workshop or Annual Program Review (APR) was to define the hatchery’s production goals and to implement a plan. The Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) Dept. hosted the annual meeting, and it was facilitated by the CJH Science Program.

“We welcomed everyone and solicited their feedback, comments and suggestions,” said Keith Wolf, CJH Science program manager. “Their feedback is very important to us and will help us develop all components of the program. The development of this plan is complex because much of the research, science and planning behind it is complex.”

Each year, the Colville Tribes’ staff works collectively with the region’s natural resource experts, scientists, and stakeholders to present fish production and monitoring plans. Presentations ranged from research, monitoring and evaluation efforts, to fish production and harvesting, adult fish management, and habitat restoration and included a tour of the facility.

Tom Dresser, GCPUD Fish, Wildlife and water quality manager said, “The Colville Tribe and GCPUD have been working collaboratively on the CJH Project since 2004. These early efforts were documented in a Memorandum of Understanding in 2007, and then formalized in 2010 with approval of the CJH Sharing Agreement, agreed to by the Colville Tribe, GCPUD and BPA. These early efforts have laid a strong foundation which the Colville Tribe and GCPUD have continued to build upon.” Dresser said, “Through open candid dialogue, working collaboratively together, and sharing of technical information at the CJH - APR meetings, the Colville Tribe is in the process of developing a hatchery program based on strong scientific principles.”

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“The actions being implemented by the CTFW Program 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,” Wolf said.

Representatives from the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (NPCC), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Okanogan Nation Alliance, Chelan, Douglas and Grant County (GCPUD) Public Utility Districts were in attendance.

Dr. Lars E. Mobrand, senior biometrician for DJ Warren and Associates, is a congressionally-appointed member of the Hatchery Science Review Group. “The APR reflected the commitment of the Colville Tribe to meet goals for harvest in a manner that is consistent with conservation principles and the goal of re-establishing healthy naturally spawning populations in the Okanogan basin,” said Mobrand. “It also demonstrated the intent to apply the most up-to-date knowledge and information to move the project forward in a scientifically defensible manner and with accountability to the broader community. The Colville Tribe is in the forefront of implementation of a paradigm shift in hatchery management within the context of an integrated, “all H” approach. He said, “The 2013 APR represented a step forward in the challenging process of institutionalizing hatchery reform in the 21st century.”

The “all H” approach Dr. Mobrand refers to is an integration of habitat, hatcheries, harvest and hydro programs which will help to develop clear, specific, quantifiable harvest and conservation goals for natural and hatchery populations.

“The CJH provides a model for the region by increasing harvest opportunities and helping to restore listed salmon in the Upper Columbia watershed,” said Dr. Tom Karier, Washington State NPCC member. “With this project and their path breaking work on selective harvest, the Colville Tribe has demonstrated how to combine science and collaboration to benefit fish and wildlife.”

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

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