



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Resource Experts Gather at Chief Joseph Hatchery To Share ideas and Implement Plans***

***(Nespelem, Wash. March 20, 2014)*** – 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), Okanogan 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. Moberg, 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.”

**(MORE)**

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. The program has field offices and fish acclimation facilities throughout the Okanogan Basin.

*For more information about the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program, go to [www.colvilletribes.com/cjhp.php](http://www.colvilletribes.com/cjhp.php)*

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