



OUR COLLEGE GRADS, WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Kirsten Brudevold graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science with a biology core. While attending college as a full time student, she participated in the CTFW Management Intern Program which provided her financial support and summer internship work. She was hired on in 2018 and works as a fisheries biologist with the Okanogan Monitoring and Evaluation Program for CTFW. Her duties include: Environmental DNA sampling, electrofishing, beach seining, rotary screw trapping, chinook spawning ground surveys, PIT tagging of juvenile chinook and reporting on the Okanogan Adult Weir Program.

Brudevold says she enjoys getting to work early in the morning when the chinook are waking and jumping in the river. "I also enjoy handling adult chinook, there is nothing else like it."

She wanted youth to know that earning a degree in the STEM field has its challenges but it can be rewarding. She said, "College is challenging, but if you push through you can work outside and enjoy your career."

When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with family and watching her daughter play sports.

Mary Davisson graduated from Eastern Washington University in 2016 with

a bachelor's degree in biology. While attending EWU, she participated in the CTFW Management Intern Program which provided her financial support while attending college. The program also provided her with a job interning in the summer months. In 2016, she was hired by CTFW and worked as a fisheries biologist for the Okanogan Basin Monitoring and Evaluation Program (OBMEP) at the tribe, monitoring fish habitat in the Okanogan basin. She is currently working as the Land and Water Acquisition biologist for CTFW. She started in this position at the end of 2022.

"In my current position, I enjoy working with other agencies on a common goal of conserving and restoring fish habitat," said Davisson. "Fish, wildlife, and conservation biology, whether you like to work outdoors doing fieldwork, or indoors working the administrative side of the job, there are multiple opportunities. If you like being outdoors, working in this field allows you hands-on experience with nature." She said, "Identifying plants and animals, recording wildlife, the safe capture and release of animals are some of the greatest things about this job. One of the coolest things about working in this field is that you have a hand in creating sustainable interactions with the environment."

Outside of work she says she loves to travel.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



For Additional Information Contact:
**CONFEDERATED TRIBES
OF THE COLVILLE
RESERVATION**

Michelle Campobasso,
Public Relations Specialist
1 Colville Street PO Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155
michelle.campobasso@colvilletribes.com

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



FISH PASSAGE AND SALMON HATCHERY EFFORTS DISCUSSED AT FIRST SALMON CEREMONY



Many people gathered at sunrise near the Columbia River on May 25, to watch Colville tribal members catch the first salmon at Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) in Bridgeport, Washington.

It didn't take long for them to catch a spring chinook using a dip net at the fish ladder. The fish was filleted near the river and brought to the cooks to attend to.

Jarred Erickson, Chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), welcomed guests to this year's ceremony. "Good morning everyone and thank you for being here. Today, we will see presentations on the great work that has been done for our salmon. This includes the hatchery and fish passage work and all the work being done by our technicians, biologists and admin staff."

It is important to understand that

collecting salmon for CJH is no easy task, and every year the selective harvest crew has a big job to do. Not only do they collect salmon for the hatchery, they also provide fish for tribal subsistence and ceremonial needs.

Harvest manager for CCT, Isaiah Martin, discussed some of the goals and objectives of the selective harvest program. "So our primary goal is to collect summer chinook broodstock for this hatchery, and the other thing we do is remove as many hatchery origin spawners so there are more natural origin spawners," said Martin. "We also get fish to the people, and we go straight to the districts in Omak, Keller, Nespelem, and Inchelium who otherwise can't get fish."

Martin mentioned the partnership with the PUDs and federal agencies, and that they are great people to work

with. He thanked them for surplus fish. These fish are distributed to tribal members.

Later that morning, the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) discussed salmon reintroduction efforts in the blocked area of the Columbia River and how those efforts will benefit everyone.

"Today, I would like to talk a little bit about benefits versus cost and how through the years we've been programmed to believe that power production and irrigation, that those uses are considered benefits, but when we talk about wildlife mitigation or salmon passage, those become costs," said D.R. Michel, executive director for UCUT. "So there's a cost to bring salmon home but a benefit to produce power; we need to change that way of thinking. These are all economic opportunities. There's a whole economy that we don't talk about."

UCUT worked with Earth Economics, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Upper Snake River Tribes, Pacific Rivers, Save Our Wild Salmon, and WaterWatch of Oregon and developed a report. The report is an economic evaluation that talks about



Continues on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 Salmon Ceremony
- 3 Chief Joseph Hatchery
- 4 College Grads Update

the natural benefits of the Columbia River. Michel said it shows the value of \$190 billion annually compared to that of power production at \$3.3 billion, which is supposed to be the big money generator.

The report is called “The Value of Natural Capital in the Columbia River Basin.” <https://ucut.org/habitat/value-natural-capital-columbia-river-basin/>

“The river does not end at the base of Chief Joe,” said Michel. “There’s a trust responsibility and more people need to step up to the plate. There’s thousands of miles of pristine habitat above Coulee Dam and we’ve had cultural and educational releases and the salmon keep showing us the way. He said, “It’s an investment in our future, for the benefit of all people, and it’s going to take all of us. We can have our salmon home, the power, the irrigation, we can have everything the river offers us.”

Since 2019, the CCT, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe have released over 1,000 adult chinook above Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, and Spokane River dams for cultural and educational purposes. Additional releases in the blocked area

have been conducted by Okanogan Nation Alliance. Since 2022, the UCUT released approximately 59,000 juvenile chinook for research purposes, to monitor and study their journey to and from the ocean.

“The Phase 2 Implementation Plan that we are working on is a plan to continue bringing salmon above five hydroelectric dams, Chief Joe, Grand Coulee, and three hydro dams on the Spokane River,” said Conor Giorgi, Anadromous Program manager for the Spokane Tribe. “It’s a 21-year plan laid out in two steps for the price tag of about \$300 million. We’ve broken it down into steps.”

Step 1 (years 1 – 6): Involves collecting baseline data and developing small scale fish production facilities in the blocked area.

Step 2 (years 7 – 21): Incremental design, installation, testing, and operation of fish passage facilities as well as ongoing research, monitoring and evaluation.

During the ceremony, many adults and students observed how the cooks prepared the salmon fillets. The pit was built using cement blocks, stacked



one on top of the other, and they were set up in a half square shape. Large screens were used to cook the fish on so multiple fish fillets could be cooked at the same time. The first salmon caught that morning was brought to the head of the table to be served first. Prayers were said and everyone enjoyed the ceremony feast.



CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE



Since January, over 1.7 million salmon smolts were released from Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) and the acclimation ponds in Omak, Similkameen and Riverside. This spring, staff began collecting spring chinook broodstock for the hatchery program and marking fish.

Marking fish is a process where tiny fingerlings are run through an automated system that sorts them and clips (adipose fin removed) and tags each fish. The system can process over 60,000 fish in about eight hours. Staff will continue marking fish until the end of July.

“Hatchery staff have been busy with smolt releases, marking fish, and collecting broodstock,” said CJH Manager Matt McDaniel. “They have been monitoring and caring for fish fry and adult broodstock as well as general maintenance and repairs around the hatchery.” He said, “On May 22, staff began collecting spring chinook broodstock from the CJH ladder and will continue until the broodstock goal of 600 is met or at the end of June, whichever comes first.”

This summer, CJH staff will be focusing on collecting summer chinook broodstock, marking and tagging BY22 fish, and caring for broodstock as well as BY22 juveniles. In August, staff will also begin spawning spring chinook.

Other activities at CJH include:

- Army Corps of Engineers hosted their annual Earth Day

Celebration on April 20, with CJH providing a station at the hatchery showing a short video and giving a tour to a few groups.

- CJH hosted the First Salmon Ceremony on May 25.
- There were several other tours in the last couple of months, including Lake Roosevelt Middle School and Army Corps of Engineers.
- Several schools in the area participated in the Salmon in a Classroom program with Ricardo Angel leading that program.

Smolts released from CJH:

Segregated Spring Chinook BY21 Yearlings – 914,176
Segregated Summer Chinook BY21 Yearlings – 411,272

Smolts released from the acclimation ponds:

Integrated Summer Chinook BY21 Yearlings from Omak – 5,348
Integrated Summer Chinook BY21 Yearlings from Similkameen – 247,267
Spring Chinook (10j) BY21 Yearlings from Riverside – 124,519 (in Jan 2023)

Total spring chinook broodstock onsite as of June 7:

Females – 153 Males – 122 Jacks – 7

Number of fish currently at the hatchery:

BY22 Segregated Summer Chinook sub-yearlings – 115,899
BY22 Segregated Summer Chinook yearlings – 437,439
BY22 Integrated Summer Chinook yearlings – 512,041
BY22 Segregated Spring Chinook – 890,413
BY22 Integrated Spring Chinook (10j) – 214,726

Employees of the Month

Spencer Cleveland – March 2023 Leo Amundson – April 2023
Jim Andrews – May 2023

