

BEAR AWARENESS



- bee hives and petroleum products
- * Keep yards clean
- * Pick fruit from trees as it ripens; do not leave fruit on the ground
- * Do not leave pet food outside, especially overnight
- * Keep outdoor grills clean; when not in use, store grills inside a garage or building
- * Never store food or garbage outdoors for long periods of time
- * If a bear doesn't find food it will move along
- * Bears are naturally curious and opportunistic feeders
- * Please do not feed the bears - individuals who are feeding bears create a major problem and may cause harm to the bear and the general public - you will be cited with a fine of \$500
- * If you spot a bear in a residential area, please call 509.722.7659 Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. After hours, call 800.551.5800.

The weather is warming and soon bears will emerge from their dens in search of food. Bears are attracted to smells and can pick up smells from miles away, so we need to keep our outdoor areas clean. They eat both plants and animals. A black bear's diet may consist of plants, berries and other fruits, insects, mice, squirrels, fawns and elk calves, livestock, animal carcasses, and fish. But they are most notable for taking advantage of human irresponsibility with food and garbage. And, if they find a good food source, they may come back again and again.



In 2023, Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW) received 57 bear complaints and most complaints are due to humans being irresponsible. When wildlife officials are called, they will set up live traps and capture and relocate the bear to a remote location within the reservation or on the North Half. If a bear comes back to the same location, other methods may be used including hazing, chemical immobilization with relocation, and as a last resort lethal removal.

Here are some helpful tips to avoid bear and human interaction.

* Bears are drawn to the smell of food such as garbage, pet foods, bird feeders, compost piles, fruit trees, berry bushes, livestock feed, dirty barbecue grills,

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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Facebook page @ CCT F&W
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EASTERN WASHINGTON LAKES ARE BEING STOCKED WITH THOUSANDS OF TROUT AND MORE STOCKING EVENTS ARE IN THE WORKS



Several popular lakes in eastern Washington, some known for holding state record fish, have been stocked with trout ranging from 2 to 6 pounds. Soon some of these lakes will be stocked with even larger trout.

So, if you are an avid trout fisherman, this is exciting news, and it may be time to get the fishing poles out and get that tackle box ready.

Rufus Woods Lake is one of the most popular lakes in Washington state and is well-known to be a great fishery due to multiple stocking events that takes place each year by staff who work at the Colville Tribes' trout hatchery. This fishery is about 51 miles in length and runs between Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams.

- In January, 1,670 triploid rainbow trout that averaged about 6 pounds were released.

- In February, 15,000 triploids were released and those fish averaged 1.5 pounds.

- April -May, another 30,000 triploids will be released averaging 2 pounds.

"Rufus Woods Lake is renowned for its ability to give anglers a chance at fish sizes you can't find anywhere else," said Cameron Eddy, fish biologist for Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife (CTFW).

Anglers that retain a tagged fish are encouraged to contact CTFW and provide the tag number and information related to the catch such as the date, location, length and approximate size

of the fish or go online to www.cctfw-fishtags.com/report-a-tag.

Rufus Woods still holds the state catch record for triploid rainbow trout at 29.6 pounds.

Omak Lake is another beautiful and popular fishery located on the Colville Indian Reservation (CIR) just seven miles southeast of Omak, Washington.

Continues on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 Stocking of Popular Lakes
- 3 Chief Joseph Hatchery Update
- 4 Bear Information



Omak Lake holds the state catch record for Lahontan cutthroat trout at 18.04 pounds.

North and South Twin Lakes is another great fishery located near Inchelium, Washington and is well-known for bass and trout fishing. Many anglers like to camp near the lakes so they can get in as much fishing as possible. Both lakes have a mandatory catch and kill for all smallmouth bass in an effort to reduce competition in the fishery.

- In April, both lakes will be stocked with 7,500 rainbow trout averaging 1.5 pounds
- April -May, both lakes will be stocked with 600 rainbow trout averaging 7 pounds
- In October, both lakes will be stocked with another 5,000 rainbow trout but these fish will be much smaller at 0.6 pounds

It's well known that anglers catch large Lahontan cutthroat trout ranging from 16 to 25 inches in length and have measured in as high as 34 inches according to CTFW staff.

"People come from all around the United States to fish this lake, we know this because creel staff have interacted with people fishing from Arizona to the east coast," said Eddy.

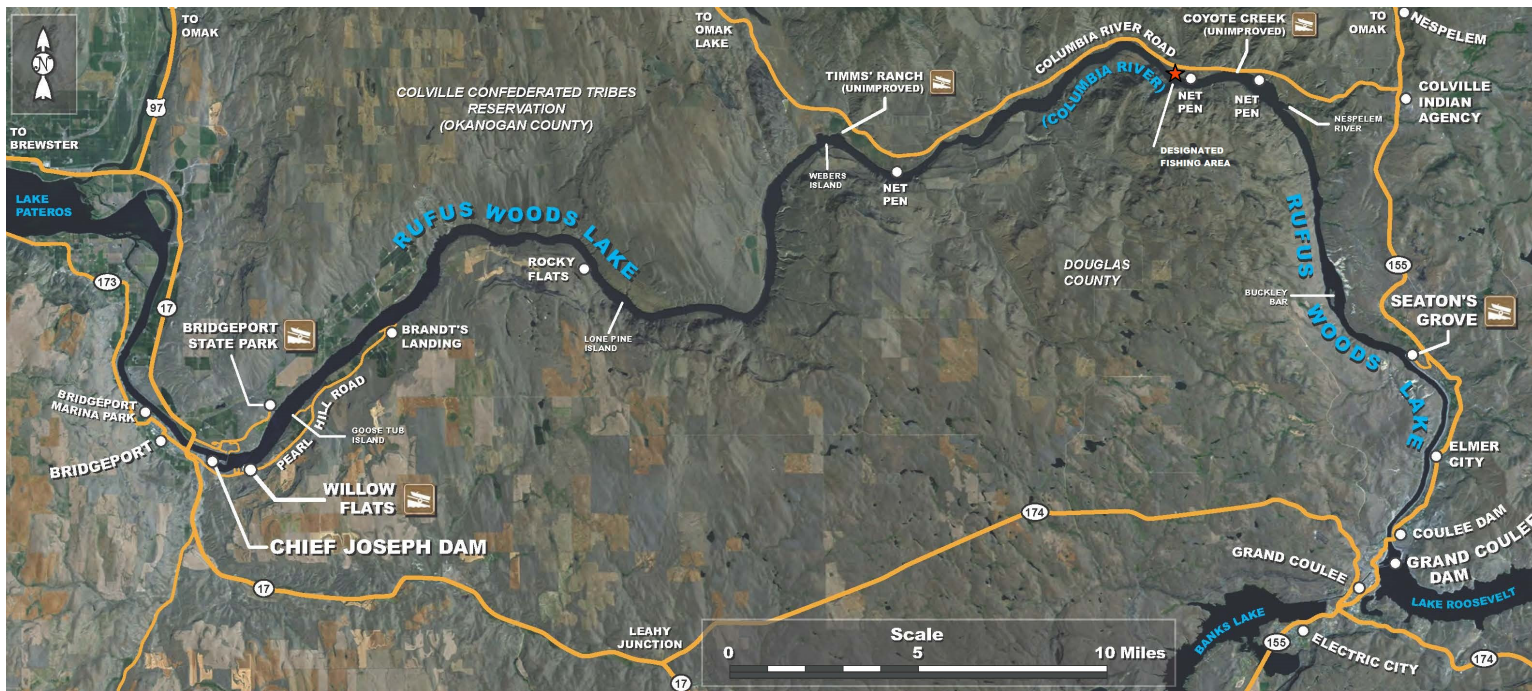
- At the end of March, 40,000 Lahontan cutthroat trout will be released averaging 0.1 pounds

Buffalo Lake is another popular and diverse fishery located on the CIR that is open year-round and is known for largemouth bass, black crappie, kokanee, and rainbow trout fishing. This lake also offers a no limit crayfish fishery from July 1 –September 15.

- In April, 2,000 rainbow trout will be released averaging 1.5 pounds
- April –May, 250 rainbow trout will be released averaging 7 pounds
- In October, 5,000 rainbow trout will

be released averaging 0.6 pounds "There's a lot to be said about these lakes and the opportunity that's available for anglers," said Eddy. "Most of our lakes are stocked with larger fish, usually around two pounds, because they are more likely to survive. This also means they contribute to the fishery immediately and are more likely to be caught by anglers."

Colville tribal members fishing on the reservation must possess a Colville tribal identification card which is a legal permit to fish. All non-members who are fishing select interior waters of the reservation must have a valid CIR fishing permit in their possession. For more information or to buy a fishing permit, go online to <https://www.cctfnw.com/regulations-permits/>.



CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE



Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) was built 11 years ago to increase chinook salmon numbers in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers. Since then, millions of smolts have been released each year from the hatchery and its three acclimation ponds. The hatchery provides salmon for tribal ceremonies, subsistence for tribal members, and recreational fishing opportunities.

In recent months, CJH staff have been working diligently caring for thousands of fish eggs, ponding (releasing) fish fry, feeding and marking fish, and transferring fish from the hatchery to three acclimation ponds located along the Okanogan River.

"We have been ponding and moving fish around as they grow in size," said Ricardo Angel, senior fish culturist for CJH. "We move them from incubation trays to troughs and then to raceways, getting them to size so we can run them through our marking and tagging process."

He said, "In order for salmon to be ponded, we check them to make sure their yolk sac is absorbed. If they are ready to be ponded, we collect a sample into a mason jar and look at it from the bottom. This gives a visual of what their bellies look like and if the yolk is mostly absorbed. We use temperature units that help us determine when the alevin have reached the fry stage."

Once the fish are fry size they are ponded into troughs. Each trough holds about 50,000 fish. At fry stage, the fish are marked and/or tagged as they are run through an automated system prior to being released. Marking fish this way helps fishermen and fisheries managers identify that it's a hatchery fish.

In April, salmon smolts will be released from CJH and the acclimation ponds.

Number of trays of fish fry ponded out since the beginning of January:

- 188 trays of Integrated Summer Chinook
- 44 trays of Segregated Summer Chinook
- 227 trays of CJH Spring Chinook
- 47 trays of MetComp Spring Chinook

Total alevins on station:

Integrated Summer Chinook: 307,139
Segregated Summer Chinook: 597,769

Number of fish at the acclimation ponds:

Riverside – 213,079
Brooks Tract – 203,010
Similkameen – 320,840

Number of fish currently at CJH:

- BY22 Segregated Summer

- Chinook (yearlings) – 483,523, release April 2024
- BY22 CJH Spring Chinook – 890,042, release April 2024
- BY23 Integrated Summer Chinook (yearlings) – 369,013, release April 2025
- BY23 Integrated Summer Chinook (sub-yearlings) – 104,467, release June 2024
- BY23 Segregated Summer Chinook (sub-yearlings) – 135,584, release June 2024
- BY23 CJH Spring Chinook – 534,734, release April 2025
- BY23 MetComp Spring Chinook – 218,352, release April 2025

Estimated number of fish fry that will be released this year:

- BY22 Segregated Summer Chinook (yearlings) – 483,523
- BY22 CJH Spring Chinook – 890,042
- BY22 Integrated Summer Chinook – 203,010 Brooks Tract
- BY22 Integrated Summer Chinook – 213,079 Riverside
- BY22 Integrated Summer Chinook – 320,840 from Similkameen
- BY23 Integrated Summer Chinook (sub-yearlings) – 104,467, release June 2024
- BY23 Segregated Summer Chinook (sub-yearlings) – 135,584, release June 2024

Total Chinook Fry – 2,350,545

Salmon in the Classroom

Several schools are participating in the CJH's "Salmon in the Classroom" program with each school receiving between 150 to 200 fish eggs.

It's a project that brings a little excitement to students who get to learn about the life cycle of salmon. Students (with the oversight of their

teacher) take care of them, monitor and feed them, and watch them grow from fish eggs to fish fry. Once they are big enough, students get to release them in the spring.

"Salmon eggs were brought to schools when the students returned from their winter breaks," said Angel. "Fish are placed in their respective tanks and we provide some information about the salmon and a table where teachers and students can enter daily temperatures and record their temperature units. If the salmon absorb their yolk sac completely, we provide some feed to keep the salmon sustained until they are ready to be released."

The fish fry will be released into Columbia River tributaries or the main stem of the Columbia River.

North Omak Elementary, Paschal Sherman Indian School, Lake Roosevelt Junior High, Mansfield Elementary, Bridgeport Elementary, Brewster Elementary, and Pateros Elementary are participating in the program this year.

