

Fish & Wildlife

Over the past century, the upper Columbia River ecosystems have drastically changed due to hydro projects, over harvesting of fish and wildlife species, and degradation to land. Recognizing these impacts, CTFW developed specific actions that would lessen threats and strengthen anadromous fish, resident fish and wildlife species. These actions required an investment by Bonneville Power Authority (BPA), public utilities, state, tribes and other partners. For fiscal year 2021, CTFW revenues were close to \$29 million. The department has grown to over 140 employees (approx. 70% tribal employment), with four divisions that bring nearly \$4.6 million in indirect dollars.

The **Administration** division provides strategic oversight and daily administrative support for all divisions. Staff is responsible for policy recommendations, scientific research, public relations, contract compliance and accounting.

The **Anadromous** fish division provides ceremonial and subsistence fisheries for the Colville tribal membership. Historically, anadromous fish (salmon and steelhead) were the principal subsistence fishery and are still revered within the tribes' cultural and traditional beliefs. In 2013, Chief Joseph Hatchery was built to increase chinook salmon numbers in the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers that dwindled due to hydro-electric projects.

The **Resident** fish division provides subsistence fisheries for the Colville tribal membership as well. Historically, anadromous fish were the principal subsistence fishery with resident fish playing a minor role. However, the construction of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams resulted in the elimination of anadromous fish above these structures. Therefore, resident fish became a significant and necessary alternative as a subsistence resource for the Colville Tribe. The Resident fish division utilizes hatchery supplementation for tribal and recreational opportunities.

The **Wildlife** division emphasizes management of species and habitats of conservation concern such as elk, deer, moose, pronghorn, grouse and those properties acquired under wildlife mitigation agreements. This focused management approach will also benefit those species not specifically addressed in management planning by providing and securing abundant quality habitat throughout the Reservation and the usual and accustomed lands.

