COLVILLE TRIBES
FISH & WILDLIFE NEWS

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CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY UPDATE

In July, CJH staff was busy with summer chinook broodstock collection, caring for juveniles on station and prepping for spring chinook spawning. In the beginning of August, broodstock collection continued before shifting focus to spring chinook spawning which began on August 14.

- Spring Chinook broodstock collected: 339 Females, 318 Males, 8 Jacks
- Integrated Summer Chinook collected to date: 321 Females, 245 Males, 93 Jacks
- Segregated Summer Chinook collected to date: 281 Females, 251 Males, 31 Jacks

Another 8 wild and 2 hatchery female adults were collected for broodstock at the fish weir site in the Okanogan River. A total of 1,404 hatchery adults and 41 hatchery jacks have been removed from the CJH ladder and distributed to tribal members.

CJH staff will continue to care for the juveniles on station as well as prep for summer chinook spawning set to begin in October. Staff will also shock and pick the spring chinook eggs in order to enumerate them and estimate eggs per-female.

Chief Joseph Hatchery Employees of the Month are: July - Joe Frank and August - Zach Wilson-Arthur

SELECTIVE HARVEST & HATCHERY BROOD COLLECTION

Despite forecasts for low numbers of adult salmon returning to the Upper Columbia River, more than 23,000 summer chinook and 49,000 sockeye were counted at Wells Dam. The selective harvest crew managed to collect 893 hatchery and 519 wild adult chinook for Chief Joseph Hatchery broodstock needs.

"We started fishing on July 8 and ended on August 14, said Brian Dietz, fisheries biologist for CTFW. "We fished a total of 26 days and completed 113 sets with an average set duration of 22 minutes."

"Our goal was to collect all hatchery broodstock needed, then focus on the tribes' allocation of hatchery chinook and sockeye for distribution to the membership while freezing enough salmon for ceremonies and funerals," said Dietz. "Based off of the sockeye run size for 2019 we targeted 2,000 sockeye, and we ended up harvesting 2,051."

Fisheries staff set up a weir in the Okanogan River on August 19, to collect the rest of the hatchery brood.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS

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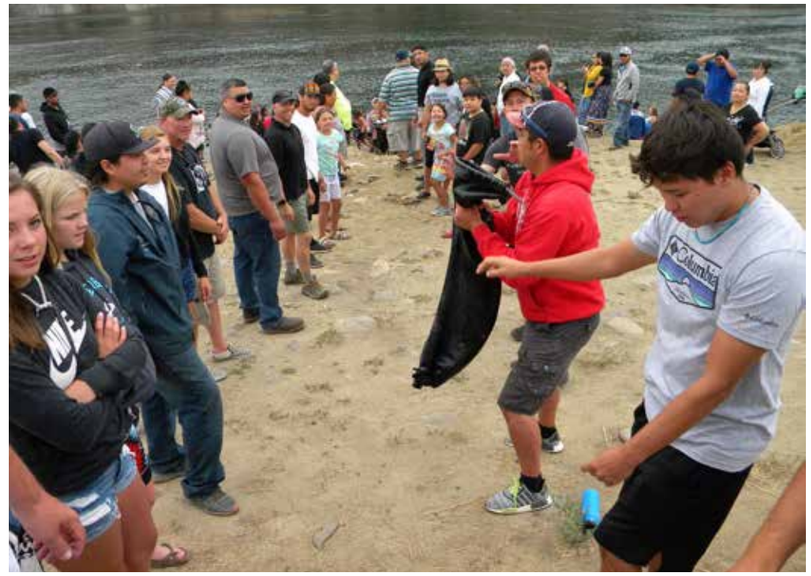
COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES REINTRODUCE SALMON UPSTREAM OF CHIEF JOSEPH AND GRAND COULEE DAMS

Several cultural releases took place along the Upper Columbia River to reintroduce adult salmon to their historic habitat. The releases were the first of its kind since salmon were cut off from the Upper Columbia by the construction of both Grand Coulee Dam in 1941 and Chief Joseph Dam in 1955. The cultural releases are part of a larger plan to pursue fish passage into the blocked areas.

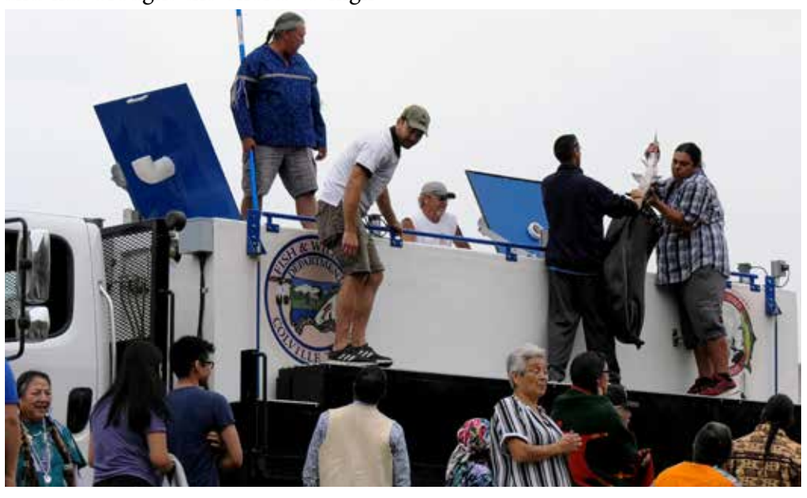
Thirty adult chinook were released into Lake Rufus Woods on August 9, upstream of Chief Joseph Dam. Thirty more were released on August 16 at the Keller Boat Launch upstream of Grand Coulee Dam and an additional 30 were released near Kettle Falls, Washington on August 23.

Colville Tribal Chairman Rodney Cawston has embraced fish passage and has brought the efforts to higher levels within the state government and on a national front. At the first release he said, "Our elders teach us that each of us has a purpose on this earth and so do the salmon and we've seen the negative impacts to salmon and it's time to right something that's been wrong for 80 years now."



This effort gained momentum in 2014 at the *Future of Our Salmon Conference* which supported restoring salmon back to historic waters. Soon after that, a 15-tribe coalition developed a phased approach to fish passage and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council adopted a similar approach.

"This has been a team effort involving council members, Upper Columbia United Tribes staff and Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife staff," said Friedlander. "The ceremonial releases are a great start and allow the membership and others to participate in this great endeavor."



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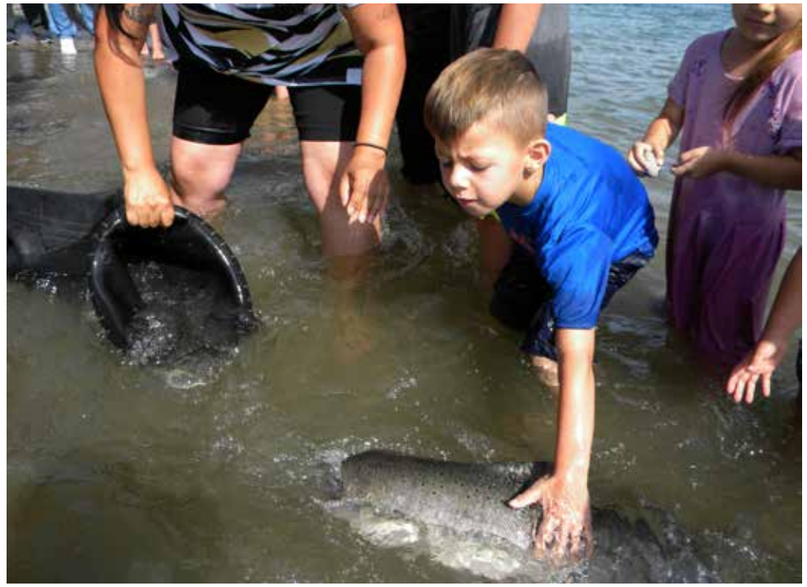
"At about the same time the ceremonial releases took place, we released an additional 60 summer chinook into Rufus Woods for a tracking study," said Casey Baldwin, research scientist for CTFW. "This study will help to answer several important monitoring questions, such as fallback rate, post release movement behavior, release site effectiveness and whether or not the fish find and use the spawning habitat."

The adult summer chinook used in the releases came from the Wells Hatchery since that facility has surplus fish and a history of infrequent IHN virus detections. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife performed the fish health screenings for IHN, a virus that could affect resident trout. Each group of salmon are tested before they are released into the blocked areas.

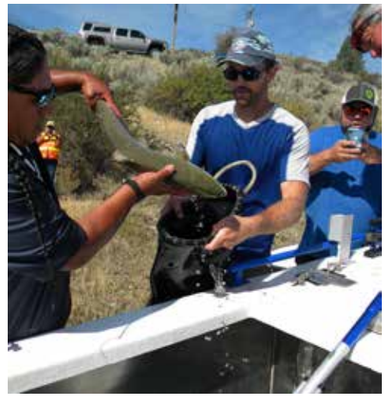


The tribes' goals for reintroduction include:

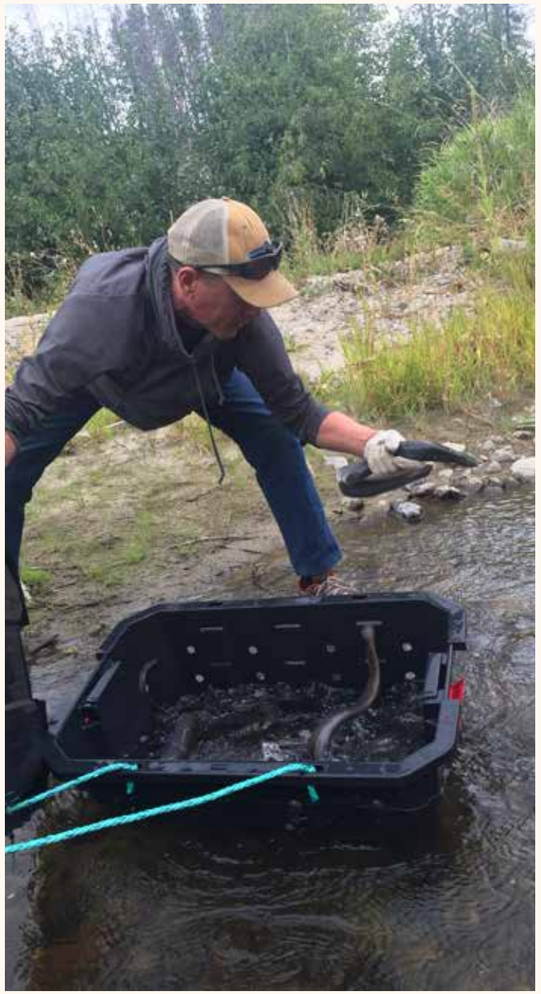
- Meet cultural and ceremonial needs of the tribes by reconnecting salmon with their historic habitat and reconnecting salmon with the people.
- Contribute to knowledge about movement, survival, and behavior of fish in the streams, reservoirs and dams that will answer key uncertainties or better inform the development of experimental designs for studies in later phases of reintroduction.
- Provide opportunity for salmon to spawn in the natural environment to generate offspring for downstream fisheries and future stock for additional reintroductions.
- Ecosystem benefits such as reintroduction of marine derived nutrients for stream, riparian, forest and wildlife.

Fish passage and reintroduction work performed by UCUT and its member tribes include: implementing a phased approach that will consider important science and feasibility questions and work with state, federal and local stakeholders to systematically evaluate and implement fish passage into the blocked area:

- **Phase I** included habitat assessments to determine the quantity and suitability for spawning and rearing, fish stock and risk assessments (which looked at the genetic, disease, competition, predation risks and benefits of 40 stocks of fish across five species: spring chinook, summer/fall chinook, steelhead, sockeye, and coho), evaluation of passage facilities, technologies at existing dams, life cycle modeling, cost and financing considerations, and a final report. Phase I also includes ceremonial and educational releases.
- **Phase II** involves interim passage facilities and experimental pilot releases of non-ESA listed salmon into blocked areas.



LAMPREY RELEASES CONTINUE IN SEVERAL LOCAL TRIBUTARIES



Pacific lamprey are rarely seen in the Okanogan sub-basin but fisheries managers are working hard to change that. Efforts have been underway since 2017 with multiple releases happening every year. Recovery of this fish species is a cooperative effort between agencies, tribes and hydroelectric operators.

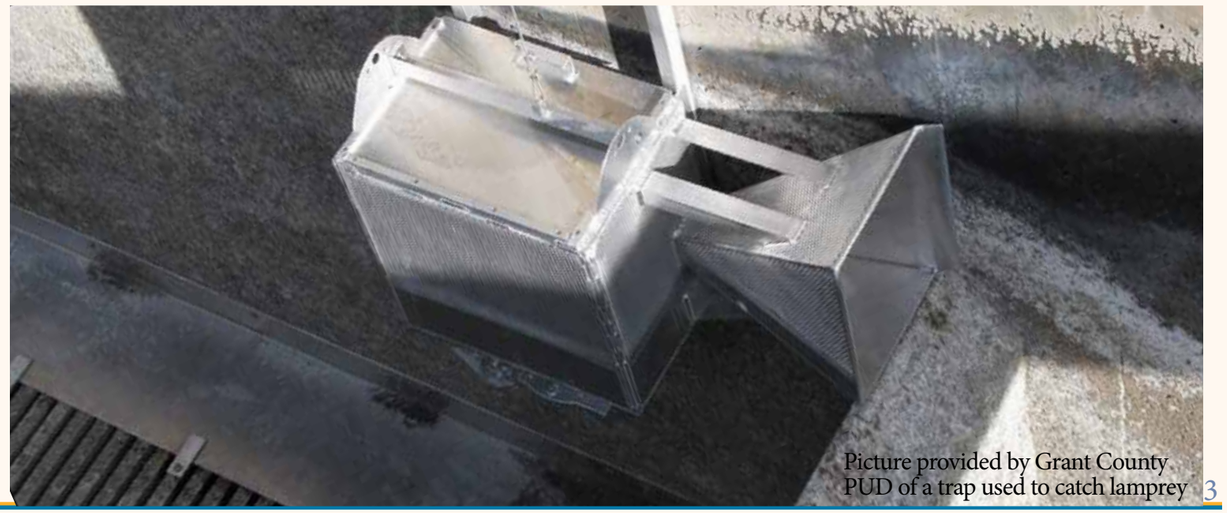
"Lamprey translocated into the Okanogan sub-basin are captured at downriver mainstem Columbia hydroprojects," said John Rohrback, fisheries biologist for CTFW. "The lamprey that were translocated in August were captured at Priest Rapids Dam, brought to Wells Dam where they were measured and PIT tagged, and then we released them into the Okanogan."

"During late July through early September for the past few years, Grant PUD fisheries staff deploy and lower four perforated mechanical lamprey traps into both the right and left-bank fish ladders at Priest Rapids Dam to be fished during the night when lamprey are most actively migrating," said Mike Clement, biologist for Grant County PUD. "The following morning the traps are retrieved, checked, and fish collected are transferred to a fish holding facility."

Future sampling efforts over the next five to seven years should provide fisheries managers the data they are looking for. The data collected will provide indications of spawning and rearing success.

"The goal is to reestablish a viable lamprey population but it's too early to tell if the fish have successfully spawned, but the fish we have released have been detected at PIT arrays in the streams where they were released, in the mainstem Okanogan, and even in downstream locations," Rohrback said.

Since 2017, over 500 lamprey have been released by CTFW. Lamprey have been released into the Similkameen River, Omak Creek, Salmon Creek, the Okanogan River, and the mainstem Columbia immediately downstream of the mouth of the Okanogan.



Picture provided by Grant County PUD of a trap used to catch lamprey