



## TRIBES RELEASE ADULT CHINOOK UPSTREAM OF COLUMBIA RIVER DAMS



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• Ecosystem benefits such as reintroduction of marine derived nutrients for stream, riparian, forest and wildlife.

In October, fisheries staff will go to the release sites and monitor fish along the Sanpoil River, Spokane River, and in the upper Columbia to observe the chinook spawning.

“Over the past couple of years we

have been able to document chinook spawning in the Sanpoil River,” said Baldwin. “We have caught thousands of juvenile chinook migrating out of the Sanpoil the following year. Grand Coulee Dam cut off the salmon runs from this culturally significant watershed more than 80 years ago. It is exciting to see chinook spawn and produce juveniles in the Sanpoil River and this is an important step in our efforts to reintroduce salmon to the blocked area.”



### SPECIAL THANKS TO THE PROJECT PARTNERS



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## CHIEF JOSEPH HATCHERY



Fisheries staff were busy these last few months collecting chinook salmon for the Chief Joseph Hatchery (CJH) program. They stocked the community freezer full of fish, and distributed chinook and sockeye to Colville tribal members. Salmon were also shared with other tribes.

Staff members who worked on the Dreamcatcher fishing boat began catching salmon in the beginning of July.

“We collected 781 adults for the CJH broodstock needs,” said Isaiah Martin, harvest biologist for CTFW. “We put



1,552 chinook fillets and 3,494 sockeye whole into the freezer and we distributed 2,348 chinook and 5,837 sockeye to the membership this season.”

Salmon that were stored in the community freezer can be used by Colville tribal members for ceremonies or funerals.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians and Coeur d'Alene Tribe were given 500 sockeye each.

### Chinook brood collected for CJH:

- Spring chinook broodstock collected, but none currently on station as spawning has concluded for the season: 320 females, 301 males and 8 jacks
- Summer chinook collected to date for integrated program: 305 females, 229 males and 26 jacks
- Hatchery summer chinook collected to date for segregated program: 277 females, 265 males and 14 jacks

CJH Manager Matt McDaniel said the collection goals have been met for spring chinook and segregated summer chinook programs but broodstock are still being collected for the integrated summer chinook program.



“A total of 1,050 summer chinook (743 adults, 307 jacks) were collected from the ladder and distributed to tribal members, all during the month of August,” said McDaniel. “The ladder was turned off and the trap was closed for the season on August 31.”

In September, staff collected 56 brood fish for the CJH program from the weir in Malott, Washington.

In addition to collecting brood for the hatchery, staff continued caring for juveniles on station and prepping for spring chinook spawning which began on August 10 and was completed on September 7. CJH staff are now prepping for summer chinook, caring for spring chinook eggs and juvenile fish.

### Employees of the Month:

June – Therilyn Williams, July – Ricardo Angel, August – Makayla Andrews

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## RESTORING A VITAL AREA OF THE METHOW RIVER WILL HELP ENDANGERED FISH SPECIES



A restoration project along the Twisp River, a tributary of the Methow River, was completed in August, which will help to restore critical habitat for spring chinook, summer steelhead and bull trout. Fish species that are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The project involved flying in over several hundred logs with root wads and 3,000 small to medium sized trees that were placed in different areas of the Twisp River and Little Bridge Creek. The logs and trees were used from a local forest thinning operation.

According to the biologist in charge of the project, using a helicopter was not only efficient but had minimal impacts to the vegetation and the benefits for fish were immediate.

“The addition of wood has instantly created more niches for fish to occupy,” said Matt Young, fisheries biologist for Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife. “It is important to note that this treatment is not meant to be static, rather these logs and trees will kick start natural river processes that will continue to change and provide complex diverse habitat for ESA-listed and native fish species for many years to come.”

Young believes these habitat improvements will help to increase the quantity and quality of instream flow to support multiple life stages of fish.

“What was concerning was limited cover and complexity of the river, and how fast the water flowed in many areas and now there are more bends and channels for fish to rear in and survive through during the summer and winter months,” he said.

Over harvesting of timber in the early 1900’s, development, loss of vegetation and erosion, and recent wildfires in the area caused the habitat to degrade over time.

The restoration work that is taking place in the Methow River and surrounding tributaries is not only ecologically but culturally important to the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT).

“Salmon are at the core of who we are as people and for our tribe to be able to do this restoration work in the homelands of our Methow people makes it even more meaningful,” said Chairman of the CCT Jarred Erickson. “Helping to bring back these ESA-listed species as well as bringing our people back to the Methow has both a spiritual and cultural connection that is indescribable.”

This work was possible thanks to the close partnership between the CCT, the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, and the funding agency, Bonneville Power Administration.



## TRIBES RELEASE ADULT CHINOOK UPSTREAM OF COLUMBIA RIVER DAMS



Hundreds of adult chinook were released upstream of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams in August as part of a plan to test the feasibility of restoring salmon to the blocked area of the upper Columbia River.

The Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) and Upper Columbia United

(WDFW), Douglas County Public Utility District, and other stakeholders.

On August 24, the Spokane Tribe of Indians held a special cultural release and approximately 300 people were in attendance.

“In August, the American Fisheries Society (AFS) national meeting was held in Spokane at the convention center along the Spokane River,” said Conor Giorgi, the Spokane Tribe’s Anadromous Program Manager. “Historically, the Spokane and other tribes would gather here this time of year to share the bountiful salmon harvest. It seemed like an opportunity to embrace that history and showcase to AFS what the Tribes are collectively doing; but this time giving salmon back to the river.”

Tribes (UCUT) released chinook for spawning, harvest, ceremonies and research purposes. Many of the fish were tagged prior to being released.

“All the tags last beyond the life expectancy of the fish that were released,” said Casey Baldwin, research scientist for Colville Tribes Fish and Wildlife. “The acoustic tagged fish provide movement and behavior data in the transboundary reach, and will help to identify spawning areas on both sides of the border.”

### Adult summer chinook releases:

- August 5, 102 chinook were released in the Sanpoil River
- August 9, 50 chinook were released in Tshimakain Creek
- August 12, 45 chinook were released in the Sanpoil River
- August 13, 30 chinook were released in Rufus Woods
- August 19, 64 chinook were released in Northport
- August 24, 146 chinook were released in the Spokane River
- August 31, 160 chinook were released in Rufus Woods

The fish passage work has been a team effort between the UCUT, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The adult summer chinook used in these releases came from the Douglas County Public Utility District’s Wells Hatchery. Each group of salmon were tested for IHN (a virus that could affect resident trout) before they were released into the upper Columbia River. The WDFW performed the fish health screenings.

The project was funded by the CCT, Spokane Tribe of Indians, the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Kalispel Tribe, and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho.

### 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.

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