

Committed to the
environmental and
economic well being
of our community

Lake Roosevelt Forum

NEWSletter

FALL 2004

INSide

Quoteables:

Thoughts from
Conference

Participants 2

Public Hearings to
be Held on State's
Columbia River

Initiative 3

Columbia River
Initiative Rule-
Making Timeline .. 3

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Forum Annual Conference a Big Success



OVER 220 PEOPLE ATTENDED ONE OR MORE DAYS OF THE LAKE ROOSEVELT FORUM'S 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE. Entitled Collaborating for the Future, the conference featured diverse sessions and presentations regarding water quality, fisheries and community development.

For example, participants learned the latest information regarding sediment contamination and EPA's superfund related plans. At the same time, there were in-depth sessions regarding the productivity and enhancement of the Lake's fisheries. These and other conference topics directly affect the economic, environmental and cultural well being of the community. As importantly, the stewardship provided by agencies and communities provides confidence to the 1.5 million annual visitors that Lake Roosevelt continues to be a highly attractive destination area.

Participants came from throughout the Columbia Basin, including Canada. They represented federal, state and local agencies; tribal members and representatives; elected officials; watershed councils, conservation groups and other associations; property owners; local businesses; and interested citizens.

During the first two days of the conference, sessions and keynote addresses resulted in



over 60 presentations being made. On the final day, in depth work group meetings were held by the Upper Columbia White Sturgeon Recovery Team, Lake Roosevelt Noxious Weed Collaborative and an EPA Availability Session.

This year, the Forum is pleased to share the proceedings of the conference on the enclosed CD.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Quotables: Thoughts from Conference Participants

The conference was well organized and ran smoothly. I especially enjoyed the update from EPA on what the future will bring to the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. It's imperative to know if the lake has a safety and resource issue or NOT.

It was a great mix of local, regional and national expertise that I found to be quite beneficial.

I enjoyed most gaining a new perspective of the total river system and how we rely and interact—looking south and north is different and enlightening.

People need to get involved or you're going to lose your freedom.

I loved the atmosphere and site ... meeting people and networking.

The topics/issues were very relevant, provocative and timely. And the speakers did a very good job of communicating their information.

Yes, I'd like to donate to the Forum!

Local support for the continuation of the Forum is critical. Donations are used to support the newsletter and school activities. Please support the Forum with your contribution. The amounts below are suggestions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION.

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Whether or not you choose to donate, you will still continue to receive the Lake Roosevelt Forum Newsletter. *

Suggested Donation Levels

- \$20 per year
- \$50 per year
- \$100 per year
- Other

PLEASE ENCLOSE THIS FORM WITH YOUR DONATION IN A STAMPED ENVELOPE



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Spokane, WA 99203
1-509-535-7084
email: info@lrf.org

Public Hearings to be Held on State's Columbia River Initiative

ONE OF GOVERNOR GARY LOCKE'S FINAL PROPOSALS may also be one of his most ambitious. As reported in the Forum's last newsletter, the Columbia River Initiative includes the possibility of drawing Lake Roosevelt down further during certain parts of the year.

To move this initiative forward, the Washington Department of Ecology has prepared a draft rule. Public hearings (see side bar) are now scheduled to explain this Initiative, answer questions and receive comments.

As described on Ecology's web page, the initiative "is designed to institute a new water resources management program for the Columbia River mainstem. The proposal establishes a framework for issuing new water rights from the Columbia River, while simultaneously improving stream flows for fish populations. Gov. Locke's plan includes:

- An executive-request bill for lawmakers to consider during the 2005 legislative session.
- Capital and operating budget requests of \$79 million over the next 10 years to secure water and to conduct feasibility evaluation of new off-channel storage projects.
- Cooperative agreements with federal and local partners to obtain water.
- Draft rule language to implement the program. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) will not adopt the proposed rule prior to receiving direction from the next governor and the legislature. "

The Forum strongly encourages people to participate in one or more of these hearings.

HEARINGS IN OUR AREA

Moses Lake, WA

February 9, 2005 - 12:00 noon
Fire Department Multi-Purpose Room
701 E. Third Avenue

Grand Coulee, WA

February 9, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.
Grand Gallery Theater • 204 Main Street

Wenatchee, WA

February 10, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.
Chelan County Public Utility District Auditorium
327 N. Wenatchee Avenue

Colville, WA

February 17, 2005 - 7:00 p.m.
Community Colleges of Spokane, Colville Center
985 S. Elm St. • East Entrance, Dominion Room



For more information or to send comments:

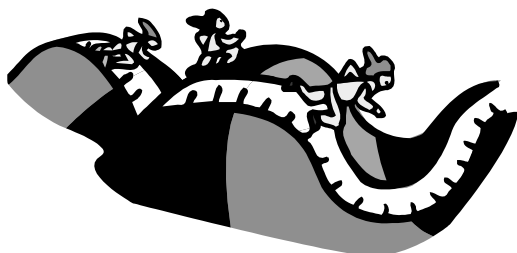
Columbia River Initiative web site: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cri/crihome.html>

Dept. of Ecology Attn: Gerry O'Keefe
PO Box 47600 • Olympia, WA 98504
Fax: 360-407-6989 • Phone: 360-407-6640

If you would like to receive updates on activities and information related to the Columbia River Initiative, sign up for the CRI E-mail list at <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=eco-cri&A=1>.

Ecology is accepting comments on the draft rule and draft EIS until March 4, 2005. *

Rule Making Timeline



MAJOR MILESTONES

TARGET DATES

Draft policy bill and informal draft rule	Early November, 2004
Governor's announcement	December 17, 2004
File CR-102	December 17, 2004
Legislative session starts	January 10, 2005
Rule hearings	February, 2005
Comment period ends	March 4, 2005
Last day of session	April 24, 2005
Rule Adoption and final SEPA	June, 2005
Effective date	July, 2005

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FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE, FROM PAGE 1

Says Andy Dunau, Executive Director of the Forum, "The PowerPoint presentations and papers shared contained a wealth of information. People can use the CD to explore areas of interest and find out who is currently working on issues."

The conference was held at the historic Davenport Hotel in Spokane, Washington from November 15th through the 17th. The Davenport, impressed with the Forum's community work, made their four star facilities available through special rates.

Hosting the conference by the Forum was made possible by grants and contributions from the following organizations: Bonneville Power Administration, Washington Department of Ecology, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and TeckCominco. With their assistance, attendance costs were kept to a minimum. ✱



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1-509-535-7084 OR EMAIL: info@lrf.org
Please share your questions and comments with us. Let us know what you'd like more information about or would like to see featured in future issues. We will provide you with a response or additional information.