

Committed to the  
environmental and  
economic well being  
of our community

# Lake Roosevelt Forum

# NEWSletter

FALL 2009

## INSide

- Guest Column ..... 2  
2010 Action Planned  
for Black Sand  
Beach ..... 3  
Shoreline Master  
Plan Open for Public  
Comments ..... 4  
32 African Elephants  
Travel to Canada via  
Lake Roosevelt..... 5  
Environmental  
Assessment for Lake  
Cabin Permits ..... 6  
Lake Roosevelt  
Drawdown ..... 6  
BigWave Damages  
Campground ..... 7

## SPONSORS

Bonneville Power  
Administration  
Bureau of  
Reclamation  
Ferry County  
Lincoln County  
National Park Service  
Spokane Tribe of  
Indians  
Stevens County  
Washington  
Department of  
Ecology

## Contaminant Studies Begin

SEPTEMBER SAW THE BEGINNING OF FIELD SAMPLING ACTIVITIES of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) for Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia. The RI/FS follows nationally established methods and procedures set by EPA.

In June 2006, Teck and EPA entered into an agreement to conduct the RI/FS, a process that will cost millions of dollars and be done under EPA guidance. After more than two years of deliberation and negotiation, an overall RI/FS work plan was completed in December 2008. The human health risk assessment work plan was completed in March 2009. EPA is currently reviewing the second draft of the ecological risk assessment work plan and hopes to have a final plan in place next spring. In the meantime, an initial series of field sampling quality assurance project plans were also approved.

With the field sampling plans in place, studies for beach use areas, fish tissue and surface water are now being initiated.

### BEACH SAMPLING

In September, beach sediment sampling activities began for five beaches: Black Sand Beach, Upper Columbia RV Park, Dalles Orchard Beach, Onion Creek Beach and Northport Beach/Boat Launch. Due to various logistical considerations, sampling of these upper riverine locations will extend into 2010. 29 additional beaches will be sampled during the



spring 2010 drawdown when reservoir water elevations drop and expose the beaches.

Beach sampling builds on 2005 sampling conducted by EPA on fifteen beaches. The 2005 sampling found that human exposure at the locations tested was safely below short-term recreational use

exposure health-based risk standards.

Based on input from stakeholders, new samples will test areas missed in 2005; re-evaluate three beaches in northern reaches of the Upper Columbia; and further contribute to assessing risks for recreation, residential and tribal beach use scenarios.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

To Learn more about the RI/FS and related activities, see the Forum's Lake Roosevelt Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Public Guide.

View the Public Guide on the web at:  
<http://lrf.org/Env/Env-Sediment.html>  
or call 509-535-7084 for a print copy.

Further information can be found at:

- Lake Roosevelt Forum:  
[www.lrf.org/Env/Env-Sediment.html](http://www.lrf.org/Env/Env-Sediment.html)
- Teck's project website:  
[www.ucr-rifs.com](http://www.ucr-rifs.com)
- EPA's project website:  
[www.yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/upperc](http://www.yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/upperc)

# GUEST EDITORIAL

BY DAVE GODLEWSKI  
TECK AMERICAN

As this is my first editorial for the Newsletter, I will take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Dave Godlewski and my job is to oversee environmental affairs for Teck American, and that includes our work on the Columbia River. I work and live in Spokane and have been a resident here for many years.

When I am asked about the Black Sand Beach project, one question invariably comes up: “Why? And why now?” Direct questions demand direct answers - Ecology had removal of Black Sand Beach as a line item in the 2009-2011 Capital Budget. Teck heard the concerns that people had about the beach over the years and believed that it was better for us to take the initiative and do the removal ourselves rather than burden the taxpayers of the State. I am proud to say my company has a strong record of successfully completing voluntary cleanups in Washington and other states.

For example, in Washington we are cleaning up historic mine wastes at the Grandview and Pend Oreille Mines. In Oregon we just completed a cleanup at a port in Coos Bay that was praised as a successful cooperative effort. In Montana we are cleaning up the last bit of contamination at a



Dave Godlewski

phosphate mine. In Arizona we received a commendation for closing old mine shafts and openings on properties which we owned. All of these projects and many others like them were done under voluntary or cooperative programs just like Black Sand Beach.

Some have questioned our underlying motives for doing this work and say it is all for show. The truth is simple—we are doing this to demonstrate that our words are backed up by action. As you know, we are involved in a larger project to assess the effects of historical operations on the Upper

Columbia River. These historical operations include, but not limited to, our Trail refinery. This Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) is underway as described else-

*When I am asked about the  
Black Sand Beach project,  
one question invariably comes up:  
“Why? And why now?”*

where in this newsletter. However, answers from the RI/FS are not yet available. We felt that a firm demonstration now of our good intent would be welcomed by the citizens of the State. I hope that it is so.

The process of our voluntary RI/FS will determine risk to human health and the environment. It will be those risks that determine what actions will be taken in the future. It will take time. It will take effort. At the end of the day all that I ask of you is to judge us by the outcome—no more, no less.

# 2010 Action Planned for Black Sand Beach

SLAG IMPACTED SEDIMENTS WILL BE REMOVED from Black Sand Beach, a popular swimming and recreational spot. This interim action removal is part of a voluntary agreement between Teck American Incorporated (Teck) and the Washington State Department of Ecology. The beach work is being done as a separate project from the larger Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Studies (RI/FS) being conducted by EPA and Teck along the Upper Columbia and Lake Roosevelt (see cover story).



*Black sand beach.*

Black Sand Beach is located 3 miles south of the Canadian border near Northport. This is part of the “free flowing” reach of the Columbia before it becomes part of the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area. The beach is located along state trust land that is managed by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

The beach gets its name from the black, granular, slag that makes up much of the sand-sized sediment. Teck’s smelting operations in Trail, B.C., discharged the slag to the river from the 1930s through 1995. This industrial slag moved downstream and some of it settled along portions of the river bank that became known as Black Sand Beach.

John Roland, a supervisor with the Washington State Department of Ecology’s Toxics Cleanup Program says, “The slag material at Black Sand Beach contains metals, such as zinc and copper, that impact the river’s ecology. Replacing the slag with clean fill material will benefit people and the environment.”

Under terms of the agreement, Teck is expected to spend roughly \$1 million to remove approximately 5,000 cubic yards of slag and replace it with natural fill material. The replacement sediments may be coarser than found on the existing beach. The new material will provide longer term beach stabilization and less potential for erosion. Teck will haul the slag by truck to their facility in Trail for recycling.

The Department of Ecology is talking to citizens now about the project and will seek formal public input about the Black Sand Beach action later this year.

## JUST A BEGINNING

The Department of Ecology directed Black Sand Beach action is happening at the same time that Teck and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are launching field studies to determine the effects of contaminants across the Upper Columbia and Lake Roosevelt. The Teck and EPA studies are designed to assess contaminants over the entire Upper Columbia River Site. The EPA and Teck studies will evaluate possible impacts on human health and the environment from a variety of potential contaminant sources, including Teck’s Trail, B.C. smelter facility.

The EPA-directed work called a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) will take several years and is conducted under federal law. After evaluation of the information collected, an EPA record of decision (ROD) will be made. The ROD may call for additional cleanup actions within the Upper Columbia River Site.

Dave Godlewski, Teck American’s Environmental and Public Affairs Manager, is pleased that the Black Sand Beach action is happening. Says Godlewski, “Teck knows people get frustrated with the number of studies being done and the number of years it takes to get results. We get frustrated by the same thing. So it’s nice to work on something with a tangible, positive result for the community that we can all agree on.”

# Shoreline Master Plan Open for Public Comments

FOR OVER A YEAR, THE LAKE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL RECREATION AREA (LRNA) HAS BEEN WORKING WITH a team of agencies and stakeholders to develop a Lake Roosevelt Shoreline Management Plan. The plan is expected to cover a 15 year period, serving as a guide to the implementation of many of the policies and ideas first articulated in the General Management Plan of 2000.

Says Debbie Bird, LRNA's superintendent, "The Shoreline Management Plan is the most important planning document this park has undertaken in the last 9 years. This is where we get to decide the best way to protect the shoreline for the benefit of today's visitors and for the years to come. How do we make it convenient for outlying communities to access the lake while preserving the integrity of the shoreline? How do we motivate overnight beach campers to take a personal role in keeping campsites clean? And finally, what is the best way to communicate with our neighbors, partners, and friends?"

## Objectives of the plan are to:

- Improve public access to the lake for all visitors;
- Expand recreational opportunities along the shoreline;
- Collaborate with tribal and local government partners;
- Address fluctuating lake levels; and
- Communicate visitor services and park information to the public.

After months of discussion and study, four alternatives were identified. The preferred alternative that is now open for



public comment is called "The Visitor Use Management and Education Alternative."

## Highlights of this alternative include:

- Establishing a permit system to better manage beach camping;
- New ways to manage human waste, including requiring day-use boaters to carry portable toilets;
- Development of new facilities to address overflow parking, boat in camping and trail needs;
- A campground and other facilities at Crescent Bay; and
- Further coordination of public access to the shoreline, zoned approaches to aquatic vegetation management, and improved visitor access to information and education.

The Forum encourages the community to go online to comment and see details of the plan. To comment, go to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/laro>. **Comments are due no later than November 11th.** 🌟

## Studies CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### FISH TISSUE SAMPLING

Fish sampling occurred in September and October. Thousands of samples ranging in size from small, medium and large fish were taken. Six zones (or focus areas) between Grand Coulee Dam and the Canadian Border were selected.

Small (less than six inches long) and medium (6 to 12 inches long) fish were sampled to determine if the fish, or wildlife that prey on these smaller fish, are at risk from exposure to contaminants. Large fish (walleye, kokanee, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, burbot, whitefish, and suckers longer than 12 inches) are being sampled to assess contaminant risks to people who may eat them.

Contaminants being sampled include heavy metals, mercury,



PBDEs (fire retardants), PCBs, pesticides and other organic compounds.

### WATER SAMPLING

Water sampling also occurred in October.

Surface water samples were collected along nine cross-channel transects that start in Canada upstream of Teck's smelter in Trail, BC, and extends all the way down to Grand Coulee Dam, a 150 mile reservoir/river reach.

Along each transect, water sampling will happen between the surface and near the river bottom with samples tested for metals and organics (e.g., PCBs). Results will be used to assess risks to both people and the environment.

Surface water sampling activities will extend into 2010 with sampling efforts being repeated in late March/early April, and again in May. 🌟

# 32 African Elephants Travel to Canada via Lake Roosevelt



Trucks and barge move turbine from Tri-Cities to Revelstoke, Canada.

WELL NOT 32 ELEPHANTS EXACTLY. More like a massive 414,000 pound turbine that BC Hydro is installing at Revelstoke Dam. The massive size and weight of the turbine is the equivalent of moving 32 African elephants.

The turbine was manufactured in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Shipping took the turbine on a journey around Cape Horn, up the Pacific Coast, and then inland along the Columbia River to the Tri Cities.

Roads were then closed and a few signs removed so a trailer could ease the turbine up to Crescent Bay on Lake Roosevelt. The specialized trailer had 24 axles and 192 truck tires to spread weight and make turns.

Once on Lake Roosevelt local Eric Weatherman, who runs a marine contracting business, took over. For the extraordinary size of this job, Weatherman assembled a barge that was 40' wide X 160' long X 7' tall. On each corner of the front end, there was a 400 horsepower thruster with a 180 degree turning ability. On the back end, there were three tug boats.

Over a five day period, the turbine traveled 260 miles upstream. Although the barge drew only 8.5' of water, there were rapids and shallow areas north of the border where



ingenuity was needed. At these locations BC Hydro operators strategically released water from Wanteta and Brilliant Dams to provide enough water depth for the barge to pass through.

The trickiest section is known as “Tin Cup Rapids,” which is just above where the Kootenay River flows into the Columbia. Says Weatherman, “People were lined up on the shores. Kind of like a drag race. They wanted to root us on. And if we didn’t make it, they wanted to see what would happen.”

What happened was safe passage to Shelter Bay in Revelstoke, a testament to over a year of detailed planning. From Shelter Bay, trucking was again used for the final 37 miles to Revelstoke Dam.

In all, the turbine traveled 7,500 miles in almost eleven weeks. When operational, it will have a 500 megawatt generating capacity, which is enough to power 40,000 homes every year. 🌟

# Environmental Assessment for Lake Cabin Permits Proceeds

TO COMPLY WITH A NATIONAL DIRECTIVE FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, an environmental assessment (EA) is being conducted to determine the long term use of special permits for 26 summer cabins built on Lake Roosevelt. Built in 1952 on property managed by the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LRNA), these cabins are built along two quarter mile stretches. Ricky Point cabins are just south of Kettle Falls Marina, and the Sherman Creek cabins are across the lake from the marina.

LRNA describes the purpose of developing an EA as evaluating "...issues and impacts associated with vacation cabin use and occupancy on natural and cultural resources, the quality of the visitor experience at Lake Roosevelt, and the greater public need ..."

Cabin owners continue to voice concern whether the national directive to review the use of special permits applies to their situation. To date, however, they have not contested conducting the EA. Instead, they remain hopeful that an alternative will be selected that meets everyone's interest.

Eric Weatherman, one of the cabin owners, captures some of their frustration when he comments "Cabins currently generate more than \$110,000 yearly in lease fees with little cost or maintenance required from park staff. It seems puzzling in these tough economic times to spend a large sum of tax payer dollars to perform a study of this simple income generating historical use when so many other critical issues exist in the park that also require large budgets to resolve."

## SUMMARY OF FOUR ALTERNATIVES

**Alternative A:** Continue issuance of the 5-year term Special Use Permits for cabin site use. Permits may be renewed unless the park determines that use of the area by private cabin owners conflicts with the need of the general public for those same resources.



26 cabins have special permits to be on Lake Roosevelt shoreline.

**Alternative B:** Continue issuance of 5-year term Special Use Permits for cabin site use, with an expanded set of permit conditions. Permits may be renewed unless the park determines that use of the area by private cabin owners conflicts with the need of the general public for those same resources.

**Alternative C:** Explore the possibility of using a Use and Occupancy contract for up to 25 years, or the lifetime of the permittee of record. This contract would not be transferable, nor would it be renewable. Contracts would reflect a new set of terms and conditions, similar to those outlined within Alternative B.

**Alternative D:** Cabins are removed and the shoreline is restored within three years. Alternative D fulfills NEPA requirements to evaluate an environmentally preferred alternative which maximizes environmental values.

## WHAT'S NEXT

Says Jerald Weaver, LRNA's natural resources manager, "Between now and December we expect to select an alternative and issue a draft EA. A public review will then happen before a final EA is issued, hopefully the first half of 2010." 🌀

# Lake Roosevelt Drawdown Plans Move Forward

As part of the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) Columbia River Management Program, plans to drawdown Lake Roosevelt an additional 12 to 18 inches each August continue to move forward.

Water from the drawdown is designated to replace groundwater farmers currently pump from the Odessa subarea Aquifer; downstream municipal and industrial needs; and improved stream flows for fish. More water can be taken in drought years to meet irrigation and fishery needs.

As part of the permitting process, Reclamation needs to "perfect" the water right and place water in the state trust. Toward this end, approximately 14,000 acre feet of water was released this summer. The lake reached a low of 1277.5' on August 31, 2009.

Over the next few months Reclamation will be working with Ecology to convey the water to the state trust program. 🌀

# Big Wave Damages Porcupine Bay Campground



*Extensive damage to recreational facilities at Porcupine Bay campground.*

A landslide on the Spokane Indian Reservation caused an 8 to 12 foot wave across the lower Spokane River. The wave hit the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area's popular Porcupine Bay campground.

The landslide, which also damaged the tribe's Blue Creek campground, occurred on August 25th at 1:30 pm. Says Ray Dashiell, the Park Service facility manager, "We're lucky this happened mid-week when far fewer people were at the campground. There were only minor injuries."

Damage to Park Service facilities, however, was significant. The two permanent dock systems were destroyed. A log boom that protects the campground broke and moved ten feet vertically up the shore. The anchor cables for the swim float also broke, resulting in the float being deposited on the shore downstream. And the benthic barrier that protects the beach swim area from aquatic plants was shredded.

Dashiell's estimates the damage to be between 200 and 250 thousand dollars. Staff are now working with the regional Park Service office to identify emergency funding to help rebuild damaged property by the next recreation season.

No one is quite sure what caused the landslide. Although the hillside was fairly well vegetated, Brian Crossley with the Spokane Indian Tribe noted that "There were some groundwater sources from a spring surfacing on



the hillside." During the previous week the lake was drawn down a little over three feet. Such fluctuations are common for Lake Roosevelt.

In January, a 17 acre landslide about 10 miles upstream also unleashed a downstream wave that caused some property damage. In this case, the hillside had no vegetation and during the previous week the lake was drawn down a little under three feet. Says Crossley, "We're hoping it's just coincidence."

The Park Service pointed out that both landslides occurred in landslide areas that pre-date construction of the dam and filling of the reservoir.

Old timers also remember the 1969 landslide. As part of building the third powerhouse at Grand Coulee Dam, the lake was drawn down well below normal levels. Destabilization of the banks was thought to be the reason for a massive slide that actually dammed the river up for almost a day. Natural processes cleared the river channel. ♻️

# Lake Roosevelt Forum

2206 S. Sherman St.  
Spokane, WA 99203  
1-509-535-7084  
email: info@lrf.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD

US POSTAGE

**PAID**

SPOKANE, WA

PERMIT #4

## Yes, I'd like to donate!

Local support for the continuation of the Lake Roosevelt 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. Whether or not you choose to donate, you will still continue to receive the Lake Roosevelt Forum Newsletter.

### Suggested Donation Levels

\$20/year    \$50/year    \$100/year   Other \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Roosevelt Forum • 2206 S. Sherman • Spokane, WA 99203  
Please enclose this form with your donation in a stamped envelope.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/FAX \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION.**

## Get On The List

THE LAKE ROOSEVELT FORUM NEWSLETTER is a free publication. If you'd like to be added to our quarterly mailing list, please call us at 1-509-535-7084 or write us at the address listed above. Be sure to spell out your name and street address. Don't forget to include your zip code. ☻



## Feedback

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. ☻

This product was funded through a grant from Washington State Department of Ecology. While these materials were reviewed for grant consistency, this does not necessarily constitute endorsement by the Department.