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economic well being
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Lake Roosevelt Forum

NEWSletter

SPRING 2003

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Forum Hosts 2003 Spring Conference



Conference participants listen to keynote address

April 23rd, focused on water quality, fishery and community development issues of interest to the Lake Roosevelt area and surrounding subbasins. When evaluating the conference, one participant commented "I certainly came away with a better understanding of stakeholder issues and concerns, and it was particularly beneficial to meet and talk with others about these things."

Hosting a conference of this size was made possible by generous grants and contributions from the Bonneville Power Administration, Washington Department of Ecology, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Tech Cominco, Avista Utilities, Cutler-Hammer Engineering Services, and S.P. Cramer & Associates. With their assistance, registration costs were kept to a minimum. As importantly, individuals donated hundreds of hours of volunteer time developing sessions and materials for the conference. The Forum deeply appreciates the support we received.

Participants represented a cross section of interests, including: 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.

OVER 200 PEOPLE ATTENDED ONE OR MORE DAYS of the Lake Roosevelt Forum's 2003 spring conference. Entitled *Research & Action in the Upper Columbia and Lake Roosevelt*, the conference brought people together from throughout the Northwest and British Columbia.

The conference, which was held in Spokane from April 21st through

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND PARTICIPATION

Through information sharing and networking, the conference sought to:

- Consider "leading questions" that will take Lake Roosevelt and surrounding communities into the future.
- Further define opportunities to balance the needs for, and benefits from, flood control, power, irrigation, healthy fisheries, cultural resources, and recreation.
- Learn from and help "connect the dots" between the many initiatives and people working diligently to meet the environmental, cultural and economic needs of area communities.

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GETTING TO KNOW TIM PEONE

Tim Peone played where he now works. Back then, however, there was only water, woods and dirt. All the fixings you need to hang out and build things with your friends. Today, it's the location of the Spokane Tribal Hatchery, and Tim is the Spokane Tribe of Indians Hatchery Manager.

Says Tim, "When I was growing up, we fished all the time. But it wasn't on Lake Roosevelt because there weren't any fish there. It wasn't until college that I saw my first fish there, it was a big kokanee." Tim's road to the hatchery is part of a success story for Lake Roosevelt, area tribes and Tim.

In 1980, the Federal Power Act came into being. With the help of people like John Smith from the Colville Tribe and Al Scholz from Eastern Washington University, the act required that fisheries in areas blocked by development of the federal hydropower system be addressed.

With the closing of Grand Coulee's gates in 1942, Lake Roosevelt was born and centuries of salmon runs cut off. Until the 1980s, the State of Washington and the federal government considered Lake Roosevelt "sterile." Other than walleye, which is non-native to the area, it wasn't considered a tribal or recreational fishery.

"We didn't just lose the fish, we lost our identity as a fishing people," comments Tim. "I'm part of the generation that lost part of our soul. Now I'm part of the generation trying to bring it back."

Back in the 1980s, Al Scholz worked with the tribes to identify the lost fisheries and put a restoration plan together. Part of that was developing the Upper Columbia United Tribes Fish and Wildlife Center. Another part was developing tribal leadership and ownership of the enterprise from the beginning.

Tim continues the story. "I was in my dorm room at EWU and Al called and asked if I wanted a job. I started as a tech mending nets and finding out what fish were out there.

Then I was in a science class the next semester. The teacher called the role the first day and said 'Peone.' Two of us answered. That's when I met Joe Peone, who's now the Natural Resources Director for the Colville Tribe. We



Tim Peone presents award to original net pen volunteers, Winn Self and Les Novakovich

became study buddies and graduated together. Having Joe there meant a lot to me."

The vision grew. With recommendations from the Northwest Power Planning Council and funding from BPA's Fish and Wildlife Pro-

gram, a multi-agency collaborative formed and a fishery came to life. An artificial production program is now in place that consists of the Spokane Tribal Hatchery and 3 other projects: the Sherman Creek Hatchery, the Ford Trout Hatchery, and the Lake Roosevelt Kokanee and Rainbow Trout Net Pen Rearing Projects.

In 2002, the combined fish stocking of the hatcheries and net pen rearing projects included 654,946 kokanee and 501,662 rainbow trout yearlings being released into Lake Roosevelt. Additionally, 1,456,520 kokanee fry/fingerlings were released into Banks Lake. Tim stresses the team concept. "It works because the Colville Tribe, The Spokane Tribe, EWU and the Net Pen Volunteers are putting their resources together. We're doing it for the benefit of the region, not just ourselves. And I can't say enough about how hard the crew at our hatchery works."

Tim sees the accomplishments and benefits as a premier success for BPA's Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. Says Tim, "We now have a harvestable fishery; I think we were the first hatchery managed by tribal members from the start; people like Joe, Rudy (Tim's brother) and I are helping reconnect the tribes with our heritage; and area businesses and the Casino get a big lift from the anglers who love coming here."

Good, however, does not seem good enough for Tim. "I want to see the river run red (with salmon) at Little Falls Dam. And for people who say you can't get salmon past Chief Joe and Grand Coulee Dam, I say you also told us Lake Roosevelt couldn't support a fishery."

Tim's wife, two girls and a boy also know Tim loves to catch and cook the fish. They've been setting hooks and smoking them with Tim for years. Luckily, Tim shares. On the side, he runs a catering business which brings the pleasure and fruits of his labor to a lot of folks.

"It's all of a piece, isn't it?" says Tim. ✱

Forum Develops Noxious Weed Control Group

THE FORUM HAS ALWAYS TAKEN A LEADERSHIP ROLE in promoting and supporting agency, tribal and public collaboration to meet the needs of Lake Roosevelt. Last fall, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LARO) staff asked the Forum to provide this service for noxious weeds in the Lake Roosevelt area.

Throughout eastern Washington, noxious weeds are threatening or damaging pasturelands, forests, wetlands and croplands. The economic and environmental consequences can be severe. Says Dan Fagerlie, WSU Ferry County Extension Director, "It impacts everyone, directly or indirectly. No action is not an option if you're a steward for land."

Lake Roosevelt, with its annual 1.5 million visitors and over 37 NPS and tribal campgrounds, is a natural transportation corridor for weeds coming to and from the area. Since weeds don't recognize borders, Lake Roosevelt area control problems become the problem of county weed boards and private landowners throughout the region. Frank Andrews, Chief of Resource Planning and Management at LARO, has stated that "We have received letters letting us know there is a problem and that things could become worse. Rather than be defensive about it, we asked counties, tribes and others to work with us on a collaborative solution."

In December, the Forum hosted the first Lake Roosevelt Noxious Weed Control Meeting. Representatives from area tribes, counties, the state and others began working with NPS to identify problems and solutions. Since then, the group has continued to meet every two to four months. More importantly, actions "on the ground" have begun. These include:

- Initiation of an Inventory and Monitoring project. Working with the University of Idaho, beginning efforts will focus on LARO lands adjacent to Lincoln County. As future funding becomes available, work will be expanded to include Stevens and Ferry County. In addition, data collected will be mapped and made available through GIS (Geographic Information System) resources.
- In Ferry, Stevens and Lincoln Counties, NPS has worked with the weed boards to identify priority weeds and areas of coverage.
- LARO received funding from NPS's Biological Resources Management Division to conduct additional high priority control work this year. Working with county weed boards, areas for this extra effort were identified and work has begun.
- LARO staff are exploring development of a cooperative weed management plan and area with its neighbors. Locally, one of the finest examples of cooperative activities is the Quad County-Colville Reservation Bioagent Project. Working with the Washington State University Cooperative Extension, participants in this project include Ferry, Okanogan, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties & the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Those engaged in weed control need public support for the effort to be effective. Please read the *What You Can Do* sidebar to help. ✱



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Control weeds on your property

Be aware of what is growing. Even if

it looks pretty, it can still be a noxious weed. Contact your local county weed board for help in plant identification and best methods of elimination.

Be an informed gardener

Do not plant invasive weeds in your yard. Some of our most persistent weeds started out as "pretty flowers" in someone's garden. Be especially aware of wildflower mixes sold in stores. These can be contaminated with undesirable plant species. Do not spread seeds through compost, topsoil or mulch piles.

Become familiar with local noxious weeds and inform others

County weed boards and local Cooperative Extension offices are good sources of information and pictures.

Keep vehicles out of weed patches

Drive on established roads. Check your tires and undercarriages. Remove clinging weeds before leaving the area.

Walk on established trails

Check your socks, shoes, and pant cuffs for plant material before and after hiking. When accompanied by your dog, be sure he isn't carrying seeds home in his coat.

Identify the problem

Properly managed land will prevent new infestations and eliminate recurring infestations.

Feed pack animals processed food pellets

Feed before and during backcountry trips to avoid transporting seed in animal feces. Be sure to check their coats for clinging seeds before moving them.

Properly dispose of aquarium and aquatic garden plants

Many of these are able to survive locally, with the potential to create new waterway infestations.

Volunteer to control weeds on city, county, state and federal property

Get into the habit of pulling weeds when you notice them.

Report weed sites to county weed boards or state/federal land managers

You may notice something that no one else has.



Student Discovery Week 2003



Students measure the force of falling water

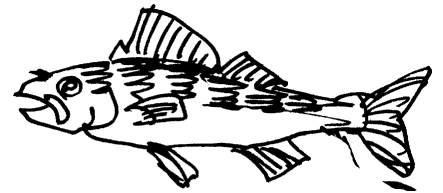
543 STUDENTS, 18 TEACHERS AND OVER 50 PARENTS PARTICIPATED in Student Discovery Week 2003. Each year, students from schools throughout the Lake Roosevelt area can take a field trip to visit a discovery zone. Here, natural resource specialists share their knowledge and introduce students to environmental projects and activities around the lake. "Since we started four years ago, our focus has been on

hands-on, minds-on activities that bring students closer to natural resources in the area," says Andy Dunau, the Lake Roosevelt Forum Executive Director. "At the same time, students are meeting and working with specialists who are devoting their professional lives to these activities. Suddenly, science and scientists seem less abstract and boring."

This year, the Forum worked with the Bureau of Reclamation to expand and introduce new activities to the Nature of Water Power zone at Grand Coulee Dam. The Bureau used large pipes and a lot of water (see picture) to help students discover the relationship between how stored water and water pressure affect flow. Krista Rodrigues, a 5th grade teacher from Davenport, commented that "The activities really increased the value of the tour for the students".

This zone was also expanded to include students using GPS (Global Positioning System) units to locate buried treasure and then mark the spot on a map. Greg Behrens from the Bureau's Grand Coulee office ran this part of the zone. Says Craig, "This was my first time doing this. I think I had as much or more fun as the kids. Count me in for next year!" *

Congratulations to Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Prize Winners



FISH TAG PRIZE DRAWINGS WERE INITIATED to promote the rainbow trout and walleye fisheries at Lake Roosevelt. Tag returns are of great value because they assist managers in decision making to enhance the fishery.

\$200.00 WINNER

Roger Schuchard of Almira WA

\$100.00 PRIZE WINNERS

T.J. Whittaker of Grand Coulee WA; Eric Fraley of Selah WA ; Miles Kinney of Addy WA

\$50.00 PRIZE WINNERS

Pat Rickey of Elk WA; Jim Kujala of Greenacres WA; Mike Johnson of Davenport WA; Don Lovell of Spokane WA; Don Fox of Seven Bays WA; Ron Bailey of Spokane Valley WA; Joe Biggs of Cheney

\$20.00 PRIZE WINNERS

Mr. Sands of Grand Coulee WA; David Geiger of Grand Coulee WA; Paul Allison of Grand Coulee WA; Stan Whitten of Post Falls ID; Bob Dittmer of Spokane WA; John Williamson of Spokane WA; Bill Blair of Spokane WA; Calvin Meyers of Spokane WA; Charles Long of Coulee Dam WA; Marvin Nordhagen of Chattaroy WA

NEXT DRAWING: OCTOBER 1, 2003 !!!

Submit floy tags for any fish (rainbow trout, walleye, smallmouth bass, etc.) by:

- Placing in boxes located near many boat ramps
- Mailing to EWU, Fisheries Research Lab, 258 Science Building, Cheney, WA 99004
- Calling 509-359-7498, or
- e-mailing ascholz@ewu.edu

Bonus: Some walleye with orange floy tags have \$10 reward written on them. For each one you return, you win \$10 instantly !!!

Tags must be submitted between April 2nd and October 1st. All winners are randomly selected.

Gift certificate sponsors include the Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program, the Sportsman's Warehouse, and the Volunteer Net Pen Project.

Personal Watercraft Banned Within Lake Roosevelt National Recreational Area Waters

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (also known as Jet Skis, Wave Runners, SeaDoo and various other names) can not operate within the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area.

Who and What Does This Apply To?

All members of the public using 2-cycle or 4-cycle personal watercraft engines.

What happens if I do it?

Park Rangers for the National Park Service prefer public education to citations. If enforcement action is required, however, citations and impoundment of your PWC is possible.

Can I operate in tribal waters?

This is at the discretion of the Spokane and Colville Tribes. Contact them to find out their regulations. Colville

Tribal Park Rangers:

509-634-3145. Spokane

Indian Tribal Park Rangers: 509-258-7750.



Is the ban permanent?

An Environmental Analysis is being evaluated to determine the future of PWCs for 2004 and beyond. ✱

SPRING CONFERENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

HIGHLIGHTS

The conference began with an opening session for all attendees where leaders from federal action agencies (the Bureau of Reclamation, BPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers) shared current and future operational conditions, challenges and possibilities for Lake Roosevelt and the Columbia.

Over the next two days, there were 15 concurrent sessions that covered a diverse set of water quality, fishery and economic development issues. For instance, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards for Lake Roosevelt and its tributaries; sediment contamination; health and productivity of trout and other fisheries; lake operations and how they are impacted by both upstream and downstream issues; subbasin planning and WRIA activities; developing partnerships and recreational opportunities.

At the end of day two, there was a closing session for all attendees. This session saw leaders from the Spokane and Colville Indian tribes join with the vice chair of the Northwest Power Planning Council and Superintendent of the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation area. Each reflected on the unique cultural, environmental and economic benefits and opportunities that they strive to protect and enhance.

There were also two luncheon keynote addresses. The first from Jon Iani, Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency, focused on EPA initiatives in the area, including possible listing of Lake Roosevelt on

the National Priorities (Superfund) list. The second from Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries, focused on the need for groups and agencies to seek common ground across jurisdictional and cultural lines, and highlighted particular ESA fishery issues of interest to attendees.

Collectively, 63 presenters shared their knowledge. The Forum archived their presentations and other conference information on a CD-Rom that has been distributed to all participants. If you would like a copy of the CD, contact the Forum at (509) 535-7084, or e-mail us at info@lrf.org.

The third day of the conference was devoted to resource group meetings. Groups included the Columbia/Snake River TMDL Workgroup, the Transboundary Gas Group, the Columbia River Technical Management Team, and the Lake Roosevelt Noxious Weed Control Group.

By groups meeting at the conference, conference attendees had the opportunity to participate and learn from their activities. Further, these groups were able to network with each other and form new relationships.

WHAT CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS HAD TO SAY:

"The positive people really shine when it comes to their combined desires to protect and preserve the resources."

"It was very gratifying to see the geographic and political breadth of participation."

"My presentation was well received and enabled me to connect with workers that offered new ideas for fine tuning my research."

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Lake Roosevelt Forum

2206 S. Sherman St.
Spokane, WA 99203
1-800-279-6375
email: info@lrf.org

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SPRING CONFERENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5 EVALUATION AND NEXT STEPS

About one week after the conference, the Forum sent an e-mail out to attendees requesting that they complete an on-line conference evaluation. The conference received high marks for being well organized, providing networking opportunities, and sharing both information and ideas.

When we asked how we could improve and ideas for future events, there was a clear desire for the Forum to go even deeper into particular areas of interest and networking opportunities. Participants suggested that this be done by offering workshops, tours and other types of meetings that focused on particular issues and concerns.

This summer, the Forum steering committee will review these ideas in detail. Combined with our on-going outreach to diverse organizations and people, we look forward to planning activities for next year. ✱

Feedback

1-800-279-6375 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.

Enjoy Lake Roosevelt

Last year, the Forum issued the first "Enjoy Lake Roosevelt" user guide. Over 18,000 were distributed throughout the area.

By popular demand, the guide has been updated and is once again available. Within it, you'll find the names and contact information for the most popular attractions around Lake Roosevelt.

To receive one or more copies, please contact the Forum. Call (509) 535-7084, or e-mail us at info@lrf.org.



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