

Committed to the
environmental and
economic well being
of our community

Lake Roosevelt Forum

NEWSletter

SPRING 2005

INside

Getting to
Know 2

Forum Helps Host
Upper Columbia
Fisheries
Conference 3

Fishing Dates 3

Student Discovery
Week Photos &
Poems 4-5

SPONSORS

Area Residents &
Communities

Bonneville Power
Administration

Bureau of
Reclamation

Lincoln County

National Park Service

Spokane Tribe of
Indians

Stevens County

Washington
Department of
Ecology

Student Discovery Week 2005 Another Big Success

516 STUDENTS AND 63
TEACHERS AND PARENTS
PARTICIPATED IN STUDENT
DISCOVERY WEEK THIS YEAR.
Students came from sixteen classes
and ten schools throughout the Lake
Roosevelt area.

In May of each year teachers from the area can choose a discovery zone to take their students to. At each zone, natural resource specialists share their knowledge and introduce students to environmental projects and activities around the lake. Says Andy Dunau, the Forum's Executive Director, "It's a great way to celebrate spring. Kids don't get to say 'what's this got to do with anything.' Instead, they engage in hands-on activities that protect the area they live."

This year, two new zones were introduced. In Kettle Falls, Val McKern's fourth grade class and Gary Axtell's ninth graders helped release white sturgeon into Lake Roosevelt. They did fish prints, wrote poetry and learned first hand from resource specialists what's being done to reverse the population decline of this fishery.

Deanne Pavlik, program manager for the Spokane Tribe of Indians and coordinator of the Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program, was delighted with the results. "Watching the kids handle the fish made what we're trying



Enclosed with this issue...

**Evaluating the Effects of
Sediment Contamination
in Lake Roosevelt**
THIS PUBLIC GUIDE
WILL HELP YOU
UNDERSTAND:

- the context and history of sediment contamination in Lake Roosevelt,
- potential pathways between sediment contamination and environmental or human health risks under study,
- investigations being done to assess these potential risks,
- and when questions of concern may be answered.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GETTING TO KNOW JULI ANDERSON

Listen to the pitter patter of feet. A circle is formed with males dancing in the middle and making chicken like sounds. Females are on the outer circle choosing a male to mate with. This is a lek, a ritual performed by sharp-tailed grouse every spring.

Juli Anderson, a wildlife area manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), has watched this dance for eleven years. She has managed the twenty thousand acre Swanson Lake Wildlife Area, which is located in central Lincoln County, since it opened.

The area, says Juli, “is semi-desert, shrub steppe habitat. Most people drive through and think it’s desolate. But if you know what you’re looking for and are willing to get close to the ground, you’ll find it’s bursting with life and diversity.”

The Swanson Lake Wildlife Area was formed to help reverse the decline of sharp-tailed grouse, a species native to eastern Washington. These grouse thrive in shrub steppe habitat and were once common throughout the area. Now, however, there are believed to be fewer than six hundred in the state.

Juli comments that “Reversing the decline has been elusive. And we in Washington are not the only ones struggling. Prairie grouse are under threat throughout much of the country.”

In the case of Swanson Lake, “We’re taking cattle off our land, planting new trees and shrubs, and working with our counterparts in Canada, Idaho, and local Bureau of Land Management staff to introduce new sharp-tailed grouse from other areas.” All of the management activities at Swanson Lakes are done by Juli, a full time assistant, and a seasonal worker.

“Focusing our efforts on conserving and restoring shrub steppe habitat is the key” says Juli, “not only for grouse, but for mule deer and other shrub steppe-dependent species as well.”



Juli is a wildlife area manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

And conservation starts with education. Juli worked with the Forum to create one of the first Student Discovery Week zones. Notes Juli “When kids come, they think there’s nothing out here. We enjoy opening their eyes ... showing them the native plants like wild onion. By the time they leave, they see the area differently the next time they drive by. They understand it’s the home of grouse, wild flowers and many other species.”

In addition to Student Discovery Week, WDFW gives out posters explaining shrub steppe habitat, grouse and other animals that live there. And for those that can’t make it to Student Discovery Week, staff support classroom field trips by request and help boy scouts earn environmental badges.

All of this should keep Juli plenty busy and outdoors. But she’s not the type to relax and, well, watch the shrub steppe grow. On weekends you may see her in the hardware store picking up supplies for small houses she fixes up and rents in the Grand Coulee area. She also has the good company of pet cats and dogs.

Says Juli, “I like learning, being on the move and being outdoors. As a teenager, I’d collect animal skulls while out hiking and put them on my shelves.” So it’s little wonder that she specialized in biology when getting her Bachelor of Science degree from Central Washington University. And after a stint in the army, it was only natural for her to eventually be given the responsibility of managing twenty thousand acres of land.

Juli sums it up this way: “I was born in Connecticut, but this is home now; my parents live nearby; I live on the wildlife area. I wake up in the morning to birds singing; I walk out my door and see sky, nature and life all around me; and I get to be a steward by conserving land and helping grouse and other species.”

Yes indeed, in life’s dance Juli is pretty leky. ✱

Forum Helps Host Upper Columbia Fisheries Conference

On June 6th, 7th and 8th, fisheries managers met in Spokane, WA to share best practices and consider new ideas for enhancing, protecting and restoring fisheries in the upper Columbia river basin. The conference, entitled “Resident Fish in the Upper Columbia River Basin: Status, Management, and Restoration,” was convened by the Resident Fish Committee of the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA). The final day of the conference was used to support the 29th International Kokanee Workshop.

Says Neil Ward, fish and wildlife project coordinator for CBFWA, “Most of the headlines in the Columbia Basin go to restoration of anadromous salmon. The issues and needs of resident fish in the upper Columbia are also important and deserve attention. The diversity of the region’s fisheries is extraordinary and, as a result, the management of the resources is challenging. Balancing the competing interests and needs is difficult and complex.”

Eighty one fishery biologists and managers from twenty two agencies, tribes and other groups throughout the Northwest attended. While the sessions, presentations and papers presented were technical in nature, conference organizers worked hard to assure continuous dialog and interaction. Holly McLellan, from the Eastern Washington University Fisheries Research Center, comments “We’re really limited in the opportunities we have to share results, ideas and challenges face-to-face. This conference gives us that opportunity, and we’re thankful.”

The Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program asked the Forum to consider helping sponsor the conference. The Forum’s steering



Upper Columbia fishery managers share their knowledge.

committee readily agreed because they recognize the need for fisheries managers to not only work together and learn from each other, but look toward the future. Additionally, the Forum wanted to actively assure that agencies, utilities and others working on resident fisheries issues, but not part of the CBFWA resident fisheries committee, could participate in these discussions. Conference organizers embraced and supported this idea with terrific results. Says Ward, “The number of participants and utilities represented illustrates the region’s desire to learn about the co-managers efforts.”

To receive further information about the conference, including copies of papers and presentations, contact Neil Ward at neil.ward@cbfwa.org. *



Fishery biologists work by Myers Falls.

Fishing Dates

| DATE | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| June 25-26 | Washington Governor’s Cup Walleye Tournament | Kettle Falls |
| Aug. 6-7 | Valley Marine Annual Open Bass Tournament | Banks Lake |
| Aug. 20-21 | Two Rivers Trout Derby | Two Rivers Casino, Lake Roosevelt |
| Sept. 17-18 | Spokane Walleye Club | Two Rivers Casino, Lake Roosevelt |
| October 1 | Fish Tag Prize Drawing | Lake Roosevelt |

Student Discovery Week 2005 CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

to educate them about real. Then I watched some of the ninth graders do extra work to help move the last of the fish. As they talked with Mitch, Jason and others from the fish and wildlife department, I turned to Andy and said, 'There's a future fisheries biologist down there.' It doesn't get any better than that."

While kids were learning to save a fishery in Kettle Falls, Kevin Hupp was helping kids learn to identify and control weeds in Lincoln County. Kevin is the coordinator for the Lincoln County Noxious Weed Control Board. Fourth and fifth grade students from Davenport elementary school went to this new zone to become *Weed Watchers on the Hunt*.

Sturgeon

*Slimy, poky, fish,
I was afraid to hurt you,
But now you're free.*

By Karysa

Armed with GPS units, maps and cards to identify weeds, students went out into the field and learned how to identify and map five species of noxious weeds. Students transferred the GPS data to a large map, enabling students to see the entire noxious weed infestation. Comments Kevin, "The students surveyed 100 acres and didn't even realize it. They were really into finding the invaders and mapping the infestations they found."

Students also took part in an interactive demonstration to learn how noxious weed populations can explode over a short time period. Kevin and his staff explained that some noxious weeds spread by attaching their seed to plumes and rely on those plumes to spread the seed through the wind, much like dandelions in a yard. The students then blew bubbles representing different weed species that spread this way across the landscape.

Kevin closes by saying, "We had about 6 deer run right through our field activity. Most of the students got to see them and were really excited about seeing wildlife. We didn't stage it, but we are keeping that in mind for next year!"



A 4th grader prepares to release a white sturgeon.



Kevin Hupp helps students identify noxious weeds.



Juli Anderson talks to students about shrub steppe habitat and sharp-tailed grouse.

Student Discovery Week 2005

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4



Swanson Lake staff work with students.

Said Lorrie Bell of her class' time with Kevin, "They did a great job at this zone. The kids really enjoyed themselves. We learned about something important that would have been boring if it had just been pictures in a book and some class discussion."

Strong

Slippery floppy waves

Calm, pretty habitat

Loving predators distinctive

I won't make you dinner some day!

By Savannah



A 9th and 4th grader from Kettle Falls work on making a fish print together.

The Forum began hosting Student Discovery Week in 1998. Since then, about five thousand students have visited at least one Discovery Zone. During this time, the Forum has also worked with schools to provided over twelve thousand dollars in scholarship funds to assist with travel. Cami Haveman, the Student Discovery Week Co-ordinator, notes "It's all on the honor system. With the scholarships, you can tell the teachers and schools are just asking for what they need to make ends meet."

Some how, some way, I hope

You're here still today, I hope

You know I was scared but

Now I know that

You're the same way.

By Desirae



Davenport 4th graders get ready to map noxious weeds.

Each year, the Forum asks teachers and zone leaders to evaluate the program. With their input, we look forward to continuing to make Student Discovery Week a great experience for everyone. ✱

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 _____

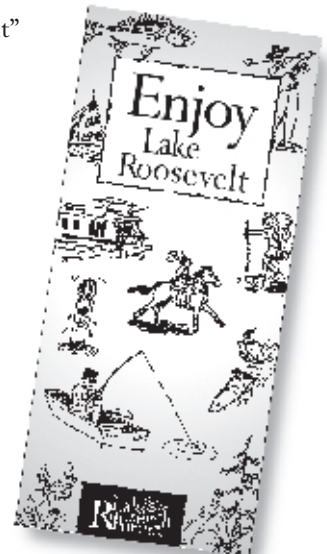
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION.

Enjoy Lake Roosevelt

This year's "Enjoy Lake Roosevelt" user guide is now available and being distributed throughout the area.

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.



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.