

Committed to the
environmental and
economic well being
of our community

Lake Roosevelt Forum

NEWSletter

SUMMER 2002

INside

Guest

Editorial 2

Student Discovery
Week 3

Fishing Derby 4

SPONSORS

Bonneville Power
Administration

Bureau of
Reclamation

Colville Tribal
Enterprise
Corporation

Confederated Tribes
of the Colville
Indian Reservation

Lincoln County

National Park
Service

Spokane Tribe of
Indians

Stevens County

Forum Helps Sponsor Transboundary Natural Resource Conference

THE LAKE ROOSEVELT FORUM JOINED with several government agencies, non-profit groups and industry sponsors from the United States and Canada to sponsor the conference *Toward Ecosystem-Based Management: Breaking Down the Barriers in the Columbia River Basin and Beyond*. Held in Spokane from April 27th to May 1st, the conference was attended by over 840 people, most of who were from the Northwest and British Columbia.



Lake Roosevelt Forum conference session.

The conference was an ambitious effort to foster information sharing, identification of barriers to managing natural resources, and development of strategies to address a range of watershed, fishery, and related community issues. The Forum itself organized 16 sessions and panels on topics such as water quality, fisheries, use of Geographic Information Systems, and subbasin planning.

PARTICIPANTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Participants included scientists, policy analysts, and advocates from a broad range of agencies, tribes, universities, industry, and communities. Throughout the conference, a healthy exchange and dialog occurred between locally based groups (many of which were focused on specific watershed and fishery regulations and concerns) and regionally focused agencies (many of which were focused on forming or implementing broad policies, standards and regulations). These dynamics, combined with cross border perspectives and interests, resulted in lively discussions and dissemination of vast amounts of information.

Not surprisingly, varying perspectives were often presented as dichotomies or frustrations experienced first hand or through the media. For instance:

- Healthy economies vs. healthy ecosystems
- Property and water rights vs. ESA and other federal/state laws
- Local land use planning vs. watershed/subbasin planning
- Science based on models vs. field based observation and the experience of locals

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

GUEST EDITORIAL

MERRILL OTT

At the end of April, I attended the five day conference *Toward Ecosystem-Based Management*. Today, I'm spending some time composing my thoughts about the conference while waiting for some hay to dry. The rain has been great— couldn't have come at a better time. My livelihood depends on my stewardship of this land I live on. I'm grateful for the opportunity and privilege to care for private property that produces food to feed the people of the world.

I'm glad I attended the conference. I met diverse people, some of whom I hope to stay in contact with for years to come. Of the many people I met, some shared my interests and perspectives, others did not. All, however, were willing to share their views and information.

As I reflect back on the sea of information and people I spent five days with, I find myself continuing to be on guard against those who would take away my privileges as a farmer and property owner. In the name of science, or for the environment, we heard from those who would see their opinions and views accomplished by more regulation. We heard that the dams on the Snake River must be removed – no other options are considered viable to restore the salmon populations. Yet 2002 has been witness to one of the largest salmon runs in recent history, even before the dams were built.

We see the federal and state governments usurping water rights, without due compensation, because it is mandated in the laws protecting endangered species. We heard that managing our forests is not allowed anymore – causing too much pollution of the streams...yet disease and overburdening undergrowth goes unchecked in our forests. Now wildfire dangers have increased, creating even greater burdens upon the taxpayers to fund the control of these devastating events.

Occasionally, presenters talked about balancing the environmental needs with the local customs, cultures and economies. These people did speak to my concerns and I hope to work with them in the future. And the Forum made a great effort to include local watershed initiatives and groups. These sessions drew people from all over the Northwest, I think, in part, because there is a hunger out there to learn about grassroots efforts that make a



Merrill Ott, farmer and property owner in Addy. His livelihood depends on his good stewardship of the land he lives and works on.

difference. I believe we can build on these efforts.

That said, I still have the feeling that many of the conference participants do not understand that our local community's economy and society in the Columbia River Basin are dependent on the wise use of water to support agriculture, mining, and timber; and that various other industries depend upon the continued availability of water. There

are some who say that the approximately \$26 billion economy generated here by agricultural production is not economically viable for the future. We are constantly being bombarded by new regulatory practices that fly in the face of constitutional freedoms and liberties.

Rather than reaching out for public input, education and consensus of the governed, the special interest groups have caused disruption and devastation to the economic production in our area. Judicial restrictions are so rampant that even the federal agencies no longer want to try to manage their areas of responsibility, such as forest management. Is this proper? I think not. Our tax money can be spent a lot better than on expensive litigation that has not proven effective in keeping our resources in good health.

The solution in my opinion is to continue pressing ahead against the odds. Our Colville River Watershed Project (WRIA 59) is an excellent example of a local effort making a difference. These efforts go into making hard choices based on sound science, and stand in contrast to the eco-terrorism that has become a means to an end for many of these individuals who do not seek consensus and cooperation within the greater needs of the many.

I look forward to the future – to greater outreach and education. I look forward to better stewardship for our precious resources that we, the people, have been given responsibility. Our world is resilient and flexible – but we do have a great task to accomplish while we are here for our short time. This is a great place to live. I want my grandkids to see it as a better place for them than it is now. We've got some work to do. Let's make it count. ✱

Student Discovery Week 2002

Oh the water is blue.
Wow the sky is too.
How can you come up with a better wish?
In the water there are so many fish.

Little flowers all around
At this time I'd like to leap and bound.
Keep the forest and lake safe.
Even if you don't like it

Sarah Bennett
Reynolds

THE YELLOW BUSES ROLLED AGAIN TO SUPPORT STUDENT DISCOVERY WEEK 2002.

Each year, the Forum works with agencies and natural resource specialists to give fourth through eighth grade students the opportunity to learn about natural resource projects and environmental issues particular to our area. When students take a field trip to a discovery zone, they engage in a variety of hands-on activities that give them a

more personal understanding of what it takes to be a good steward of our natural resources.

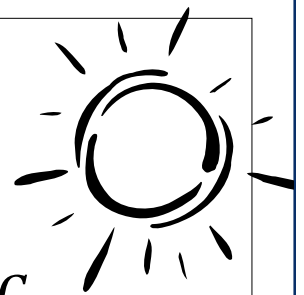
This year, 537 students, 20 teachers, and over 50 parents from 9 schools participated. They visited one of six zones that agencies developed with the Forum. Sponsors of zones included the Bonneville Power Administration, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Confederated Tribes of The Colville Reservation, the National Park Service, the Net Pen Project, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

*A big THANK YOU to everyone who makes this annual event possible. **



Dear Ft. Spokane Rangers,
Thank you for showing us
Ft. Spokane. One thing I learned is the
history of Ft. Spokane. The thing I liked
best was when we went on the hike. It
was fun. Thanks again for your help.

Sincerely,
Paige Gamba and the
Wilbur, 6th grade



Self Discovery

**Gary Martin, Forester
Bureau of Indian Affairs**

You can discover a lot in a "Discovery Zone." One of the most rewarding things I've discovered is that having fun with kids can change lives. To me, "having fun" means sharing something you like to do with kids. "Changing lives" can work for both the giver and the receiver.

My life was changed the day I met new friends and we planted a tree at their school. I shared just a little bit and got so much in return. A "Discovery Zone" is a fun way of giving and receiving. The opportunity to give a young person something positive to think about, perhaps leading to a career, is a very cool thing. You may change a life!!!

What you receive in return is also an awesome thing. It may be a smiling "thank you," or perhaps a thoughtful letter. If you're really fortunate, you'll receive the ultimate ... a group hug from your new friends. Your life will be changed.

Natural Resource Conference

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The title of the conference, *Toward Ecosystem-Based Management*, hints at the tensions suggested by these dichotomies. Conference organizers, however, see such tensions in a positive light if people accept them as a starting rather than end point to natural resource management. Specifically, by identifying the barriers to resolving natural resource management issues, a strategy to balance the needs of community, environment and economy can be forged.

BARRIERS AND STRATEGIES

Threaded throughout the conference was a concerted effort to identify barriers to natural resource management. Some of the barriers identified include:

- Pressures caused by population increases, economic growth, and greater consumption
- Lack of leadership, accountability and stewardship that is regionally based and crosses jurisdictional, state and international boundaries
- Lack of opportunities for integrated and interdisciplinary thinking that encompasses science, economics, planning, engineering, and cultural considerations

- Lack of public awareness and poor communication
- Unstable funding and limited resources
- Competing commitments and priorities

Given that many of the sessions were fairly technical or “science based” because many of the conference participants are deeply involved in research efforts, it’s interesting to note what wasn’t listed as barriers. For instance, quality research and evaluation is not listed as a barrier. Nor is our ability to create technical or technological breakthroughs considered a barrier.

Rather, conference participants appeared to conclude that fostering lasting and meaningful partnerships and relationships is the key to making progress. In some ways, this suggests that our current institutions, career paths and academic/professional training are at least partly out of step with the needs of “ecosystem-based management.”

Many of the strategies put forth to build on the themes of the conference suggest as much. Such strategies include:

- Piloting a demonstration of international grassroots cooperation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ON LAKE ROOSEVELT...



AUGUST 17TH & 18TH 2002

\$30,000 in Cash & Prizes Available!!

**Support the Derby,
Support the Lake.**

10% of ticket sales will go to the Lake Roosevelt Volunteer Net Pen Project.

Two Rivers Casino, Two Rivers Marina, Two Rivers R.V. Park, Two Rivers Texaco, General Store, Skipper Bills, JL Fishing Guide, Don Etue Wood Carving, Qwik Drain, Mack Lures, Hooked On Toys, Jim's Fly Tying, Big Wally's, Lincoln R.V. Park, Precision Propeller, Standard Batteries, H&S Certified Marine, White's Outdoors, Doc Holiday Houseboat Sales, Hunters Country Store, Harold Spencer Wholesale, Kieffer's Guide Service, Wellpint Trading Post, White Willow Motel, KGA News Talk 1510, Hunters Inn, Coca Cola, Fruitland Service Station, Gun A Rama Wholesale, Clark's All Sport, Berkley, Fins & Feathers, McCoy's Marina, The Boat Shop, White Elephant, Spokane Tribe of Indians

Call Two Rivers Casino and Resort for more info: 800-722-4031 • Extension 55 or 56

Quotables: Thoughts from Conference Participants

Programs and funding will be available to promote good adaptive management practices, as will penalties to those that refuse to learn and change bad practices. The facts are impossible to ignore, problems are vast, demands even more so.

Barb Rogers, Community Member, Davenport WA

When it all comes down to it, it's really all about people talking to each other.

Kate Lansley, Student, Selkirk College, Canada

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

Don Phillips, Lake Roosevelt Property Owners Association, Spokane WA

Very informative on a technical, legal and policy level. Maybe a bit too large.

Joe Peone, Colville Confederated Tribe, Nespalem WA

It's great to see the huge increase in social, economic and community issues added to a conference dominated by biologists.

Chuck Jones, Douglas County Transportation and Land Services, East Wenatchee WA

Get the focus off the local people being the problem. Federal and state agency people need to stop saying they've got the only answer. It'll take all of us to make it successful.

Linda Kiefer, WIRA 59 (Colville Watershed) Coordinator, Colville WA

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.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE/FAX _____

EMAIL _____

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



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



Lake Roosevelt Forum

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRESORTED STANDARD

US POSTAGE

PAID

SPOKANE, WA

PERMIT #4

NATURAL RESOURCE CONFERENCE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- A governance exchange program that would allow policy makers and local advocates to shadow each other or trade jobs for a day
- Building better structures and communications to help landowners contribute to natural resource management
- Improved public awareness campaigns

MOVING FORWARD

The conference more than accomplished its mission of sharing natural resource information and data that is of interest locally and regionally. For some, new relationships and partnerships are likely to result. For others, improved knowledge is a worthy outcome by itself. For the Lake Roosevelt community members that were able to attend, the Forum is deeply appreciative of the questions, insights and perspectives you brought. For people interested in an Executive Conference Summary and discussion of next steps, visit the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation web site (www.sff.bc.ca) midsummer.

The Forum is committed to continuing our efforts to share natural resource information. Such sharing is fundamental to encouraging dialogs and helping identify opportunities to

enhance the environmental and economic well being of our communities. We are also very appreciative of grants from the Northwest Power Planning Council and the Department of Ecology. These grants are helping us find new ways to engage and incorporate our communities into these vital discussions. *

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 toll-free at 1-800-279-6375 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

1-800-279-6375 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.