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Lake Roosevelt Forum

NEWSletter

SUMMER 2011

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Lake Roosevelt draw down lowest since 2001

The combination of a wet spring, deep snow pack in the Canadian Rockies, and a late freshet (when the snow pack melts and fills the river) resulted in the deepest draw down of Lake Roosevelt since 2001. Some of the more noticeable outcomes include:

- 48 boat ramps operated by the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, Colville Tribe and Spokane Tribe were inaccessible for four weeks.
- Hayes Island, located at Kettle Falls was visible.
- Miles of beach were exposed, including potentially sensitive cultural resources.
- 700,000 thousand rainbow trout from 65 net pens were released later than normal; however, the extended length of the draw down and continued high flows may cause fish to entrain (flush below Grand Coulee Dam), affecting angling opportunities for sport fishing.

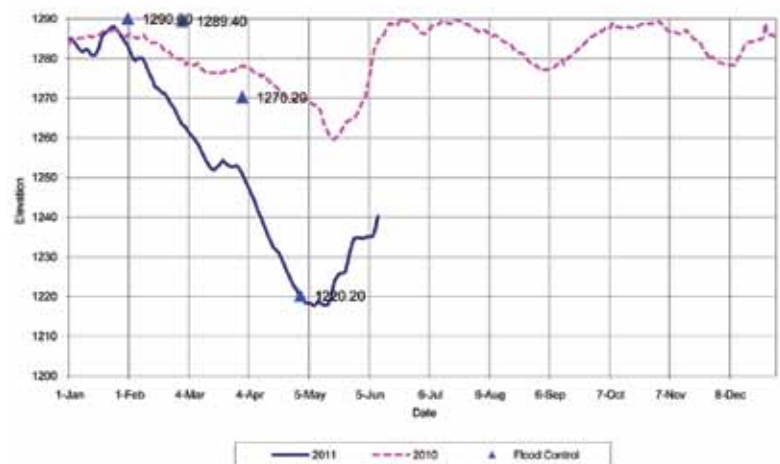
One of the primary

purposes of Lake Roosevelt and Grand Coulee Dam is to provide flood control on the Columbia River. During the spring, flood control takes priority and is the main focus of operations at Grand Coulee Dam. The lake is drawn down to provide space for the spring runoff, preventing downstream flooding all the way to Portland, potentially saving lives and millions of dollars in lost property. This year, the lake reached its lowest elevation at 1217 feet above sea level. The farthest it can be reduced without affecting power operations at Grand Coulee is an elevation of 1208 feet above sea level.

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Lake Roosevelt Water Levels 2010-2011



Lake Roosevelt draw down lowest since 2001

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Refill of the lake in June is equally dramatic. Said Lynne Brougher, Grand Coulee Dam Public Information Officer, "The lake can rise several feet per day. For those camping or boating, it is advised not to camp right along the water's edge and to ensure that your boat is properly secured when mooring your vessel for the evening"

Full pool by Fourth of July?

One of the most common community questions is whether the lake will be at or near full pool (1290) over the Fourth of July weekend. When the lake reaches 1290, the amount of beach areas available for camping and recreation is significantly diminished.

Although the Bureau tries to keep lake elevations a bit lower than 1290 to meet recreational needs, conditions may not allow for this to happen. For the most up to date lake level reading and forecast, visit this web site maintained by the Grand Coulee Office: <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/grandcoulee/lakelevel/index.html>. 🌐

Bookmark this site to get the most up to date lake level forecast:
<http://www.usbr.gov/pn/grandcoulee/lakelevel/index.html>



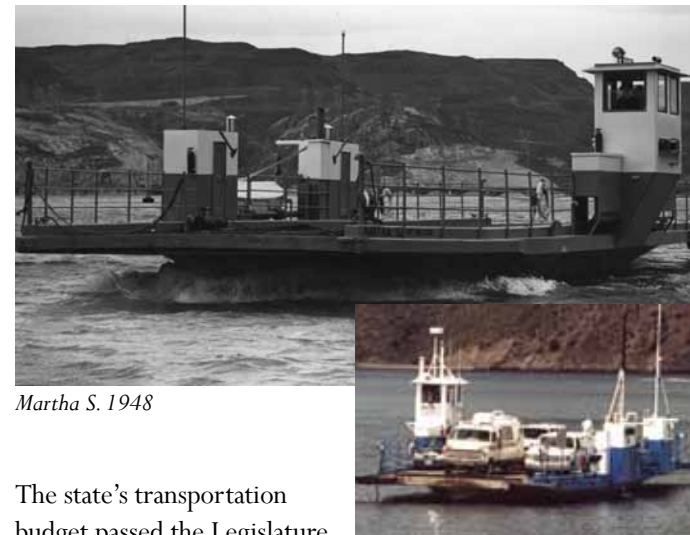
Lake Roosevelt draw down conditions

State's transportation budget includes money for new Keller Ferry

Washington House Republicans

Published Monday, April 25 2011

A much-needed and much-anticipated new ferry will be built to serve the Keller Ferry run and the surrounding communities.



Martha S. 1948

Martha S. 2010

The state's transportation budget passed the Legislature just hours before the 2011

regular session adjourned on Friday, April 22. Seventh Legislative District lawmakers worked diligently with transportation leaders in the House, Rep. Judy Clibborn, R-Mercer Island, and Rep. Mike Armstrong, R-Wenatchee, to see that money was included in the final transportation funding

proposal to replace one of the state's oldest and non-Puget Sound ferries.

"I am absolutely thrilled," said Rep. Shelly Short, R-Addy. "The surrounding communities, students, farmers and ranchers depend on this ferry for so many aspects of their daily lives. With the current boat clearly in need of repair, it was only a matter of time before it was deemed unsafe and permanently retired from service. With funding for a new boat assured, the Keller Ferry will continue to serve local residents safely and timely for years to come."

Short worked with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation two years ago to arrange a tour of the Keller Ferry by members of the state House Transportation Committee, congressional staff and representatives from the governor's office. This was at a time when the current boat, the "Martha S.," had been temporarily suspended from service while repairs were made to a section of the hull that had rusted through.

Short said the efforts made two years ago helped set the stage for successful funding of a new ferry in this year's transportation budget.

"We had great participation from the Colville tribe, the communities and the Department of Transportation," Short said. "The Keller Ferry's importance to the local communities really began to sink in to committee members at that time and I just

think folks started to seriously ask themselves, 'How can we make this work?' This shows what we can do when everyone is working together with the same vision toward the same goal."

Short said the decision to fund a new boat was made only after a thorough analysis was done and every other option explored.

"We looked at purchasing a used boat and retrofitting it to meet our needs; we looked at completely refurbishing the existing boat. But in the end, the safest and most cost-effective long-term solution was to build a new boat," Short said.

Rep. Joel Kretz, R-Wauconda, said his conversations with fellow legislators about the needed funding for a new Keller ferry usually included a few blank stares and disbelieving comments.

"The fact is, most folks in Olympia had no clue that Eastern Washington had a ferry system," Kretz said. "Many of my colleagues thought we were joking when we started seriously asking for their support. But once we got out a map and showed them the area surrounding the Keller Ferry, people started realizing the limited options available for school buses, commuters and shoppers. Educating urban legislators about how critical the Keller Ferry is to our local transportation system was the key to getting them to understand this ferry is the 'Alaskan Way Viaduct' for many folks in Ferry and Lincoln counties."

The new boat will be in the same "under 100 ton class" as the current boat. It will be an open deck design large enough to carry 20 cars or

two semi trucks. The transportation budget includes about \$12 million while the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are expected to contribute around \$2 million.

Sen. Bob Morton, R-Kettle Falls, stressed that funding for a new ferry was only possible because of the massive amount of work done to get everyone onboard early. He singled out the chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen, D-Camano Island, and thanked her for including the funding in her transportation budget.

"Really, there are too many people to list," Morton said. "From agency folks, to Congressional staff; from local community leaders, to tribal leaders. The new Keller Ferry took a lot of work by a lot of people. But I do want to especially thank my friend and colleague, Sen. Haugen, for being open throughout the process and for being able to see the needs of communities on the other side of the mountains. As a resident of Camano Island, she knows how important ferries are to the local communities. She really stepped up to the plate and deserves a lot of credit for helping us out."

The new ferry, which has yet to be officially named, is expected to be bid-out sometime this summer and could be ready for service by the spring of 2013. 🌐

Student Discovery Week 2011

After a long winter, students and teachers were anxious to be outside. Student Discovery Week 2011 provided the perfect educational tonic.

Over 360 Lake Roosevelt area school children enjoyed field trips along Lake Roosevelt. Coordinated by the Lake Roosevelt Forum since 1999, over 4,000 students have participated. This year, Student Discovery Week was held May 9th – 13th.

Students came from nine schools throughout the Lake Roosevelt area. Each school, some of whom sent multiple classes, picked from one of seven “discovery zones.” Each zone focuses on specific natural resource work being conducted by managers and scientists in the area.



“Juli Anderson and crew do a fabulous job with this zone. I have been going for many years now, and each year I still learn something new! Thank you for supporting learning from the outside in!” said Kim Todd, a teacher from PC Jantz in Odessa. Her class visited the Swanson Lake Wildlife Area near Creston.

The zone leaders enjoy their time with the children as well. Student Discovery Week is a chance for them to share their knowledge and love for their job.

“Student Discovery Week gives the fisheries managers on Lake Roosevelt a great opportunity to reach out to kids and teachers. The kids actually get to handle young sturgeon and we get to teach these kids about one of coolest fish in the lake and how important they are to the ecosystem,” said Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel with the Spokane Tribe of Indians. “The whole day reminds us why we work in natural resources in the first place.” 🌍

The Poetry of Sturgeon

Sturgeon
Long, strong
Swimming, growing, jumping
How big will you get?
-Springdale 4th grader

Fishes slimey no bones
Went down tunnel to freedom
They were called sturgeon
-Springdale 4th grader

Fish having freedom
Fish friends eating and playing
Jason, my fish friend
-Kettle Falls 5th grader

Enjoy Lake Roosevelt, visit www.lrf.org/Recreation.html

Each year, the Forum provides updated information (including phone numbers and web sites) to help visitors and residents enjoy Lake Roosevelt.

Learn about Points of Interest, Camping, Boat Launches, Lakeside Information, Fishing and Regulations.

Please Leave No Trace: Dispose of Waste Properly, Leave What You Find, Minimize Campfire Impacts, Respect Wildlife, Be Considerate of Other Visitors.

Paper vs. Web ? It's Your Choice

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