

Committed to the  
environmental and  
economic well being  
of our community

# Lake Roosevelt Forum

# NEWSletter

WINTER 2003

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Ecology

## Lake Operations:

# Outlook 2003

WHILE UNSEASONABLY MILD AND RAINY WEATHER HAS sent snowmobilers and skiers further north looking for snow pack, it has left operators of the Columbia River System with much to ponder for 2003.

Looking at precipitation alone, things would seem just fine. In January, in fact, precipitation above the Dalles (a dam on the Columbia River) was fifteen percent above average. Snow pack above the Dalles, however, was twenty nine percent below average. That means run off to support fishery, power and other needs will most likely be below normal in 2003.

### FORECASTING FOR LAKE ROOSEVELT

Although late winter snow storms, a long period of dry weather or other variables could change conditions quickly, there are ranges and targets within which Lake Roosevelt normally operates. One way to understand these ranges is to look at the graphic showing monthly changes in lake elevations. In 1997 there was a flood, in 1992 there was a drought, and last year was considered "average."

For 2003, here's some of what is known and some variables to keep track of:

### WINTER

For February, lake levels were between 1,287 and 1,290 feet above sea level. Says Craig Sprankle with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, "We're pretty much just passing inflows and working to keep redds in the water in the Vernita Bar area (which is about 50 miles north of the Tri-Cities)." These levels will begin to drop as much as thirty feet as Lake Roosevelt is drawn down to meet flood control and other needs by the end of April.

### SPRING

In addition to prevailing weather conditions, lake levels this spring will mostly be affected

Lake Roosevelt Forum Spring Conference

**Research  
& Action**  
in the  
**Upper Columbia  
and Lake Roosevelt**  
water quality • fisheries • community

April 21-23 • 2003  
Doubletree Hotel • City Center  
Spokane Washington  
[www.lrf.org/conf](http://www.lrf.org/conf)

**Conference Schedule  
& Registration  
Inside This Issue!**

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# GETTING TO KNOW TONY DELGADO

It's a long way from the South Bronx to Colville, WA. Tony Delgado, a Stevens County Commissioner, has made that journey. In doing so, he's become a living slice of Americana.

"My parents came to the South Bronx from Puerto Rico," says Tony. "I didn't hardly know any English until I started going to school. It was a tough neighborhood." Tony's family moved to New Jersey when he was five years old.

In New Jersey, Tony started getting his taste for rural life. "I always liked working the outdoors. It seemed like the most promising thing to be doing." In high school, that meant trapping predatory animals for farmers. According to Tony, "that's what got me into the fur business."

As well as being in the produce business, Tony's years back east included raising and selling minks for twenty three years. He was also on the New Jersey State Fish and Game Commission and ran hunting and fishing camps in Quebec, Canada.

Once the mink business played out, Tony decided it was time to move on. "I wanted the rural way of life, so I came out west because my brother said this was the best place for it." Once in Stevens County, Tony became an excavation and concrete contractor. "It kept me outdoors," comments Tony.

Then four years ago a state legislator asked if he'd run for county commissioner. He said yes because "There's a way of life that's being disrupted. Ranching, logging and mining are parts of our culture and economic stability. I want to help protect it."

Tony now serves as chairman for the Stevens County commissioners. His favorite committees and policy work relate to natural resources. Tony is convinced that there are ways to collaborate which are good for the environment and good for the ways of life he'd like to protect.

Water rights are one example. "Through our WRIA 59 work and the water conservancy board we started, we hope to transfer and sell water rights to people who want them. Since we're a closed basin, we need to put what's available to good use." Tony points to the Lake Roosevelt



*Tony Delgado, a Stevens County Commissioner, believes that what's good for Lake Roosevelt is good for all of us.*

Forum as another example. "Our communities need to find ways to work with each other. What's good for Lake Roosevelt is good for all of us."

Based on what he's seen and learned, Tony thinks Stevens County is a place where the economy and population will grow over the next ten to fifteen

years. "Short term, we've been losing good paying jobs. And I hurt with every one we lose. But long term I think we'll do alright. The fact is we're the fifth largest county in WA, and only have sixteen people per square mile. Combine that with scenic country, good hunting and fishing, and good people. I think you'll see growth."

Tony's view is that retirees, others looking to live a more rural life style, and tourism will help fuel this growth. The one caveat Tony makes is his concern about "bringing in good paying jobs."

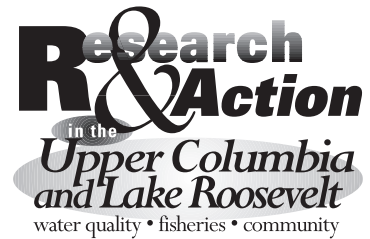
That concern aside, Tony uses Chewelah as Exhibit A of what's possible. "Chewelah's got the ski area 49 Degrees North, the tribal casino, an airport and a golf course. Now they are building an environmental learning center by the ski area that'll bring people in and serve as a local community meeting place. And we're getting an all weather road from Usk to Chewelah that will be completed by 2006. Things are happening."

And don't look for Tony to slow down. His wife Marilyn, four kids, eight grand children and countless friends know better.

Says Tony of his latest exploit, "Senator Cantwell invited me to go to Cuba. We went to promote Washington State agricultural products, a movement started by Congressman George Nethercutt in 1999." The trip, sponsored by the Washington State Farm Bureau, fits Tony's view of constantly reaching out for new opportunities. As Tony muses about the trip, he comments "I guess knowing Spanish ended up coming in pretty handy."

Now that Tony's back from Cuba, his American journey continues. ✱

# Lake Roosevelt Forum Spring Conference 2003



MONDAY, APRIL 21

9:30 - 10:30

WELCOME

Welcome & Invocation

10:30 - 12:00

OPENING SESSION

Operating the Columbia for Flood Control, Power, Fish and Other Needs

Bill McDonald, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation  
Roy Fox, Federal Hydro Projects Manager, Bonneville Power Administration

12:00 - 1:15

LUNCH & SPEAKER

Keynote, L. John Iani, Regional Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

1:15 - 2:45

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Intermountain Province Subbasin Planning**  
Lyle Gardinier, Intermountain Province Oversight Committee  
**Limnology and Reservoir Dynamics of Lake Roosevelt**  
Scott Wells, Portland State University  
**Watershed Partnerships and Resources**  
Paul Sabatier, UC Davis

2:45 - 3:00

BREAK

3:00 - 4:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Upper Columbia Restoration and Enhancement Strategies**  
Tim Peone, Spokane Tribe of Indians  
**Lake Roosevelt Sediment Contamination**  
Dave Croxton, EPA  
**Economic Development and Entrepreneurship**  
Terry Lawhead, WA State Community Trade and Economic Development

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

9:00 - 9:45

OPENING SESSION

Poster Sessions & Continental Breakfast

9:45 - 11:00

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Upstream/Downstream: Opportunities and Conflicts for the Columbia**  
Shane Scott, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**Measuring Human Health and Environmental Risks of Sediment Contamination**  
Richard Robinson, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry  
**Stream Regulation and Landowners**  
Karin K. Baldwin, WA Department of Ecology

Thanks to our Sponsors:

For further info & updates: [www.lrf.org/conf](http://www.lrf.org/conf)

APRIL 21-23, 2003

DOUBLETREE HOTEL, CITY CENTER  
SPOKANE, WA

TUESDAY, APRIL 22 - CONTINUED

11:00 - 11:15

BREAK

11:15 - 12:30

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program**  
Deanne Pavlik, Spokane Tribe of Indians  
**TMDL and Dissolved Gas Standards for the Upper Columbia: What's Next?**  
Mark Schneider, NOAA Fisheries  
**Bull Trout: How conservation districts, landowners and USFWS are responding to this ESA listing**  
Don Comins, Pend Oreille Conservation District

12:30 - 1:45

LUNCH & SPEAKER

Keynote Bob Lohn, Regional Administrator, NOAA Fisheries

1:45 - 3:15

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Lakes and Fish: What's The Catch?**  
Al Scholz, Eastern Washington University  
**Tributaries to The Upper Columbia: TMDL & Dissolved Gas Standards & Actions**  
Paul Pickett, WA Department of Ecology  
**Formation & Empowerment of Watershed Committees**  
Sammi Simpson, The Upper Columbia Group

3:15 - 3:20

BREAK

3:20 - 4:50

CLOSING SESSION

**Fisheries: Managing for Today's Needs and Tomorrow's Possibilities**  
Tom Karier, Vice Chair, Northwest Power Planning Council

5:00 - 6:30

RECEPTION

Network with others while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and a no host bar.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

9:00 - 4:00

RESOURCE GROUP MEETINGS

Lunch from Noon to 1:00  
**Columbia/Snake River TMDL Workgroup**  
**Transboundary Gas Group**  
**Columbia River Technical Management Team Mtg.**  
**Lake Roosevelt Noxious Weed Control Mtg.**



Avista Utilities  
S.P. Cramer & Associates

# Conference Registration Form

Please complete the registration form,  
tear off and send with payment to:

Lake Roosevelt Forum  
2206 S. Sherman St., Spokane, WA 99203  
Or fax to: (509) 535-3986 • Questions: call (509) 535-7084

## ATTENDEE

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Province \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

Please select one:

- U.S. Dollars Enclosed     Check Enclosed     Money Order Enclosed  
Please make payable to: Lake Roosevelt Forum
- Purchase Order: Order Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Credit Card
- Which one:     VISA     MasterCard
- Card number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Signature: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3-Digit Security Code on back of Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

## POSTER & EXHIBIT SPACE

- Check here if you'd like the Forum to contact you about poster/exhibit space availability.

## OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

Please make hotel reservations directly.

To make room reservations, call the DoubleTree Hotel directly at (509) 744-2466 or 1-800-222-TREE. Identify yourself as attending the Lake Roosevelt Forum Spring Conference. You can also make a reservation online at [www.doubletree.com/spokane](http://www.doubletree.com/spokane), reference "ROO" group.

Conference overnight room rates are:  
Single \$63 • Double \$78 • Triple \$93 • Quad \$101  
Reserve your room(s) early to assure availability.

Choose either 3-day, 2-day or 1-day registration.

Read descriptions at the bottom for more information on registration selections.

## 3-DAY REGISTRATION

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Select one box only:

- |  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| Early registration by 3-21-03  | OR | Late registration after 3-21-03   |
| Organization<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$150<br><input type="checkbox"/> Group Pass<br>Community/Student<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$114<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship |    | Organization<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$190<br>Community/Student<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$150 |

## 2-DAY REGISTRATION

Choose a set of days:     Mon-Tues    OR     Tues-Wed

Then select one box only:

- |   |    |   |
|---|----|---|
| Early registration by 3-21-03   | OR | Late registration after 3-21-03   |
| Organization<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$110<br><input type="checkbox"/> Group Pass<br>Community/Student<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$76<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship |    | Organization<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$150<br>Community/Student<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |

## 1-DAY REGISTRATION

Choose 1 day:     Mon    OR     Tues    OR     Wed

Then select one box only:

- |  |    |   |
|--|----|---|
| Early registration by 3-21-03  | OR | Late registration after 3-21-03   |
| Organization<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$60<br><input type="checkbox"/> Group Pass<br>Community/Student<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$38<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship |    | Organization<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$75<br>Community/Student<br><input type="checkbox"/> \$50 |

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 23 FOOD TICKET

Select one box only:     \$38     Scholarship

*Registration Includes: Admittance to all sessions, lunch and refreshment breaks, Tuesday reception, and all conference materials.*

**Community:** This type of registration is only available to individuals who are NOT attending the conference as part of their organizational responsibilities.

**Group Pass:** Some organizations purchased multiple registrations through a single order. For those checking this box, no payment needs to accompany your registration. If you are not sure if your organization made these arrangements, please call the Forum. Group pass reservations are due to the Forum no later than March 21st.

**Scholarship:** The Forum will review requests and individuals will be notified of availability as soon as possible. Requests are due to the Forum no later than March 21st.

**Wednesday, April 23 Food Ticket:** If you are a committee member of the Snake/Columbia River TMDL workgroup, Transboundary Gas Group, Technical Management Team, White Sturgeon Recovery, or Lake Roosevelt Weed Control Group AND are only participating in a committee meeting on the 23rd, an individual food ticket is available. If you choose a two or three day registration, the food ticket is part of your registration. If you do not request a food ticket, you will need to make your own arrangements for meals.

FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION CALL 1-800-279-6375 OR GO TO [WWW.LRF.ORG/CONF](http://WWW.LRF.ORG/CONF)

# August Draw Down on Banks Lake?

AS PART OF IMPLEMENTING THE MOST RECENT BIOLOGICAL OPINION FROM NOAA FISHERIES, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is studying possible impacts of lowering Banks Lake an additional five feet in August and has issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The purpose of the draw down would be to assist migrating salmon downstream by leaving more water in the Columbia River.

With 24,900 acres of warm water and 91 miles of shoreline, Banks Lake is home to some of the best walleye and bass fishing in the state. The lake was built in 1952 as part of the Columbia Basin Project. While supporting irrigation, over half a million visitors have also come to enjoy the lake's fishing, camping, swimming and boating opportunities each year.

The proposed draw down would expose several feet of dry mud around the lake's shores. Beyond changing the aesthetics for visitors, most boat launches would not be useable. Until changes are made to offset such impacts, attraction of summertime visitors is likely to decline. For some local businesses, this is a serious concern.

Some, however, see this as a long term opportunity to plant willow trees and shrubs that would be conducive to the bass and walleye population that are a major attraction to anglers.

To comment or request information, contact Jim Blanchard, Bureau of Reclamation, P.O. Box 815, Ephrata, WA 98823, telephone 509 754-0226. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be taken until March 10. You can find the Draft EIS on Reclamation's web page: [www.pn.usbr.gov](http://www.pn.usbr.gov). \*

## Outlook 2003

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

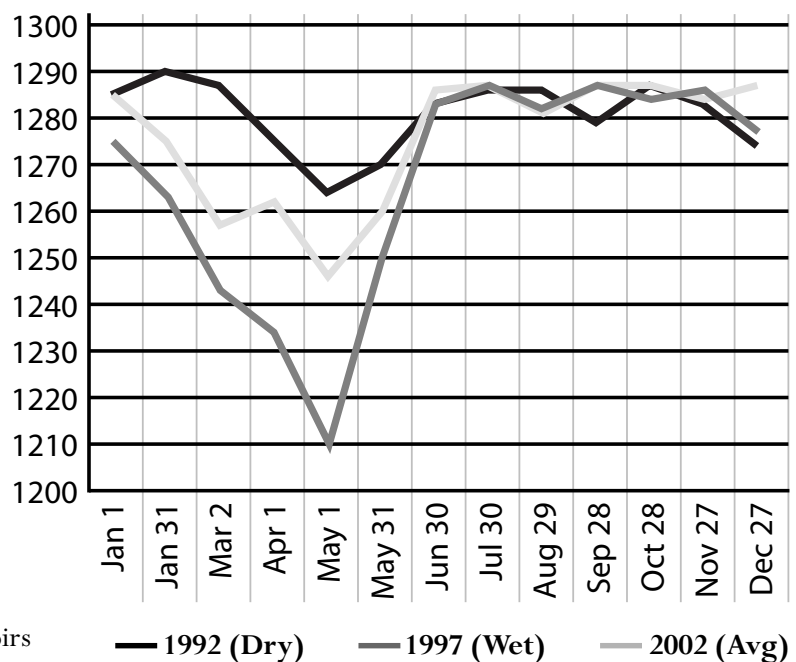
by two factors. First, the amount of snow pack and the rate at which it melts will determine draw down conditions to guard against downstream flooding as far south as Portland and Vancouver.

Second, through May the Biological Opinion states that water from Lake Roosevelt can be available to support flows for ESA listed downstream fish.

A third factor, the interim implementation of VARQ by the Army Corps of Engineers at Libby Dam and Reclamation at Hungry Horse Dam, will not have an effect this year because of the dry conditions. VARQ is a measure to change flood control at these dams to help with flows for downstream fishery stocks that are threatened or endangered. To keep these reservoirs higher, Lake Roosevelt can be drawn down further to maintain flood control objectives. In most years, modeling shows additional Lake Roosevelt draw downs of zero to three feet by the end of April.

During the spring period, one sensitive area is the lake

**LAKE ROOSEVELT WATER ELEVATIONS**  
Wet - Dry - Average Water Years



level at the end of May, when net pens release rainbow trout and kokanee. Although, action agencies are not mandated to meet release needs, release conditions are best at an elevation of 1,265 feet or higher.



# Lake Roosevelt Forum

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

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OUTLOOK 2003, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

## SUMMER

Action agencies are committed to refilling Lake Roosevelt to an elevation of 1,280 feet or above by July 4th. This is essential to meet the needs of up to 1.5 million visitors each summer who swim, boat and fish on Lake Roosevelt. As the graph shows, regardless of drought or flood conditions this commitment has been met. In general, elevation 1,280 is met by the second or third week of June.

Through July and August, lake elevations generally remain between 1,280 and 1,290 feet. During drought type conditions, which may occur this year, the lake can be reduced to a level of 1,278 feet in August. At this level, eighteen of twenty four boat ramps are useable.

## FALL

During fall and into the following winter, lake levels may also be used to support flows for downstream Chum Salmon.

Although not required, there is also an effort to maintain lake levels between 1,283 feet and 1,285 feet during October. This is to assist with Lake Roosevelt's kokanee fishery, specifically brood stock collection and assuring their access to tributaries.

## STAY TUNED

For daily reports on lake levels, you can call 1-800-824-4916 or go to the following web site: [www.wrh.noaa.gov/spokane/hydrology/outline/UCO.html](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/spokane/hydrology/outline/UCO.html) ✱

## *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](mailto: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.