

Committed to the  
environmental and  
economic well being  
of our community

# Lake Roosevelt Forum

# NEWSletter

## WINTER 2013

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Bonneville Power  
Administration  
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Lincoln County  
National Park Service  
Spokane Tribe of Indians  
Stevens County  
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## Profiling recreation on Lake Roosevelt

Starting in October 2010, contractors under Department of Interior oversight spent over a year collecting data on visitors coming to Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia River. Detailed who, what, where, why and when questions were asked, including anglers completing a fish consumption diary. The purpose is to assure that EPA's human health risk assessment is based on the right assumptions about possible exposure to contaminants. For instance, how long people play on the beaches, the type and amount of fish they consume, etc.

In August, final draft results of the report were provided. The secretary for Citizens for a Clean Columbia, Dr. Mindy Smith, summarized their findings. Some highlights from Mindy include:

**Beach:** The average length of a beach day trip is 2.4 hours, and about five folks can be expected to be part of the trip. About sixty to seventy percent of their time is spent on the beach, and the rest of the time is spent swimming and wading.

**Camping:** There was an average of 4.2 visitors per camp site, and about two-thirds of the trips lasted fewer than four days. Only about four percent last longer than fourteen days. About half the time is spent on the beach with the rest of the time split between swimming, boating activities, or being in the tent, RV or camper.

**Fishing:** About 30 percent of visitors catch and eat fish. Rainbow trout and walleye were the most popular fish consumed (both averaging about 2.5 meals per year). The average total consumption



Up to 1.5 million people recreate on Lake Roosevelt a year

# Sport Fishing

Seventy-two years ago the gates of Grand Coulee Dam closed and the free flowing upper Columbia River became Lake Roosevelt, the sixth largest reservoir in the United States.

From a fishery perspective, the dam blocked salmon and white sturgeon migrating to and from the ocean. Walleye, smallmouth bass, and other non-native species were introduced and began competing with native fish. Further, Lake Roosevelt is operated to support flood control, power generation, and downstream irrigation and salmon flows. Add the vagaries of weather conditions that can differ dramatically from year to year, and it becomes clear just how challenging it is to support a robust fishery in Lake Roosevelt.

Since the 1980s, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, Colville Tribes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Eastern Washington University, and the Lake Roosevelt Volunteer Net Pen Project have worked together to both provide a dynamic sport fishery while also working to protect native fish like kokanee and white sturgeon.

## Sport Fishing 2013

Over 50,000 anglers are expected to catch more than 180,000 fish this year. The most common targeted species are rainbow trout, kokanee, and walleye.

The Spokane Tribal Hatchery, WDFW Sherman Creek Hatchery and the Net Pen Program collectively rear kokanee salmon and rainbow trout for annual releases into Lake Roosevelt. Up to three million kokanee are

released each year, of which about 250,000 are released as yearlings in May and the rest are released as fry in June. Additionally, wild kokanee naturally reproduce in the system. Kokanee are targeted by more than 18% of anglers, primarily in the lower reservoir where prime kokanee habitat exists.

Over 750,000 thousand triploid rainbow trout are raised in 63 net pens distributed around the reservoir. Triploids

are raised because they are sterile, thus assuring they will not reproduce with native fish. Forty-five net pens are maintained by volunteers and 18 more are operated by WDFW. Before being placed in net pens, triploids are first reared at the Spokane Tribal and Sherman Creek Hatcheries and are marked by removing the adipose fin.

While 750,000 triploids are raised and released annually, the number successfully retained in the reservoir fluctuates from year to year. Predation, disease, and entrainment (fish being flushed below Grand Coulee Dam due to high water flows) have unpredictable impacts on the fishery each year.

Walleye naturally reproduce in the system, though their abundance waxes and wanes quite a

bit (see walleye article in this issue.) This non-native species spawns in the spring and grows rapidly by preying on native and non-native fish. Walleye fishing is best in the Spokane Arm and from Kettle Falls to Northport, in the northern part of Lake Roosevelt.

A good source of fishing reports on Lake Roosevelt is [www.washingtonlakes.com](http://www.washingtonlakes.com). 🌐



## Remember to follow WDFW and Tribal License and Fish Regulations

**Colville Confederated Tribes:** (509) 634-2110 or [www.colvilletribes.com/fish\\_and\\_wildlifeold.php](http://www.colvilletribes.com/fish_and_wildlifeold.php)

**Spokane Tribe of Indians:** (509) 626-4400

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife:** <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/> or call (360) 902-2464.

# New Walleye regulation to increase fishing season and catch

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission met in February to consider alternatives for walleye fishing regulations in Lake Roosevelt. All alternatives included expanding the walleye fishing season to include opening of the Spokane Arm during April – May, making it a year round fishery.

At their March 1 meeting, the commission chose to increase the fish limit to sixteen. Previously, there was an 8 fish limit with 1 over 22". This regulation is expected to increase angler harvest of walleye, including exploitation rates for age 9+ fish (22" length plus) likely increasing.

Although non-native to the region, walleye provides popular sport fishing in Lake Roosevelt. Draft findings of a recreational use survey (see article in this newsletter) found that walleye and rainbow trout are the two most popular fish consumed.

Both the Spokane Walleye Club and Lake Roosevelt Walleye Club actively promote, educate, and encourage fishing of this tasty, predatory fish. Walleye in Lake Roosevelt average about 15 inches in length and weigh around 1 lb., but can grow up to 30 inches in length and weigh more than 10 lbs. The annual Washington State Governor's Cup at Kettle Falls is one of the longest running and most popular regional walleye fishing tournaments in the region.

The flip side of this popular sport fishery is that, for years, fishery managers have struggled to balance the existence of the walleye fishery with the need to protect and enhance native fish populations, particularly kokanee and

wild rainbow trout. Walleye are voracious predators that happily feed on native trout and other native fish.

Although walleye harvest regulations were relaxed in 2007, managers' report little to no effect on abundance. Further, they estimate that angler harvest would need to increase from current estimates of 50,000 walleye per year to 150,000 per year to achieve a workable balance between species. These regulations are also intended to improve poor walleye growth and condition within Lake Roosevelt.

Angler comments to proposed alternatives on the WDFW web site were generally very positive toward liberalization of the walleye regulation. Few believed increased catch will damage the long term viability of walleye in the system.

Deanne Pavlik-Kunkel, Spokane Tribal Fisheries Manager, and manager of the Lake Roosevelt Fisheries Evaluation Program said, "There's no doubt the predator-prey balance in the reservoir is out of kilter. Opening the Spokane Arm during the walleye spawning run and liberalizing the number of fish anglers can harvest is the first step to bringing the fishery back into balance. A balanced fishery will improve the health of the walleye population, as well as allow native fish and hatchery kokanee and salmon to thrive in the reservoir." 🌟



## Stevens County buying Colville Fish Hatchery from state

Looks like Stevens County is back in the fish business. In January, they agreed to purchase the Colville Fish Hatchery from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for \$150,000. Situated on a 19.4-acre piece of property, the hatchery also includes water rights and a small house.

This is a story of Stevens County coming both full circle and looking towards an innovative future. From 1918 to 1933 the county operated the hatchery. In 1933, the

county sold the land to the new voter-created Washington Game Department. Most recently, 400,000 to 600,000 cutthroat and rainbow trout and kokanee were raised for recreational fishing at about 60 lakes in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties.

Budget woes, however, were not kind to the hatchery. The Colville Confederated Tribes and Pend Oreille County

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# Contamination at Bossburg Flat to receive more investigation

At about the same time the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began investigating Young America Mine and Mill in 2011, separate RI/FS investigations confirmed high levels of lead at Bossburg Flat beach. The contamination was found to extend up the embankment and onto the flat above the beach.

Bossburg is about a half mile downstream of the former Young American mine and mill site, and about six river miles upstream of Evans Campground. Based on screening level surveys conducted under EPA's Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team program, and RI/FS beach sediment data, the National Park Service posted signs and closed Bossburg Flat beach to the public in January 2012 due to high concentrations of lead.

The contaminated beach is where the town of Bossburg once thrived. Although little remains of this former mining and timber town, Bossburg had as many as 800 residents dating back to 1892. The town prospered and declined in relation to the production of lead and silver from mines in the area and timber production. At one time there was also a Bossburg saw mill and a ferry system to transport people and materials across the river.

EPA considers it unlikely that Teck's Trail smelter is the primary source of contamination at the beach. As stated in their March 2012 removal assessment trip report:

- The proportion of toxic metals in the contaminated beach material and soil was dissimilar to the proportion of the same metals in a slag-contaminated sample provided for comparison;
- The elevated lead contamination extends considerably inland from the beach, up a steep bank and onto an area of flat ground above the beach; and
- The concentrations of lead are higher at Bossburg Flat beach than on any of the other beaches between Bossburg Flat and the U.S. / Canada border.

In the near future Teck (consistent with the 2006 Settlement Agreement) will collect additional information to investigate metals in sediments. Sampling will extend along the Columbia River shoreline from approximately the former Young American mill operations, past the former cable ferry landing at Bossburg, and downstream to the Evans Campground area. The field sampling plan is expected to be submitted to EPA for review by February 27, 2013. 🌐

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## U.S. District Court finds Teck liable for contamination in Columbia River

In December, U.S. District Judge Lonny Suko ruled the court had jurisdiction to apply the U.S. Superfund law to a Canadian company. Specifically, Judge Suko ruled that Teck is liable under superfund law for contaminated discharge from its Trail, Canada operations that released hazardous substances into the Upper Columbia and Lake Roosevelt in the United States. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation filed a citizens' suit in 2004, soon after joined by the state of Washington.

A news release from Ecology summarizes the importance of the ruling. "The State and Tribes can now recover from Teck their costs for responding to the contamination in Washington. This will also ultimately allow the federal government, in conjunction with the State and Tribes as resource trustees, to hold Teck Metals accountable to perform cleanup and to restore or compensate for natural resources injured by the contamination."

Teck has appealed the decision to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Teck also maintains that they are already complying with its obligations for investigation by conducting the RI/FS and determining the risks from its past discharges to the Columbia River. The court's decision should not affect the RI/FS investigation currently under way under Teck's ongoing agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The District Court decision affirming Teck's liability concludes another chapter in a complex litigation that began eight years ago.

In 2004 Teck argued in U.S. District Court, then via appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, that their operations were not subject to superfund law because they took place in Canada and were permitted, approved and complied with Canadian law. Both courts found against Teck and, in January 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court decided not to review the ninth circuit decision.

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# RI/FS 2013 Sampling and Report Status

**Surface Water:** After three rounds of sampling (completed in fall 2009, and spring- and summer- 2010) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) show Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia water quality safe for swimming. Further, surface water concentrations for all metals (e.g., arsenic, cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, and zinc); and organics (e.g., PCBs, and dioxins/furans/pesticides) are within limits protective of aquatic life. The RI/FS only looked at contaminants, not at bacteria; therefore, it is good practice not to drink water from the Columbia River without treating it first, as it may contain Giardia (which causes beaver fever).

**Beach Sampling:** Of the 43 beaches sampled since 2005, all but three are considered safe for recreational use. The exceptions are Bossburg Flat beach due to high lead levels; Evans Campground because of lead levels; and the “Swimming Hole” near Sheep Creek because of arsenic levels. As reported in EPA’s April, 2012 Beach Fact Sheet “Because the screening levels for lead and arsenic are set very low, even the “Swimming Hole” near Sheep Creek and the beach at Evans Campground are not likely to present significant risks to visitors who swim and play in these areas.” Copies of EPA’s fact sheet can be accessed online ([http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/ucr/beach\\_study\\_fact\\_sheet\\_april2012.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region10/pdf/sites/ucr/beach_study_fact_sheet_april2012.pdf)).

Lead concentrations at Bossburg Flat beach, however, have resulted in beach closure and the need for additional information and work (see newsletter article in this issue for additional information).

**Fish Tissue Sampling:** Over 2300 fish were sampled in fall 2009. Based on results, the Washington Department of Health issued an updated fish advisory. Go to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Food/Fish/Advisories.aspx#UpperColumbiaRiver>.

**Recreational Use Survey:** A survey to assess where, when, what, and how long visitors utilize Lake Roosevelt and the Upper Columbia River began in October 2010 and completed in 2012. The results will inform key sections of the human health risk assessment.

A report is expected later this year. In the meantime, see newsletter article in this issue for Citizens for a Clean Columbia summary of preliminary findings.

**Sturgeon Toxicity Testing:** Two different laboratory toxicity studies have been completed to assess how exposure to contaminants in surface water and sediment may affect early life-stages of sturgeon. Draft reports are currently being reviewed by EPA.



**Sediment Sampling:** Teck submitted a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for sediment sampling that is currently under review by EPA. This sampling effort will include the collection of sediment and porewater chemistry data as well as toxicity tests. The purpose of the sediment testing is to evaluate if there are unacceptable risks to benthic invertebrates (sediment dwelling bugs) associated with exposure to metals and other chemicals in sediments. It is anticipated that this work may occur in fall 2013.

**Upland Soil Sampling:** EPA has provided Teck with a “Level of Effort” paper for an upland soil sampling program that identifies EPA’s minimum expectations. Teck will work from the Level of Effort paper to develop a draft Quality Assurance Project Plan. Soil sampling data will be used to evaluate potential risk to both people and ecological receptors. 🌍

# Young America mill site cleanup complete

As previously reported, in June of 2011 the Washington Department of Ecology identified the Young America Mill site to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a potential hazardous waste site. The mill was located a little over fifteen miles north of Kettle Falls and just east of State Highway 25. What remained of the former mill site included buildings in disrepair and a tailings impoundment.

EPA investigations found concentrations of lead and other metals around the mill site and old tailings impoundment to be well above screening levels for risk. Thankfully, testing of homeowner wells west of the highway showed no metal contamination.

To address human health risks from contaminated dust and dirt that could be inhaled or ingested, EPA conducted

a removal action between October 10<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. This included destroying and burying what remained of the old mill buildings, and recapping contaminated soils with a liner and “clean” soil on top. In this case it’s called “recapping” because the original cover proved inadequate and was removed and replaced.

The adjacent Hahnen property, believed to have been contaminated when ore was transported through the site to the Mill, was also remediated by EPA. Land owners were reimbursed to install fast growing shade trees. The Local community supported these efforts with two pickup loads of aged horse manure mixed with sand forest soil. EPA funded the cleanup project at a cost of over \$500,000. 🌱

## Stevens County buying Colville Fish Hatchery from state

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

PUD stepped in to help keep the hatchery open in 1999 and 2000. Starting in 2009, the tribe again stepped in to help on a temporary basis. WDFW determined the most cost effective use of funding was to close the hatchery, which it did last June, and upgrade their Ford and Spokane hatcheries.

Stevens County, however, continues to see the hatchery as a vital local resource. To give it a new future, the county is partnering with Kettle Falls High School to turn the hatchery into an educational and vocational learning center. The county plans to create a non-profit organization to work with area schools to operate the facility and use it as a learning center. Trout produced by the students will provide additional fish for local lakes and boost the local economy.

WDFW will credit Stevens County for the value of the fish, enabling the county to pay for the hatchery in fish over 20 years. Further, the fish can be sold on the open market to people who want to stock their private lakes.

On the educational side of the partnership, Kettle Falls High School teacher Jono Esvelt is taking the lead. Esvelt is applying for grants needed to update and retrofit the facility; worked a deal with Spokane-based NEWTECH Skill

Center to make the hatchery a broader partnership with area schools; and has visited Oregon schools that run fish hatcheries.

At the on-site classroom, students will learn hatchery-management skills. The program is based out of the NEWTECH Skill Center and supported by local Stevens County school districts. The rearing and selling of fish will also

add a strong business component.

Said Esvelt, “One of my goals is that students will have enough hours of practical hatchery experience to get a job at one of the local hatcheries. And also to encourage students to go onto the next level, to get a two or four degree from a university in fishery management or to look into other sciences.”

Esvelt, who grew up hunting and fishing in the area, sees the hatchery as building on the region’s rich historic connection to the outdoors. He has instructed a popular wilderness class at the high school for nearly a decade. Year after year he finds that “wildlife is always the most popular part of the class.” In his students, Esvelt sees the same passion he has cultivated his whole life. It’s something he hopes to expand on, eventually gaining enough interest to turn his 25-person morning class at the hatchery into a full time position. 🌱



# 2013 lake level forecast beginning to take shape

In late 2012, it looked like 2013 spring runoff would be pretty big. For Lake Roosevelt, that would typically translate into drawing the lake down to around 1230 feet above sea level to meet flood control needs all the way down to Portland. Full pool, or maximum lake elevation, is 1290' above sea level.

To consider what a drop of sixty feet in lake elevation means in a system as big as Lake Roosevelt, think about this: A one foot drop of water from Lake Roosevelt is equivalent to 26 billion gallons of water, enough to supply the residents of Spokane with water for 1.5 years!

Weather patterns, however, have dried up considerably so far this winter. The water inflow forecast for Lake Roosevelt for January through July is currently 89% of average.

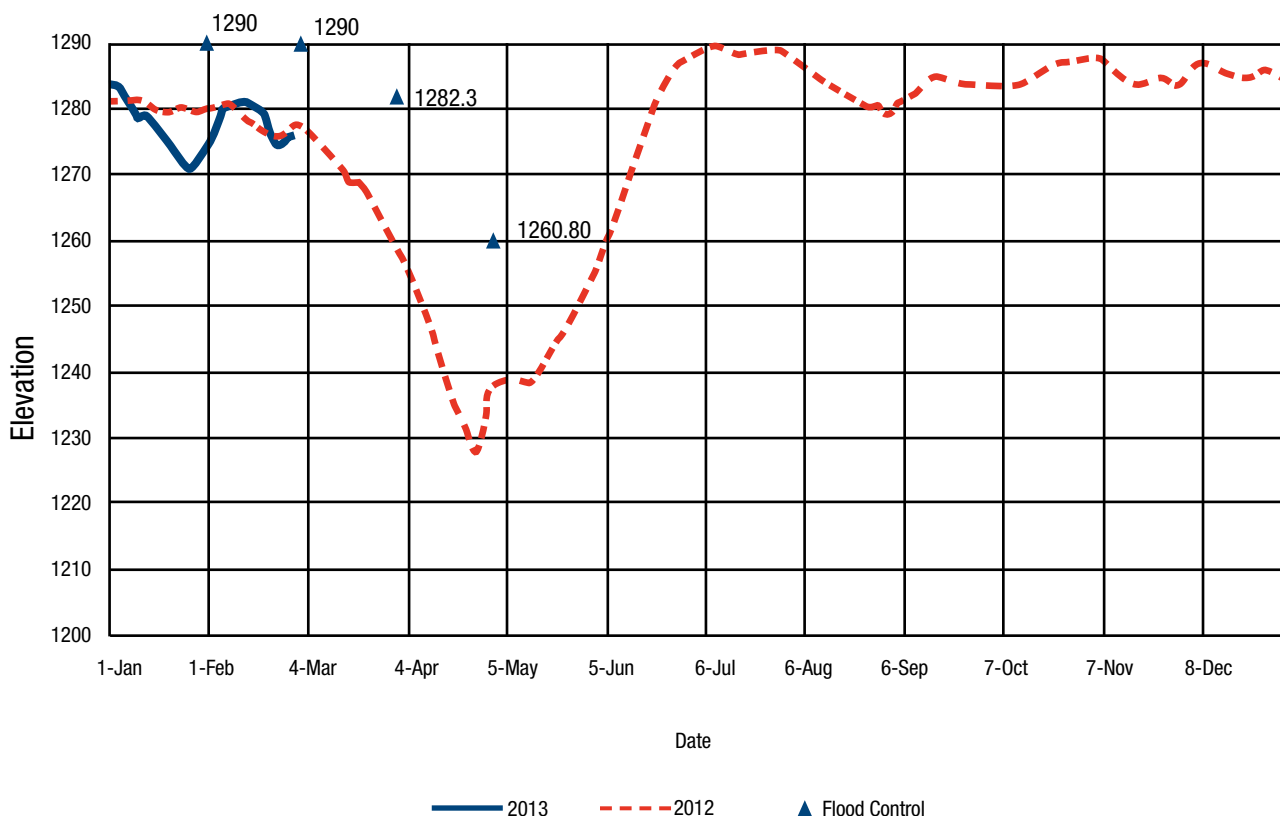
If this forecast holds, the lake will be drawn down to about 1260 feet above sea level. Said Lynne Brougher, Grand Coulee's Public Information Officer, "These elevations can and probably will change with the March water supply

forecast. We could get lots of snow in the mountains in the next month and be back to a much larger lake level draw down scenario."

The best way to track lake levels is to get on the Bureau of Reclamation's e-mail update list. Every week or two, the forecast is updated. This includes a graph like the one below. Updates can be found at: [www.usbr.gov/pn/grandcoulee/lakelevel/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/grandcoulee/lakelevel/index.html), or send an email to [lbrougher@usbr.gov](mailto:lbrougher@usbr.gov) to be added to a list for update notifications. You can also get a daily forecast by calling 1-800-824-4916. The forecast is updated by 3 p.m. each day.

While flood control is the largest factor effecting lake levels through the spring, other factors can also come into play. Said Brougher "Power demand or supplying water downstream for fish can also affect lake levels. For instance, in February Grand Coulee was operated to meet water requirements below Bonneville Dam for chum." 🌐

**Lake Roosevelt Water Levels  
2012 -2013**



## U.S. District Court finds Teck liable for contamination in Columbia River

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Determining that Superfund law could be applied, however, was not the same thing as determining that Teck was actually liable under Superfund law for pollution in Lake Roosevelt and the upper Columbia River. Under the lawsuit brought against Teck by the state of Washington and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Judge Suko's Phase I ruling addresses the liability question.

This liability ruling was based on Teck admitting, just prior to trial, that:

1. the site (the Upper Columbia) is a "facility" under the definition of Superfund law. In other words, the slag and also metals from wastewater effluent coming from their Canadian operations settled in the Columbia River in Washington State, essentially creating a repository or disposal area for the almost ten million tons of slag that was produced over several decades in Trail, Canada and migrated down the Columbia to Lake Roosevelt.
2. a "release" or "threatened release" of metals from both slag and effluent from the facility occurred.
3. such "release" or "threatened release" caused each plaintiff to incur response costs of at least \$1 that were "necessary" and "consistent with the National Contingency Plan." The National Contingency Plan is used to coordinate federal and state responses to hazardous substance spills and for cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

In addition, the court ruled that Teck is within one of four classes of persons subject to the liability provisions—the final element for liability.

Phase II of the trial will address Natural Resource Damages. The administrative process for NRD is separate and distinct from the EPA led RI/FS studies and potential cleanup actions. A separate Natural Resource Trustee Council has been formed by the Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians, affected Department of Interior agencies, and the State of Washington to assess injury and actions or compensation necessary to restore injuries to Lake Roosevelt natural resources that resulted from release of hazardous contaminants. The Plaintiffs (who form part of the Council) have asserted claims for NRD liability and damages in the lawsuit in their individual Trustee capacity.

A Phase II trial date has not been set.

In clarifying the limits of the Phase I ruling, the court said it

"... makes no finding of fact or conclusion of law regarding the following: (a) whether a release or threatened release of hazardous substances to the environment has occurred as a result of aerial emissions from the Trail smelter; (b) the extent to which any party has incurred response costs, if any, as the result of a release or threatened release of hazardous substances; (c) whether any response costs above \$1.00 incurred by any party are consistent or not inconsistent with the National Contingency Plan; and (d) whether any release or threatened release has caused damages or injury to, destruction of, or loss of natural resources."

The Forum will inform the community when a Phase II court date is set. 🌐



**Underneath this wrapper is the hull of the "Sanpoil," the new Keller Ferry expected to report for duty this summer.**



# Checking in on Black Sand Beach

In the fall of 2010, Black Sand Beach was part of a “voluntary removal action” agreed to between the Washington Department of Ecology and Teck. In short, 6,500 cubic yards of sand sized slag material was removed and the beach rebuilt with 6,900 cubic yards of clean material (cobbles, gravel and sand).

The slag that accumulated on the beach came from Teck’s Trail operations north of the border. The beach is particularly popular for local residents because its natural contours are well suited for swimming, fishing and picnicking.

After two years of high water spring melts, the Forum was curious about how well the new beach was “holding up.” Did the new beach wash away? Was legacy slag upstream covering the beach again? A combination of monitoring by Teck and observations from Citizens for a Clean Columbia (CCC) provide a good news report.

In 2011, total erosion for the previous year was about 400 cubic yards, and in 2012 about 80 cubic yards of additional erosion was recorded. A lot of this erosion occurred in an area where engineers tried to design the replacement beach with characteristics similar to, but somewhat flatter than, the original beach. Said CCC’s technical advisor Joe Wichmann, “Trying to improve on Mother Nature is a tough task. I’m not surprised at the changes.” Pictures taken by URS Corporation show the shoreline re-forming closer to its original contour.

Thankfully, re-deposition of slag is far less than what was there before, or ever will be in the future. Simply put, the new beach is (and should remain) a cleaner, nicer place for residents to enjoy. 🌊



2010



2011



2012

Black Sand Beach,  
URS Corp photos

## Two vacation cabin permits not renewed near Sherman Creek

In July of 2011, the National Park Service (NPS) completed an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact to determine the regulatory future of 26 vacation cabins and lots located near Kettle Falls, WA. 10 cabins were built on the western shore of Lake Roosevelt near Sherman Creek, and 16 cabins were built on the eastern shore by Rickey Point. Many of the cabins date back to the early 1950s when the National Park Service (NPS) wished to promote recreational uses of the lake.

The selected alternative allowed the NPS to continue to offer a new special use permit every 5 years, or until such time that a greater public need was determined for one or both of the vacation cabin areas. At the same time, Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LRNRA) staff was directed to proactively implement applicable regulations and guidelines addressed in the environmental assessment to assure that protection and preservation of these lands fit within the mission and guidelines of the NPS.

Subsequently each cabin holder was offered the opportunity to apply for a new permit covering the period from January 2012 to December 2016. The application included demonstrating they met current county septic requirements and addressing any regulatory issues identified.

Two permittees failed to meet a number of requirements by the December 2011 deadline. LRNRA was therefore not able to process those two new permit requests. During 2012, both cabin owners filed an appeal with the Department of Interior’s Office of Hearings and Appeals.

After finding in favor of Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area, both cabin owners were notified by the DOI Office of Hearings and Appeals that their personal property, including cabin or other structures on their property, would need to be removed over the subsequent 90 day period.

A cabin on one vacation lot had been previously removed due to fire damage. 🌊

# New Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area Superintendent



Dan Foster is the new superintendent for Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area and Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail. Previously, the superintendent at Niobrara National Scenic River, Foster began his new assignment at Lake Roosevelt the end of February. Welcome, Dan !!

*"Dan's strong background in managing resources, developing partnerships, and creating innovative programs is ideal," said Pacific West Regional Director Chris Lehnertz. "His depth of experience working with neighboring communities, multiple agencies, tribal governments, military branches, and the public will serve him well in this new assignment."*

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## Profiling recreation on Lake Roosevelt

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across all species was 6.4 meals per year. About ten percent of those surveyed eat between 11 and 20 meals per year, and 5 percent consumed more than 20 meals per year. Further, about 78% reported that the typical meal size was six to eight ounces.

**Boating:** Trips last about fifteen hours, with an average of three people per boat. The most common activity was spending time on a beach, followed by wading and swimming.

When the Forum compares these results to human health guidance currently provided by Washington Department of Health (DOH), DOH's assumptions for human exposure to contaminants appear to be realistic. For instance, DOH concluded "that touching, breathing, or accidentally eating sediment exposed in a two-days per-week for four months or 35-days-per-year (area residents) scenario is not expected to harm people's health." DOH also concluded "that touching, breathing, or accidentally eating sediment exposed in a 14-day per-year (2 weeks per year) vacationer scenario is not expected to harm people's health."

Further, DOH's fish advisory is based on one meal equaling

8 ounces of uncooked fish for a 160 lb person. This seems to fit the typical meal size found in the survey. For the one percent of people eating more than four meals of fish per month, it's critically important that they follow the DOH fish consumption advisory. The advisory states that children or women who are or can become pregnant "...can safely eat 4 meals per month of any combination of burbot, longnose sucker, mountain whitefish, smallmouth bass, or walleye. If you eat the recommended amount, no other fish should be eaten that month."

DOH has created an advisory group to develop fish advisory signage that will be placed at boat launches, campgrounds and other locations. Hopefully, this effort will improve on only 38.9% of respondents being aware of DOH's fish consumption advisory. When asked where they get their information, they responded fishing regulations (33.2%), the newspaper (28.2%) and posted signs (24.9%).

Said Andy Dunau, the Forum's Executive Director, "Slowly but surely we're getting better and clearer information about human health risks. We're delighted the news is encouraging." 🌐



## Thanks for reading our newsletter !!

The Lake Roosevelt Forum's mission is to establish a dialog based on trust and respect of all views that seek common ways to protect and preserve the quality of environment and enhance the quality of life as they relate to the lake and economies of the region.

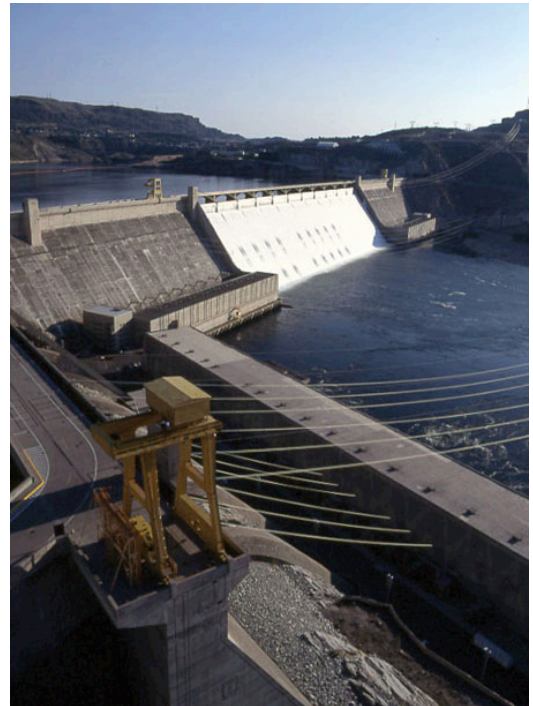
# New Transmission lines grace the front of Grand Coulee Dam

In December 2012, construction was completed and new 500kV transmission lines were energized to carry electricity from Grand Coulee Dam's Third Power Plant to the Western Grid. In addition, six new towers ranging in height from 280 feet to 316 feet were built to support the lines.

Go to <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/grandcoulee/tpp/index.html> to watch a very cool video of construction workers building the towers. A camera was placed on a worker's helmet, providing a bird's eye view of the process from about 300' feet above ground.

Said Lynne Brougner, Grand Coulee's Public Information Officer, "All that's left to do is to remove the old underground transmission from inside the dam." Work is expected to be complete by April 2013.

The new lines replace underground 500-kV transmission lines that were inside the dam in eighteen aging, oil-filled cables. Near the end of their operational life, the lines presented both employee safety and system reliability issues. Completing this major project needed to be done prior to starting the multi-million dollar Third Powerplant Overhaul, which begins March 2013. The new lines also allow for the uprating of 3 generators during the 10 year project. ♻️



Grand Coulee Dam

# Keller and Seven Bays concession contracts out to bid, Daisy fueling expected to continue

For 2013, Keller and Seven Bays marinas will be operated as they were in 2012. Under the management of Lyle and Laura Parker, Seven Bays will provide full marina, store and houseboat services. It is also anticipated that private fueling will continue to be available at Daisy Station.

Currently, the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area (LRNA) has a request for proposals "on the street" for on-going concession services at Seven Bays and Keller.

Bids are expected back by April 9th, 2013. There are two options that can be considered in the bidding process. The



Seven Bays Marina

primary option is for a contract for a full suite of services (houseboats, store, dock slips, fuel, waste pump-out, etc.)

This contract may be for up to 15 years.

A secondary option is for limited services for up to 10 years that may not, for instance, include houseboat rentals. Lincoln County commissioners are quite concerned that a limited services contract will negatively impact the local economy.

LRNA staff have assured stakeholders that if there are bids for the full service contract, the limited service contract will not be considered. There has been interest shown for a full-service contract during the request for proposals period. ♻️

# Lake Roosevelt Forum

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## Coming this Spring, Lake Roosevelt Forum Houseboat Tour

Interested in a house boat tour to learn about the RI/FS investigation, water quality issues, fisheries, lake operations, and other topics affecting Lake Roosevelt?



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