Colville Confederated Tribes

Fish and Wildlife Department
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155
Phone: 509-634-2110
Fax: 509-634-2126

March 7, 2006

Northwest Power and Conservation Council
851 S.W. Sixth Avenue
Suite 1100
Portland, OR 97204-1348

Re: Progress Report on Colville Confederated Tribes, Chief Joseph Hatchery Program (BPA Project No. 2003-023-00)

Dear Council Members;

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is currently in Step 2 of the Council's Three Step Process on the Chief Joseph Hatchery Program (CJHP).

The Colville Tribes submitted a proposal for the CJHP for the Fiscal Year 2007-2009 Fish and Wildlife Program Project Selection. Due to the complexities of the project The Colville Tribes also submitted a detailed Fiscal Year 2005 Progress Report that summarized work completed to this point and provides responses to the ISRP review of the Step 1 Master plan.

Our presentation will provide a brief overview of: the Colville Tribes' First Salmon Ceremony, CJHP project history and program overview, the ISRP Step 1 review and response, Step 2 activities and progress, and cost share opportunities and investigations.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this update on the project and would be delighted to provide additional information or to discuss the project in detail at anytime.

Sincerely,

Joe Peone

Joe Peone
Fish and Wildlife Director, Colville Confederated Tribes

Presentation Overview

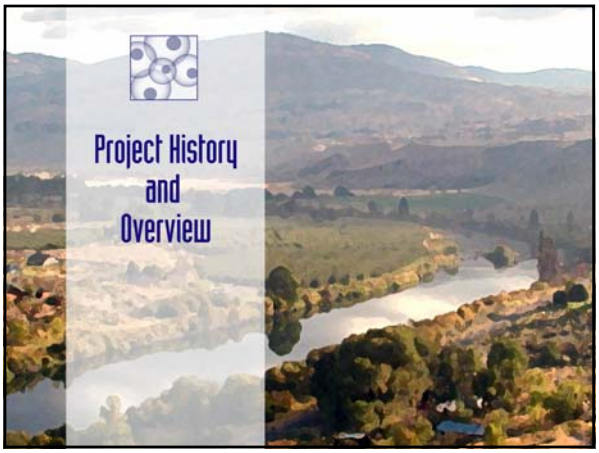
1. Colville Tribes' First Salmon Ceremony
2. CJHP Project History and Program Overview
3. ISRP Step 1 Review & Response
4. Step 2 Activities & Progress
5. Project Costs & Cost Share
6. Questions

First Salmon Cermony

- June 24, 2005
  Colville Tribes first "First Salmon Ceremony" in over 60 years
- First Salmon Ceremony welcomes first arriving Chinook salmon of the season
- Celebration traditionally lasted 5 days

First Salmon Cermony

Project History and Overview



Project History

- December 2001
  Colville Tribes submits proposal #29040 *Develop and propagate local Okanogan River summer/fall Chinook*
- October 2002
  Council approves funding for *Step 1 CJHP Master Plan*
- July 2003
  BPA funds Colville *Step 1 CJHP Master Plan*
- May 2004
  Colville Tribes submits *Step 1 CJHP Master Plan*

Project History

- January 2005
  ISRP completes review of *Step 1 CJHP Master Plan*
- March 2005
  Council approves *Step 1 CJHP Master Plan*
  Council approves initiation of *Step 2 planning* for CJHP, including the summer/fall and spring Chinook components and two critical research studies
- October 2005
  Council and BPA issue solicitation for FY07-FY09 proposals
- January 2006
  Colville Tribes submits *FY05 Step 2 Progress Report* and CJHP project proposal

Program Overview

Increase abundance, productivity, distribution, and diversity of naturally spawning populations of summer/fall Chinook salmon (and spring Chinook) in the Okanogan River and in the Columbia River above Wells Dam.

Increase and stabilize tribal ceremonial and subsistence, and recreational fisheries in the Okanogan River and in the Columbia River above Wells Dam.

Achieved through construction and operation of a new hatchery, new and existing acclimation ponds, and establishment of terminal, selective fisheries for ceremonial, subsistence and recreational purposes.

Program Need

- Okanogan Chinook must pass 9 dams during juvenile and adult migrations
- Okanogan Chinook are subject to ocean and lower Columbia River fisheries
- Okanogan River habitat is degraded*

** Substantial ongoing efforts and investment to protect and restore habitat in Okanogan River*

Program Need

- No salmon mitigation provided to Colville Tribes from construction and operation of US Army Corps of Engineers dams:
  - *Bonneville*
  - *The Dalles*
  - *John Day*
  - *McNary*
  - *Chief Joseph*
- 4th and final hatchery authorized as mitigation for Grand Coulee Dam was never constructed in the Okanogan River

Program Need

- Existing mitigation located downstream and unavailable to Colville Tribes.
- Colville Tribes has lost fishing opportunity for over 60 years
- Colville Tribes has lost all spring Chinook Fisheries
  - 2005 first, First Salmon Ceremony, in generations
- Federal Trust responsibilities for Colville Tribes' salmon and steelhead resources and fisheries unmet

Program Overview - Goal

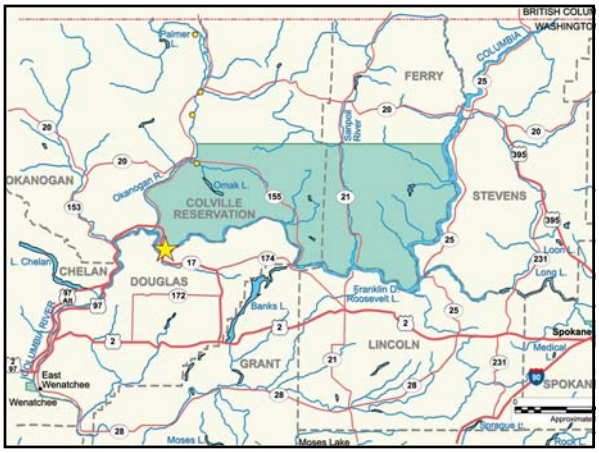
Summer/fall Chinook

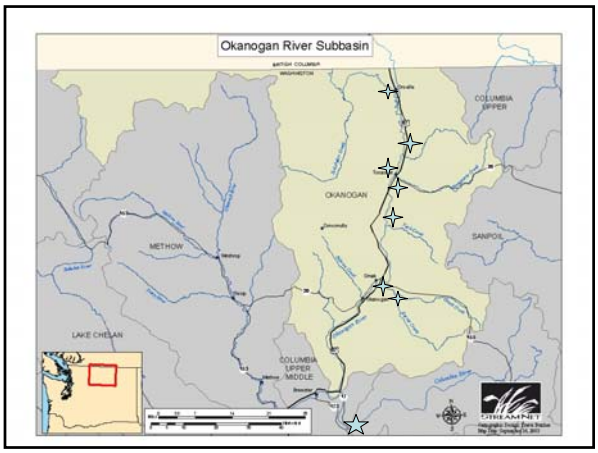
- Integrated recovery program: increase abundance, productivity, distribution, and diversity of naturally spawning populations within historical habitat
- Integrated harvest program: support tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishery; provide increased recreational opportunities

Program Overview - Salmon Management

Summer/fall Chinook

- Chinook to be released at Chief Joseph Hatchery to supplement Tribes' terminal fishery and local recreational fishery
- Chinook to be released from new and existing acclimation ponds along the Okanogan River
- Tribes' to develop selective fishing gear and in-lieu sites to harvest primarily hatchery-origin fish



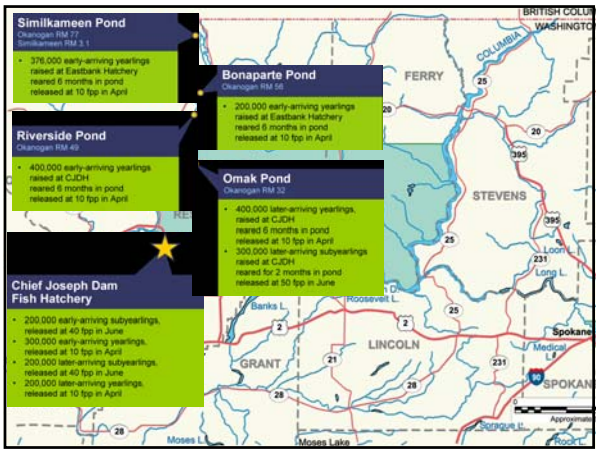


Program Overview - Conservation Actions

- Summer/fall Chinook
  - Initiate **local broodstock** for Okanogan River
  - **Avoid co-mingling** with Methow and Wells Hatchery summer/fall Chinook
  - Expand broodstock collection by 2 months, to the **entire run** of summer/fall Chinook, July thru November
  - Propagate both the **yearling and sub-yearling life histories** to achieve full, natural diversity
  - Improve **spawning distribution** of Chinook to historical habitats
  - **Control proportion of hatchery-origin fish** spawning in the wild

Program Overview - Harvest Actions

- Summer/fall Chinook
  - **Mark all** hatchery Chinook
  - Initiate Tribal **live-capture, selective fisheries** – targeting hatchery-origin Chinook in a terminal location
  - **Optimize escapement** of hatchery Chinook in the naturally-spawning population
  - **Share harvest opportunity** with recreational anglers in local communities



Program Overview - Goal

- Spring Chinook

  Integrated recovery program: reintroduce spring Chinook to historical habitats

  Isolated harvest program: restore stable Colville Tribes ceremonial and subsistence fishery and create recreational fishing opportunities

Program Overview – Spring Chinook Components

- Spring Chinook facilities designed to rear 900,000 yearlings
  - Release 650,000 at **Chief Joseph Hatchery**
  - Release 200,000 at **Tonasket Pond**
  - Release 50,000 at **St. Mary's Mission Pond** on Omak Creek
- CJDH's 650,000 release would be **un-listed Carson** stock spring Chinook
- Okanogan releases would be **Carson stock** unless ESA-listed Methow Composite stock is initially available
- Switch all or part of program

ISRP Review and Colville Tribes' Response

- January 2005 ISRP review of CJHP Master Plan **largely supportive** of CJHP
- Identified issues that would benefit from **additional clarification**:
  - Expected range of production scenarios (e.g., circumstances under which program would be terminated)
  - Relationship to alternative forms of mitigation (e.g., improved passage in lower river, habitat improvements)
  - Relationship to Biological Assessment and Management Plan (BAMP)
  - Clearer integration with Okanogan Subbasin Plan
  - In-basin and out-of-basin assumptions
  - Monitoring and evaluation plan specifics

ISRP Review and Colville Tribes' Response

- Colville Tribes provided initial **response** to general and specific ISRP comments in FY05 Step 2 Progress Report (Jan 2006)
- Colville Tribes see benefit of engaging in **ongoing dialog** with ISRP
- Will incorporate all responses resulting from ISRP review and subsequent dialog in **final Step 2 document**
- Detailed **monitoring and evaluation** information to be provided in Step 3 pending Council approval of Step 2

Step 2 - Activities

- Coordination
- Critical research
  - Radio telemetry study
  - Live-capture, selective gear research
- Environmental Compliance
- Engineering Design
  - Water supply
  - Hatchery facilities
  - Acclimation facilities
- Land acquisition/conservation easements
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Critical Research - Radio Telemetry Study

Study objectives:

- Confirm CJHP summer/fall Chinook broodstock protocols - relationship between time of arrival at Wells Dam and location and timing of spawning
- Evaluate migration routes and holding areas for use in live-capture, selective gear study
- Confirm suitability of fishway entrance to Chief Joseph Hatchery

Actions:

- Radio tag 300 wild summer/fall Chinook from mid-July through October at Wells Dam
- Jaw tag about 1,000 hatchery and wild summer/fall Chinook at Wells Dam
- Track migration of radio-tagged fish in Methow and Okanogan rivers and in Columbia River below Chief Joseph Dam
- Recover tags during spawning surveys

Critical Research - Radio Telemetry Study

- Field work was conducted July through November 2005
- Colville Tribes and WDFW cooperated on study

- Tagged 292 fish at Wells Dam and released them just above the dam at Star Boat Launch
- Heard 95% of them at fixed and mobile listening stations
- Final fish locations were Okanogan, mainstem Columbia, and Methow Rivers (most to fewest fish)

Critical Research - Radio Telemetry Study

Movement and migration patterns:

- Fish took 1 to 83 days to migrate to the Okanogan River
- Fish took less than one day to 45 days to migrate to Chief Joseph Dam
- Fish took less than one day to 59 days to migrate to the Methow River
- About 36% of the fish were heard at Chief Joseph Dam, near the proposed hatchery ladder location. Once there, fish move back and forth from the left to the right banks of the river.
- Fish also move in a large circle between the Colville Trout Hatchery and the base of the Chief Joseph Dam.

Critical Research - Live-capture, Selective Gear

Study objectives:

- Evaluate CPUE of Chinook with various gears for broodstock collection
- Evaluate survival and stress to fish captured in various gears
- Evaluate cost-effectiveness, safety, operational features of various gears
- Evaluate capability to transfer captured fish to nearby hatchery

Study is a cooperative effort of the Colville Tribes and WDFW

- Study design being finalized in 2005-2006
- Scheduled for 2006 and 2007
- Study will look at:
  - Tangle nets
  - Fish Wheel
  - Fish Trap
  - Weir and trap
  - Beach seine

Environmental Compliance

- Environmental Impact Statement (BPA)
- Biological Assessment
- HGMPs and NOAA consultation
- Cultural Resources
- Permitting plan and permit acquisition

Design and Engineering

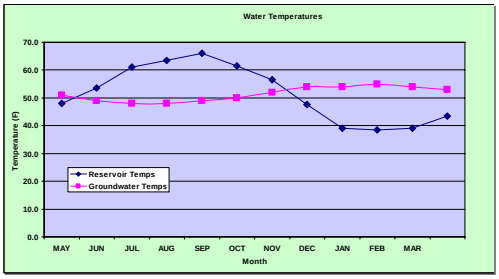
- Program verification
  - Final biocriteria
  - Size functional requirements
- Basis of design report
  - Survey, aerials, maps, soils, well tests, technical reports, river intakes, utilities, etc.
  - Design criteria summary
- Preliminary design documents
  - 100+ drawings by discipline
  - Outline specifications

Design and Engineering

- Program Summary
  - 50 cfs Maximum Process Water - 3 Sources
  - 3,000 square foot Process Water Headbox
  - 20,000 square foot Hatchery Building
  - 58 – 10' x 100' Raceways
  - 1 Acre Detention Pond
  - Fish Ladder, Adult Raceways, Spawning
  - 5 Acclimation Sites
  - 3 Residences

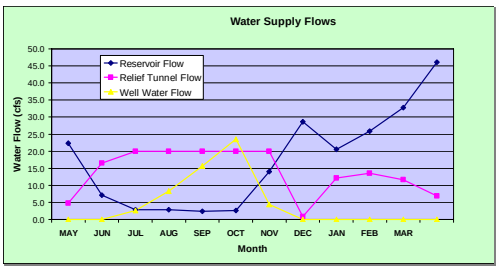
Design and Engineering - Water Supply

Water Temperature



Design and Engineering - Water Supply

Monthly Average Flow Requirements



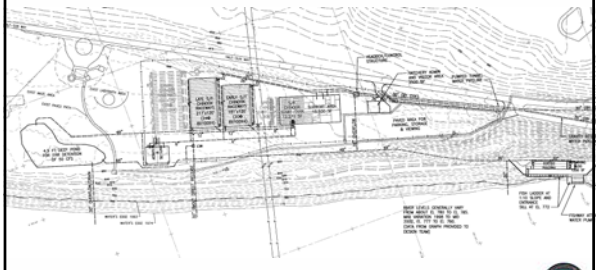
Design and Engineering - Facilities

Hatchery, Well Field, Housing

Design and Engineering - Hatchery Site

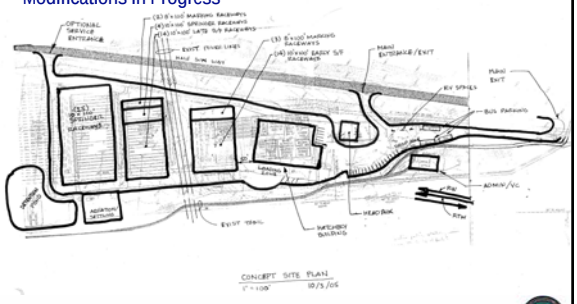
Design and Engineering - Hatchery Facilities

Step 1 Hatchery Site Plan



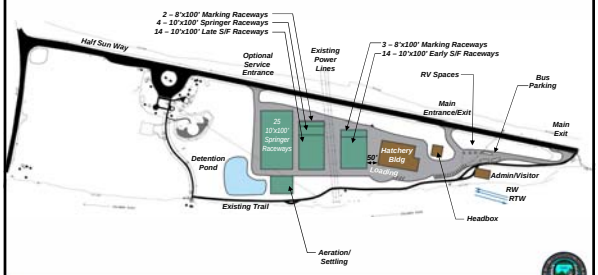
Design and Engineering - Hatchery Facilities

Modifications in Progress



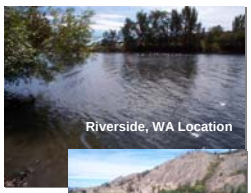
Design and Engineering - Hatchery Facilities

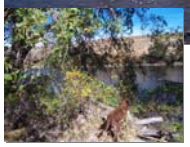
Revised Site Plan



Design and Engineering - Acclimation Facilities

Water Intake Locations





Land Acquisition / Conservation Easements

- Secure properties for acclimation ponds
- Coordinate with COE on lease for hatchery site at Chief Joseph Dam
- Coordinate with irrigation districts on acclimation pond lease agreements


Omak


Riverside

Project Costs

- Continue to refine cost estimates for hatchery construction and operations, program and capital costs
  - Costs in Step 1 Master Plan in FY04 dollars
  - Final costs will need to incorporate inflation (also effects of Katrina and increased energy costs)
- Value analysis will be included as part of final Step 2 document

Cost Share

Acclimation Facilities:

- Long-term lease negotiations with Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District
- Use of Oroville-Tonasket Irrigation District Settling Ponds will result in substantial savings on planning, capital, and operations and maintenance costs

Critical research:

- Coordination of radio-telemetry study resulted in CRITFC providing $30,000 in addition to donations of labor
- Coordination with Pacific Salmon Commission has resulted in proposal to extend study another year
- Broodstock collection gear study is being coordinated with fishery managers in the lower Columbia River

Cost Share

Hatchery Facility:

- Cost share discussions with mid Columbia PUDs three options reviewed:
  - Cost share portion of 2.9 million Chinook programs
  - Pay for additional production at hatchery and/or
  - Pay for capacity to expand hatchery in the future
- Chelan PUD expressed interest in partnering on CJH if facility could be used to meet PUD's hatchery production requirements (letter Sept , 2005)
- Grant PUD expressed interest in discussion opportunities with Colville Tribes (letters Jan and May 2005)
  - Grant PUD needs to produce 916,000 yearling summer Chinook smolts
  - New "Settlement Agreement" requires consideration of spring Chinook production for Okanogan after 2007

Cost Share

Hatchery Facility:

- Analysis of federal cost share near completion
- Four options evaluated for federal authorization, funding and payment involving USBR, USCOE and BPA