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April 2, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Fish and Wildlife Committee Members

FROM: Laura Robinson

SUBJECT: Briefing on May 9th Council visit to Lake Roosevelt for Northern Pike suppression

BACKGROUND:

Presenter: Laura Robinson

Summary: Council members, state and central staff, and science group members will be attending a tour of Lake Roosevelt hosted by the Spokane Tribe of Indians on May 9th. At the April Committee meeting, staff will provide a brief update on the status of Northern Pike in the reservoir and tour details.

Two major events will be occurring at the time of the tour: spring drawdown of the reservoir and a large coordinated Northern Pike suppression effort. The reservoir will be drawn down in late April or early May and the all-hands-on-deck Northern Pike suppression effort will be held throughout the week of May 6th when the Tribes (Spokane Tribe of Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and Kalispel Tribe of Indians), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the three Mid-Columbia Public Utility Districts (Chelan, Douglas, and Grant) join together on the water for maximum suppression work. The tour will occur on the final day of the suppression effort as the Lake Roosevelt co-managers and their partners pull in nets.

According to the Spokane Tribe of Indians, angler reports for this year consistently show Northern Pike moving lower into the reservoir and into areas where they had not been previously detected.

Relevance: 2014 Fish and Wildlife Program emerging priority #3: Preserve program effectiveness by supporting expanded management of predators.

Workplan: Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan item: Program amendment
Fish and Wildlife Division Work Plan item: Predation science and economic review

Background: Northern Pike were first documented in Lake Roosevelt in 2011 and in 2014 adult Pike began appearing in the Spokane Tribe of Indians' sampling efforts for juvenile white sturgeon. In the years since, the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have led suppression and monitoring efforts with the intent to suppress the current population and keep it from reaching the anadromous zone. In 2018, the Tribes found Northern Pike as close as 10 miles from Grand Coulee Dam and caught a record Pike at 45 inches long and 27.5 pounds.

In response to a 2017 Council request for a coordinated management plan, the Lake Roosevelt co-managers (Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife) submitted their Lake Roosevelt Northern Pike Suppression and Monitoring Plan in 2017 for 2018-2022 funding through BPA. On June 13, 2018, the Council approved the project and recommended BPA support implementation. Since then, the Tribes have redirected funds from other projects to partially fund this work.

More Info:

Projects reviews:

- 2017 Northern Pike suppression in Lake Roosevelt [proposal and review](#)

Council news:

- [The Pike Problem](#)

Current science and economics review:

- [November Council meeting](#)
- [September Fish and Wildlife Committee meeting](#)