



Check out the new name for our newsletter!
 The Watershed Wrap is now the
q'e'yminn he 'ulhnsikwe'n
 The translation in the Coeur d'Alene
 language is, "about the Watershed". The
 term for watershed meaning literally
 everything belonging to the watershed: the
 water, people, plants, fish, wildlife, cultural
 uses and air, as well as the impact of our
 activities!

WATERSHED WRAP

Semi-annual newsletter from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Fish & Wildlife programs describing watershed management efforts. Offering readers food for conversation and paper for wrapping!

Fall / Winter 2015

(Vol. 17 No. 2)



Stephanie Hallock presents landowners, Judy and Glen Ruark, with the Western Division AFS 2015 Award for Excellence in Riparian Management.

Hnmulshench project wins regional award

By Stephanie Hallock, Habitat Biologist

The Western Division of the American Fisheries Society gave the **2015 Award for Excellence in Riparian Management** to stakeholders of *The Hnmulshench Project (West Fork Lake Creek Restoration)*. This award is given to conservation agencies for on-the-ground accomplishments in riparian habitat management in the region encompassed in the Western Division (thirteen western states, British Columbia, Yukon Territories, Mexico and U.S. Islands and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific). Stephanie Hallock from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Fisheries Program accepted the award on behalf of the project participants at the American

Fisheries Society 145th Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon on August 18th, 2015.

Since 2008, the Tribe's Natural Resources and Lake Management Departments have worked together with landowners Glen and Judy Ruark to complete the restoration project on the West Fork Lake Creek. Tribal elder Felix Aripa gave the project the name *Hnmulshench*, which means "beaver" and is also the Coeur d'Alene language name for Rockford, WA. Historic photos show the degraded stream channel having been straightened and ditched before 1937. The project involved constructing a new stream channel that could access the historic floodplain and is located close to where the historic channel once flowed. Two thousand feet of severely degraded and highly unstable channel at the site was completely filled and flows were diverted into a new, sinuous channel that measured 3,025 feet in length. Construction for the project began in September 2009 and was completed in September 2011. The new channel habitat was created by using imported gravels and logs to create streambed and streambanks. Water was permanently diverted into the new stream channel on August 8, 2011. During construction, a mix of 23 native plant species, including more than 20,199 herbaceous plants and 11,566 woody trees and shrubs were planted along the new stream bank and in the newly created riparian area. These species included willow, red osier dogwood, alder, serviceberry, and snowberry. Our goals for the project included reducing bank erosion, increasing the amount of large wood in the stream, and increasing riparian habitat.

We would like to thank Glen and Judy Ruark for working with us to develop and complete the

project on their property. Their cooperation is one of the best examples of community support for the Tribe's resource management goals. It has been exciting to get some recognition for the hard work that so many people put into the project. A copy of the award is on display at the Felix Aripa "Shi'ttsin" Building in Plummer, ID, where the Fisheries, Wildlife and Lake Management Department offices are located. Funding for the project was provided through the Bonneville Power Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Tribe asks anglers to catch pike for cash

By Angelo Vitale, Fisheries Manager and Jon Firehammer, Fisheries Research Biologist

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is announcing a research reward program that will pay anglers to catch northern pike in the southern end of Coeur d'Alene Lake beginning this fall. The program is part of an ongoing, comprehensive effort by the Tribe to conserve and recover native cutthroat trout in the Coeur d'Alene Basin, with the additional goal of benefitting other game fish that are affected by a burgeoning pike population in the shallow, southern lake.

Historically, migratory cutthroat trout were prevalent across many of the low elevation watersheds in the Coeur d'Alene Basin. A life history that entailed moving between the many streams and rivers in the area and the lake resulted in an exceptionally productive fishery that boasted adult fish in excess of three pounds. Though the present distribution of migratory trout is not well described, populations still exist in Lake Creek and Benawah Creek watersheds, albeit at low levels that currently cannot sustain a harvest. To aid recovery of populations in these two watersheds, the Tribe has been implementing a suite of stream restoration measures over the last 20 years to improve the quality of spawning and rearing habitats for these trout. Recovery efforts have also entailed monitoring the survival rates of juveniles that move downstream to the lake. The monitoring has indicated that less than 2% of juveniles are returning to spawn as adults, and prompted a lake-wide research study to examine whether predation by northern pike, a non-native

predator introduced in the mid-70's, could be contributing to the low survival rates.

Results from the research study, conducted from 2012-2013, found that cutthroat trout can make up to 30% of the diet of northern pike. Furthermore, northern pike were found to have significant localized impacts on trout populations. For example, in Windy Bay, located directly across the lake from the Coeur d'Alene River, the northern pike population was estimated to annually remove more than 50% of adult cutthroat trout that were destined to spawn in the Lake Creek watershed. Because of the substantial impact of northern pike on this spawning population, the Tribe in collaboration with the State of Idaho initiated a 3-year pilot suppression program earlier this spring to annually remove northern pike from Windy Bay. The program is being closely monitored to evaluate the response of cutthroat to the work.

These collective efforts are ultimately intended to inform the management of pike in the southern end of Coeur d'Alene Lake with the objectives of minimizing the impact of pike on migratory trout that enter the lake via the St. Joe River and from smaller tributaries, and also to benefit the other fish species that commonly make up the diet of pike, which include yellow perch, black crappie, bluegill and kokanee. For example, one might expect to find more of these other game fish with fewer pike present.

To supplement the information gained from other efforts, the Tribe desires more research data on the abundance, distribution, movement, and diet of pike that inhabit the southern end of the lake to better develop a focused management approach. To this end, the research reward program could be a cost-effective strategy that collects the desired data from fish harvested by anglers. Specifically, the program aims to gather data on time periods or locations where there is a high incidence of pike predation on cutthroat trout.

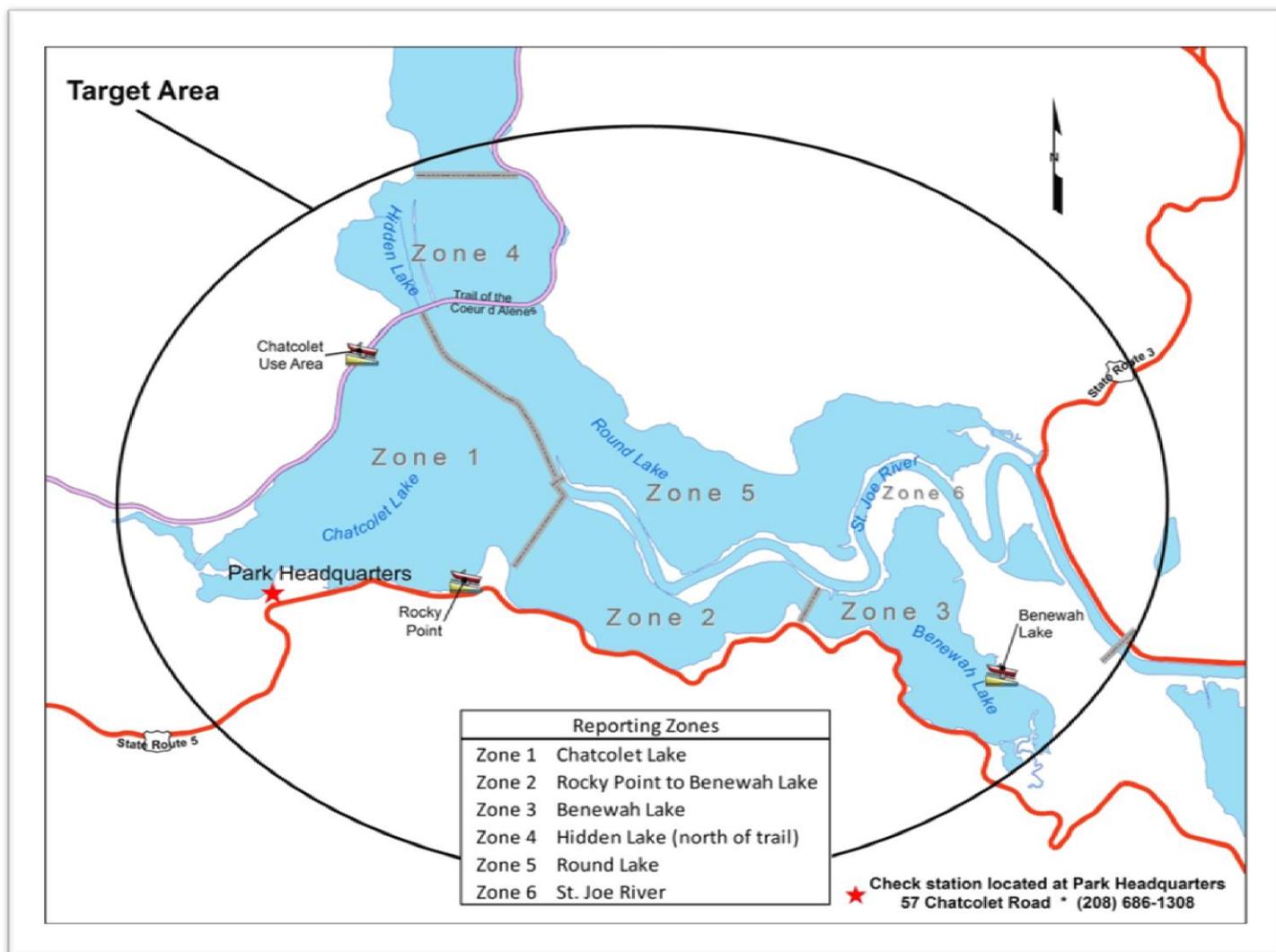
Because the reward program is intended to satisfy specific research needs, only northern pike harvested from a target area encompassing the southern end of the lake are valid for reward monies. The reward program will be in effect from October 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016. The Tribe anticipates paying out more than \$12,000 to anglers participating in the program during this

timeframe. The program is structured so that a general reward of \$5/fish will be paid for the first 1000 pike returned. In addition, a number of fish have been marked with uniquely numbered tags that are worth \$50-\$500 each. The tags in these fish are not visible, so anglers will not be able to recognize one of these special reward fish upon capture. Therefore, participating anglers should turn in all pike. Reward monies will be mailed to anglers after they provide information on the location and time of harvest.

Anglers are encouraged to turn in whole pike to the check station, which is located at the Heyburn State Park Headquarters at 57 Chatcolet Rd, so that Tribal staff will be able to examine stomach contents of harvested fish. After the fish are processed, they will be donated to Birds of Prey Northwest, a raptor rehabilitation facility in St. Maries, Idaho. Information on the program is posted at the check station, as well as at the three

boat launches that are located in Heyburn State Park. Any questions can be answered by calling the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Fisheries Program at (208)686-5302. The reward program is planned to continue for several years, but the duration will ultimately be determined by outcomes and the level of interest and participation from anglers.

The target area for the "Catch for Cash" northern pike research reward program is shown below. The program will run from October 1 through May 31.



The smlich (salmon) awakens

By Thomas Biladeau, Habitat Biologist

This is a very exciting time we live in, and I am not just referring to the upcoming release of the new Star Wars movie. Serious talks are currently underway concerning the reintroduction of anadromous salmon and steelhead into the blocked area upstream of Grand Coulee Dam. Investigating the potential for anadromous fish reintroduction, passage and habitat improvement has become an emerging priority supported by the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, which was authorized by Congress to administer the programs to protect, enhance and mitigate fish and wildlife affected by the Columbia River hydroelectric system. The area to be investigated includes not only the upper Columbia River, but the Spokane River watershed, of which Hangman Creek forms the headwaters.

For the last century, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe has persisted largely without the salmon and steelhead that were a mainstay of diet, physically and spiritually, and paramount to their culture and being. The significance of this sacred resource to native peoples is immeasurable. The fish not only supplied food and nutrients throughout the year, they were a tangible force moving whole communities and bringing peoples together through trade and commerce. Coeur d'Alene Tribal members are estimated to have consumed about 124,000 salmon and steelhead annually (1.3 million to 2.3 million pounds) from usual and accustomed fishing areas on the upper Spokane River and from other waters. With the decline in salmon came the loss of social exchanges, family activities and community unity. With the extended loss of salmon, traditional skills and knowledge associated with the harvest, preparation, and use of the fish that had been passed down for generations was lost. Additionally, the loss of salmon interrupted the ecological integrity and health of the environment.

The Hangman Creek watershed, originating in the southern end of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, historically supported runs of salmon and steelhead trout. Historical harvest by all peoples (primarily the Coeur d'Alene and Spokane tribes) in the larger Spokane River watershed was estimated to be around 150,000 fish annually, but this is probably a gross underestimate, as it does not include steelhead or fall run chinook. Moreover, this harvest estimate represented just a fraction of the sustainable production of salmon in the watershed. The redband trout which currently inhabit this watershed are in fact descendent from the steelhead trout which migrated and spawned in the upper Hangman watershed. These fish are

basically a land-locked form of steelhead, and many still show traits similar to their ocean-run ancestors.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe Fish and Wildlife Programs are currently implementing multiple restoration projects in the Hangman watershed which are focused on improving conditions for resident trout and wildlife species. These projects, however, also share a long term vision of preparing the landscape to support returning anadromous fish.

If you are interested in learning more about ongoing restoration in the Hangman Creek watershed, contact the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Fish and Wildlife Office. The websites for the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT.org) and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (nwcouncil.org) are both good sources of information to keep abreast of the latest efforts to return anadromous fish above Grand Coulee Dam.

St. Maries creosote project has an end in sight!

By Sandra Raskell, Lake Management Project Engineer

Since construction started in mid-Summer 2014, two different contractors have worked on two different phases of the St. Maries Creosote site. Phase 2 is wrapping up now. The final Phase 3 work will begin approximately spring 2016 and will end by winter 2016.



Phase 2 Dredging activities at the St. Maries Creosote site began this last summer.

The St. Maries Creosote site is immediately adjacent to and south of the St. Joe River in the city of St. Maries, Idaho. From 1939 through 1964, the site was used for peeling and treating logs to be used for utility poles. Historically, as the treated poles were loaded onto rail cars by the stiff arm, creosote dripped

onto the soil around the butt vats and rail cars. If several cars were loaded at the same time, poles would drip creosote onto the soil beneath the rail line. In late 1998 and early 1999, the site was noted to have soil staining, creosote odor, and product sheen, thus began the process of identifying clean-up actions.

For over the next decade, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe), and the potential responsible parties (PRP) worked through reports, meetings, consent decrees, court documents, etc. Soon thereafter, Arcadis, the Voluntary Remediation Party (VRP) and its associated subcontractors, began the process of sampling upland soils and river sediments to determine the geotechnical properties, extent of contamination, and treatment possibilities. This data has been used to design an appropriate remediation plan.

Phase 1 construction activities officially began August 11, 2014 and completed May 2015. This phase employed approximately 3-5 employees hired through the Tribe's TERO office. Phase 1 construction activities consisted of upland work at the site. This included pad preparation for activities, storm water pipe relocation, an on-site wastewater treatment plant, slurry wall construction around the upland contamination, excavation of the top 10 feet of contamination, and finally in-situ stabilization of the contaminated soils. After Phase 1 was completed, the site was left with an upgraded storm water pipe system, contamination containment on-site in the form of solidified soils, storage of contaminated soils to be treated in Phase 3, and an on-site wastewater treatment system for all phases. Envirocon was the contractor for Phase 1.

Phase 2 construction activities began right after Phase 1 was completed. Severson Environmental was the contractor for Phase 2 activities. This phase employed 2-12 TERO employees throughout the phase. The number of employees varied depending on the work load at the time. Phase 2 activities included the installation of a sheet pile river enclosure, dredging of the higher contaminated St. Joe River sediments within the enclosure, backfill of approved material into the river, sediment and soil stockpile management, bank excavation, and some shoreline restoration. Final shoreline restoration will occur at the end of Phase 3 construction.

Phase 3 construction is scheduled to begin spring 2016 and continue through until the end of 2016. Construction activities will include final St. Joe River dredging, stockpile management, on-site wastewater treatment, thermal treatment of all stockpiled soils and sediments, and finalization of the project site (treated soil management, restoration, final clean-up). At this time a contractor has not been

chosen for the work. TERO employees will again be hired to conduct general site construction. All phases of construction included archaeological, biological, Tribal and EPA oversight as needed and required.

If you have any questions, please contact the Creosote Project Manager, Sandra Raskell, P.E., Lake Management Department Project Engineer by phone at (208) 667-5772, (208) 582-3364 or by email at sraskell@cdatribe-nsn.gov.



Tribal elder Felix Aripa – who still has an active interest in construction projects after a long career as a road engineer - was onsite during remediation.

The return of the t'ede'

By Gina Baughn, Education and Outreach Specialist

A modern canoe journey recently began when Marc Gauthier, a staffer with the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) organization, was given the go ahead by the Quinault Tribe to harvest six ancient cedar trees from their homeland for a community based canoe building project. Six trees were purchased by UCUT and the logs were given homes with each of the UCUT member tribes: Colville, Spokane, Kalispel, Kootenai, and Coeur d'Alene.

"The canoe was the boss of the lake!", says tribal elder Felix Aripa. This couldn't be truer, as our log - the largest of the six - measures in at over five feet in diameter, is more than 700 years old and weighs approximately 28,000 pounds. This old giant will be given a new life as a shovel nose canoe and will be known affectionately as "Warch Rubbernecker". The name *Warch*, which is the Coeur d'Alene word for

frog, was given thanks to a little visitor that decided to hang out on the bow of the canoe after it was first delivered to the Tribe. Rubbernecker comes from all of the stares from passersby while this monster tree was being hauled on a lowboy trailer to its new home.



A special thanks to our canoe knowledge keepers (pictured from left to right): Vincent Peone - Canoe Ambassador and carver; Jeff Jordan - Project Lead and canoe carver; John Zinser - UCUT contractor and carver.

The building of this canoe is a historic moment for the Coeur d'Alene people, who have depended on the canoe in every aspect of their lives since time immemorial. In historical reports documented by Roderick Sprague, an inescapable truth is the myriad of ways the canoe served an integral part in the identity of the Coeur d'Alene people. According to Sprague, "The Coeur d'Alene's were the only people on the plateau to use several different kinds of bark on canoes as well as dugout, reed, and multiple canoes plus skin and reed covered round boats". The wide diversity and complexity of water craft and variations in expert description clearly demonstrates the strong reliance upon water and the lake economy by the Coeur d'Alene. He also states that the Coeur d'Alene's easily had more different kinds of water craft than any other plateau group. Canoes were important to the Coeur d'Alene people for many reasons, the most important of which was transportation. Before automobiles, most of the travel by Coeur d'Alene's was by canoe around the periphery of the lake and up the many streams flowing in. Canoes were used for fishing on the lake using virtually every method known on the plateau. The Coeur d'Alene's were also known for having a surplus of deer skins and for killing large numbers of deer on Coeur D'Alene Lake. They would drive deer into the lake and dispatch them in the lake from canoes by spearing, shooting with arrows, clubbing or holding them down by the antlers with a crooked stick to drown them. Canoes were also important for collecting an important root - the water potato - where the canoe would serve as the base of operation as well as the

container for the collected water potatoes. As if to better tell the story of the importance of canoes to the Coeur d'Alene people, fragments of canoes were often left on graves along with markers of food and other property. Canoes were used to celebrate, for racing, hunting and gathering, and almost every other aspect of traditional life. It is a true blessing to see this craft coming back to its people.

Once completed, plans are in the works for this canoe to embark on a paddle trip from Coeur d'Alene Lake down the Spokane River, over Little Falls and up the Columbia. This modern canoe journey will culminate in a meeting of all six tribes in their canoes at Kettle Falls, to celebrate this reconnection to the river and to shed additional light on the fight for salmon reintroduction to their historic habitats. The community will be welcomed to join a bartering exchange and will be called upon to join tribes in providing one united voice for the salmon. This plan is part and parcel of the larger effort to support progress toward Upper Columbia Basin fish passage and reintroduction. A remarkable video entitled, Treaty Talks: A Journey Up the Columbia River for People and Salmon" documents a related 1243 mile canoe journey from Astoria, Oregon to the headwaters of the Columbia in Canada. John Zinser, UCUT contractor and canoe carver, stated it best with this simple exclamation, "The Salmon belong here and need to be returned to their homeland in the upper Columbia River."



Jeff Jordan, project lead, assists with the beginning stages of scraping the bark from the cedar log that will become "Warch Rubbernecker".

Hnqhesnet partners with Natural Resources Department on education and outreach

The Benewah Medical Wellness Center Hnqhesnet Program was able to partner with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe Natural Resources Department to host a canoe blessing that took place on the morning of Wednesday October 21, 2015 as part of the annual *Sqigwts Ha'chsetq'it* (Water Potato Celebration). The Hnqhesnet Program brought four traditional sturgeon nose canoes to the lake shore for the event. The boats were made by community volunteers working under the expert guidance of Shawn Brigman, who is native artist and craftsman and enrolled member of the Spokane Tribe, as well as a descendent of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville.

In order to properly welcome our sturgeon nose canoes back to our waters we began the morning with a prayer. As the canoes were being smudged by the young men of our Tribal School, our Cultural Director Quannah Matheson, from the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino, and his brothers sang a beautiful honor song. Those in attendance could feel the presence of our ancestors as they bore witness to this historical event. Several people took the opportunity to go out onto the lake in the sturgeon nose canoes, including Robert Matt our Administrative Director for the Tribe. Jennifer Fletcher captured a beautiful image (below) of Emmitt White in a canoe and it looked like a photograph from 100 years ago. The canoe blessing

was combined with the Annual Water Potato Celebration, which the Natural Resources Department hosts every year near Hawley's Landing at Heyburn State Park.

The event was fun and educational, with more than 300 students participating during the week. Each station was closely tied to traditional Coeur d'Alene Tribal teachings: such as hide tanning and hide scraping; a Coeur d'Alene language station presented by the Culture Department of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe; POW WOW SWEAT, which is an aerobic based exercise class focused on incorporating traditional dance styles with traditional Native American Pow wow music; Tule mat making; meat drying and traditional foods station; canoe education station; water potato digging and much more! We were honored to be a part of the traditional teachings that are being brought back to our community through this important celebration.



A Coeur d'Alene Tribe canoe blessing takes place at Water Potato Week 2015.

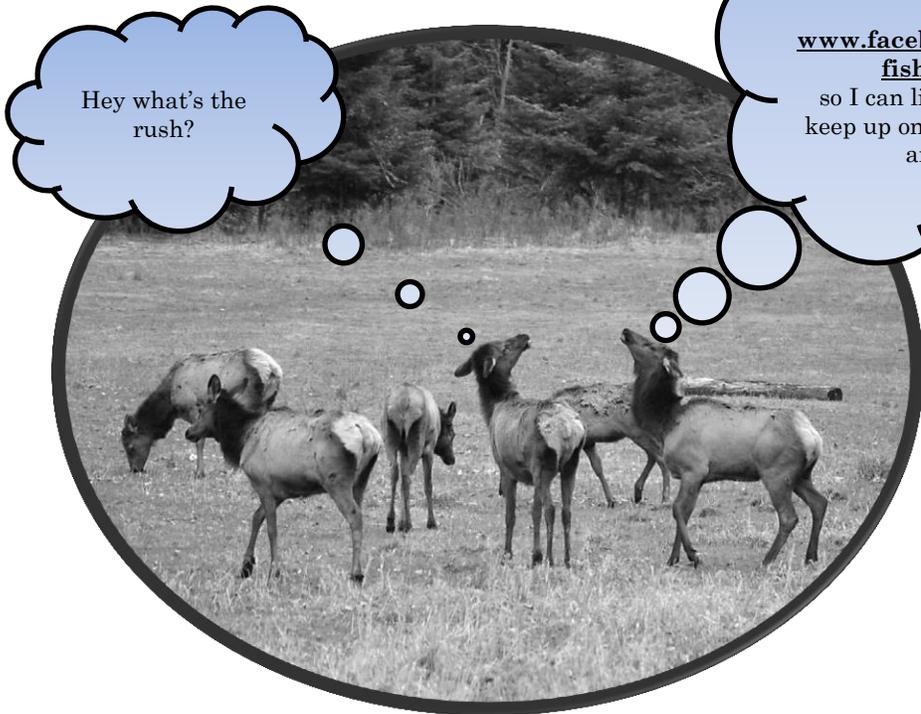
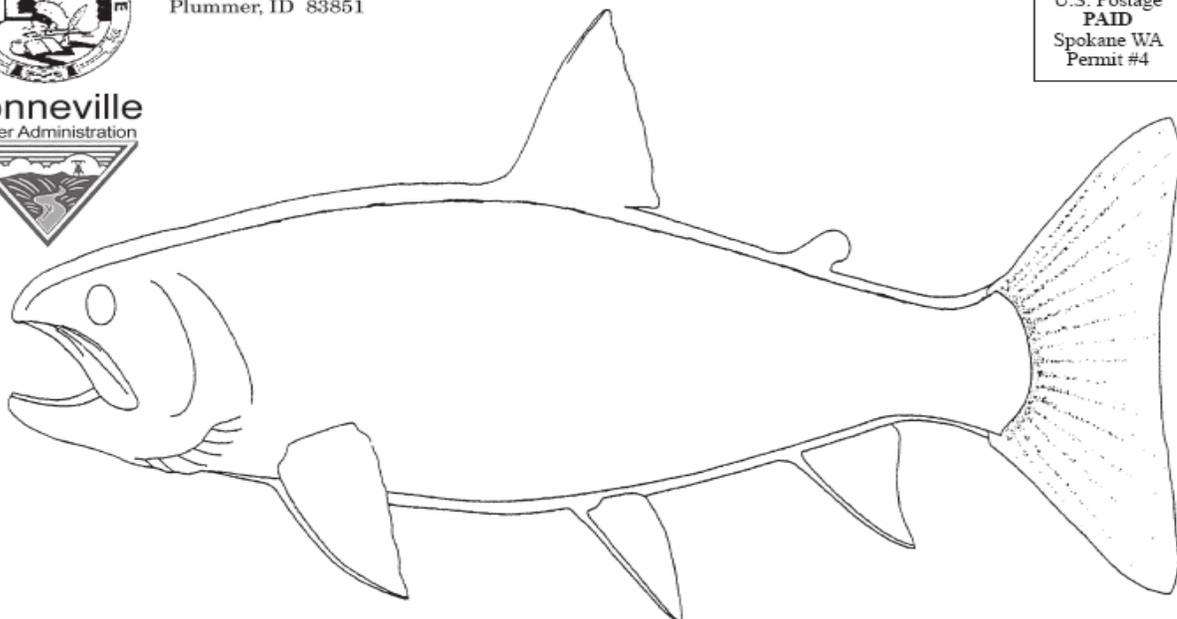




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Hey what's the rush?

I just heard that Fish and Wildlife have an awesome new Facebook page! I'm heading over to www.facebook.com/cdatrIBE.fishandwildlife so I can like their page and keep up on all the latest news and events!

The Coeur d'Alene Tribal Fish and Wildlife Programs work in a variety of cooperative, governmental and educational arenas in efforts to protect enhance and restore our fish and wildlife resources. This publication is intended to provide all people interested in Fish and Wildlife of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation information about our program, and to solicit your support as well as constructive criticism. Thank you for your interest.