At the end of September, fourth graders converge on the shores of Lake Roosevelt for the Lake Roosevelt Water Festival. Over 700 students attend this water resources workshop. Among the dozens of activities are "kids in the creek", water jeopardy, fish habitats, bird boxes for wetland birds, watershed model building, and "bugs on the bottom". Historic and cultural resources, as they relate to fisheries and water resources, are also presented in very unique ways, including Native American story telling. Another very unique aspect of this educational opportunity is the interaction between Canadian presenters and students. This helps students understand that watershed issues traverse international boundaries.   The Water Festival is truly a partnership, with volunteers from Federal, State, County and local agencies. Tribal communities, individual presenters and our Canadian neighbors help make this program what it is today.

The festival instructors present balanced factual information helping students form their own opinions. By keeping presentations factual, the children learn to assimilate information, a process that they can use throughout their lives to become better informed about water resources. We teach the process of independent learning, research and critical thinking, which will help keep students engaged and active in monitoring and protecting the water resources of their own communities.

The festival has been basically self-supporting since its inception. More than 36 local businesses and organizations are providing support at this time. The committee members are committed to keeping this festival alive with funding from grants, private donations, in-kind services and volunteers.

The Lake Roosevelt Water Festival Committee strives to maintain a lasting program that makes available to students – who will be our future leaders – a sound, interesting and informative watershed education program. It has grown to become one of the most popular science curricula for fourth-grade students in eastern Washington.