

BPA NEWS

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BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
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BPA celebrates 25th anniversary of Spokane Tribal Hatchery

New agreement promises ratepayer support of the hatchery for another 20 years

Ford, Wash. - Today, the Spokane Tribe of Indians and the Bonneville Power Administration signed a new agreement that promises BPA ratepayer support of the Spokane Tribal Hatchery for another 20 years. The agreement also includes funding for hatchery modernization and improvements.

BPA began funding the Spokane Tribe of Indians hatchery in 1990, in part, for the environmental impacts of Grand Coulee Dam on the Columbia River. Completed in 1939, Grand Coulee flooded the Spokane Tribe's ancestral homelands and blocked salmon from migrating to the tribe's traditional fishing sites. The operation of Grand Coulee has also negatively affected resident fish populations, such as trout.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians has taken a leadership role in bringing fish back to the river, developing a restoration and enhancement program for Lake Roosevelt that includes a fish hatchery for rainbow trout and kokanee salmon.

"Historically, the Spokane Tribe was known as a river and fishing people, culturally defined, in part, by the bounty of salmon that returned annually to tribal fishery grounds," says Tim Peone, Spokane Tribal member and hatchery manager. "The hatchery program is meant to be more than just a fish production facility; it provides a remembrance and pathway for tribal members to reconnect with the river and its fisheries."

Today, the Spokane Tribe manages the hatchery in coordination with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sherman Creek Hatchery and the Lake Roosevelt Rainbow Trout Net Pen Rearing Project.

"We realize the hatchery doesn't bring back what was lost 80 years ago, but BPA is committed to protecting and improving conditions for the area's resident fish



populations,” says Lorri Bodi, BPA’s vice president of Environment, Fish and Wildlife. “We want to help preserve and fortify tribal culture and the indigenous knowledge that enriches our entire region.”

Annually, the hatchery produces approximately 100,000 kokanee salmon and 750,000 rainbow trout for release into Lake Roosevelt. Additionally, the hatchery also produces 6,000 rainbow trout yearlings for annual release into inland lakes on the Spokane Indian Reservation. The tribal hatchery, which consists of 44 indoor/outdoor raceways, employs five full-time and four seasonal employees.

Artifacts, photos and reading panes chronicling historical fisheries, tribal subsistence and the cultural significance of the river are on display at the [Spokane Tribal Hatchery](#) – open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

About BPA

The Bonneville Power Administration, headquartered in Portland, Ore., is a nonprofit federal power marketer that sells wholesale electricity from 31 federal dams and one nuclear plant to 142 electric utilities, serving millions of consumers and businesses in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, western Montana and parts of California, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming. BPA delivers power via more than 15,000 circuit miles of lines and 261 substations to 475 transmission customers. In all, BPA markets about a third of the electricity consumed in the Northwest and operates three-quarters of the region’s high-voltage transmission grid. BPA also funds one of the largest fish and wildlife programs in the world, and, with its partners, pursues cost-effective energy savings and operational solutions that help maintain affordable, reliable and carbon-free electric power for the Northwest. www.bpa.gov

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