



Agencies dedicate salmon hatchery of the future

Bonneville Power Administration

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Cle Elum, Wash. - Today the Yakama Nation, Bonneville Power Administration, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Northwest Planning Council dedicated the salmon hatchery of the future, the Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility. The dedication was open to the public and included tribal ceremonies, speakers from the cooperating agencies, tours of the facility and a tribal barbecue.

The Cle Elum facility is designed to test a salmon restoration approach called supplementation. The goal of supplementation is to rebuild healthy runs of spring chinook salmon in their natural ecosystem using the most advanced fish culture techniques.

"The purpose of the Cle Elum facility is to work in harmony with the ecosystem and to supplement or strengthen existing wild runs of spring chinook salmon," said BPA Deputy Administrator, Jack Robertson, "it is not a production hatchery intended to produce fish for harvest."

The Cle Elum Supplementation and Research Facility is one of four elements that make up the Upper Yakima Supplementation Complex. The other three are the Jack Creek, Clark Flat, and Easton acclimation sites. These are specially designed holding ponds where young salmon are taken to make the adjustment from the hatchery environment to that of the natural river. Construction of the ponds will occur in 1998 in time for the arrival of the first young salmon in early 1999. The Upper Yakima Supplementation Complex is a major component of the Yakima - Klickitat Fisheries Project and is a cooperative effort of the Yakama Nation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Northwest Power Planning Council.

The Yakama Nation in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will manage facility operation.

Since 1982, BPA has invested \$63.7 million for 47 contracts to support rebuilding salmon runs in the Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project, including \$15.8 million for construction of the Cle Elum Supplementation Facility.

"We have worked hard to produce a facility that meets the strict scientific standards established by the project teams fisheries biologists," said project manager David Byrnes. "Fish rearing practices at the

facility will follow a carefully developed and defined monitoring and evaluation program that incorporates adaptive management. The goal is to supplement natural runs to increase numbers of returning adults."

When the facility is in full production in 1998, about 810,000 smolts will be released each year. This is expected to result in an estimated 3,200 - 6,500 adult spring chinook returning annually to the Yakima River Basin compared to annual returns of 663 to 4,569 from 1991 to 1995.