



***MEDIA ADVISORY:***  
***Biologists report salmon return to Hanford Reach***

Bonneville Power Administration

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**WEDNESDAY, November 18, 1998**  
PR 74 98

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: [Crystal Ball](#), BPA 503-230-5133, Gary Carnat, Grant PUD,  
(509) 754-3541

---

[Click here for other BPA news releases](#)

---

**What:**

Both wild and hatchery fall chinook salmon are returning to the Hanford Reach on the Columbia River. Nearly 15,000 adult salmon return to the Priest Rapids Hatchery each fall. Tens of thousands of wild fish spawn downstream on gravel beds in the Hanford Reach – the last major fall chinook natural spawning area on the mainstem of the Columbia River.

**Who:**

Grant County Public Utility District biologists will be at the Priest Rapids Hatchery for the hatchery egg take from over 400 adult salmon. Biologists will also report the results of monitoring natural fall chinook spawning at Vernita Bar, which represents about one-third of the natural spawning area in the Hanford Reach. Biologists count the redds (salmon nests of eggs) at Vernita Bar on Sunday, Nov. 22.

**When:**

The news conference will take place Monday, Nov. 23, 1998 at 9:30 a.m.

**Where:**

The media is invited to the Priest Rapids Dam and Hatchery located on the Columbia River near Desert Aire, Wash. (21 miles downstream from the I-90 bridge at Vantage) to observe the egg take and hear from biologists. The Vernita Bar natural spawning area located four miles downstream of the dam may not be visible on Monday as river flows have been raised to protect the salmon eggs. (Directions are attached).

**Why:**

Thanks to the work of a coalition of federal and state agencies, Native American tribes and public utility districts, flows in the Columbia River at Vernita Bar are regulated to ensure a new generation of salmon survives. The redds these spawning salmon make must remain covered with water until the salmon eggs hatch sometime between mid-April and late June. The supplemental salmon reared at the hatchery will be released into the Columbia River in the spring as well.

###

---