



The WSA Guzzler

WENATCHEE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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November General Meeting Summary

Bill Towey, Chelan PUD Senior Fisheries Scientist, presented to the club on the invasion of Northern Pike into the Upper Columbia. The PUD has recognized that it is only a matter of time before Northern Pike are within our areas of the Columbia, but in order to stave off that for as long as we can they have teamed up with the State, Tribes, and other PUDs to help slow the spread of pike downstream. Currently the furthest downstream pike are located just upstream of Grand Coulee in Lake Roosevelt.

Tribes and agencies are using gill nets to catch Northern pike in Lake Roosevelt to further reduce the risk. Chelan PUD sent a small crew to Lake Roosevelt for a brief stint this summer to learn about and aid suppression efforts by the Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

“One of the biggest management issues we’re facing is with invasive predatory species - piscivorous (*fish-eating*) fish and birds and pinnipeds (*sea lions*),” said Towey. “We are taking the steps needed to protect the immense investments that have been made throughout the Columbia Basin in protecting and enhancing salmon and steelhead and other resident fish.

To combat these invasives the PUD and others are implementing a number of techniques including, gill nets, radio tagging adults to learn movement patterns and spawning locations, electro-fishing, education and outreach with the public, and a bounty system (the Colville and WDFW are teaming to offer \$10 per pike head - <https://www.cct-fnw.com/news>). Fishery experts also are experimenting with using set-lines, which are used now to remove salmon-eating Northern pikeminnow in the mid-Columbia.

WANTED

Northern Pike Heads- \$10 Reward



Attention Anglers:

Help protect the Columbia River from Invasive Northern Pike!



So far 800 pike have been removed this year by the team with angler removing another 300. Over 13,000 have been removed since 2015. The largest pike caught was 28 pounds and 47 inches long. A more detailed summary of the suppression efforts can be found on the WDFW website <https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/invasive/esox-lucius#invasive>

Wildlife News

The Chelan PUD has closed public access to several of their properties in the Wenatchee foothills for the season. This is a seasonal closure to protect mule deer on their winter range. Read more here: <http://www.chelanpud.org/about-us/newsroom/news/2019/11/26/counts-show-sage-hills-trail-closures-are-timed-right-for-deer>

A hat tip to the WSA's own Von Pope helping lead the way at the PUD for our local wildlife.

WSA News

WDFW tagged along on the Colockum Bird Feeder filling project recently. They put together a cool slideshow and a nice Facebook post promoting the WSA and all that we do. See the slideshow here: <https://www.facebook.com/WashingtonFishWildlife/videos/474238099891773/>

The WSA is continuing to follow the progress of several local development projects, including the Black Rock Estates, Mission Ridge Expansion, and Wheeler Ridge LLC. If you'd like to hear the latest developments on these projects please attend the next general meeting.

Gathering Donations for the Game Feed is kicking into high gear. If you'd like to help with this year's Game Feed please contact Robert Scoville at rscoville61@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

December General Membership Meeting. December 17, 2019. Speaker/Topic: Jason Schilling, Douglas County PUD Wildlife Biologist, will talk with the Association about the various Douglas PUD wildlife programs.

January General Membership Meeting. January 21, 2020. Speaker/Topic: WDFW Regional Director Jim Brown will talk about their budget issues.

February Game Feed Fundraiser. February 29th, 2020. Mark you calendars, you're not going to want to miss this!

DID YOU KNOW?

Elk, while native to the Pacific Northwest, were extirpated (locally extinct) from our region in the mid 1800s? After a half century absence they were reintroduced from Yellowstone National Park in the 1920s and 1930 to both the Colockum and Rainier National Park?

If you have any suggestions on ways to improve the newsletter or ideas for future issues please shoot me an email at neffa3@gmail.com

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!