

March 2021

The Association of NW Steelheaders Anglers dedicated to enhancing and protecting fisheries and their habitats for today and the future.

### <u>**Cancelled**</u> - Sandy River Chapter March and April 2021 meetings.

Due to Covid-19 concerns.

We hope to be able to recommence later in 2021. We will keep you informed here and on our Facebook page.

August 21st, 2021, Saturday – Annual Sandy River Chapter picnic - <u>Location :</u> Sam Cox Building & Glenn Otto Community Park area B, Troutdale, OR. Time to be announced in upcoming newsletter.

October 8 – 10, 2021 – Tillamook Crab/Fish along – Arrive on Friday and depart early on Sunday.



### Angling for Advocacy Trip Raffle

Public · Hosted by Association of Northwest Steelheaders

From March 1-7, we'll be raffling 13 trips with world-class Northwest guides to support our advocacy campaigns this year. We have big advocacy goals to protect endangered fish, restore habitat, and

enhance fishing opportunities and we need your help to achieve them. We're working with a multistate coalition to remove the lower Snake River dams and recover endangered salmon and steelhead throughout the Columbia River Basin, ban non-treaty commercial gill nets on the lower mainstem Columbia River, protect salmon habitat in Northwest Oregon, collect new spring Chinook broodstock at the Clackamas hatchery, pass a group license bill for nonprofit veterans fishing events, and increase fishing opportunities and access for all Northwesterners.

Our guides are conservation-minded anglers who are passionate about sharing their love for Northwest fisheries. If you win one of our trips, we can guarantee that it'll be the trip of a lifetime! Our guides include Jordan Knigge, Big Dave, Chris Vertopoulos, Jack and Brandon Glass, Kevin Anderson, Damon Struble, Bill Taylor, Trevor Storlie, Herman Fleishman, Kevin Larson, Ciara Lambert, and Bill Woods.



# States set initial 2021 Columbia River spring Chinook recreational seasons

February 23, 2021

**CLACKAMAS, Ore.** – Fishery managers from Oregon and Washington adopted recreational spring Chinook salmon and steelhead seasons for the Columbia River today during a joint state hearing. These regulations modify the current rules which are in effect through Feb. 28 downstream of Bonneville Dam and through March 15 upstream of Bonneville.

The lower Columbia River (from Buoy 10 to Warrior Rock) will be open for the first time since 2018. Also, a no-boat-angling bubble will be in effect on the mainstem at the Cowlitz River mouth (as well as Carrolls Channel in Wash.) to provide additional conservation measures for fish returning to the Cowlitz River.

The overall forecasted return of adult spring Chinook to the Columbia River mouth of 143,200 fish is similar to last year's actual return of 142,500. However, the season-setting process is driven by the forecast for upriver-origin spring Chinook of 75,200 fish, which is lower than last year's actual return of 81,300. Returns to the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers are projected to meet hatchery escapement goals which allows for opening of the fishery throughout the lower Columbia River.

The fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam will be managed for a harvest guideline of 2,206 upriver Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) prior to an in-season run size update. Upstream of Bonneville Dam, the pre-update harvest guideline is 315 upriver mortalities.

Columbia River spring Chinook salmon seasons are driven by Endangered Species Act limitations and a management agreement between the states and Columbia River Treaty Tribes specifying the total number of upriver-origin Chinook that can be killed. Therefore, open dates can change during the season if/when guidelines are expected to be met. Always check your Angling Zone in ODFW's Recreation Report /Fishing Report before fishing to make sure regulations haven't changed, <u>https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/</u>

Anglers are reminded that the use of barbless hooks is required when angling for salmon or steelhead in mainstem Columbia River waters from the mouth upstream to the OR/WA state line.

The following regulations will be in effect for the mainstem Columbia River:

### **Below Bonneville Dam**

- Season: Monday, March 1 through Sunday, April 4
- *Bag limit:* Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook.
- *Open area:* Buoy 10 line upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline, except salmonid angling from a boat is prohibited in the spring salmonid boat angling area closure adjacent to the Cowlitz River mouth.

*Spring Salmonid Boat Angling Area Closure:* Boat angling for salmon and steelhead is closed within the Columbia River mainstem adjacent to the Cowlitz River, including all of Carrolls Channel, as described below.



- Downstream boundary From a point on the Washington shore projected through Dolphin Marker J (near Shipping Terminal 9), southerly across the Columbia River to the Columbia Park Boat Ramp in Rainier, Oregon.
- Upstream boundary From a point on the Washington shore projected through Cottonwood Island Dike Light "31", southerly across the Columbia River to a deadline marker on the Oregon shore.

### Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border

- Season dates: Tuesday, March 16 through Wednesday, May 5
- *Bag limit:* Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook.
- *Open area*: Tower Island power lines (approximately six miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines

### Sandy, Clackamas, and lower Willamette rivers

Fishery managers are forecasting 50,000 adult Willamette-origin Chinook will return, which would be an increase from last year's actual return of approximately 46,000 fish. These rivers will be open under permanent regulations—except two rods are allowed March 1-August 15 when fishing for all species except sturgeon on the lower Willamette River downstream of Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel) and in the lower Clackamas River downstream of the Hwy 99 Bridge (just upstream of the confluence with the Willamette) with a valid two-rod validation.

The two-rod validation costs \$28 and is also valid in most ponds and lakes in the state. Youth anglers under age 12 may use two rods in waterbodies where they are allowed without purchasing the validation.

### Select Area Recreational Fisheries (Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough)

Effective March 1 through June 15, on days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.

On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is closed to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply (see <u>Columbia River Zone permanent regulations</u>). These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (hatchery only during Jan. 1 – July 31), hatchery steelhead, and hatchery coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.

#### Contact:

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### Seal and Sea Lion Reporter User Guide

(version 2021-01-22)

The Seal and Sea Lion Reporter is an ESRI Survey123 form for use by anyone to report pinniped sightings in the Columbia River Basin to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Marine Mammal Program.

Sightings can be reported using either a web browser or an app, real-time or after the-fact, and in the field or back at one's home or office.



This crowd-sourced data will be used to identify potential pinniped "hot spots" in the basin for future research or management. Note that no personal information is asked for or collected by the form and there are no usernames or passwords needed.

In the future we will have a link to the form and a map of user-submitted sightings at the Marine Mammal Program website. The form is quite easy to use and should be selfexplanatory but detailed instructions are given below for reference.

The guide is online at:

https://www.theguidesforecast.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Seal-and-Sea-Lion-Reporter-User-Guide-v-2021-01-22.pdf?mc\_cid=b4a81a30ad&mc\_eid=edb6733f4b

For more information contact <u>bryan.e.wright@state.or.us</u>.

## A dream comes true at Tamkaliks

https://www.wallowa.com/news/local/a-dream-comes-true-attamkaliks/article 12153b94-6291-11eb-8d88-bb53cde921bf.html

# CHIEFTAIN

By ELLEN MORRIS BISHOP For the Wallowa County Chieftain February 3, 2021



Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries Biologists Montana Pagano, left, and Kate Frenyea point out the design characteristics of one channel that includes a deeper-water alcove that will provide fish habitat during low streamflow. WALLOWA — When he first joined the board of the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Homeland Project more than 20 years ago, Joe McCormack dreamed of restoring the Tamkaliks grounds to their native condition. Today, some of the Wallowa County resident's dream is coming true.

Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries have started a half-million-dollar project on the Tamkaliks grounds that provides habitat for juvenile salmon and other fish, and will restore native plants to the Tamkaliks landscape. "We're hoping this will represent what the river had originally been like, including a lot of braided channels," said McCormack, who works for Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries. "We need this kind of thing here, if we want **Coho** and lamprey and the other species that we are trying to reintroduce to prevail."

The \$500,000 NPTF project, funded by both the Grande Ronde Model Watershed through the Bonneville Power Administration, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, got started in early January. It includes a total of about 10 acres of the 320-acre Homeland Project (Tamkaliks) property just north of Wallowa.

Work started in early January 2021. The first phase — constructing side channels along the Wallowa River and planting willows and other native plants on the banks and floodplain — will conclude in March. Camas and tule reeds, important to Nez Perce as foods and in their culture, will be included in the reintroduced native vegetation, said project director and Nez Perce Fisheries biologist Katie Frenyea.

The side channels, which vary from about 3 feet to more than 6 feet deep, are designed to be rearing habitat for juvenile steelhead, **Coho salmon and spring Chinook salmon**, Frenyea said.

"The young fish need a place to get out of the faster water in the main river channel and rest. The Wallowa River is almost like a flume here," she said. "The side channels will provide places to eat, be safe from predators, rest, and even provide a place for young fish to over-winter."

The alcoves — deeper pools where the channels and also an irrigation ditch rejoin the river — "... will be heavily vegetated to provide a lot of cover and good rearing opportunities," Frenyea said.

"This project could also help lamprey, if they decide to use it," Nez Perce Fisheries biologist Montana Pagano said.

The NPTF already have reintroduced lamprey into the Wallowa River System, releasing adults at the Wallowa's confluence with the Minam River for at least the past two years.

The quiet water in deeper alcoves would trap fine sediment and provide places for young lamprey to spend up to their first seven years as ammocoetes — larvae that live in soft sediments as filter feeders — before transforming into eel-like fish and migrating to the ocean, she said.

"Potentially, the NPTF lamprey program may consider releasing lamprey directly into this project reach," Pagano said. Today the newly excavated channels look barren. But when the project is completed, the 120 Ponderosa pine and Douglas fir trees that are now stacked at the east end of the project will be secured in the channels to provide both short-term bank stability and fish habitat. Smaller woody debris will be added as additional channels provide hiding cover and quiet waters for juvenile fish.

"It's not a place you'll really "want to use as a swimming hole," Frenyea said. "There will be lots of wood in the channels, especially in the deeper alcoves."

Other logs and smaller debris



The project's engineering design shows channels, tree placements, and other features of the new side channels under construction on the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Homeland Project's Tamkaliks property.

will be placed on the project's higher ground, termed a "roughened floodplain."

The topography and location of woody debris on the floodplain, have been carefully designed by project engineer Jeff Fealko, of Rio Applied Science and Engineering. He also designed the side channels. The larger logs on the floodplain will be partly buried to help anchor them in place, and their orientations will help slow and direct overland flow of any floodwaters. The roughened floodplain will also be the likely place to propagate camas, Frenyea said.

Wetland areas adjacent to the floodplains will be home to native cattails and tule reeds.

The woody debris and large wood placement will occur in the first phase of construction, Fealko said. This summer, during the second phase from July 15-Aug. 15, log structures will be placed at the side channels inlets where they interact with the main Wallowa River. The side channels will be connected to the Wallowa at that time," Fealko, said.

He said that these structures are important, providing near bank cover and inviting fish to explore the slower water and protective habitat within the side channels.

"Boulder clusters placed in the river at channel entries will also help break up the river's flow and help the fish find this new channel," Frenyea said.

Fealko noted that the project will help reconnect the Wallowa River with its flood plain.

"It will allow the groundwater from the base of Tick Hill to interact with the channels, and provide thermal buffering," he said. "And this means that in the winter, the channels will be warmer than the river and in the summer, they'll be cooler, which are both beneficial to juvenile salmonids." The side channels and floodplain are designed so that there is no overall impact on flooding in the Wallowa River, Fealko said.

"We modeled flow for a 100-year flood event (a flood volume that has a 1% chance of happening in any given year) before and after the channels are constructed," he said. "There's no effect on flood-water elevations."

But, he added, allowing Wallowa River floodwaters to cover the project area might help decrease the impact of short-term floods farther downstream.

"This project has been a long time coming," said Angela Bombaci, Homeland Project executive director. "We've done some restoration, including plantings along the former irrigation ditch with the help of volunteers Wylie Frei and Craig McKienney. But this work by the Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries is a huge step toward bringing this place back to its potential as habitat for plants, animals and fish — the Wallowa Homeland grounds are offered as a peaceful refuge for all species, including people."

### Sandy Chapter Board Members OFFICERS

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### **COMMITTEE HEADS**

The project's engineering design shows channels, tree placements, and other features of the new side channels under construction on the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Homeland Project's Tamkaliks property.

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