

Joan M. Dukes  
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Oregon

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

James A. Yost  
Idaho

W. Bill Booth  
Idaho



Rhonda Whiting  
Vice-Chair  
Montana

Bill Bradbury  
Oregon

Tom Karier  
Washington

Phil Rockefeller  
Washington

July 26, 2012

## MEMORANDUM

**TO: Fish Committee Members**

**FROM: Stacy Horton, Washington Policy Analyst/Biologist**

**SUBJECT: A Co-Manager's Update on the Status of the Lake Roosevelt Kokanee – Comprehensive Management Plan.**

Policy representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT), and Spokane Tribe of Indians (STI) will brief the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (Council) Fish Committee on the status of the Lake Roosevelt Kokanee – Comprehensive Management Plan. The co-managers will present a unified perspective on the importance of kokanee within the context of resident fish substitution mitigation for Grand Coulee and Lake Roosevelt. Joe Peone, Director of Fish and Wildlife, Colville Confederated Tribes, B.J. Kieffer, Director, Spokane Tribe of Indians Department of Natural Resources, and Steve Pozzanghera, Regional Director, Eastern Region 1, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will make the presentation.

Staff biologists from WDFW, CCT, and STI are actively working to complete the Lake Roosevelt Kokanee Management Plan, as per Council direction, with a final submittal to the Council prior to the March 2013 deadline. Based on a 2007 review of the kokanee mitigation program on Lake Roosevelt by the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), the management plan covers a comprehensive list of their issues and concerns including fish entrainment, fish species interactions and bio-energetic modeling, system carrying capacity, predation, recreational fishery monitoring, and FDR kokanee aquaculture.

The goal of this presentation is not to address the technical issues or science aspects of the kokanee management plan, but rather, to emphasize our policy agreement as fishery co-managers on the importance of the Lake Roosevelt kokanee mitigation program as an integral part of the larger resident fish substitution program for anadromous fish loss above Grand Coulee Dam. The kokanee production program provides significant cultural and subsistence values for Tribal members, and recreational opportunities for recreational anglers as a whole. As such, funding support for kokanee fishery mitigation on Lake Roosevelt must continue. The funding commitment for the current program, as defined within the recently approved five year program, represents a minimum base funding for the kokanee mitigation program. We look forward to future opportunities to present and discuss the final Lake Roosevelt Kokanee - Comprehensive Management Plan with Council members including discussions on how we can solidify long term funding of the kokanee mitigation program.