

Sockeye salmon restoration



The processing team included Dylan Miller (left), talking with Francis Sorrelhorse, both of tribal BNR Fisheries, plus the PGE and ODFW workers.

This summer the sockeye count at the fish collection facility below the Pelton-Round Butte hydro dams was over 300.

The count was more than three

times higher than last year, said PGE adult fisheries biologist Becky Burchell.

PGE, the tribes and ODFW were collecting the returning sock-

eye at the collection facility located by the re-reg dam.

The fish were tagged and processed, with some receiving a radio tracking device.



Dave McMechan photos



Fish processing facility by the re-reg dam.



Dylan Miller processing a sockeye at the fish station by the re-reg dam.

The sockeye were then transported by truck above the dams, where they were released into the reservoir. Some of these fish will make their way upstream to spawn.

The goal of the program is to establish a sustainable sockeye run above the dams, said Jim Manion, general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises.

The sockeye re-introduction program began after the 2009 completion of the fish tower—or Selective Water Withdrawal Tower—located at the Round Butte dam. The original sockeye run ended with the construction of the dams in the 1960s.

The fish tower creates a current

in the lake that allows some of the juvenile fish to make their way downstream through the reservoir, where they are collected and released below the dams.

Through the program, the first returning adult sockeye showed up in 2011. Since then, some of the returning sockeye were brought to the Round Butte hatchery, while others have been released upstream.

The tracking data shows there has been natural sockeye spawning above the dams, Burchell said.

Since 2005, the tribes and PGE are co-owners, licensees and operators of the Pelton-Round Butte hydro system.



Dave McMechan photos.

Once the fish are tagged and processed they are trucked upstream to a site where they are released into reservoir above the dams (left).

And at far left, an ODFW worker uses a detector to determine if a fish has a tag in its snout. And at middle left top, the biologist inserts a radio tag into a sockeye.

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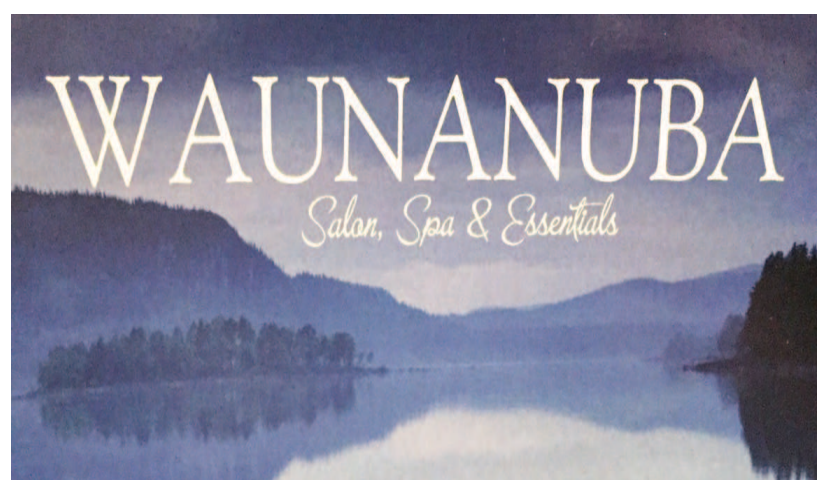
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