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**From:** Osborn, Jeff

**Sent:** Thursday, September 09, 2004 1:04 PM

**To:** Jaspers, Janet; Donabauer, Gary; Campbell, Rob; Carrington, Gregg E.

**Cc:** Hosken, Charlie; Wright, Wayne; Odom, Ed; Lowe, Randy; Gouldin, Darrell; Gray, Jim; Garrison, Dan; Fisher, Steve; Treat, Tom; Truscott, Keith; Yount, Tracy; Seaman, Shaun; Christman, Bill; Chamberlain, Vern; Wiest, Stephen; Lachowicz, Steve; Sollom, Dan; Yow, Gene; Bacon, Suzanne; Carrington, Gregg E.; Ellis, Melody; Hays, Steve; Kreiter, Scott D.; Pomianek, Kris; Smith, Michelle; Sokolowski, Rosana

**Subject:** Chelan River snorkel survey after spill termination

On Saturday, September 4th, Barry Keesee and Andrew Grassell snorkeled up to the first impassable barrier, Pinnacle Falls, in the Chelan River Gorge to determine if any salmon or steelhead were present in the pools that remained once spill concluded. No steelhead were observed. This is very good news, since the Upper Columbia River (UCR) steelhead Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU) is listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). However, the snorkel team did observe approximately 12 adult Chinook salmon, most likely summer Chinook, in the Gorge area above the old Chelan Highway Bridge, primarily, in the large, deep pool below Pinnacle Falls. The fish are located in areas where fish capture and salvage is not possible, based on attempts to rescue fish that had migrated into the same area during spill in October 2003. This portion of the Gorge is extremely rugged, posing a high risk of injury to personnel going into the area. Summer Chinook salmon are not listed under the ESA in the mid-Columbia River area. In fact, sport fishing for summer Chinook salmon has been open in the Columbia River since July 15, and will continue to be open for late-run Chinook salmon through mid-October. Sport harvest is being allowed on these fish due to very large runs occurring this year and the past few years. I have spoken with Shaun Seaman regarding the incident of stranding Chinook in the Gorge, and he and I both agreed that we should send this email to you to provide complete information. Fish stranding will be prevented in the future through implementation of the new Lake Chelan Project license, which includes providing a year-round minimum flow of 80 cfs. This flow level will provide connectivity between pools, allowing fish to swim downstream and return to the Columbia River.

A personal thank you to all the operations people for doing everything possible, short of controlling the weather, to predict spill and reduce the amount and time spill was required at the Chelan Project, thereby minimizing adverse impacts to fishery resources. A special thank you to Barry and Andrew for taking their Saturday to conduct the snorkel work.

**Jeff Osborn**

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