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**Cc:** [Erich Gaedeke](#); [Sokolowski, Rosana](#)  
**Subject:** Chelan River report  
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**Attachments:** [CR cutt 50316.jpg](#)  
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Dear Chelan River Fishery Forum: I have good news and not-so-good news to report to you. The good news is that Westslope cutthroat trout were stocked in the Chelan River yesterday. Approximately 100 fish were released into the pool below the Low Level Outlet and another ~100 released at the end of the Reach 1 trail, the same locations and numbers as in 2015. Please see photos of fish released into the river. Clearly, the WDFW staffs at Chelan and Eastbank hatcheries are doing a very good job of rearing quality fish!

The not-so-good news is that we initiated spill to 9,000 cfs in the Chelan River today shortly after 1:00 pm in order to maintain lake level control. This spill level is higher than any I have seen in the 17+ years that I have worked at Chelan PUD. The forecast is to maintain this spill level for the next 7 to 10 days. The rationale for needing to spill this high volume of water is as follows:

1. The Lake Chelan elevation is currently 1097.42 ft. The June 1 target elevation is 1094.00 feet, and the July 1 target elevation is 1098.00 ft, which is full and we are approaching too rapidly. Maximum allowed lake elevation is 1100.00 feet;
2. Month average temperature for April 2016 was 6 degrees above average;
3. The lake is exceptionally full in 2016 due to record October 1 through May 1 inflows for the 65 year period of record;
4. The April 1, 2016 Final Water Supply forecast for the Lake Chelan drainage basin was 116 percent of average from April 1 through July 31;
5. Snow pack remaining is estimated to be near 87 percent; and
6. The Northwest River Center forecasts above average temperatures, rainstorms today and tomorrow, and high Stehekin River inflows over the next 7 to 10 days.

All of these factors have come together requiring the high spill level at this time in order to keep the lake from filling too much faster, avoiding approaching elevation 1100.00 feet (exceeding 1100.00 feet would be a license violation), and providing a high spill level now in hopes of avoiding having to spill even higher levels at a later date. I will keep you posted as spill levels change.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Jeff

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