Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery

Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery (LNFH) is located in Chelan County, along Icicle Creek, in Central Washington State. LNFH is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). It was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as a fish mitigation facility to offset impacts from the construction and operation of Grand Coulee Dam. The hatchery was constructed in 1940, and was the largest fish hatchery in the world when it was built. LNFH is located approximately 80 miles east of Seattle, and is 2 miles south of a popular tourist town. LNFH, and the impacted area, are important resources for the local community.

A shooting range operated on hatchery grounds from 1946-1999. This operation resulted in accumulation of lead shot and clay targets, that also contained contaminated materials, in an eight acre area. Initial sampling and laboratory analysis of lead in soils at the site was conducted in March 2010 by Reclamation. The study identified areas of lead contamination at concentrations exceeding thresholds for protection of human health and the environment.

A photo of the previously contaminated area during the winter season.

A sleigh ride across the land north of the Hatchery.

ALONG ICICLE CREEK

The site has been used for various visitor events, such as camping, Native American cultural celebrations, access to sport and tribal fishing, and horse drawn sleigh rides during winter months. Also, due to its flatness and proximity to the forest, the area is used as a base camp for firefighters during fire season.
FWS performed further studies, and implemented the remedy, using funding from the Department of the Interior’s (Department) Central Hazardous Materials Fund (CHF). In late August, 2015, FWS began implementation of the removal action at the LNFH. Within 27 days, over 32,000 tons of contaminated soil and debris were removed and more than 400 samples were collected and analyzed to ensure the removal actions met the cleanup goals for the site. The ground was restored to the original grade using clean soil excavated from an on-site borrow pit.

Use of on-site soil was beneficial in both reducing the overall cost of the project by ~$150,000, and starting work on a project to create a kids fishing pond, that LNFW will complete. Native grasses were planted upon completion of the re-grading. The construction and planting were completed on November 9, 2015, and the site will be monitored for erosion until May 2016.

Find out more at: www.fws.gov/leavenworthfisheriescomplex

The CHF is the U.S. Department of the Interior’s (Department) principal source of funds for the cleanup of the most highly contaminated sites located within national parks, national wildlife refuges, and other Department-managed lands.

To date, CHF has provided FWS $2,738,940 for the Site.

To learn more about the CHF, visit: http://www.doi.gov/oepc/hq-teams/eclm-team

A map showing all of the active CHF sites divided by bureaus.