

# Clark Fork Project Newsletter

## Greetings and Goings On



Hi I'm Pat Kelly, the chief operator of Avista's Noxon Rapids Dam, where I have been a part of a team that runs this hydroelectric dam

for 31 years. Trouble-shooting is the most interesting challenge of my job, and when problems arise, I use my knowledge and experience to find the best solution. My extensive knowledge of the dam helps me know how to react. An article in this issue focuses on how spring run-off affects our operations of the dam. I hope you enjoy reading about things I encounter every day.

I enjoy living and working in a community, where people know each other well. I served eight years on the board of the Green Mountain Conservation District. I believe that the best governments and organizations are locally-run, which requires citizens to get involved. Having raised three kids, my wife and I were active in 4-H for many years. As a farmer and an outdoor enthusiast, I want to prevent weeds from displacing native plants and animals and impacting agriculture. I currently work with the Sanders County Weed Board, helping local landowners to address invasive weed issues. People can enjoy getting involved in their community. Small communities like ours depend on volunteers.

- Pat Kelly

## Go Fishing and Catch Cash!

The Lake Pend Oreille Trap and Gill Net and Angler Incentive programs began in 2006 as a result of a declining kokanee population in Lake Pend Oreille. The cooperative effort between Idaho Fish and Game and Avista aims to increase kokanee and bull trout survival by reducing the number of lake and rainbow trout, which prey on kokanee. Kokanee historically provided a very popular fishery and are linked to the success of bull trout and trophy rainbow trout in the lake.

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## Spring Runoff Looking Good

Spring is in the air and it's time to get ready for a stellar season on area waterways. Avista is ramping up our fishery and recreation projects for the year and we're happy to share that this year's above average snowpack is good for both recreation and habitat. As of March, the snowpack was almost double what it was last year and above normal flows are expected for the Clark Fork River.

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## Clark Fork Faces: Meet the People Behind the Clark Fork Project

### Judy Hutchins: Clark Fork-Pend Oreille Conservancy & Management Committee

Judy Hutchins' roots are firmly planted in western Montana, but her wings have taken her around the world. A long-time Heron, Mont. resident, Hutchins has a firm belief in improving her surroundings. She puts her belief into practice by restoring old farms, actively managing a timber stand, and participating in local environmental causes.

Hutchins' involvement in what is now Avista's Clark Fork Management Committee began more than 15 years ago, offering her a chance to play an active role in maintaining the shoreline and associated lands along the Clark Fork Project. "The fresh, clean water and undeveloped shoreline we have here is rare and precious and cannot be taken for granted," said Hutchins.

Hutchins' love of mountaineering has taken her worldwide, giving her a special appreciation for the value of clean water and carefully planned development. She recalls her excitement at being part of what is now Avista's terrestrial resource committee, which works to initiate land-use planning efforts for Avista owned lands along the Clark Fork Project.

She is currently a board member for the Clark Fork - Pend Oreille Conservancy, an organization dedicated to working with local landowners to help preserve their properties' natural and scenic resources. A self-described real estate junkie, Hutchins enjoys working to preserve the rural and rustic character of the Clark Fork River area mainly through conservation easements and purchases by organizations in which she is involved.

"Judy's legacy to our region is her commitment to preserving it," said Avista's Terrestrial Program Manager Nate Hall, "She is vested in the wise stewardship of resources."

## Spring Runoff Looking Good

### Continued

Of course, river flows and lake levels are always subject to the whims of Mother Nature, so if you plan to take advantage of the boating season, make sure you play safe on the water. Boaters need to be extra careful during spring run-off. Hidden dangers such as swirling water, submerged objects and strong currents can turn a good day bad in a hurry. Make sure you obey all posted warning and closure signs and never cross the boat safety cable above the dam.

## As of March, the snowpack was almost double what it was last year and above normal flows are expected for the Clark Fork River.

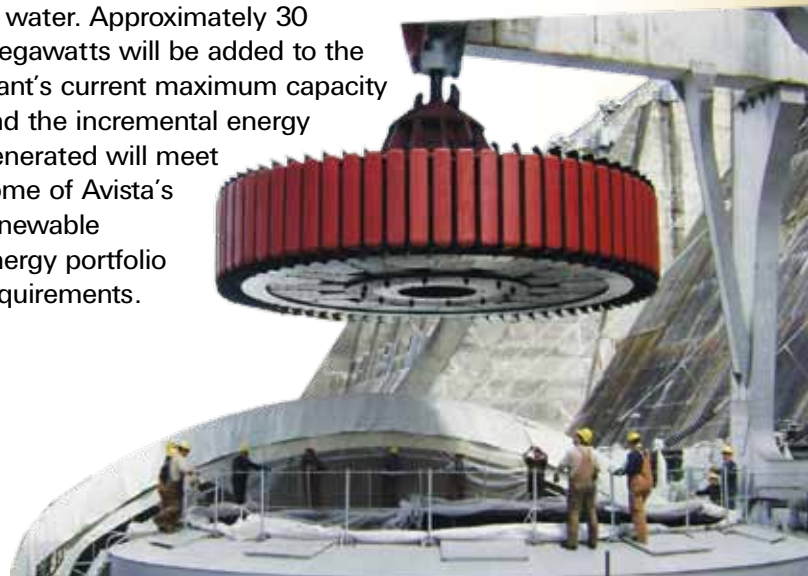
Avista works hard to operate our dams as safely and efficiently as possible. Keep in mind that our operations also sometimes affect water levels in the reservoirs. We do our best to forecast flows and place a high value on protecting natural resources while providing recreation opportunities for the communities we do business in. Enjoy the gifts of your region this spring and stay safe.

## Noxon Upgrades to Finish in 2012

Avista's four-year, \$45 million project to upgrade four out of five generating units at Noxon Rapids Dam, which began in July of 2008, is on track for completion next year.

To date, Avista has completed the upgrade on two units and is nearly finished with the third, which is set to go online in May. This summer, work will begin on the final unit, which should be finished by April of 2012. The improvements include upgrading the generator, installing higher capacity transformers and replacing the original turbine runners in all four units.

When the project is complete, the more efficient turbine runners will generate more power using the same amount of water. Approximately 30 megawatts will be added to the plant's current maximum capacity and the incremental energy generated will meet some of Avista's renewable energy portfolio requirements.



## Go Fishing and Catch Cash!

### Continued

Each year, anglers participate in the program by turning in lake or rainbow trout heads to one of nine different freezer sites. Avista and IDFG fisheries technicians process the heads and a check for \$15 per fish, is sent to the angler along with an educational flier on fish identification. Since 2006, anglers have turned in more than 57,000 lake trout and 32,000 rainbow trout.

### Know your Lake Pend Oreille fish and how to identify them.

#### Key Bull Trout Characteristics

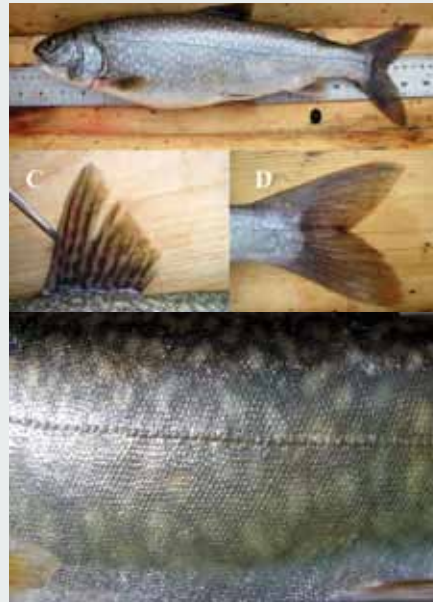
- A. No spotting on the fins
- B. Truncated or slightly fork caudal (tail) fin

Bull trout typically have pinkish colored spotting

#### Key Lake Trout Characteristics

- C. Light spotting may be present on the fins
- D. Deeply forked tail

Lake trout typically have light (whitish), irregular spotting



## Kokanee historically provided a very popular fishery and are linked to the success of bull trout and trophy rainbow trout in the lake.

"The program is a key component of the lake predator reduction program aimed at recovering kokanee" said Rob Ryan, project leader for Idaho. So all of you anglers out there get your fishing rod oiled up and your fillet knife sharpened!



Additional Information regarding the angler incentive program, including fish freezer turn-in sites, is available at [www.fishandgame.idaho.gov/fish/misc/pendoreille\\_cash.cfm](http://www.fishandgame.idaho.gov/fish/misc/pendoreille_cash.cfm)

## Avista in the Community



### Avista Fund to Benefit Area Youth Programs: Applications Due April 29

In January, Avista announced a new investment of \$10,000 in the Montana Community Foundation, adding to the initial \$100,000 investment that established the Avista Fund in 2009. Building on a legacy of community partnership, this year's funding will benefit local youth organizations.

We're pleased to announce that we're now taking applications for grants from this fund, and in May, we'll be awarding grants of \$250-\$500 directly to qualifying youth organizations in and around Sanders County. Applications are due April 29. For application information contact Kristi Meyer at (509) 495-8156.

### Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament to Benefit Sanders County Seniors



Avista's Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held this August 20, 2011 in Thompson Falls. We'll announce details soon, so put your team together now and plan to join us for a day of golfing for a good cause. Last year's tournament raised more than \$7,500 for Cancer Network of Sanders County; this year's tournament will benefit Sanders County Seniors. For more information, call (406) 847-1285.

**If this newsletter was forwarded to you and you'd like to receive it in your own inbox, please email [clarkforknews@avistacorp.com](mailto:clarkforknews@avistacorp.com). To learn more about the Clark Fork Project, visit [www.avistautilities.com/clarkfork](http://www.avistautilities.com/clarkfork).**

## Get Up, Get Out – Recreation on the Clark Fork River

### Boaters – Play Safe!

Avista owns and operates Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids Hydroelectric projects on the Clark Fork River. Besides providing clean hydroelectric power, these dams provide abundant recreational opportunities. Avista wants you to enjoy your spring and summer activities on area reservoirs and waterways. But remember, especially during spring run-off, the waters near a dam can contain hidden dangers. Swirling water, submerged objects, strong currents and open spillgates can pose serious hazards to boaters and swimmers, and sudden discharges of water from spillways and turbines can rapidly increase water levels and river flows.

### To protect yourself when recreating on or along a reservoir or river near a dam, follow these safety tips:

- Obey all posted warning and closure signs.
- Never cross the boat safety cable above a dam. Strong currents could pull you through an open spillgate or into an intake area.
- Be alert for debris, obstructions and partially submerged objects.
- Never fish, swim, play or anchor your boat in the area above or below a dam.
- Look out for overhead cables and power lines when sailing.
- Always wear a lifejacket on the water.

Brought to you by Avista and Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

**Work. Play. Live.**



## See You There – We hope to see you out and about at these community events.

**April 8, 9, 15, 16** – Heron Players perform "Whatever Happened To Baby Bob?" Dinner Theater at 7 p.m. (contact 1.877.328.7659; heronplayers@yahoo.com).

**April 9** – Annual Antler Sports & Gun Show. Lakeside Resort Meeting Room, Trout Creek. (contact John Harris @ 406.827.4458).

**April 14-16** – Annual Thompson Falls Beautification Days. (contact Lori Kaharl @ 406.827.6942).

**April 30-May 1** – Flatiron Guild Quilt Show. Thompson Falls High School Gym. (contact Donna Abrams @ 406.826.1462; FlatironQuiltingGuild@yahoo.com).

**May 8 - September 6** – Old Jail Museum Season. Madison Street & Maiden Lane, Thompson Falls. (contact Sanders County Historical Society @ 406.827.4002; www.SaleeshHouse.org).

**May 21** – Soil, Seeds & Starts. Lincoln St & Maiden Lane, Thompson Falls. (contact Katrina Wright @ 406-827-3559; www.ThompsonFallsMarket.com).

**June 4** – Kids Fish Day, Triangle Pond, Noxon. (contact Kathy Krueger @ 406.847.1285; kathy.krueger@avistacorp.com).

**June 11** – Cabinet Ridge Riders ATV Rally Lakeside Resort & Motel, Trout Creek. (contact Jim Morkert @ 406.827.9305; tf19442@blackfoot.net).

**June 23-26** – Libby Logger Days. J. Neil's Memorial Park, Libby. (contact Hope @ 406.293.1074; info@loggerdays.org).

**June 24 & 25** – Come Along Yard Sale-ing in Sanders County. (contact Diane Laube @ 406. 827.0404; sanderssaleing@gmail.com).

**June 25** – Rose & Perennial Garden Party. Old Jail House Museum, Thompson Falls. (contact 406.827.9851; rosewest@blackfoot.net).

**June 25 - Sept 24** – every Saturday (9 a.m.-12 p.m.) – Thompson Falls Farmers Market. West lot of the Falls Motel, Thompson Falls. (contact Katrina Wright @ 406.827.3559; www.ThompsonFallsMarket.com).



If you would like to submit an event for consideration, please see contact information below.

For more information on the Clark Fork Project, visit [www.avistautilities.com/clarkfork](http://www.avistautilities.com/clarkfork). Have a story idea or event for the newsletter? Call our natural resources office in Noxon at 406-847-1280 or e-mail it to [clarkforknews@avistacorp.com](mailto:clarkforknews@avistacorp.com).

Avista Corp. is an energy company involved in the production, transmission and distribution of energy as well as other energy-related businesses. Avista Utilities is our operating division that provides electric service to 359,000 customers and natural gas to 319,000 customers. Our service territory covers 30,000 square miles in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and parts of southern and eastern Oregon, with a population of 1.5 million. Avista's primary, non-regulated subsidiary is Advantage IQ. Our stock is traded under the ticker symbol "AVA." For more information about Avista, please visit [www.avistacorp.com](http://www.avistacorp.com).

This newsletter contains forward-looking statements regarding the company's current expectations. Forward-looking statements are all statements other than historical facts. Such statements speak only as of the date of the newsletter and are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond the company's control, which could cause actual results to differ materially from the expectations. These risks and uncertainties include, in addition to those discussed herein, all of the factors discussed in the company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended Dec. 31, 2010 and the Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the quarter ended September 30, 2010.