

Clark Fork Project Newsletter

Greetings and Goings On

Welcome! I'm glad you've found the inaugural issue of the Clark Fork Project Newsletter!



I'm Tim Swant, Clark Fork License Manager at Avista. I'd like to personally tell you a little bit about this newsletter as I think you'll find the content valuable.

Our goal is to give you more information about what's going on around the Clark Fork Project.

You and I share something in common. We live and work in this beautiful and abundant area and care about its future. Every day my colleagues at Avista and I work hard to plan for the future of energy while being mindful of the resources we use along the way. You may already know, but Avista owns the Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge hydroelectric dams and associated land and recreational facilities in and around the Clark Fork River. We take our job to be careful stewards of the environment seriously.

This newsletter will allow us to inform you about news and events, and will also introduce you to the people who work every day in this community, to take care of our natural resources and make our projects run smoothly. We look forward to hearing how this publication is working for you.

– Tim Swant

Management Committee

Approves \$6 Million in Work for 2010

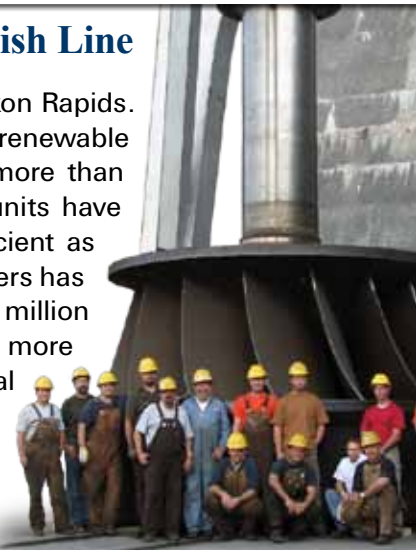
This March individuals representing various state agencies, Avista, and non-profit groups gathered to approve more than \$6 million of natural resource protection and mitigation activities. The group, known as the Clark Fork Management Committee meets at least twice per year to oversee implementation of natural resource projects associated with the Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge dams.

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Noxon Upgrades: Halfway to the Finish Line

As Avista's largest single generation facility, Noxon Rapids Dam is impressive! It's been providing clean, renewable hydropower to residents of the northwest for more than half a century. But over time, the 50-year-old units have suffered wear and tear and they're not as efficient as they once were. New technology in turbine runners has also gotten better, and Avista's four-year, \$45 million project to upgrade the dam will help us generate more power using the same amount of water, for a total of about 30 megawatts added to the plant's current maximum capacity of 556 megawatts.

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Avista crew members in front of the old Unit 1 turbine runner after it had been removed in 2008

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Clark Fork Faces: Meet the people behind the Clark Fork Project

Joe DosSantos: Aquatic Program Leader

11 years with Avista

Joe is no stranger to the Northwest. He's been living his dream building a career in Western Montana since receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in the fish and wildlife field. Joe's background includes work for the state of Montana, and the Salish and Kootenai Tribes, before joining Avista. As the Aquatic Program Leader, Joe oversees a team of 12 full-time Avista employees. Joe helps manage many restoration projects, including the bull trout passage projects and the habitat restoration projects.

Joe and his team work year-round on the bull trout passage projects, which focus on moving both adult and juvenile fish around Avista's dams on the Clark Fork River, so they can properly migrate and spawn. The habitat restoration projects allow Avista to collaborate with many partners, including water councils, conservation districts, state agencies, and others to help protect and restore natural habitats surrounding the dams and increase the fish population.

Joe enjoys working with his Avista co-workers and outside partners and agencies. "I enjoy addressing the challenges to our fish populations and trying to do our best to preserve, protect and enhance them," Joe said. "There are many pressures when you talk about fish, the physical habitat, water quality, effects of increasing urbanization, and more, which makes working in natural resources difficult. But I enjoy the challenge."

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Management Committee Approves \$6 Million in Work for 2010

2010 projects include improvements to a dozen recreation facilities, exotic fish species suppression on Lake Pend Oreille, and stream restoration efforts. The committee also approved fish passage recommendations presented by the U.S. fish and Wildlife Service and Avista. The recommendations provide a framework for developing permanent fish passage structures at both Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids dams.

Geographically, all of the projects span an area from Thompson Falls, Montana to tributaries of Lake Pend Oreille, Idaho. Members of the Management Committee, many of whom have worked together for more than ten years, strive to achieve consensus decisions as they direct funding and work efforts to identified needs.



Above: Members of the Clark Fork Management Committee tour the Noxon Rapids Dam in 2008

The Clark Fork Project: A Living License

When stakeholders to the Clark Fork Project began meeting in the mid-1990s in anticipation of a new federal license for Avista's Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Rapids dams, they brought a variety of perspectives and interests to the table. Representatives of federal and state agencies addressed issues such as water quality, endangers species, and fish passage. Other stakeholders represented local non-profits, and Tribal representatives were concerned with the area's cultural resources.

After several years of negotiation, on Jan. 1, 1999, 27 parties signed the Clark Fork Settlement Agreement, an unprecedented act that settled issues in advance and laid the groundwork for putting the new license to work. The architects of this "living license" pioneered the concept of letting changing conditions and lessons learned along the way drive activities related to the natural resources along the Clark Fork River; more than ten years later, the group, now known as the Clark Fork Management Committee, continues its mission.

Continued...

Noxon Upgrades: Halfway to the Finish Line

In the summer of 2008 we began the daunting task of major upgrades to Units 1-4. In July, we removed Unit 1's turbine runner. Due to the age of the copper wire in the generator stator winding and the new turbine's increased capacity, Avista replaced the generator core and winding to handle the increased energy. This took several months, and in April 2009, we installed the massive new 65-ton Francis turbine runner and brought Unit 1 back online.

“Avista’s four-year, \$45 million project to upgrade the dam will help us generate more power using the same amount of water.”

Each year, a similar process will take place. Last fall we removed Unit 3 and we completed the upgrade this spring. The new turbine went back online June 11. This July, we'll begin the same work on Unit 2, and we'll finish up with Unit 4 in 2011-2012.



Workers rewind the stator of Unit 1 with new copper wire.

Noxon Timeline:

1959: First three units at Noxon went online

1960: Fourth unit added at Noxon

1977: Fifth unit added at Noxon, providing a total of 554 megawatts of power at the dam

2008: Avista begins upgrading Noxon Rapids. Unit 5 generator frame, core and winding are replaced.



Photo courtesy of Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks

In Case you Missed it...

What were you doing May 2, 2009?

Darin Williams remembers because it was on that day he caught an 8.8 pound largemouth bass on the Noxon Rapids Reservoir to break a Montana State record. Williams, of Pinehurst, Idaho, caught the fish during a bass fishing tournament. The fish was released after weigh-in.

The previous state record was an 8.29 pound bass caught in 1999.

Join us for a great day of golf, lunch, cash prizes and more at Avista's Second Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Saturday, August 21 at 10 a.m. at Rivers Bend Golf Course in Thompson Falls. All proceeds from the four-person scramble will benefit Cancer Network of Sanders County. For registration 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. To learn more about the Clark Fork Project, visit www.avistautilities.com/clarkfork

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

Boaters and Anglers – Play Safe!

For more than 50 years, Avista has owned and operated the Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge dams on the Clark Fork River. Besides generating clean, renewable hydropower, these dams provide abundant recreational opportunities.

Avista wants you to enjoy your spring and summer activities on area reservoirs and waterways, and a little extra care will help keep our waters a healthy habitat that will provide years of summer recreation.

Whirling disease, New Zealand mud snails, Eurasian water milfoil, quagga, and zebra mussels are destructive, aggressive species looking for a ride to a new lake, river or stream. Invaders like these can harm fish and wildlife habitat and are easily spread from one body of water to another.

It's illegal to transport invasive species and it only takes one mistake to infest a new area. Remember to:

- **Remove** all sediment and vegetation from boats, trailers and fishing gear when moving between waters. Don't forget to clean the soles of your waders!
- **Wash** and dry all boats, trailers and fishing gear thoroughly between trips.
- **Disinfect** gear (especially waders and livewells) if you have been in an area containing nuisance species.
- **Stop** at every boat check station in your area.

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.

June 26 - Sept 24, Every Saturday – Thompson Falls Market 2010, West Lot of the Falls Motel, Thompson Falls, Montana (contact Katrina Wright 406.827.3559)

June 25 & 26th – Sanders County Yard Sale/Event. (contact Bruce and Diane Laube 406.827.0404)

July 4 – Various Celebrations in Noxon, Herron and Thompson Falls, Montana

July 17 – Chicken Jamboree, PPL Park, Thompson Falls, Montana (contact Don Burrell 406.827.4723)

July 24 – Thompson Falls Market Pet Fest, West Lot of the Falls Motel, Thompson Falls, Montana (contact Katrina Wright 406.827.3559)

August 7 – Pig In the Park, Noxon Centennial Park, Noxon, Montana (contact Betty Hoag 406.847.2362)

August 6-8 – Blues Festival, Pilgrim Creek Park, Noxon, Montana (contact Rick Gould 406.847-7463)

August 11 – Idaho Bicycle Tour Night, Ainsworth Field and PPL Park, Thompson Falls, Montana (contact Earl Grief 208.342.8787)

August 13-15 – Huckleberry Festival, Trout Creek Montana (contact Liz Citrino 406.827.5077)

August 20-21 – The Big Blowup 1910 Fire Centennial, Thompson Falls and Trout Creek, Montana (contact Sanders Historical Society 406.827.4002)

August 21 – Second Annual Avista Charity Golf Tournament – 4 person scramble to benefit Cancer Network of Sanders County 10 a.m. Rivers Band Golf Course, Thompson Falls, Montana (contact Kathy Krueger @ 406.847.1285)

September 1-6 – Sanders County Fair, Rodeo and Demolition Derby, Sanders County Fairgrounds, Plains, Montana (contact 406.826.3202)

September 11 – Trout Creek Cool Summer Nights Car Show, Lakeside Resort & Motel, Trout Creek, Montana (contact 406.827.4458)

September 28-29 – Clark Fork Management Committee meeting, Emergency Services Bldg. Noxon, Montana (Contact Kathy Krueger 406.847.1285)



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

For more information on the Clark Fork Project, visit www.avistautilities.com/clarkfork. Have a story idea or event for the newsletter? Call our national resources office in Noxon: (406) 847-1280 or email it to 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 356,000 customers and natural gas to 316,000 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.

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