



5/05/26

**2026 CTUIR Emergency Tributary Regulations for
Spring/Summer Chinook Fisheries**

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Code of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the FWC has the authority to establish regulations for Umatilla ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial fisheries. Pursuant to that authority, the FWC adopted the following regulations: Any person, who is a CTUIR tribal member that exercises off-reservation treaty rights shall have in his or her possession a CTUIR tribal identification card. Non-CTUIR tribal members are prohibited from engaging in fishing rights with CTUIR tribal members established by these regulations.

Stream	Adult Projections		Treaty Harvest		Open/Closed Fishery Dates
	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	
Catherine Creek	293	161	6	2	May 6, 2026
Granite Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	May 6, 2026
Imnaha River	834	475	54*	17*	May 6, 2026
Lookingglass Creek	750	129	223*	10*	May 6, 2026
NF John Day River	ERS = <1,250		N/A	20	May 6, 2026
Minam River	N/A	392	N/A	16*	May 6, 2026
Tucannon River	273	126	6	1	May 6, 2026
Umatilla River	ERS = >2,000		275		May 6, 2026
Upper Grande Ronde	300	28	6	0	May 6, 2026
Wallowa/Lostine Rivers	536	534	27*	22*	May 6, 2026
Walla Walla River	ERS = <1,000		NA		May 6, 2026
Wenaha River	N/A	308	N/A	11*	May 6, 2026
Yakima River	ERS = 2,300		Adequate returns to support a fishery.		May 6, 2026

*Harvest shared with Nez Perce Tribe

Acronyms:

ERS = Expected Run Size, which includes both hatchery and natural origin adult projections;

TBD = To Be Determined;

N/A = Not Applicable.

Notes:

Fishing for ESA-listed bull trout & Pacific Lamprey shall be closed on all listed streams at this time except for Pacific Lamprey on the Umatilla River from April 24 through June 30. Fishing for rainbow, mountain whitefish and all other resident fish year around is permitted under permanent regulation.

In season run information:

The harvest allocation is based on pre-season forecasts and the FWC may adjust the harvest target as additional in-season information becomes available to meet management objectives. Investigation of additional harvest opportunities in NE OR/SE WA will continue throughout the season.

Currently, tributary returns are expected to be similar 2025, which was below the 10-year average. This places an increased emphasis on broodstock, and escapement needs for our future runs.

CATHERINE CREEK FISHERY

Spring Chinook adult returns to Catherine Creek in 2026 are expected to be about 161 natural and 293 hatchery fish. A fish harvest target of 2 natural fish and 6 hatchery fish has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Jacks can be kept and will not be included in this harvest target. The fishery will occur immediately below the weir (see description below) where broodstock are taken, fish are passed above, and many are taken to lower Lookingglass Creek to augment the fishery there.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in a 1.5-mile reach of Catherine Creek starting from the highway 203 bridge at the east edge of Union upstream below the weir/adult trap. The Catherine Creek fishery will occur seven days per week and continue until the harvest target has been met or until further notice. A fish harvest monitor will confirm hatchery and wild fish catch composition. The catch of hatchery fish will be limited by the harvest of natural fish and fishers will be notified when the natural harvest quota has been met. This area is all privately owned land and fishers are asked to access at the top and bottom boundaries and at a mid-way turnout where the stream is near the road.

GRANITE CREEK FISHERY

SEASON & LOCATIONS: Granite Creek (Granite Creek tributary CLEAR CREEK SHALL BE CLOSED) will have a limit of 5 fish. The Granite Creek fishery will occur seven days per week and continue until the harvest target has been met or until further notice. The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in Granite Creek from the mouth upstream to the mouth of Clear Creek near the town of Granite.

IMNAHA RIVER FISHERY

Spring Chinook returns to the Imnaha River in 2026 are expected to be about 475 natural and 834 hatchery fish. Tribal fish harvest target of 17 natural and 54 hatchery fish have been set by the FWC. A joint CTUIR/NPT fishery will occur this year and the fish harvest targets are the total available fish for both tribes. The FWC may adjust the harvest target as additional in-season information becomes available.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in the Imnaha River from the mouth up approximately 55 miles to below the fish weir near the mouth of Gumboot Creek. Primary spawning areas above the fish weir will remain closed to spring Chinook fishing. The Imnaha River fishery will occur seven days per week and continue until the harvest target has been met or until further notice.

LOOKINGGLASS CREEK FISHERY

Spring Chinook returns destined to Lookingglass Creek (from CTUIR supplementation effort and adult outplants from Catherine Creek to lower Lookingglass Creek) are expected to allow for broodstock and spawning escapement needs. Lookingglass Creek natural and hatchery origin fish are being considered as composite population for harvest management at this time. Spring Chinook adult returns to Lookingglass Creek in 2026 are expected to be about 129 natural and 750 hatchery fish. A shared harvest target of 10 natural fish and 223 hatchery fish has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission as part of a joint CTUIR/NPT fishery. Jacks can be kept and will not be included in this harvest target. This will create an opportunity for a fishery in lower Lookingglass Creek in 2026.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The fishery will occur below Lookingglass Hatchery Pump House temporary weir down to the Highway Bridge just above the mouth of Lookingglass Creek (about two stream miles). There shall be no trespass/walking on/fishing from hatchery facilities such as fish ladder, fish weir, screw traps, etc. The Lookingglass Creek fishery will occur seven days per week and continue until the harvest target has been met or until further notice. There will a sign posted near the upper boundary of the fishery in Lookingglass Creek.

NORTH FORK JOHN DAY FISHERY

The John Day River supports the largest naturally producing spring Chinook run in NE Oregon. The North Fork John Day supports the majority of this production. In order to exercise treaty fishing rights while allowing for continued population rebuilding, the John Day River Spring Chinook harvest targets are based on a “not to exceed 5%” of a conservatively estimated adult return. Based on this, a tribal fish harvest target of 20 fish has been set by the FWC.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in the mainstem North Fork John Day River with on opening seven days per week and continue until harvest target has been reached or until further notice. All other tributaries in the John Day Basin are CLOSED to spring Chinook fishing. *This closure includes tributaries; Bull Run Creek, the Middle Fork John Day River and upper mainstem John Day River.*

TUCANNON RIVER

Spring Chinook returns to the Tucannon River in 2026 are expected to be about 126 natural and 273 hatchery fish. A joint CTUIR/NPT tribal fishery will occur below the hatchery.

SEASON: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in a 12.5-mile reach of the Tucannon River starting from Marengo upstream to some distance below the weir/adult trap at the Tucannon Hatchery. The Tucannon River fishery will occur starting on May 6 and continue until the harvest target has been met or until further notice. A fish harvest target of 6 natural fish and 1 hatchery fish has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The fish harvest targets are the total available fish for both tribes. Jacks can be kept and will not be included in this harvest quota. A fish harvest monitor will confirm hatchery and wild fish catch composition. The catch of hatchery fish will be limited by the harvest of natural fish and fishers will be notified when the natural harvest quota has been met.

MINAM RIVER FISHERY

Spring Chinook returns to the Minam River in 2026 are expected to be about 392 natural adult spring/summer Chinook. A fish harvest target of 16 natural fish has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. A joint CTUIR/NPT tribal fishery will occur this year.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in the Minam River starting from the mouth (confluence with Wallowa River) to approximately 2.5 miles upstream. The Minam River will occur seven days per week and will continue until the harvest target has been reached or until further notice.

UMATILLA RIVER FISHERY

RUN STATUS: In-season adult returns to Threemile Dam are expected to exceed 2,000 adults. The five year average is approximately 2,030 adult spring Chinook. About 610 fish will again be taken for broodstock at Threemile Dam facility and transported to the South Fork Walla Walla facility for holding and spawning.

SEASON: Open to spring Chinook season starting on April 24, 2026 and continues until the harvest target of 275 fish is met or until further notice.

LOCATION: Umatilla River and tributaries above the Hwy 30 bridge at Umatilla, except for natural production sanctuary areas above the reservation. Sanctuary areas closed to fishing are: 1) the upper mainstem Umatilla River and its tributaries above the upper reservation boundary (above mouth of Ryan Creek); and; 2) Meacham Creek and tributaries above the paved county road bridge about 1/2 mile up Meacham Creek from its mouth. *NOTE:* Above sanctuary areas are to protect salmon in the basins primary spawning habitat. Also, 200 foot area (markers posted) above and below the outlet of the Imaques-C-Mem-lni-Kem fish facility and all irrigation diversions dams/ladders will be closed to fishing.

UPPER GRANDE RONDE RIVER FISHERY

Spring Chinook adult returns to Upper Grande Ronde River in 2026 are expected to be about 28 natural and 300 hatchery fish. A fish harvest target of 0 natural fish and 6 hatchery fish have been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Jacks can be kept and will not be included in this harvest target. Although the overall return is large and justifies a tribal fishery it will be short based on a small natural harvest target.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in a 14-mile reach of the upper Grande Ronde River starting at the mouth of Meadow Creek (near Starkey) upstream to the bridge approximately ¼ mile below Vey Meadow (near USFS boundary). The Upper Grande Ronde River fishery will occur seven days per week and continue until harvest target has been reached or until further notice.

WALLOWA/LOSTINE RIVER FISHERY

Spring Chinook returns to the Wallowa/Lostine River in 2026 are expected to be about 534 natural and 536 hatchery fish. Tribal fish harvest target of 22 natural and 27 hatchery fish have been set by the FWC. A joint CTUIR/NPT fishery will occur this year and the fish harvest targets are the total available for both tribes. The FWC may adjust the harvest target as additional in-season information becomes available.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by the CTUIR tribal members will occur in the Wallowa River from its confluence with the Minam River upstream to the confluence with the Lostine River; then a 0.75 mile reach from the mouth of the Lostine River upstream to below the weir/adult trap. Primary spawning areas above the fish weir will remain CLOSED to spring/summer Chinook fishing. The Wallowa/Lostine fishery will occur in seven days per week and will continue until the harvest target has been met or until further notice.

WENAH RIVER FISHERY

Spring Chinook returns to the Wenaha River in 2026 are expected to be about 308 natural adult spring/summer Chinook. A fish harvest target of 11 natural fish has been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. A joint CTUIR/NPT tribal fishery will occur this year.

SEASON & LOCATIONS: The area open to fishing by CTUIR tribal members will occur in the Wenaha River starting from the mouth (confluence with Grande Ronde River) to approximately 2.5 miles upstream.

YAKIMA RIVER FISHERY

SEASON AND LOCATIONS: Yakima River from Prosser Dam downstream to west and south shores of Bateman Island. Fishing is allowed from noon Tuesdays through 6 pm Saturdays weekly through June 30, 2026. The expected run size for the Yakima River is 2,300 for 2026.

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS: It shall be unlawful to place fishing platforms, or to take, molest, injure, or fish for salmon and steelhead within 25 feet of any fish ladder, fishway, or fish bypass pipes associated with irrigation canal fish screening structures.

WALLA WALLA RIVER FISHERY

SEASON AND LOCATIONS: Spring Chinook returns to the Walla Walla River (Nursery Bride Fishway/Trap) will be monitored to assess in-season harvest target. The interim guidelines for the Walla Walla River have a harvest target of 25 fish at an expected run size of 1,000 adults returning to Nursery Bridge Dam. The five-year average is approximately 395 adult spring Chinook passing above Nursery Bridge Fishway. Interim management guidelines call for returns to exceed 1,000 adults at the Nursery Bridge Fishway/Trap. Fishery updates will include estimates of adult spring Chinook reaching Nursery Bridge Dam to determine management objectives.

SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS: It shall be unlawful to place fishing platforms, or to take, molest, injure, or fish for salmon and steelhead within 25 feet of any fish ladder, fishway, or fish bypass pipes associated with irrigation canal fish screening structures.

NON-INDIAN TROUT FISHING CLOSURE ON UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION:

Non-Indian trout fishing in the Umatilla River and tributaries on the Umatilla Indian Reservation - except McKay Creek system - is CLOSED through September 15, 2026 to provide increased protection to spring Chinook.

FOR SAFETY CONCERNS: It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take fish from within 25 feet above or below fishways (e.g. adult fish ladders at Threemile Dam, Cold Springs Dam, and Westland Dam, Lookingglass Creek, Imtwaha Fish Hatchery, etc.). There shall be no trespassing/walking on/fishing from dam and/or hatchery facilities such as fish ladder, fish weir, screw traps, etc.

VALUE OF HARVEST DATA:

Information on the tribal spring Chinook harvest and ability and success of spring Chinook to remain and spawn in these rivers are important to the Tribe. Tribal harvest monitors will be out monitoring catch and obtaining other biological data. The Fish and Wildlife Commission requests that tribal fishers cooperate with call-in catch reporting and in the field with tribal harvest monitors regarding catch information tagged/clipped fish, etc. This information will help provide a database

which fishery managers can utilize for the enhancement of the ceded area populations. Also, the harvest monitor has the permission of the Fish and Wildlife Commission to notify tribal fishers when a specific target has been met. In this case, fishing in that stream would be closed immediately and a public notice would be posted the next work day. In addition, post-season interviews will be conducted following in summer/early fall; specific to Northeast Oregon tributary harvest. CTUIR tribal fishers are required to report spring/summer Chinook harvest in U&A areas.

LANDOWNER PERMISSION:

Fishers are entitled to river access throughout the open river corridors but will need to first inquire with local landowners if private driveway or field access is desired. Any trespass issues resulting from lack of landowner coordination may impact future access opportunities. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Contacts/questions:

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(541) 429 – 7552 Jerimiah Bonifer, Fisheries Program Manager or;
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FWC COMMISSION APPROVAL ON 5/6/26:



FWC Chair



FWC Member