

# Dave Graybill

## The Fishin' Magician

Nickel Ads  
Nickel Saver  
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I have been away most of the week, spending time with my wife Eileen before I get very busy. This is when I really crank it up on the actual fishing end of things, and I start my new position as Fish and Wildlife commissioner with meetings at the end of the week. I am really excited about both prospects.

I really have to thank Eileen for grabbing me by the ear and getting me in the truck for a few days of exploring the coast of Washington and Oregon. It was a real breath of fresh air and change of pace that I am truly thankful for. We had a wonderful time poking around and eating way too much good seafood. I also got an up close and personal look at the growing number of sea lions that are pouring up the Columbia River. There must have been a couple thousand on the docks near Astoria.

I know I missed some great fishing while I was away and the new Kingfisher should be rigged and ready for the water. I am torn between putting it on the water at Lake Chelan for kokanee fishing or heading down to Potholes Reservoir for some of the great walleye fishing that's already started there. I could go to Lake Roosevelt or Banks Lake, too. The kokanee and trout fishing at Lake Roosevelt should be great right now and I am hearing of improved walleye fishing at Banks. The smallmouth should be waking up there soon, too, with the warmer spring we've experienced. There are just a lot of good options in the region now.

There's good news for those who like fishing the Columbia River for walleye and sturgeon this time of year. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reopened two boat launches and



nearly 20 miles of shoreline above the Wanapum reservoir to public use, as water levels have been resorted to normal levels. Sunland Estates and Yo Yo Rock boat ramps near Vantage were among dozens of recreational sites closed to public access over the past year after Grant County PUD lowered water levels 26 feet to repair a fractured spillway at Wanapum Dam. Since stabilizing the dam, the utility has been raising water levels and restoring public access to areas of the 37-mile-long reservoir since January. Only now, however, has the water risen high enough to open the shoreline farther north in the Quilomene area to the public. "Grant County PUD deserves a lot of credit for meeting deadlines and working in cooperation with everyone involved in this project," said Jim Brown, WDFW regional director for Northcentral Washington. "They said water levels would be high enough for us to reopen our facilities by

April 1st, and the utility has followed through on that commitment." Brown also noted that WDFW made major improvements to the Sunland Estates and Yo Yo boat launches while water levels were low, installing new armor matting at the end of those ramps to provide a smooth launch surface.

There's a big event coming up this weekend. It is the first \$50,000 Manson Fishing Derby. Fishing for rainbow trout has been getting better and better on Lake Chelan and the Manson Business Association has created a derby to show that off. There will be cash awarded for the biggest trout caught, and the entrant that is drawn will be able to guess the weight of that fish. If they guess the pre-selected fractional weight they will win the \$50,000! You can register right up to the day of the derby for this one. Learn all about it at [moretomanson.com](http://moretomanson.com).

The very next weekend there's another derby on Lake Chelan. It's the Something Catchy Kokanee Derby on April 18th and 19th. There will be big money given away for biggest fish and most boat weight and other categories. There will be a drivers meeting and free seminar the night prior to the derby featuring Gary Morales and Sam Baird to give anglers some tips on catching kokanee. The seminar and mandatory drivers meeting will be at Sportsmen's Warehouse in East Wenatchee and will begin at 6:30 p.m. For more information contact Jason Williams at (509)885-6920. You can get more details by logging onto [www.somethingcatchy.org](http://www.somethingcatchy.org). Derby tickets are available at Hooked on Toys in Wenatchee, and Sportsmen's

Warehouse in East Wenatchee.

Also on April 18th is the annual Rock Island Free Kids Fishing Day at the Pit Pond. This event has been going on for about 15 years and is supported by the community in Rock Island. Volunteers show up early to serve hot coffee and donuts and later on grill hot dogs for the whole crowd. The Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association is always on hand to make sure that every kid gets a chance to fish. They have loaner rods and all the tackle and bait it takes to catch a trout in this pond. I want to remind everyone that this is a Juvenile Pond and only kids under the age of 15 may fish here. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife makes sure that there are plenty of fresh and hungry rainbow in the pond for the event, and they told me that they have some real whoppers saved up to add to the fun this year.

Also, mark your calendars for the third annual Banks Lake Triple Fish Challenge coming up on April 25th and 26th. Catch a smallmouth, rainbow and walleye each day of the two-day derby and you will win some great prizes. For all the details on this really fun derby go to [www.grandcouleedam.org](http://www.grandcouleedam.org).

My week is packed with meetings, but I am not complaining. I am very much looking forward to meeting the other Fish and Wildlife commissioners, the director, staff, and the public that will attend the meetings. I have done my "homework" and I'm ready to go!

Reach Dave at:  
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## TRIPLE FISH Challenge!



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