**PUD’s reuse system helps Eastbank and Chelan use 70 percent less water**

**By CHRISTINE PRATT**

**World staff writer**

The non-profit institute develops and validates technologies that bring about sustainable water use. Vinci was one of the class instructors and was an early consultant on water reuse at PUD hatcheries. At Eastbank, the technology employs two 30-foot raceways, approximately 6-foot deep tanks with bottoms that slope to their deepest point at a center drain. Water flowing into the tanks creates a gentle current that helps fish move through the water. The system makes cleaning fish waste from the tanks only slightly more time consuming than flushing a toilet. The water stays cleaner, meaning it can be reused when mixed with only about 30 percent fresh water.

**“The PUD had someone who took a risk and what happened here has become the tipping point for a change in technology,” Brian Vinci, director of engineering services for the Freshwater Institute, said Wednesday.**

The water efficiency is important at Eastbank, where most of it is taken from the same aquifer that supplies drinking water to the greater Wenatchee area. Vinci said the PUD has begun work with the freshwater institute to develop some of the modifications that have worked in the non-profits hatcheries. The Institute develops and validates technologies that bring about sustainable water use.

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**“I think this is the way we have to go,” said Vinci. “That look at California, which is having its worst drought in 50 years.”**

Vinci says the Portland-based Bonneville Power Administration is also taking a very close look. Ornish’s focus is on clean and efficient operations, which are on a larger scale, but without the reuse feature, at its hatchery in Chelan Falls.

**“No matter what you think of hatcheries, making them more efficient is a good thing,” Vinci said. “All these people are here because of this.”**

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**Corrections**

Shawn Lee McKee obituary

A sister, Jenna Quinn, was added to an obituary on page A1. We also corrected a date in the obituary of Shawn Lee McKee. A corrected obituary appears on page A1 today.