



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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BIA provides \$3.89 M for CCT Reforestation

Nespelem, WA—The Colville Business Council sends a letter of gratitude to the Department of the Interior (DOI) and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for providing \$3,899,148.00 to the Colville Confederated Tribes for reforestation after the catastrophic 2015 wildfire season. The Department provided the funding in response to letters from both the Tribes and Senator Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), who secured a commitment from Secretary Zinke to work with the Tribes on the reforestation issue earlier this year.

“Our Forestry Management and Natural Resources Division works tirelessly to keep our forests healthy” said Chairman Dr. Michael E. Marchand. “Our communities were deeply affected by these wildfires. This funding will go directly toward our resources, land and traditional stabilization of a healthy forest and that includes many different kinds of trees, huckleberries and jobs for the men and women who are stewards to this land.”

“The Tribes have been diligently working to replant the forest,” echoed Colville Business Council representative Jack Ferguson. “We began seeking reforestation money from the Department before the 2015 fires were contained. We were disappointed that the Department’s leadership didn’t prioritize our requests in 2015 and 2016, but we now have reason to believe that Department’s leadership understands the severity of the problem,” said Ferguson.

Replanting and restoration of the Colville Reservation forest will be a multi-year undertaking, Marchand said, and added that additional funding will be needed in the coming fiscal years.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,521 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The tribes, commonly known by English and French names, are: the Colville, the Nespelem, the San Poil, the Lake, the Palus, the Wenatchi (Wenatchee), the Chelan, the Entiat, the Methow, the southern Okanogan, the Moses Columbia and the Nez Perce of Chief Joseph’s Bands.