



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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COLVILLE TRIBES RECEIVE “TREATMENT AS STATE” DESIGNATION FROM EPA

(Nespelem, WA)--- The Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation today welcomed the decision of the Environmental Protection Agency to approve a “Treatment as a State” (TAS) designation for the Tribes, giving Colville full authority over the implementing water quality standards and certification programs on the reservation.

“The EPA today has formally recognized the Colville Tribes’ right to protect and preserve its waters on our reservation,” Chairman Dr. Michael E. Marchand said. “With this ‘Treatment as a State’ designation, the Tribes will develop and enforce its own standards for the long-term conservation and improved quality of this precious natural resource.”

Under the TAS designation, the Colville Tribes, instead of Washington State or a county, will create and control its own water quality standards for the reservation. In early 2014 the Tribes submitted its application for TAS status under sections 303 and 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA). The Tribes and the EPA have been working continuously since that time to complete this process. With the TAS designation, the Tribes will be develop its own water quality standards which will go through another approval process by EPA.

The Tribes understands the vital role of clean and plentiful water to support healthy and productive soils, vegetation and animal life throughout the reservation as well as for the health of aquatic life in its rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. Fisheries in waters on and around the Colville Reservation are dependent upon clean water, and fish are crucial to the Tribal members for cultural, subsistence, economic, and recreational purposes. It is important to ensure that such a vital resource is properly protected.

“We appreciate the years of hard work by the staff of the Tribes’ Office of Environmental Trust to achieve this designation,” Marchand said. “We will continue to promote and expand Tribal jurisdiction over the lands and waters in our territories, and to protect all the natural resources which have sustained our people since Time Immemorial.”

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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 Arrow Lakes, 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.