



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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For Immediate Release

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Colville Tribes Air Quality Program, EPA, and DOE working toward cleaner air in Okanogan County

Nespelem, WA - The Colville Tribes Office of Environmental Trust (ET) Air Quality Program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Department of Ecology (DOE) have been closely monitoring air quality issues in the central valley of Okanogan County. This combined effort is to improve the air quality and promoting healthier communities within Okanogan County.

The Air Quality Program is authorized to issue burn bans on the Colville Indian Reservation when levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentrations become elevated. Increased PM2.5 levels are unhealthy for sensitive groups (members of sensitive group may experience health effects but the general public is not likely to be affected). The communities most affected by the higher concentration levels are Omak and Okanogan.

“There are alternatives to burning” Air Quality Program Manager, Kris Ray said today. “We recommend other alternatives to backyard burning for example: composting, chipping or taking yard debris to the landfill.” The Okanogan County Landfill is located at 240 B&O Road North, Okanogan, WA, (509) 422-2602.

The Air Quality Program is promoting the “City of Omak and Okanogan Fall Cleanup Day” on November 5th, 2016.

An informational Fact Sheet on Backyard Burning can be found on the Colville Tribes website: http://www.colvilletribes.com/backyard_burning_fact_sheet_2016.php

Contact information:

Tribal Burn Permits: Mt Tolman Fire Center (509) 634-3100

Emergencies: Tribal Police (509) 634-2482 or 911

Burn Bans: Office of Environmental Trust Air Quality (509) 634-2418

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