



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Local Tribal Film Inspires Columbia River Action

Local Film, Author and Organization make strong case for the Columbia River and Salmon

Nespelem, Wa.—Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and the Upper Columbian United Tribes (UCUT) will co-host the screening of a new film, United By Water, that documents the inspiring journey of local tribal communities to Kettle Falls, the fishing site of their ancestors, for the first time in 80 years. It is a film about reconnecting with tribal traditions and with the river that once was so integral to their way of life.

“Our tribal histories and cultural practices are inextricably bound to our waters, the source of our very survival as Indian people. This film speaks the truth about our unbreakable bond: we have always been connected to our river and to each other through our river. These waters have nourished and sustained not just the tribes along its banks, but tribes from afar who traded for our salmon and share our spiritual connection to the river. United by Water is a beautiful and significant film that makes these connections clear and describes how traveling this water is a sacred tradition,” said Dr. Michael E. Marchand today.

WHAT: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation premier of new film, United by Water

WHO: Hosted by Colville Business Council and the Upper Columbia United Tribes

WHEN: January 10, 2017, 12:30-2:00pm

WHERE: The Lucy Covington Government Center, Nespelem, WA 99155

TICKET PRICE: Free to the public.

ABOUT THE FILM:

United by Water has received national attention already with several film festivals accepting the film into their events even before its premier. Directed by Derrick LaMere, this film follows the first tribal canoe journey and gathering at Kettle Falls since the Ceremony of Tears in 1940. The film, narrated by famed author Sherman Alexie, documents this inspiring journey in 2016—

building the canoes, the physical and spiritual journey on the Columbia River, and finally the historic landing at Kettle Falls.

This timely film highlights the need to recognize the importance of reconnecting to the Columbia River and restoring historic salmon runs. Not only does the film bring attention to the historic wrongs that blocked salmon from the Upper Columbia River, but it shares the current efforts by UCUT and other personal tribal stories of bringing forward tribal traditions to help better understand what is lacking in our contemporary society. We need to forge a deeper connection to the waters that bring life to our communities.

ABOUT UCUT:

The Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) strives to address these issues in its work on the Columbia River on behalf of the five tribes it represents: the Spokane Tribe, the Kalispel Tribe, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, the Coeur D'Alene Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. The UCUT continues to lead the way on the study of salmon reintroduction past the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams and into the Canadian waters where millions of salmon returned to spawn.

A healthier Columbia River replete with strong salmon runs will benefit all people in the region and UCUT looks forward to finding partners to accomplish this goal. It is One River that is shared by many people, nations and wildlife.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,520 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.