



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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\$3.95 Million Invested in Antoine Valley Ranch Habitat Conservation

(Nespelem, WA) — The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation announces that the State of Washington’s Department of Ecology has selected the Antoine Valley Ranch Phase 2 project for \$3.95 million in funding. These funds will facilitate the Tribes’ acquisition of approximately 1,222.46 acres of land and 978 acre-feet of water that will be permanently dedicated to the protection of aquatic life in Antoine Creek and the Okanogan River. This habitat includes upper Columbia summer steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The funding is part of the Department of Ecology’s 2022 Streamflow Restoration Competitive Grant Program funding round. The money will come to the Colville Tribes and their project partners the Western Rivers Conservancy and Trout Unlimited. Including Phase 1 of the project, Ecology has committed more than \$8.14 million in total to restore and protect the Ranch and its aquatic and terrestrial habitats, which in total include more than 2,500 acres of land and water rights.

Colville Business Council Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson said today, “The Antoine Valley Ranch is located on the North Half of the original Colville Indian Reservation and includes four former Indian allotments. The Tribes are excited to return this property to Tribal ownership. The Tribes and our Fish and Wildlife program will work diligently to conserve this habitat for the benefit of fish, wildlife and future generations of people.”

Chairman Erickson continued, “We are grateful to the Washington Department of Ecology, and in particular to Mary Verner and Ecology’s Streamflow Restoration and Water Resources staff, for their commitment and funding. We are also grateful to our partners Western Rivers Conservancy and Trout Unlimited who have worked with us for over a decade to make this important conservation project happen.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,322 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The twelve tribes which compose the Confederated

Tribes of the Colville Reservation include: ščəlámxəx^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰ^wyǰilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátk^wəx^w (grass in the water) or Entiat; snǰáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx^w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqin (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənpǰ^wilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and š npəšq^wáwsəx^w (people in between) or Wenatchi.