



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

**For Immediate Release
October 23, 2023**

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Colville Tribes Endorses Patrick DePoe for Commissioner of Public Lands

(Nespelem, WA) – The Colville Business Council voted last Thursday to endorse Makah Tribal Member Patrick DePoe for Commissioner of Public Lands, a statewide elected office currently held by Hilary Franz. DePoe presently serves as the Director of Tribal Relations for Commissioner Franz and Washington State’s Department of Natural Resources. Commissioner Franz has also endorsed DePoe for the position.

“Patrick is a friend of the Colville Tribes,” said Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson. “As a former tribal council member, he brings knowledge of responsible resource management to the position. He understands rural and urban climate challenges and, he has the potential to lead an agency facing extreme weather and wildfires, restoring endangered salmon stocks, and balancing the demands of recreation while protecting our environment.”

The Colville Indian Reservation, totaling more than 1.4 million acres, has had nearly half of the Reservation burned in the past seven years. Six hundred and sixty thousand acres of the approximate nine hundred and twenty thousand acres of forested land are managed for sustainable timber production. With similar natural resource and forest management goals, tribes and Washington State have many opportunities to work as co-managers to achieve these goals.

“The Colville Tribes relies heavily on timber harvest to maintain current funding levels for essential government services and natural resource restoration projects,” said Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson. “Patrick understands our needs and can help us maintain the future of the Tribes’ resources. That is why we are endorsing him as the candidate for Commissioner of Public Lands.

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,234 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: ščəlám̓xəx̓w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; s̓x̓w̓y̓l̓il̓p (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; š̓nt̓iyát̓k̓w̓əx̓w (grass in the water) or Entiat; sn̓s̓áyekst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətx̓w̓u (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; š̓kwáx̓čənəx̓w (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; sənp̓s̓w̓ilx̓ (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and š̓np̓əš̓q̓w̓áw̓səx̓w (people in between) or Wenatchi.