



## PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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### **Colville Tribes Submits Fee-to-Trust Application for Tribal Land in Pasco, WA**

**Nespelem, WA**—The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation has formally submitted its application for the fee-to-trust transfer of tribal property in Pasco, WA, an initial step in the Tribes’ plan to open a casino on its land there.

The application was submitted to Bryan Mercier, Regional Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Portland, OR. The application and supporting information were developed over the past year by the Tribes’ attorneys and staff, who have been working on this project since late 2019. Submission of the application begins a 16-step federal process for the transfer of off-reservation tribal fee property to trust status. Because the land is intended for a gaming facility, additional processes are also required by the BIA and the Department of the Interior.

“We’re pleased to announce this important milestone in our efforts to enhance economic development for the Colville Tribes,” Colville Business Council Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson said today. “We’re confident that a new, state-of-the-art gaming enterprise on Colville land in Pasco will provide additional resources to our tribal government to provide much-needed services to our tribal membership. The project will also bring new jobs to the Pasco area and increase tourism to the region. This will be a win-win for the Tribes and the Tri-Cities area.”

“The process of gaining approval for the fee-to-trust process will require significant time, effort, and coordination with Department staff”, Erickson said, “but we are confident of a positive outcome.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,283 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: ščə́lámxə́w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǎ́wʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntíyátkʷə́xw (grass in the water) or Entiat; snʕáyekst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mə́txʷu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxcənə́xw (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaqín (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; sənpʕíwílx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpə́šqʷáwəsə́xw (people in between) or Wenatchi.