



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Colville Tribes Supports Superfund Listing for the Upper Columbia River

(Nespelem, WA) – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that it is proposing to add the Upper Columbia River to the Superfund National Priorities List. The Superfund list is a regulatory vehicle which is designed to allow the federal government to better restore areas impacted by pollution.

EPA’s announcement today launches a formal period for public comment, which begins on March 7 and ends May 6, 2024. A final decision on listing could be made as soon as September 2024. For how to submit comments, visit [Current NPL Updates: New Proposed NPL Sites and New NPL Sites](#). For more information on background and ongoing studies on the Upper Columbia River site, visit the [Upper Columbia River Study Area website](#).

The Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Jarred-Michael Erickson, said, “The Colville Tribes supports Superfund listing for the Upper Columbia River. Among other benefits, a listing unlocks badly needed funding for environmental restoration. The Columbia River is a truly invaluable asset for the Colville Tribes and this entire region and must be treated as such. A restoration of the river is decades overdue.”

Chairman Erickson continued, “EPA has reached out to partner with the Colville Tribes on this vitally important matter and Colville appreciates that effort. The Tribes wishes to thank everyone involved in the Biden Administration, and particularly EPA Region 10 Director Casey Sixkiller, for the progress they are making toward the day when all can enjoy a rejuvenated Columbia River.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,231 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: ščəlám̓xəx^w (deep water) or Chelan; walwáma (Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; s̓x̓w̓y̓ʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šnt̓iyátk^wx^w (grass in the water) or Entiat; sn̓áyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; m̓ətx^wu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəx^w (people living on the bank) or Moses-Columbia; nspilm (prairie) or Nespelem; uknaq̓in (seeing over the top) or Okanogan; palúšpam (people from Palouse) or Palus; s̓ənp̓ʔw̓ilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnp̓əšq^wáwsəx^w (people in between) or Wenatchi.