



## PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

*Media Contact:*

Cody Desautel

[cody.desautel@colvilletribes.com](mailto:cody.desautel@colvilletribes.com)

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### **Colville Tribes Takes Action to Protect Water Rights**

**(Nespelem, WA)**---The Chairman of the Colville Business Council said today that the Colville Tribes has been carefully considering available options to protect its water rights, and has determined to take “pro-active steps to assure that the Tribes’ waters are available for Tribal uses.” Thus, the Tribes submitted its request to the Washington Department of Ecology for the commencement of a general stream adjudication of the Columbia and Okanogan Rivers and other waters on and off the Colville Reservation to determine the Tribes’ water rights.

“The Colville Tribes has a longstanding productive working relationship with the Department of Ecology,” Cawston said. “Over the years we have had an effective partnership on a number of matters related to natural resources. The Tribes looks forward to working with Ecology, the federal government, and our neighbors to determine the Tribes’ water rights and bring certainty to water use and availability in the region.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,514 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.