



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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Presidential Memorandum Establishes and Funds a Columbia Basin Fish Restoration Policy

(Nespelem, WA) — On September 27, 2023, President Biden signed a Presidential Memorandum to officially establish a federal policy to restore healthy and abundant Columbia River salmon, steelhead and other native fish populations. All federal departments are mandated to take actions and seek funding to restore the native fish runs that defined these waters since time immemorial.

The Presidential Memorandum additionally notes commitments of federal funding to enhance fish species, habitat restoration and hatchery operations. Specifically, the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Fish Hatchery Maintenance Program awarded the Colville Tribes more than \$3.4 million dollars to maintain, enhance and upgrade the Tribes' hatcheries. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also committed more than \$2.4 million to advance the removal of Enloe Dam, which is being led by the Colville Tribes.

This action by President Biden builds on the historic signing last week of an agreement between the federal government and the Colville Tribes, Spokane Tribe of Indians and Coeur d'Alene Tribe in which the United States committed to support and fund reintroduction of salmon into the blocked areas of the Upper Columbia. The Phase 2 Implementation Plan (P2IP) included \$200 million over the next 20 years to fund tribally led, science-driven studies.

The Chairman of the Colville Confederated Tribes, Jarred-Michael Erickson, said, "This has been an extraordinary time for the future of salmon in the Upper Columbia. Starting with the signing of the P2IP on September 21, 2023, federal actions and funding commitments have marked a notable and positive turning point in the U.S. government's trust responsibility to aid in restoring the Upper Columbia River, including its native fish. These federal actions confirm the great work being accomplished by the Colville Tribes' Fish and Wildlife Department."

Chairman Erickson continued, "80 years ago, tribes gathered at Kettle Falls for a Ceremony of Tears to mark the loss of salmon in the Upper Columbia. The tide may now finally be changing. We look forward to a day when salmon and other native fish are

once again thriving in the waters where they have always belonged, and we may take our children to a Ceremony of Joy.”

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,237 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; sǰwýʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátk^{wəx} (grass in the water) or Entiat; snʔáyckst (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; sənpʔwílx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšq^{wáwsəx} (people in between) or Wenatchi.