



## PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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### **The Grand Opening of the Nespelem Softball/Baseball Field**

**(Nespelem, WA)** — The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation invites the public to attend the Grand Opening of the Nespelem Softball/Baseball Field on September 16, 2022 beginning at 1:00 p.m.. Fun events are planned, and additional details about the celebration will be shared in the near future.

The field is Little League and standard high school softball size. It is multi-purpose and can be used for sports such as soccer or flag football. It features synthetic turf and a large scoreboard. The turf will allow for minimal maintenance and year-round usage.

The grant that kick-started the project was \$350,000 from the State of Washington's Recreation Conservation Office. The Colville Tribes also spent funds, particularly to upgrade the scoreboard and for the synthetic turf.

The Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation participated through the Tribes' partnership with the Boys and Girls Club. The Foundation was launched by Cal Ripken, Jr., Billy Ripken, and their late mother Vi in memory of their father and long-time coach. The Foundation specializes in helping communities all over the country build sports fields. Their initial goal was to build 50 fields, and they have now built 111 fields. This will be the first field built on tribal land. The Foundation also donated \$100,000 to the effort.

Colville Business Council Chairman Jarred-Michael Erickson said today, "We are very pleased to bring a softball field back to Nespelem, and to make it better than before. Facilities like this, which are fun and also promote health and fitness, are important parts of any community. Our youth and elders alike will be able to enjoy this project for many years to come."

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About the Colville Tribes:

Today, more than 9,340 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<sup>w</sup> (deep water) or Chelan; wal̓wáma

(Wallowa people) or Chief Joseph Band of Nez Perce; sǰʷyʔilp (sharp pointed trees) or Colville; šntiyátkʷəxʷ (grass in the water) or Entiat; snʔáyckst (speckled fish) or Lakes; mətʰu (blunt hills around a valley) or Methow; škwáxčənəxʷ (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; sənpʰilx (grey mist as far as one can see) or San Poil, and šnpəšqʷáwsəxʷ (people in between) or Wenatchi.