



# The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Colville Business Council  
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Brad Pettinger, Chair  
Pacific Fishery Management Council  
7700 NE Ambassador Place, Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon 97220-1384

April 11, 2025

*Re: Pacific Fisheries Management Council Meeting April 2025, Tribal Report for Item D.5.*

Dear Mr. Pettinger and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council,

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation ("Colville Tribes") is a confederacy of twelve (12) tribes whose traditional and aboriginal territory covers much of eastern Washington, extending from northeast Oregon to southern British Columbia, as shown in Attachment 1. The 12 Colville Tribes include the Okanogan, Lakes, Sanpoil, Nespelem, Colville, Methow, Chelan, Entiat, Wenatchi, Palus, Moses-Columbia, and Chief Joseph Nez Perce. We have lived with and cared for the land, the water and the fish since time immemorial. Since Euro-American settlement, there have been many impacts to the fish habitat in our traditional territories, and the effects on our Tribes have been immense.

In recent decades the Colville Tribes have engaged with the State of Washington, the Federal Government, and other stakeholders such as the Mid-Columbia Public Utility Districts to work diligently through the salmon restoration processes to improve essential fish habitat for Chinook and many other fish species in our traditional territories. Vast improvements have been made in habitat quality and many small barriers have been removed to increase habitat quantity in these areas, and there is still much more work to do.

In 2023, the United States government signed a historic agreement with the Colville, Spokane and Coeur d' Alene tribes to investigate the feasibility of salmon reintroduction upstream of Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee and 3 Spokane River dams. Those dams block thousands of miles of historic salmon habitat which were essential to the fish and the people that relied on the fish for their livelihood and subsistence. Trap and transport efforts were already underway before the United States government officially committed to the project, but with federal support the efforts have increased and we are diligently planning a major fish collection and transport facility in the tailrace of Chief Joseph Dam.

We are happy to see that the Council and National Marine Fisheries Service are considering an update to the Essential Fish Habitat areas within your Fish Management Plan and we recommend that you do move forward with the 'scoping and work plan' and the 'call for information and data'. The Colville Tribes and our salmon restoration partners in the Upper Columbia will have information to contribute to this effort and we encourage the Council staff to work with our technical staff to ensure the use of the best available science in this effort.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Cindy Marchand*

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Cindy Marchand, Chairperson of Fisheries and Natural Resources Committees  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Attachment 1.

