



COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE
850 "A" STREET
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PLUMMER, IDAHO 83851
(208) 686-1800 FAX (208) 686-1182

RE: Wells Hatchery Partnership

September 16, 2022

Douglas County Public Utility District Commissioners
Douglas County Public Utility District
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

RE: Partnership Support with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and the Upper Columbia
United Tribes

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe ("Tribe") I write to express thanks for Douglas County PUD's ("DPUD") continued support for reintroduction efforts in the Upper Columbia. From the turn of the 20th century, the Tribe has been pursuing the reestablishment of anadromous fish back into our homelands. These fish were extirpated due to the construction and expansion of hydroelectric development throughout the upper Columbia River watershed, which has resulted in the systematic decline of our culture, along with a basin-wide decline in ecosystem health and function. The impacts from the loss of these salmon runs are felt not only in the upper Columbia River but have created a ripple effect throughout the entire Pacific Northwest and Pacific Ocean ecosystems, including an ongoing decline in health to all of the communities that reside within.

Over the last decade, efforts and support to reintroduce anadromy back into the upper Columbia basin have expanded. Local, regional and federal managers have recognized the benefits from these efforts would spread throughout the entire region, including to all Pacific Northwest tribes. Along with that, partnerships have been established between federal and state action agencies, tribes, county governments, and public utility districts. One such partnership in particular that is instrumental the reintroduction effort is the one between DPUD via Wells Hatchery and the tribes of the Upper Columbia United Tribes ("UCUT"), of which the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is a member.

Wells Hatchery and their staff have repeatedly identified excess space and water outside of their Habitat Conservation Plan ("HCP") hatchery obligations to hold surplus adult salmon before being transferred to the upper Columbia watershed for cultural releases. These releases have provided an immeasurable benefit to the Tribe, and we hope to continue to work with Wells Hatchery into the future to continue this effort. More recently, Wells Hatchery staff have identified space within their facility to support rearing of 160,000 juvenile summer chinook provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The availability of these juvenile salmon is essential to the Tribe's effort. These fish will provide timely data necessary to support anadromous fish reintroduction back into the upper Columbia basin, and back to the Tribe's homeland. It is our understanding that rearing of these fish will also be done without impacting DPUD's operations and obligations under the HCP.

The Tribe believes the most effective and efficient way to proceed with the action is to do so under the existing Facility Use Agreement between DPUD and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

("CTCR"). The Tribe will work with CTCR and the Spokane Tribe to provide compensation that will cover the cost entirely of rearing these fish under the aforementioned agreement. Moving forward on this agreement is critical to our reintroduction efforts.

On behalf of the Tribe, I would like to express my appreciation to DPUD and the staff at Wells Hatchery for providing this opportunity. Support from agencies like DPUD will continue to go a long way in moving this important endeavor forward. One of which will provide long-lasting benefits to the entire region and all communities that reside within.

For questions and clarifications, please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or to the Tribe's Anadromous Project Lead, Thomas Biladeau (thomas.biladeau@cdatribe-nsn.gov or 208-686-6307). We are happy to provide whatever resources we can to continue this collaborative effort.

Sincerely,



Gene "Heme" James
Secretary, Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council
Coeur d'Alene Tribe

CC: Gary Ivory, DPUD General Manager
Shane Bickford, DPUD Assistant Manager

Guy Norman
Council Chair
315 W Mill Plain Blvd,
Suite 202
Vancouver, WA 98660



KC Golden
Council Member
315 W Mill Plain Blvd,
Suite 202
Vancouver, WA 98660

September 16, 2022

Gary Ivory
Douglas PUD General Manager
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

Dear Gary,

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 2014/2020 Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program includes a measure to study the potential for reintroduction of anadromous fish above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams in the reaches and tributaries of the United States. The Council is pursuing a science-based, phased approach to investigate, evaluate, and design an approach to determine how best to proceed with this effort.

The adaptive management required to implement and investigate a phased approach relies on the availability of fish for testing. The Washington members of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council understand that Douglas County Public Utility District is considering rearing fish to assist with studies required for a regional assessment of reintroduction. We further understand the Habitat Conservation Plan Hatchery Committee has evaluated the technical merits of providing these fish and there is no risk to the Habitat Conservation Plan program. We offer our support for your efforts to provide fish that are essential to testing the path forward.

Your efforts to benefit fish and wildlife are important. We look forward to working together as partners to create successful mitigation programs for the region. Any questions can be directed to Stacy Horton at shorton@nwcouncil.org.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Guy Norman".

Guy Norman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "KC Golden".

KC Golden



Spokane Tribe of Indians Department of Natural Resources

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September 16, 2022

Douglas County Public Utility District Commissioners
Douglas County Public Utility District
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

RE: Ongoing Partnerships with Upper Columbia Tribes

Dear Douglas County Public Utility District Commissioners:

Over the past several years an unexpected partnership has grown between the Spokane Tribe, other member tribes of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (“UCUT”), and the Douglas County Public Utilities District (“PUD”). Particularly with the PUD’s Wells Hatchery and staff. The Tribes have been pursuing the development of fish passage at Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, and Spokane River dams in order to reintroduce anadromous fish to our waters and our people. Until recently, friends and allies in these efforts were few. The DPUD and Wells Hatchery staff have been an exception to this trend and have supported the Tribes’ work for a number of years.

Since 2020 Wells Hatchery has made accommodations to collect and quarantine live surplus adult Chinook for transport to the Tribe’s waters. These salmon have been used for cultural and educational releases; rekindling tribal traditions, informing staff research, and raised awareness of the opportunities our region poses for salmon and steelhead. Several weeks ago, this partnership culminated in a multi-tribal release of 146 summer Chinook to the Spokane River in the City of Spokane. These are the first anadromous fish to swim in that section of the Spokane River since 1909. This release was made part of the American Fisheries Society national conference and the fish drew hundreds of people to the river to witness it. The significance and sentiment of this act cannot be put into words, and Tribe is glad DPUD staff were there to see it.

The upper Columbia Tribes will continue these cultural and educational releases and are beginning the formal reintroduction research described in our Phase 2 Implementation Plan. DPUD’s continued support will be critical to this next stage. Our staff are working diligently to ensure the studies are sound and that we have the resources to conduct them. This includes receiving 160,000 summer Chinook eggs from brood year 2022 and the PIT tags needed to monitor these fish. The Tribes are currently working on developing rearing facilities to raise future generations of salmon, but this takes time and there is an immediate need now. Wells Hatchery staff recognized this need. After internal consideration and analysis, Wells staff concluded the hatchery has the space and water to incubate and rear these summer Chinook on behalf of the Tribes until they can take possession of them in the fall of 2023. And this can be accomplished without interfering with DPUD’s Habitat Conservation Plan obligations or other programs within their facility.

In the Tribe's opinion, the most efficient way to formalize the rearing of our 160,000 summer Chinook is to include it into the Facility Use Agreement between DPUD and our partners, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. As CTCR has long-standing relationships with DPUD, the Spokane, and Coeur d'Alene Tribes, technical and administrative coordination is expected to be relatively seamless.

The Spokane Tribe and all upper Columbia Tribes know that fish passage and reintroduction is necessary for the tribes to heal. We also know that reintroduction will provide benefits to the ecosystem, salmon and steelhead populations, and the people of the Columbia River Basin, especially the upper Columbia. The Tribe thanks DPUD for its early recognition of the importance and benefits of these reintroduction efforts. First by facilitating our cultural and educational releases of adult Chinook. And now by supporting our Phase 2 research through rearing Chinook on our behalf until we have the means to do so ourselves.

Douglas County's support of the Tribes and our work has been exceptionally meaningful. It has taken more than 80 years to reconnect salmon with our people and our waters, and we could not have done it without the partnership of Douglas County PUD. Thank you.

If DPUD needs any assistance or has questions about the need for a Facility Use Agreement please do not hesitate to reach out. Conor Giorgi, the Tribe's Anadromous Program Manager is the point person for the Tribe, and he can be reached at (Conor.Giorgi@SpokaneTribe.com or 509-244-7031).

Sincerely,



Carol Evans
Chairwoman, Spokane Tribal Business Council
Spokane Tribe of Indians

CC: Gary Ivory, DPUD General Manager
Shane Bickford, DPUD Assistant Manager



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September 21, 2022

Douglas County Public Utility District Commissioners
Douglas County Public Utility District
1151 Valley Mall Parkway
East Wenatchee, WA 98802

RE: Supporting the Upper Columbia United Tribes' Efforts to Reintroduce Salmon into the Blocked Habitats of the Upper Columbia

Dear Douglas County Public Utility District Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) to express support and appreciation of Douglas PUD rearing 160,000 summer Chinook for UCUT's efforts to reintroduce salmon into the blocked habitats of the upper Columbia. The UCUT organization and its member tribes have been pursuing the development of fish passage at Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, and Spokane River dams to reintroduce anadromous fish to the tribes' waters and people. Douglas PUD and Wells Hatchery staff have been partners in this work for several years and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Each year since 2020, Douglas PUD has collected and held adult Chinook at Wells Hatchery so that the UCUT tribes may transport them alive for cultural and educational releases and to allow the fish to remain in quarantine while awaiting fish health screening results prior to release.

In addition to the tribes' cultural and educational releases, the UCUT organization and its member tribes are beginning the formal reintroduction research described in our Phase 2 Implementation Plan. To ensure the studies are sound and that we have the appropriate resources to conduct them, we will be receiving 160,000 summer Chinook eggs from brood year 2022. Staff at Wells Hatchery have indicated that they have the hatchery space and water to incubate and rear these summer Chinook on behalf of the tribes until they can take possession of them in the fall of 2023. The UCUT organization and its member tribes are excited that Douglas PUD has the space and water to rear these fish for reintroduction research without risking their obligations for the Habitat Conservation Plan.

This is a tremendous opportunity that is appreciated. This effort by Douglas PUD will help UCUT meet the timelines described in the Phase 2 Implementation Plan and use hard-earned resources we have accumulated to date.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. My contact information is dr@ucut-nsn.org and my phone number is 509.954.7631.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DR Michel", with a stylized flourish at the end.

DR Michel
Executive Director, UCUT