



25 W. Main, Suite 434
Spokane, WA 99201
t 509.838.1057
f 509.209.2421
ucut.org

Re: City of Spokane Resolution 2014-0070

August 1, 2014

Dear President Stuckart and the Spokane City Council:

The Upper Columbia United Tribes thanks you for your endorsement of efforts to re-introduce anadromous fish above Grand Coulee Dam including habitats that lie within the City of Spokane (City Council Resolution 2014-0070, July 7, 2014). The natural and cultural resources above Grand Coulee Dam have been the most impacted and least mitigated of any area in the Columbia River Basin.

When Grand Coulee Dam and later, Chief Joseph Dam were constructed for electricity production, water supply, irrigation, and flood control, they blocked the migration of the icons of the Pacific Northwest – salmon and lamprey. The tribes never surrendered to the loss of this major component of their culture, and now the technologies exist along with the political and legal mechanisms to pursue reintroduction of these icons to the Upper Columbia Region.

The Upper Columbia United Tribes are comprised of the Coeur d'Alene, Colville, Kalispel, Kootenai, and Spokane tribes. United, these five tribes have influenced the other U.S. Columbia River Basin tribes, First Nations in Canada, and federal and state agencies, to establish and promote a sensible and comprehensive approach to reintroduce salmon above Grand Coulee Dam and throughout the Upper Columbia Region.

The UCUT thanks the Spokane City Council for recognizing that the time is now ripe to mitigate these losses in-kind and in-place. The UCUT encourages you to please contact us with any questions, suggestions, or concerns that you may have regarding this issue. Additionally, we encourage all of you to sign and support the Declaration on Ethics & Modernizing the Columbia River Treaty which is available at http://www.waterplanet.ws/pdf/Ethics-Treaty_Declaration.pdf.

Please contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

D.R. Michel, Executive Director
dr@ucut-nsn.org (509-954-7631)