



# News Release

## Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

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### **CTUIR Department of Natural Resources names new Fisheries Program Manager**

Mission, OR – The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced that DNR Fisheries Biologist Jerimiah Bonifer has been hired as the DNR Fisheries Program Manager, effective April 17.

In announcing the development, DNR Director Eric Quaempts said “Jerimiah has 15 years of dedicated and progressive work history with CTUIR DNR Fisheries, and takes seriously the DNR’s responsibility to serve the CTUIR community. Jerimiah’s hard work, dedication to Fisheries resources, and perseverance have guided him throughout his career, and I look forward to his energy and continued success as the DNR Fisheries Program Manager.”

Bonifer is a member of the CTUIR, where he is also an active tribal hunter and fisherman. He received a Bachelor of Science in Fisheries and Wildlife Science and a Master’s Certificate in Fisheries Management from, both from Oregon State University. Bonifer has spent his time within the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Program primarily monitoring salmon and steelhead populations through various methods. He also participates in a variety of collaborative working groups involving local, state, federal, and tribal entities.

As the Fisheries Program Manager, Bonifer will lead the program’s efforts around harvest, monitoring, habitat acquisition and restoration projects, as well as overseeing fish propagation and rearing facilities throughout the CTUIR’s extensive areas of rights and interest in the Columbia River Basin. He will be responsible for managing a CTUIR DNR Fisheries Program annual budget of about \$27 million and its approximately 75 full time employees, who work to uphold the program’s mission of providing “sustainable harvest opportunities for aquatic species of the first food order by protecting, conserving, and restoring native aquatic populations and their habitats.”

Having grown up fishing on the Umatilla River and its tributaries, Bonifer said “I’m fortunate to be in a career field I wanted my whole life. I have a family history tied to the lands of the CTUIR, where my family and I have hunted, fished and gathered First Foods for generations.”

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation is comprised of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes, formed under the Treaty of 1855 at the Walla Walla Valley, 12 Stat. 945. In 1949, the Tribes adopted a constitutional form of government to protect, preserve and enhance the reserved treaty rights guaranteed under federal law.

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