

For immediate release:

December 14, 2023

Media contacts:

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Star Diavolikis | star_diavolikis@yakama.com | 509.830.6698

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Travis Snell | travissnell@ctuir.org | 541.429.7394

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Brent Hall | brent@bhhall.com | 541.215.0404

Nez Perce Tribe

Kayeloni Scott | kayelonis@nezperce.org | 208.790.1815

Oregon Governor Tina Kotek

Elisabeth Shepard | elisabeth.shepard@oregon.gov | 503.881.4370

Washington Governor Jay Inslee

Mike Faulk | media@gov.wa.gov | 360.902.4136

**Six Sovereigns and Biden Administration Partner in Historic Fashion to Find Solutions
that Benefit Salmon and the Pacific Northwest**

Today, the Biden Administration announced its commitment to partnering with the Six Sovereigns¹ on actions that address the urgency of the salmon, climate, energy, and Tribal justice crises facing the Columbia River Basin.

The Six Sovereigns worked in a historic, collaborative manner to develop a comprehensive package of actions- the Columbia Basin Restoration Initiative (CBRI)- to address these crises, and now welcome the Biden Administration's commitments, in response to the CBRI. This is an integral step in our collective work to prevent salmon extinction and restore their population to healthy and abundant levels.

The Administration's commitments outline the critical steps we will be taking together to address an extinction crisis among salmonids throughout the Columbia River Basin. More than just avoiding extinction, today's announcement marks a renewed obligation to restoring salmon to healthy and abundant levels, while addressing the services provided by the Federal Columbia River Power System and creating a roadmap for the region to meet growing electricity demand with new, clean energy resources.

The Six Sovereigns' CBRI provides a path to solutions that consider all affected parties that rely on the Columbia River, while building on a foundation of sound science and – like [Governor Inslee and Senator Murray's report](#) and recommendations, and Congressman Simpson's Initiative

– advancing actions that solve for salmon, climate, and Tribal injustice while also building a stronger, more resilient Northwest.

The Six Sovereigns appreciate the Biden Administration for acknowledging the needs of the salmon and the communities that depend on them. With today’s announcement, the Administration is embracing the United States’ treaty and trust obligations to Tribal nations, while also considering all other interests- energy consumers, irrigators, fishers, recreationalists, and farmers, to name a few.

As we look ahead, the Six Sovereigns are optimistic about the ongoing partnership with the Biden Administration to advance and implement the urgent, actionable elements set forth in these commitments.

1. The Six Sovereigns include the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Nez Perce Tribe, State of Oregon, and State of Washington.

[White House Fact Sheet](#)