



Confederated Tribes and Bands  
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the  
Treaty of June 9, 1855

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April 29, 2013

Bob Zeigler  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
600 Capitol Way N - Olympia, Washington 98501-1091

**Re: Beaver Related Maintenance Proposal**

Mr. Zeigler:

The Yakama Nation Department of Natural Resources appreciates the opportunity to comment on WDFW's proposal regarding beaver related maintenance on WDFW lands. The proposal allows the WDFW to conduct beaver related maintenance of drainage facilities, primarily clearing of dams materials from road culverts, on WDFW wildlife areas. Devices like "beaver deceivers" may be also installed to reduce the need for such maintenance in the future.

We express an interest in all WDFW activities that occur within the Ceded Lands of the Yakama Nation, the legal rights to which were established by the Treaty of 1855, between the Yakama Nation and the United States Government.

Although the proposal does not specifically state that any beavers would be removed from any WDFW properties, there may be cases where permanent removal is the best alternative. If beaver removal does occur on WDFW lands within Yakama Ceded Lands, the Nation would appreciate the opportunity to relocate the beavers into the Closed Area of the reservation. As you may be aware we have had a program that relocates problem beavers from the Yakima Valley as the need arises into the Closed Area where beaver populations are reduced. The biologist in charge of this project is Mark Nuetzmann and can be reached at 509-865-5121 or through email at [mnuetzmann@yakama.com](mailto:mnuetzmann@yakama.com).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

Sincerely,

Philip Rigdon  
Deputy Director  
Department of Natural Resources  
Yakama Nation