

## Summary Sheet

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**Meeting dates:** 13 June 2020

**Agenda item:** Tribal Fish Co-Manager Presentation

**Presenter(s):** Phil Rigdon, DNR Superintendent Yakama Nation, Mike Livingston, WDFW Region 3 Director

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**Background summary:**

Yakama Nation and WDFW have worked together for years on fish recovery in the Columbia Basin. YN's Fish Management Program focuses on supplementation using modern, scientifically driven rearing techniques and habitat restoration. As co-managers YN and WDFW have many examples of working together to restore salmon and steelhead. One of the earliest examples of our partnership is the Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Project organized under an MOU in 1994. Since the signing of that document, tremendous strides have been made in bringing back chinook, steelhead, Coho and sockeye. The YN's Fish Program has grown to over 200 employees and they work throughout the Columbia Basin spanning WDFW's Regions 2, 3, and 5. The most recent example of WDFW's partnering with the YN, is the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan. YN, WDFW and NOAA fisheries are working within the Integrated Plan Workgroup to address instream flow needs, fish passage at the 5 five reservoirs in the Basin, modernization of irrigation infrastructure that contributes to juvenile fish mortality and habitat restoration throughout Yakima River and its tributaries. The restoration of sockeye salmon into Lake Cle Elum is highlight of YN's recent efforts to return a species important to both the tribe and non-tribal public. A public sockeye fishery in Columbia River at the mouth of the Yakima has started to develop and we anticipate someday having a new sockeye fishery in Lake Cle Elum as a result of the tribe's work.

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**Staff recommendation:**

This briefing was requested through a blue sheet by Commissioner Graybill.

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**Policy issue(s) and expected outcome:**

Increase the Commission's awareness of the important work Yakama Nation is doing to restore salmon and steelhead and WDFW's partnership with the tribe.

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**Fiscal impacts of agency implementation:**

None

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**Public involvement process used and what you learned:**

None

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**Action requested and/or proposed next steps:**

Recognize the Yakama Nation for their contribution to fish recovery.

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**Draft motion language:**

N/A

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**Post decision communications plan:**

N/A

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