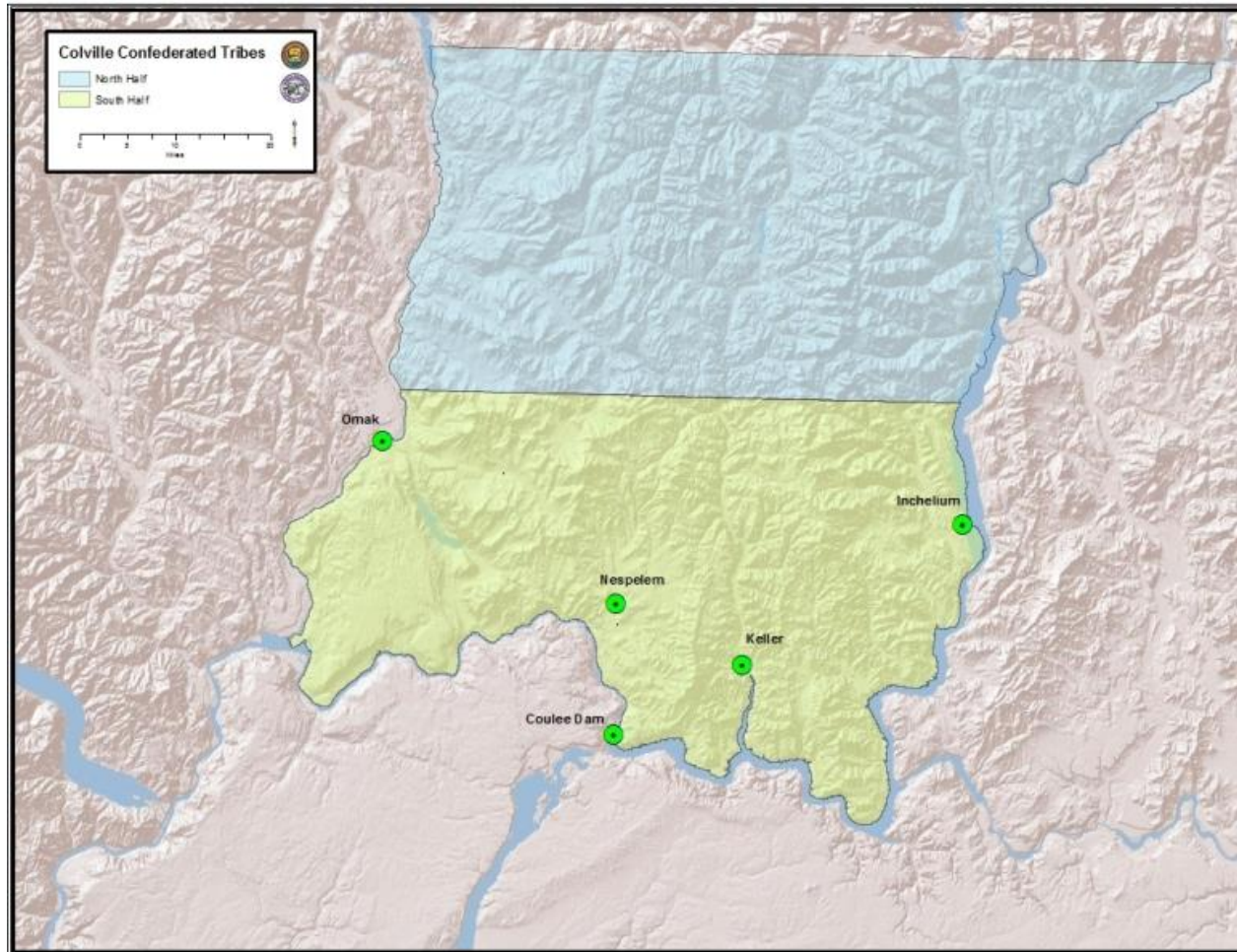


Briefing on Legislative direction to update the 1998 agreement between WDFW and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Tom McBride, Legislative Director
September 27, 2024



Map of former northern half



Policy C-3607

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission acknowledges and respects the sovereign status of Washington's federally recognized tribes. Under existing law, the overlapping nature of state and tribal jurisdiction and responsibilities creates a co-management relationship in which it is essential that the parties work together. The Commission recognizes that the preservation of healthy, robust, and diverse fish and wildlife populations is largely dependent on the state and the tribes working in a cooperative and collaborative manner. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission is committed to a cooperative management relationship with the tribes. In the spirit of these acknowledgments, the Commission adopts the following policies to guide Department staff in their relationships with the tribes:



C-3607 policies

1. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will work cooperatively with representatives of each tribal government in an effort to resolve all issues through direct communication and negotiation.
2. The Department of Fish and Wildlife supports tribal self-determination and meaningful self-regulation, enforcement, and prosecution.
3. The Department of Fish and Wildlife will engage tribal representatives in its decision making processes relative to wildlife management issues that affect tribal hunting.
4. The Department of Fish and Wildlife commits to work jointly with the tribes in the development of an information and data exchange system that enhances the parties' ability to effectively communicate and collectively identify resource and hunting issues and concerns.
5. The Department of Fish and Wildlife, in cooperation with tribal governments, will develop enforcement protocols to guide Department officers in their contacts with tribal hunters.



1998 management agreement

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION AND THE WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

PARTIES

This Agreement is entered into by and between the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Nespelem, Washington (Colville Tribes), and the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Olympia, Washington (WDFW).

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Legislative Direction (2424)

The Department shall, upon approval of a plan of engagement by the Commission...

...engage on a government-to-government basis with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation...

...identifying potential updates to management practices under, and recommended modifications to the 1998 cooperative fish and wildlife management agreement...

...Subsequent to approval by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville and ratification by the commission, the department must report to the legislature...



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Commission considerations

- Cooperative fish and wildlife management will include data collection and sharing for populations, pack territories, harvest, and mortalities.
- Cooperative fish and wildlife management will include timely management consultation.
- An estimate of resources needed to provide better management data, including, but not limited to, ungulate and wolf survey flights and gray wolf collaring.
- Approaches to provide solutions, including cost sharing, for landowners with problems involving either potential public safety wildlife encounters or wildlife depredation.



Plan of Engagement

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) adopts the following plan of engagement, under the direction provided in Chapter 260, Laws of 2024 (SHB 2424).

This initiates an update to the existing 1998 agreement between the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, specific to management of gray wolves and other listed species.

The FWC directs consideration of the existing policies of C-3607 and C-6001, as well as the four additional considerations in the prior slide...

(list out considerations)

To accomplish this plan, the Commission delegates authority to the Director to negotiate and ratify an updated agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.



Desired outcomes of delegation

An updated management agreement that specifically addresses the renewed presence of gray wolves in the former northern half of the Colville Reservation.

Increased data collection, including additional wolf collaring and ungulate surveys.

A joint request for resources to the state legislature.

Establish timely data sharing and coordinated response to landowners with wildlife conflict situations.



Attachments

1. Policy C-3607
2. 1998 Management Agreement
3. Chapter 260, Laws of 2024 (2424)
4. Draft Plan of Engagement



Questions?

