



# The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

History/Archaeology Program  
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13 February 2019

Lisa Wood  
SEPA/NEPA Coordinator  
WDFW Habitat Program, Protection Division  
P.O. Box 43200  
Olympia, WA 98504-3200

HA# U19-059  
19.0069

RE: DNS 19-007: Big Bend Wildlife Area Restoration

Dear Lisa Wood:

We have received the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW's) Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) regarding the proposed Big Bend Wildlife Area Restoration Project, along with the SEPA Checklist for the project and associated maps. Please be advised that your proposed undertaking lies within the traditional territories of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Confederated Tribes [CCT]), which is governed by the Colville Business Council (CBC). The CBC has delegated to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) the responsibility of representing the CCT with regard to cultural resources management issues throughout the traditional territories of all of the constituent tribes under Resolution 1996-29. This area includes parts of eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, the Palus (Palouse) territory in Idaho, and south central British Columbia.

We concur with the issuance of the DNS, provided WDFW follows through with their plans as articulated in Item 13 of the SEPA Checklist, to coordinate and consult with the CCT and make all efforts to maintain cultural resources and avoid disturbances.

We would like to note, however, that WDFW's statement that "CCT has ceded bordering lands at the Columbia River that abuts Big Bend WLA," is factually and legally inaccurate. None of the twelve constituent tribes of the CCT have ceded any territories via treaty, but, instead, had their homelands unilaterally and illegally appropriated via Executive Order.

Thank you for consulting with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Please note that these comments are based on information available to us at the time of the project review. We reserve the right to revise our comments as information becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Karen Capuder at (509) 634-2876 or [karen.capuder@colvilletribes.com](mailto:karen.capuder@colvilletribes.com). If you wish to speak with me, contact me at (509) 634-2695.

Sincerely,

Guy Moura, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Chron; File (KMC);  
Rob Whitlam, Ph.D., Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation