



## The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

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July 28, 2021

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Madam Secretary:

On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, I write to extend an invitation to you to visit the Colville Reservation. The Colville Reservation is in north central Washington state and borders the Columbia River. Half of the Grand Coulee Dam is located on the Colville Reservation and the Reservation has abundant natural resources, including substantial timber and water resources.

There are two main reasons the Colville Tribes would like you to visit. First, with the western part of the United States in an exceptional drought, it is now more crucial than ever for surrounding federal land management agencies to work with the Colville Tribes on forestry management, wildlife prevention practices, and other natural resource management. The Colville Tribes administers outstanding natural resources programs that include salmon revitalization. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the issues and solutions for sustaining a safe and healthy forest ecosystem and community.

The second reason involves a renewed request the Colville Tribes will be putting forward for the Department to promulgate a rule that will delegate certain regulatory authority to the Colville and Spokane tribes in the Reservation Zone of Lake Roosevelt. These tribes spent multiple years during the Obama administration working with Departmental officials on this effort. Your current Chief of Staff, Lawrence Roberts, worked with the tribes on this issue during that time.

The Colville Tribes would be honored to have you join us at a time that is convenient for you. The Colville Tribes' Legislative Assistant, Neeka Somday, can assist in any coordination or in the answering of any questions. She can be contacted at [Neeka.somday@colvilletribes.com](mailto:Neeka.somday@colvilletribes.com).

Sincerely,

Andy Joseph, Jr.  
CHAIRMAN