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**Kalispel Tribe joins federal agencies to protect bull trout and other species**

*Agreement is similar to Accords inked by other Northwest tribes and three states*

**Portland, Ore.** – The Kalispel Tribe is proposing to join the growing ranks of Northwest states and tribes that are working in partnership with the Bonneville Power Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in an unprecedented set of agreements designed to improve habitat and strengthen fish stocks in the Columbia River Basin over the next 10 years.

The proposed agreement, available for public comment beginning today, focuses specifically on actions to protect fish and wildlife, including habitat acquisitions, habitat restoration, predator management, and operational solutions to address impacts of Albeni Falls Dam on bull trout and other aquatic species of the Pend Oreille River. The agreement recognizes the Tribe's resource management expertise and its interest in operations at Albeni Falls Dam and includes specific provisions for the Tribe to contribute to decisions that affect fish, wildlife and water quality.

"The Kalispel Tribe is excited to see this agreement come to fruition as a result of nearly two decades of positive working relationships and on-the ground successes. It is our hope and understanding that this is just the beginning of our future working relationships with the Action Agencies and we are hopeful for the future of our important and treasured resources," said Glen Nenema, Tribal Chairman.

The proposed agreement would make available approximately \$39 million over 10 years to benefit fish and wildlife, including \$2.5 million for wildlife habitat acquisitions to address wildlife impacts associated with Albeni Falls Dam. The funds may also be used to evaluate and plan for a conservation hatchery to assist with restoration of genetically distinct populations of bull trout and cutthroat trout to multiple streams in Washington and Idaho. Under the agreement, the Tribe, the Corps and BPA would collaborate on improving water management actions in late summer and early fall to improve downstream water temperature for bull trout and other aquatic species.

"This agreement shows our collective resolve to work together to protect the fish and wildlife resources at Albeni Falls Dam," said Witt Anderson, regional director of programs for the Corps' Northwestern Division office.

The agreement is similar to the 10-year accords signed in May 2008 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, BPA and the Bureau of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Separate agreements were signed with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation, the State of Idaho, the State of Montana and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe. The State of Washington signed an agreement with the federal agencies in 2009 for work in the Columbia River estuary.

These agreements collectively referred to as the Columbia Basin Fish Accords, include a slate of actions in habitat, hatchery and research, monitoring and evaluation that will improve the prospects for recovery of listed salmon, bull trout and steelhead. They also are intended to protect non-listed fish from becoming endangered. The culmination of a multiple-year collaboration, the Fish Accords reflect a new era of partnership with tribes.

"BPA is pleased to add the Kalispel Tribe to the growing list of Columbia Basin tribes and states that are working together, in partnership, to provide on-the-ground benefits for fish and wildlife," said Lorri Bodi, vice president, BPA Environment, Fish & Wildlife. "These agreements show that the collaboration encouraged by Judge James Redden is the most effective way to leverage results."

As with the other Fish Accords, the proposal with the Kalispel Tribe promotes an ongoing collaborative relationship among the parties. The parties agree that the federal government's requirements under the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act and Northwest Power Act are satisfied for the next 10 years and that they will work together to support these agreements in all appropriate venues.

The Kalispel Indian Reservation is located in Pend Oreille County, Wash., approximately 55 miles north of Spokane, Wash. Portions of the Pend Oreille River and its tributaries lie within the boundaries of the Kalispel Reservation as established in the Executive Order of 1914. The development of the federal dams on the Columbia River has had significant, long-term adverse effects on the culture, natural resources and economy of the Kalispel Tribe. This agreement is designed to support the Tribe to mitigate the effects of federal dams on fish and wildlife resources.

The FCRPS includes 31 dams owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation. Electricity produced at these dams is marketed and distributed throughout the Northwest by the Bonneville Power Administration.

For specific details of the memorandum of agreements and the types of projects involved, please visit: [www.salmonrecovery.gov](http://www.salmonrecovery.gov).