

Columbia Basin Tribes Gather in Support of Columbia Basin Initiative Proposed by Congressman Simpson

Pendleton, Oregon- “Creator, I ask that you make our hearts big- so we can be strong as a people.” were the opening sentiments as the Columbia Basin Tribes met today to discuss the health and survival of the Basin and salmon populations in the northwest. “That’s our wealth; the health of our environment,” noted Colville Business Council Chairman, Rodney Cawston.

Together, several representatives from 11 different Tribes congregated to discuss their approach for supporting Representative Mike Simpson’s comprehensive approach to addressing the salmon, energy, agriculture, and transportation issues in the region; the Columbia Basin Initiative.

The meeting will continue through tomorrow as the Tribes are scheduled to meet with regional elected officials and their representatives; including Representative Simpson and several others. The resounding theme being that of the health of the Columbia Basin and its future survival which includes the fate of salmon, eel, and everything that depends on these natural resources.



Back L to R: Delano Saluskin, Yakama Nation; Shannon Wheeler, Nez Perce Tribe; Rodney Cawston Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Devon Boyer, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe; Hemene James, Coeur d’Alene Tribe; Brian Thomas, Shoshone Paiute Tribe. Front L to R: Raymond Tsumpti, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Jody Richards, Burns Paiute Tribe; Kat Brigham, Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation; Carol Evans, Spokane Tribe; Shelly Fyant, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.