



2018 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION #18 - 14

“REVIEW OF WASHINGTON FISH AND & WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT”

PREAMBLE

We the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties, Executive Orders, and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise to promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are representatives of and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and tribes in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of cultural and natural resources and the protection of treaty rights and tribal sovereignty are primary goals and objectives of the ATNI; and

WHEREAS, fishing, hunting and gathering are central to the culture and lifeways of ATNI tribes and these rights are protected by treaty and executive order; and

WHEREAS, all tribes are committed to managing fish and wildlife for conservation; and are regulating their fishers and hunters, including taking enforcement action against those who violate tribal regulations; and

WHEREAS, despite well-established tribal government enforcement authority, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement (WDFW) division’s actions against tribal citizens demonstrate a failure to respect settled law and tribal law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, WDFW’s enforcement activities have infringed on the sovereign authority of tribes to regulate their own tribal fishers and enforce their laws relating to hunting and fishing; and

WHEREAS, to the detriment of the natural resources upon which Indian people depend, WDFW’s enforcement actions are disproportionately focused on harassing tribal fishers and hunters; and

WHEREAS, WDFW’s continued actions against Indian people have increased our tribal community’s perceptions that WDFW is disproportionately targeting tribal members engaged in treaty fishing and hunting; and

WHEREAS, the leadership at WDFW Enforcement has not been held accountable for this continued pattern of discriminatory conduct against Indian people; now

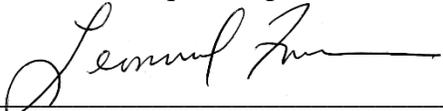
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI does hereby request a thorough investigation of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife enforcement activity taken in regard to tribal fishers and hunters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such investigation include a review of the proportion of WDFW enforcement resources being devoted to surveillance and enforcement against Indian people and whether such actions are disproportionate and constitute discrimination; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the results from such review be used to design training and intervention programs to ensure that WDFW leadership and officer conduct is informed by knowledge of tribal sovereignty, culture and treaty rights.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2018 Winter Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton - Portland, Oregon, on January 22-25, 2018, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary