



TABLED

2019 Mid-Year Convention Airway Heights, Washington

RESOLUTION #19 - 31

"PRIORITIZING WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT PROJECTS IN LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN"

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 Willamette River, part of the Columbia River Basin, is a nationally, regionally, and locally significant watershed and ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, fish and wildlife populations which are treaty reserved cultural resources, especially those protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), have declined due to the impacts of past flood control efforts and years of urban development; and

WHEREAS, climate change is placing an increasing strain on the ecosystem of the Columbia River basin; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Government, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has the trust responsibility to protect our salmon, lamprey, steelhead and southern resident orcas, for future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia River basin's salmon and steelhead runs were once among the largest in the world, with approximately 10-16 million fish returning to the basin annually, but have declined significantly, as have the populations of other critical species, including lamprey and sturgeon; and

WHEREAS, the Willamette River and the Columbia River come together in the greater Portland metro area, representing a crossroads for the many lamprey, salmon, and steelhead populations for Willamette River and Columbia River tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resource Development Act proposed projects, such as the Tryon Creek Highway 43 Culvert, on the Willamette River in the Portland metro region are necessary to restore salmon, steelhead and lamprey to their historical abundances to protect and restore for future generations the natural resources on which our communities depend; and

WHEREAS, restoration projects that restore and reconnect floodplains will provide natural floodplain storage in the region that needs flood protection with the least impact on existing and future cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, ATNI is concerned that current federal restoration priorities and appropriations do not fully protect and restore cultural, natural, and treaty reserved resources; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI hereby calls upon the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to prioritize restoration projects authorized under the Water Resources Development Act that directly and immediately improve natural and cultural resource protection throughout the Columbia River basin.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the 2019 Mid-Year Convention of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, held at Northern Quest Resort and Casino, Airway Heights, Washington on May 20-23, 2019, with a quorum present.

Leonard Forsman, President

Norma Jean Louie, Secretary