



**ATNI Annual 2025 Convention  
Suquamish, Washington**

**RESOLUTION # 2025 - 50**

**“DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY CONDITIONS ON THE  
SNOQUALMIE RIVER”**

**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 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 promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

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

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

**WHEREAS**, creating opportunities for Indian Nations, preservation of tribal sovereignty and protection of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS**, the health, safety, welfare, and cultural survival of tribal nations are inseparable from the protection of their natural environments, traditional foods, and sacred waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Snoqualmie River watershed and its surrounding ecosystems are of critical environmental, cultural, and spiritual value; and

**WHEREAS**, United States Geological Survey stream flow gauges in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River are showing that we are close to the lowest flows in the last 60 years of monitoring; and

**WHEREAS**, the record low instream flow in the Snoqualmie River are exacerbated by decisions by State and local governments to prioritize development and frivolous discretionary uses and are having a devastating impact on river ecosystems; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to address the loss of flows and degradation of the Snoqualmie River perpetuate historic injustices and constitutes an ongoing violation of the federal trust responsibility, the principles of government-to-government consultation, and the rights of Indian tribes to protect their sacred places and waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the Snoqualmie River has great cultural and spiritual significance to Indians in Washington State, with the River's low flow artificially reducing the volume of sacred Snoqualmie Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the economic and cultural vitality of Washington State requires healthily functioning river systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe has formally declared a state of emergency for the Snoqualmie River, finding that low instream flows, water diversions, and degradation of river ecosystems have caused immediate and irreparable harm to salmon populations, riparian habitat, and the Tribe's ability to exercise its inherent and sovereign rights; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) hereby formally recognize and support the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe's Declaration of Emergency for the Snoqualmie River and affirm that the river's ecological and cultural health is of regional importance to all tribal nations of the Pacific Northwest; and

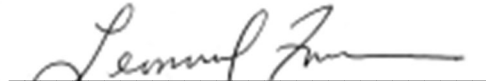
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians hereby requests the Washington State Governor, the Washington State Director of Ecology, and the State Legislature take all reasonable steps to address low instream flows in the Snoqualmie River in consultation with impacted tribes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that ATNI urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to coordinate with the impacted tribes in emergency consultation and to deploy all available resources to ensure compliance with obligations affecting the river; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this will be the policy of Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.

  
Leonard Forsman, President

  
Norma Jean Louie, Secretary