



2026 Winter Convention Portland, Oregon

RESOLUTION # 2026 – 005

“RECOMMENDING THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE PERMANENTLY CEASE ITS COMMERCIAL HUCKLEBERRY HARVEST PROGRAM”

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

WHEREAS, ATNI-member tribal governments exercise their inherent sovereign rights to protect sacred foods that have religious and ceremonial significance, and the food-gathering and subsistence grounds from which they are gathered; and

WHEREAS, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation), an ATNI-member, exercises its Treaty-reserved right to gather traditional foods and medicines, including huckleberries (wiwnu), throughout Yakama Nation’s Treaty-territory; and

WHEREAS, for several decades, the United States Forest Service (“USFS”) has maintained a commercial huckleberry harvest program in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest where the Yakama Nation and other ATNI-member tribes exercise traditional gathering and subsistence practices; and

WHEREAS, the USFS’s commercial huckleberry harvest program allowed commercial pickers to damage and deplete huckleberry bushes and resources, and threaten the well-being of our huckleberry gatherers, their families, and our cultural and religious practices; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the USFS temporarily closed the commercial huckleberry harvest program in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; and

WHEREAS, our gatherers reported the huckleberries showed signs of recovery from years of overharvest; gatherers experienced reduced harassment and better security; and that, for the first time in years, enough huckleberries were harvested to sustain religious and subsistence practices as a result of the closure; and

WHEREAS, the Yakama Nation has requested the USFS permanently close the commercial huckleberry harvest program in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest so as to protect the vitality of our sacred foods, the safety of our gatherers, and to ensure commercial interests are not prioritized over sacred foods and our Treaty-reserved rights; now

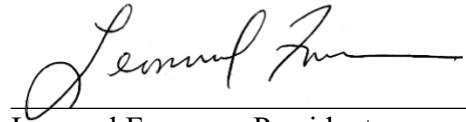
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ATNI supports and stands with the Yakama Nation’s request that the USFS permanently close its commercial huckleberry harvest program in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI calls on the United States Forest Service (USFS) to permanently close the commercial huckleberry harvest program in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and review how USFS programs adversely affect sacred foods and resources, including those in other USFS districts including but not limited to Siskiyou National Forest, Kaniksu National Forest, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Mt Hood National Forest, Willamette National Forest, Siuslaw National Forest, Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest; and

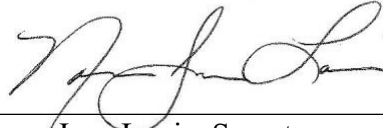
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2026 Winter Convention held at the Hilton Portland Downtown in Portland, Oregon, on February 1-5, 2026, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary