Centennial Accord Environment & Natural Resources

Work Session

Kiana Lodge, Suquamish

September 19, 2024 (10:00AM-12:30PM)

## Opening Remarks

**Tribal Lead:** HonorableJosh Bagley, Vice Chairman**,** Suquamish Tribe

**State Lead:** Rob Duff, Executive Director of Policy and Outreach, Governor’s Office

## Highlights over the Years: Centennial Accord Environment & Natural Resources

**Tribal Lead:** Justin Parker, Executive Director, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission

## Co-Management

**Issue:**

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) are tasked with fulfilling the states commitment to hunters and fishers in Washington. The main mission of the FWC is to maximize fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreational opportunities compatible with healthy and diverse fish and wildlife populations. The state is also required to co-manage with the treaty tribes; however, the structure and mandate of the FWC are silent on the need to co-manage under U.S. v. Washington (1974). The requirements of the Open and Public Meetings Act further frustrate the ability to co-manage within the structure of the FWC. This disparity is highlighted by decisions or policies that run contrary to their mission and mandate, and that are incongruent with and further obstruct the principles of tribal-state co-management as put forth under U.S. v. Washington and U.S. v. Oregon.

**Requests:**

The tribes request the Governor act to rectify this disparity by better clarifying the role of the director and the FWC in a way that is congruent with U.S. v. Washington and U.S. v. Oregon. Allowing leaders with the willingness to uphold legal and statutory obligations will promote a positive path of the state’s commitment to ensure a healthy ecosystem for all citizens of Washington.

**Tribal Lead:** Honorable Lisa Wilson, Council Member, Lummi Nation

**State Leads:** Ruth Musgrave, Senior Policy Advisor for Natural Resources, Governor’s Office and Nate Pamplin, Director of External Affairs, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

## Riparian Protection and Restoration Executive Order

**Issue:**

We acknowledge and appreciate the significant work that has occurred on this topic since the 2019 Centennial Accord (as described in NWIFC July 29, 2024 letter). However, much work remains in order to achieve and support the kind of change that is necessary. In order to maintain momentum and ensure the commitments are being advanced within the transition to the next administration the tribes are requesting an executive order to memorialize the requests and commitments to the tribes in an effort to stabilize important progress to date.

**Requests:**

The tribes respectfully request the Governor issue an Executive Order that articulates and preserves the 2019 Centennial Accord commitments regarding the incorporation of the science based (SPTH) standard across all state programs, guidance and rules. The executive order should identify the continued investments for voluntary programs while providing flexibility to accomplish meaningful protection and restoration of riparian ecosystems critical to climate resilience, and salmon recovery.

The tribes further request the Governor:

* Raise state and national awareness of the seriousness of the problem.
* Direct state agencies to accelerate the process of problem areas with tribes and work directly with tribes to come up with a timely solution to an ongoing issue.

**Tribal Lead:** Honorable Jim Peters, Council Member, Squaxin Island Tribe

**State Lead:** Ruth Musgrave, Senior Policy Advisor for Natural Resources, Governor’s Office

## Transition Planning/Round Table

**Issue:**

Tribal leaders are appreciative for the years of working with the Inslee administration and the continuity of three terms on a number of critical issues. It is important for the tribes of Washington to ensure a seamless transition to the next administration.

**Request:**

We ask that the Governor evaluate the ongoing issues that his administration has committed to help resolve and further identify areas of high priority work that will need continuing government-to-government engagement for the next administration.

For example, the commitments and a clear plan for following through on:

Pinniped Predation: The growing predation issue that these healthy populations are presenting to our joint recovery efforts for salmon and SRKWs needs to be addressed.  Fishers and fishing dependent coastal communities annually forgo fish and revenue to ensure spawning targets are met for depressed and critical runs. Now we are experiencing increasing predation pressure in river by seals and sea lions of the very adult fish these fishers and communities sacrificed to put there.  This problem is undercutting all our recovery efforts and investments for salmon and SRKW recovery. Predation abatement programs need to be established in the estuarine areas to protect adult spawners and smolt out migrants from seal and sea lion predation. Consideration could also be given for further tribal state co-manager collaboration on legislation and other actions regarding this issue.

* Riparian Protection and Restoration (as detailed in the agenda).
* Co-Management (as detailed in the agenda).

To the extent time allows, this agenda itemwill be used by tribes to discuss additional natural resources issues that are not covered by the agenda.

**Tribal Lead:** Honorable W. Ron Allen, Chairman, Jamestown S’Klallam

**State Lead:** Rob Duff, Executive Director of Policy and Outreach, Governor’s Office

## Closing Remarks

**Tribal Lead:** HonorableJosh Bagley, Vice Chairman**,** Suquamish Tribe

**State Lead:** Rob Duff, Executive Director of Policy and Outreach, Governor’s Office