

## HONORING THE KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS

### HONORING THE TRIBE

Sierra Club is honored to award the 2019 Watershed Hero Award to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. While the Spokane region is familiar with the Tribe's leadership in supporting and advancing social services, Sierra Club is focusing explicitly on the Kalispel Tribe's environmental leadership. The Kalispel Tribe of Indians has been a strong and steady voice for protecting habitat for fish and wildlife in the Priest - Pend Oreille region of northeastern Washington and north Idaho. The Tribe has also stepped forward at a critical time to provide badly needed scrutiny of a silicon smelter proposed for Newport, Washington that has alarmed local residents, physicians, and others.

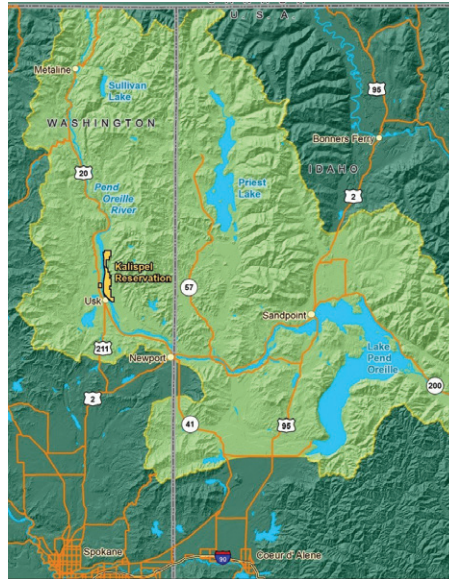
### FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL

For 10,000 years, humans have occupied a land that EuroAmericans renamed Pend Oreille. This is the homeland of the Kalispel. The Kalispel people were particularly adept at canoe travel and came to be known as "river paddlers."

In 1809 explorer David Thompson of the North West Company of Montreal opened a trading post in Kalispel territory. After epidemics and with unceasing pressure from white settlement, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians took steps to save its culture and the Tribe itself.

In 1855, the Upper Kalispel Tribe were forced to cede their lands and move to a reservation in Montana. The Lower Kalispel Tribe refused to give up their ancestral lands. The Tribe worked toward an agreement allowing the Tribe to remain on its homeland.

By 1874, Congress stopped establishing treaties with tribes. Without a treaty, the Kalispel Tribe was left without legal protection under U.S. authority. By 1875, the Tribal population had shrunk to only



395 people. White settlers moved onto and claimed Kalispel lands. The tribe could do nothing to prevent it. On March 23, 1914, the United States established the Kalispel Tribal Reservation: 4,695 acres. By 1965, the average tribal member's income was \$1,400, and there was only one telephone for the entire Tribe.

With most of the land on the reservation unsuitable for development, the Tribe has created opportunity for tribal members. The Tribe's sheer determination, resiliency and community cohesiveness have allowed the Tribe to overcome difficult circumstances, flourish, and emerge as a regional leader. Through this incredible journey, the Tribe has remained true to its values, connected to the lands and waters that indigenous people have known for centuries.

### THE KALISPEL NATURAL RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

The Kalispel Natural Resource Department (KNRD) is responsible for managing the historic properties, fisheries, wildlife,

### WINTER WATERS CELEBRATION



You are invited to a Winter Waters 2019 Celebration to honor the Kalispel Tribe of Indians with our 2019 Watershed Heroes Award.

**Friday, March 1, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

**WHERE:** Spokane – Patsy Clark Mansion, 2208 W. 2nd Ave.

**WHAT:** Honoring our heroes – also music, desserts and other small foods, wines

**TICKETS: \$35** per person

To help with this event and RSVP, contact:

- Tom Soeldner [waltsoe@gmail.com](mailto:waltsoe@gmail.com)  
(509) 270.6995 or (509) 838.4632
- John Roskelley [john@johnroskelley.com](mailto:john@johnroskelley.com)  
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- John Osborn [john@waterplanet.ws](mailto:john@waterplanet.ws)  
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PHOTOS: Kalispel Tribe of Indians came to be known as "river paddlers" adept at canoe travel. The Tribe is being honored for stewardship of their ancestral homelands and waters. (Kalispel Tribal archives)

CENTER: Kalispel Ancestral Lands and Reservation. (Kalispel Tribe)

# WATER PROTECTORS PROTECT MILL CANYON WATERSHED



At this year's Winter Waters, we will recognize Protect Mill Canyon Watershed as a "Water Protector" for successfully opposing the use of bio-solids (municipal sewage sludge) on agricultural fields.

In 2016, some Lincoln County residents began organizing against the Washington State Department of Ecology's permitting the application of sewage sludge on wheat fields above their certified organic farming community in Mill Canyon. They felt

endangered by possible contamination of their land, air, water and produce by the hundreds of toxins in sludge that are untested by Ecology.

PMCW worked with the Sierra Club to make its case to the public, while still being ignored by Ecology which eventually granted the permit. The wheat farmer, however, was so tired of the unending bad publicity, that he agreed by 2018 to reduce the acreage to be "treated" by more than four fifths, and to apply it 5 miles from the canyon rim. Ultimately, no bio-solids were applied at all by the farmer. He now doubts he ever will.

The victory demonstrates that a small, courageous counter-cultural community can successfully challenge and protect itself from incomplete science and "practice."

PMCW members maintain a valuable website [www.protectmillcanyon.org/](http://www.protectmillcanyon.org/) and work with the Sierra Club to advance legislation alerting the public to the dangers of land application (especially agricultural) of bio-solids.

## SPOKANE RIVER STILL TOXIC

The Spokane River is one of Washington State's most contaminated rivers for PCBs and other toxics. Exposure to PCBs through eating Spokane River fish is a public health hazard: the Department of Health's longstanding advisory warns against eating fish from certain reaches of the river.

Sierra Club's Upper Columbia River Group (UCRG), together with the Center for Environmental Law and Policy, has advocated for improved Spokane River water quality and quantity for many years. We have asked agencies and industry to clean up and use protective standards for PCBs and other toxics since the early 2000's. While we've won cases in court, the State Department of Ecology has delayed issuing protective pollution permits to the five polluting dischargers on the river. A history of our litigation on this issue can be found

in Nature's Advocate, Winter 2016 issue, page 3, on our website: [www.sierraclub.org/washington/upper-columbia-river](http://www.sierraclub.org/washington/upper-columbia-river).

In 2018, rather than using the basic tools of the Clean Water Act to ensure the River meets water quality standards, Ecology is promoting a "variance" process. A variance, basically, is a loophole that will prolong the date for improved conditions in the River, with no guarantee of meeting legal standards or even significant improvement. In fact, the variance process will relax water quality standards. The agency's latest proposal would eliminate protections for redband trout spawning and rearing, as well as fish harvest. Sierra Club opposes this proposal. Sierra Club also opposes the continued use of the Spokane River Regional Task Force (SRRTF) as a pseudo-regulatory entity. Polluters should not regulate themselves!

### UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP

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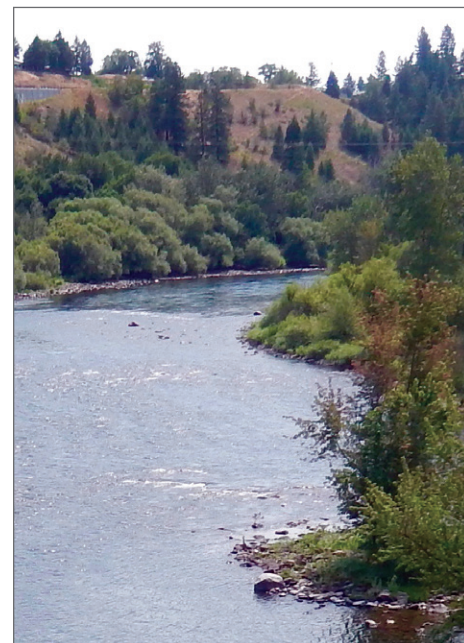
Barbara Rasero

*Newsletter Editor*

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Upper Columbia  
River Group



# UCRG: ANNUAL ELECTION

All Sierra Club members in our group are eligible to vote in this election. Vote for 4 positions on the Group Executive Committee (ExCom). Ballots must be received by March 4, 2019 by 5 p.m.

**NOTE:** Each member of a joint membership may vote, each using one of the two columns. Please tear off and mail this entire page to: **Sierra Club, P.O. Box 413, Spokane, WA 99210.**

FOR EXCOM (vote for 4)	VOTER 1	VOTER 2
Fred Christ	/_/_	/_/_
Carolyn Leon	/_/_	/_/_
John Osborn	/_/_	/_/_
Tom Soeldner	/_/_	/_/_
(write in) _____	/_/_	/_/_
(write in) _____	/_/_	/_/_

**FRED CHRIST** maintains the Group's events record and allocation report. He has served as back-up Secretary for several years and now is the Group's Treasurer. He has a special interest in community outreach (an intrepid volunteer for our annual Winter Waters event) and by helping to build our Outings program.

**CAROLYN LEON** currently serves as Chair for both the Group's ExCom and the Outings Program. She also represents us to our state chapter's governing board. Carolyn's love of outings comes from her father, Rich Leon, a much beloved leader of outings, author, and editor of our Sierra Club Trail Guides.

**JOHN OSBORN** serves both as the UCR Group's Conservation Chair and on the state chapter's Water & Salmon Committee. John is active with Spokane River restoration, protection of the Aquifer, and the continuing development of an international alliance to modernize the Columbia River Treaty.

**TOM SOELDNER** has served as the Group's Treasurer and Co-chair. He now serves as both Political and Forest Chair. His special interest is understanding humanity's place as part of rather than apart from the natural world. He is active in connecting the faith community with environmental stewardship and works with the Columbia River Treaty and the Spokane River Projects.

**HONORING THE TRIBE** continued from cover water and other natural resources of the Kalispel Tribe of Indian's reservation in Usk, Washington, and other ceded lands in the lower Clark Fork and Pend Oreille.

The KNRD is responsible for advancing the Kalispel Tribe's sovereign interests in natural resources. KNRD's duties include not only managing those resources within the Kalispel Indian Reservation but also working with federal, state, and other conservation partners to promote the Tribe's sovereign interest in natural resources throughout its aboriginal territory.

As state and federal fish and wildlife agency budgets are reduced, the Kalispel Tribe has stepped in as an advocate for protecting and restoring habitat.

Kalispel Tribe has been a consistent voice for adding fish passage at the dam.

The damaging impacts of Albeni Falls Dam also include flooding wildlife habitat, reducing water quality, and eroding shorelines.

In 2012, the Kalispel Tribe entered a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Reclamation to fund mitigation efforts related to Albeni Falls Dam. The MOA provides the Tribe with approximately \$40 million over 10 years to help meet the federal agencies' obligations under the Northwest Power Act and Endangered Species Act. The Kalispel Tribe uses this funding to conduct a wide variety of projects to benefit native fish, to improve wildlife habitat, and to acquire lands as mitigation for lost wildlife habitat. The MOA also establishes a partnership between the Tribe and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete an upstream fish passage feasibility study at Albeni Falls Dam.

## PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH: CHALLENGING THE PROPOSED NEWPORT SMELTER

Washington State government is fast-tracking a silicon smelter proposed for Newport, Washington. The silicon smelter carries health and environmental risks, including to the Tribe, the people of Newport and beyond in a region prone to long periods of stagnant air and inversions. The silicon smelter is just the latest chapter in a long history of mining and smelting that has left ruinous legacies of pollution for our region made vulnerable by distance to political decision-makers. In the face of this juggernaut coming out of Olympia, the Tribe has stood firm in opposing the smelter.

## STANDING UNITED WITH TRIBES OF THE UPPER COLUMBIA

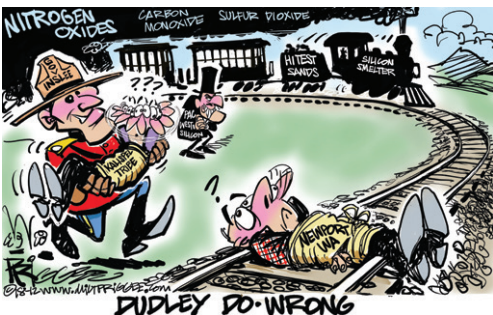
The Kalispel Tribe is one of the five tribes of Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT), along with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Spokane Tribe, and Colville Confederated Tribes. Together, working through UCUT, these five tribes are working to modernize the Columbia River Treaty and restore salmon into the Upper Columbia River Basin.

Sierra Club notes that the Upper Columbia River tribes have repeatedly been put in positions of shouldering the responsibility in challenging polluting industries and complicit governments. The Kalispel Tribe too has stepped forward: to work with the people of Newport, Washington, and the broader region to protect both human and broader environmental health.

## "TIME, VISION, AND PATIENCE"

In honoring the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, we also recognize that the journey to protect and restore the Tribe's homelands is a long journey. Chairman Nenema has correctly noted, "Many of the things our Tribe has accomplished happened over many years. Things take time, vision and patience, and leaders need consistency in order to make things happen."

Looking back on two centuries of wrenching change wrought by forces of Manifest Destiny and looking into the future with ravages of climate change, the Kalispel Tribe has faced, and will continue to face, formidable challenges. Their survival and the success of this incredible journey over the past two centuries restore a voice for the voiceless: rivers and forests, fish and wildlife, and generations unborn.



## ALBENI FALLS DAM: FISH PASSAGE RECONNECTING PEND OREILLE LAKE & RIVER

A major problem for fish is Albeni Falls Dam at the outflow of Lake Pend Oreille. Built in the 1950s, the federal dam disconnected the lake from the river. The dam destroyed populations of bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout that lived in Lake Pend Oreille and spawned in Pend Oreille River tributaries on and near the Kalispel Reservation. On behalf of the fish, the



**UPPER COLUMBIA RIVER GROUP**

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# REJECTING DIVISION & RESTORING THE COLUMBIA RIVER

**WINTER WATERS CELEBRATION**  
**Honoring the Kalispel Tribe**  
**Friday, March 1, 2019**  
**6:30 - 9:30 p.m.**

## *6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ETHICS CONFERENCE ON THE PAST AND FUTURE OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER COMMUNITIES.*

The sixth annual “One River - Ethics Matter” conference focusing on issues at the confluence of history and ethics will be held in Castlegar BC on May 30-31, 2019. The conference is jointly hosted by Selkirk College and Spokane Community Colleges.

While strengthening regional relationships, this Castlegar-Spokane conference will also focus on youth, climate change, and inter-generational theft. The backdrop? Negotiations are underway between the Trump and Trudeau Administrations over the Columbia River Treaty. The Upper Columbia River region is highly vulnerable yet again. In the words of Ben Franklin, we can hang together or surely we will hang separately.

## *CLIMATE CHANGE, MODERNIZING THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY*

Today the Upper Columbia River, its tributaries, and its watershed face the challenges of climate change most notably in the forms of glacial melt, increased fire activity, and warming river-reservoir temperatures lethal to fish. The 2019 One River - Ethics Matter conference will explore remedial options through respectful dialogue and further public education regarding the Columbia River Treaty.

As in previous conferences (Missoula-2018, Revelstoke-2017, Boise-2016, Portland-2015, Spokane-2014) the conference will consider the importance of (1) adding a third Treaty purpose co-equal to the existing purposes of hydropower and flood control, namely, ecosystem function, and (2) new approaches to ethical governance of the river. One goal is to strengthen river and community resiliency, restore salmon and other fisheries, and right historic wrongs done to the Upper Columbia River region, indigenous peoples, and other citizens of the watershed.

## *STANDING TOGETHER AS CITIZENS OF THE WATERSHED FOR JUSTICE, STEWARDSHIP*

This Castlegar conference will consider the strong ties that bind together citizens of the watershed through a shared history, community, culture, and economy.

From time immemorial indigenous people have lived along these rivers and depended on the annual return of salmon. Yet Treaty negotiators excluded indigenous people from the Oregon Treaty that drew the international boundary at the 49th parallel, separating indigenous Nations, their families and communities. Then again when drawing up and signing the original Columbia River Treaty in 1961-64, tribes and First Nations were not even consulted. How can we right these historic injustices?

## *YOUTH, CLIMATE CHANGE, AND INTERGENERATIONAL THEFT*

Finally, young people will be prominent participants in this Castlegar conference as we consider the serious and long-term effects on them of this treaty process and its results. Should youth have a voice in the decisions that impact them? How do we respond to our failure to address climate change as intergenerational theft? Can our two nations embrace the time-honored tribal and First Nation principle of the seventh generation, i.e. that we should make decisions today based on their impact on the future to the seventh generation.

**More information and the latest updates on the conference may be found here: [www.celp.org/ethics-castlegar](http://www.celp.org/ethics-castlegar).**

The “One River-Ethics Matter” conferences grow from the work of the Ethics & Treaty Project, which is hosted jointly by the Sierra Club and Center for Environmental Law & Policy with support from the Columbia Institute for Water Policy. Links to the films from previous “One River-Ethics Matter” conferences may be viewed here: [www.celp.org/ethics-treaty-project](http://www.celp.org/ethics-treaty-project).