



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

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Prepared Statement of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildfire

Hearing on Senate Bill 769, a bill related to county elections concerning methods of taking wildlife.

February 10th, 2025

Good afternoon, Chairman Golden, Vice Chairman Nash, and members of the Committee. On behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, I would like to thank you for convening this hearing on Senate Bill 769 and allowing me to testify in its support. My name is Roger Finley. I am an elected member of the Colville Business Council and testifying on behalf of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is a federally recognized tribal government headquartered in Nespelem, Washington, is the representative tribal government and represents successor interests of the Joseph Band of Nez Perce Indians. We do this to ensure the Joseph Band's traditional territory, historical connection and cultural ties in the Wallowa area are remembered and accurately and respectfully considered before the state of Oregon.

Since time immemorial, members of the Joseph Band have utilized the creator's bounty by hunting, fishing and gathering first foods in the Wallowa Mountains, valley and nearby rivers. Even after removal, today, the Joseph Band has over 560 descendants living on the Colville Reservation. Many of these members still travel to Wallowa County to exercise their treaty rights.

In order to preserve a healthy ecosystem and mule deer population, we support SB 769 and its goal to allow the people of Wallowa County to vote on strong predator management strategies.

The Colville Tribes, specifically the Joseph Band of the Nez Perce have hunting, fishing and gathering rights enshrined by the Treaty of 1855 and subsequent court decisions, including the 1987 Judge Valentine decision in Oregon vs. Nanpooya, Sr, where Judge Valentine held, *"For those that come we are speaking." Mr. Nanpooya has come back to his traditional hunting grounds... The time has arrived to restore the clear intent of the Treaty of 1855 to the Joseph Band of Nez Perce.*"

The Colville Tribes appreciates the Committee convening this hearing and is happy to answer any questions that the committee may have.
