

AN OPEN LETTER TO SPORT AND RECREATIONAL USERS OF LAKE ROOSEVELT:

THE SPOKANE TRIBE SETTLEMENT BILL WILL NOT DENY ACCESS TO FISHING, HUNTING AND BOATING IN THE WATERS OF LAKE ROOSEVELT

An August 27, 2009 article by Rich Landers in the Spokesman Review (Outdoors section) contains misconceptions about the jurisdictional implications of legislation now pending in Congress to compensate the Spokane Tribe of Indians for the devastating impacts caused by the creation of Grand Coulee Dam.

Without talking to the Spokane Tribe or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Mr. Landers elected to shoot from the hip by using scare tactics. Now, the Spokane Tribe wishes to set the record straight for the sporting and recreational users of Lake Roosevelt. The goal of Landers article seems to be to arouse alarm about the public's continued access to and use of Lake Roosevelt and its shores if the federal legislation becomes law.

Mr. Landers' article posed four questions to which the Spokane Tribe responds below:

1. "If the tribe assumes jurisdiction, who will define where an angler is legal to fish or where a water fowler is allowed to hunt or water skiers allowed to cut turns?"

SPOKANE TRIBE RESPONSE: The Tribe will **reassume** jurisdiction over the **uplands** within the Reservation returned to Tribal ownership by the pending legislation which does not grant Tribal jurisdiction over non-members on the water. The basic principles for cooperative enforcement of applicable State and Tribal laws with respect to fishing, hunting and boating on the water and the uplands are set forth in the 2007 WDFW-Tribe Agreement.

2. "Can the tribe require its own fishing or recreation licenses?"

SPOKANE TRIBE RESPONSE: The 2007 WDFW-Tribe-Agreement states that with respect to fishing on the open waters and south shore of the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt, a valid State or Tribal (for enrolled Spokane Tribal members) fishing license shall be required.

That 2007 Agreement also states that with respect to fishing from the north shore of the Spokane Arm on the Reservation, a valid Tribal fishing license or permit shall be required.

Other recreational uses of those north shore uplands will be subject to Tribal regulation consistent with existing National Park Service authorities preserved by the pending legislation.

3. "Can the tribe ban fishing by non-Indians?"

SPOKANE TRIBE RESPONSE: The pending legislation does not give the Spokane Tribe any jurisdiction to ban or regulate fishing by non-members on the water. The 2007 WDFW-Tribe-Agreement provides that: "The Tribe and State shall enforce their respective laws, rules and regulations regarding fish and wildlife on the open waters and south shore of the Spokane Arm." The Tribe will regulate fishing from the north shore, on the Spokane Indian Reservation, consistent with the 2007 Agreement in Principle.

4. "Will tribal enforcement officers be out flexing their muscles on honest sportsmen?"

SPOKANE TRIBE RESPONSE: This question, like the tone of Mr. Landers' article, reflects his bias. After the legislation becomes law, State as well as Spokane Tribal officers will be implementing cooperatively the 2007 WDFW-Tribe Agreement in Principle. The Agreement also calls for the development of a more detailed Cooperative Assistance Agreement based on those mutual principles.

In conclusion, the Spokane Tribe has worked to address all legitimate concerns in this settlement bill. The Tribe has been forced to exert significant effort to retain its homelands since the original Agreement with the United States in 1877. The Spokane Tribe has strived to secure the benefit of the promises made by the United States to fairly compensate for the use of our lands and resources. The Tribe continues to endure enormous impacts to our way of life such as the loss of our ceremonial and cultural grounds, flooded cemeteries of our people, the loss of salmon which was used as a resource to feed many Spokane Tribal families and the many homes that now sit beneath the rising Lake Roosevelt waters due to construction and the operation of Grand Coulee Dam.

Grand Coulee delivers enormous benefits to the region. Benefits such as electricity, subsidized irrigation for agriculture, water for recreation, beaches for camping, and a lake filled with fish for the many anglers on the water. Benefits also include the multi-million dollars generated with the daily operations of Grand Coulee Dam.

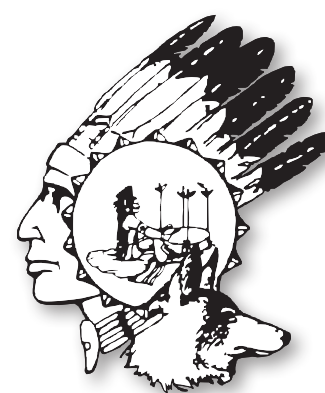
The extreme disparity between the losses suffered by the Spokane Tribe, in contrast to the pervasive benefits Grand Coulee provides to the nation and the region, is striking. Spokane Tribal Members deserve fair and honorable treatment by its federal trustee, and the region, in this settlement of compensation due to the use of our lands for the production of hydropower and many other purposes. The Spokane Tribe of Indians has endured a long road of negotiations in search of fair compensation following the construction of Grand Coulee Dam.

Now is the time to finalize Legislation so that the Spokane Tribe of Indians can work with our neighbors in Lincoln and Stevens Counties and the State of Washington to enhance Lake Roosevelt and protect its assets.

The Spokane Tribe has lost many Tribal Elders during the long negotiation process it's finally time to send Legislation through for a final resolution to this injustice that began with the 1933 construction of Grand Coulee Dam.

The Spokane Tribal Business Council invites you to visit our website; www.spokanetribe.com to gain accurate details about the Spokane Tribe by the Spokane Tribe. We encourage you to view the in-depth video that highlights the losses to the Tribe since the creation of Grand Coulee Dam and hear from our Tribal Elders of what life was like prior to the Grand Coulee Dam.

Sincerely,
Spokane Tribal Business Council
Gregory Abrahamson, Chairman
Glenn Ford, Vice Chairman
Michael Spencer, Secretary
Jim Sijohn, Councilman
David C. Wynecoop, Councilman



**Spokane Tribe
of Indians**

This advertisement paid for by the Spokane Tribe of Indians
PO Box 100, Wellpinit, WA 99040