

Friends of the
White Salmon River



White Salmon River

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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White Salmon River Homecoming Celebration **Saturday September 29th**

The public is invited to the White Salmon River Homecoming Celebration on Saturday, September 29th. The event will bring the community together to celebrate the restoration of a free-flowing White Salmon River and to look forward to the future of the watershed. The event includes a community raft trip, a traditional salmon bake, speakers, and informational booths.

The Homecoming Celebration will commence at 9:30 am with a community raft float from BZ Corner to Northwestern Lake Park and the former Northwestern Lake. The lower river section through the former dam site remains closed due to the ongoing demolition of concrete structures and slope restoration along the flowline alignment above the river. Wet Planet Whitewater is offering a discounted rate for local residents. The public can reserve a spot by calling Wet Planet at 800-306-1673. **Wet Planet Whitewater is generously offering free rides to members of the media. For media reservations contact Jaco Klinkenberg at:**

Jaco@wetplanetwhitewater.com
Office: 509-493-8989 ext 2
Cell: 425-359-8587

The event continues at **2 p.m. at River Drifters in Husum, Washington** as Yakama Nation Fisheries and Trout Lake Gardeners will sponsor a traditional community salmon bake. Tribal

cooks will prepare salmon and fry bread for the community with additional food donations from Trout Lake gardeners and a local orchard. Activities at River Drifters will include an invocation, information booths, a free dinner, and an opportunity to celebrate with other community members. Speakers will include Pat Arnold from Friends of the White Salmon River, Todd Olsen from PacifiCorp, and Tony Washines from the Yakama Nation. Space is limited and the public is asked to reserve a meal ticket at: whitesalmonriverhomecoming.eventbrite.com

River Drifters is located on Highway 141 in Husum, Washington. Parking will be at River Drifters, Wet Planet and the Husum Fire Hall. Parking attendants will provide specific instructions.

The White Salmon River Homecoming is hosted by the Yakama Nation Fisheries, Friends of the White Salmon River, Wet Planet Whitewater, and Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group. The event hosts hope to bring the entire community together to celebrate this historic moment and look to the future of the White Salmon River. After decades of debate, deliberations, and disagreements over the fate of Condit Dam, the event hosts hope this event provides an opportunity for the community to take a step toward healing divisions and building stronger relationships. The event hosts believe that by cooperating and working together we can ensure the entire community benefits from this historic opportunity.

As explained by Pat Arnold, president of Friends of the White Salmon River, “Removal of Condit Dam was an end of an era and a beginning of a great opportunity. We are sharing a meal together, and a day of celebration, to mark the beginning of the next 100 years in the life of the White Salmon River and in the lives of all the communities of plants, animals, fish, and humans in the watershed who depend on the river.”

“This White Salmon event represents a momentous and long-awaited day,” said Virgil Lewis, of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council. “Together we will celebrate the return of the White Salmon River and the restoration of its salmon, steelhead, and lamprey.”

Margaret Neuman, from the Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group explained, “The return of salmon and steelhead to the White Salmon River is a great opportunity for us all to learn more about these remarkable species and the importance of restoring their habitat. We’re excited to celebrate this opportunity with our partner organizations.”