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Press Release

Work Begins to Restore Navigation Access and Habitat at Underwood In-Lieu Site

**Yakama Nation supervising construction and revegetation work to benefit fish and Tribal
fishers**

Toppenish, WA, January 19, 2018: Yakama Nation Fisheries Program has begun work through contractor Tapani, Inc. of Battle Ground, WA to restore habitat and boat access to the Underwood In-Lieu Site and historical Namnit Indian village site at the mouth of the White Salmon River in Skamania County, WA. The in-lieu site provides boat access for Tribal treaty fishers engaged in fishing on the Columbia River and was rendered unusable by sediments released from Northwestern Lake when Condit Dam was breached in 2011. The project, designed by InterFluve, Inc. of Hood River, OR, aims to restore the boat launch, reduce future inundation of the navigation channel by sediments, and restore fish and wildlife habitat by creating side channels and vegetated islands. Excavation and restoration work will proceed over the course of winter and early spring 2018 during low Bonneville Pool elevations. Restoration activities include improving the boat launch, removing fill materials from the boat channel, regrading them onsite to create several small islands on the existing gravel bar, and planting the newly created islands. Riparian and aquatic habitat will be improved by deepening side-channels to prevent stranding of juvenile salmonids when fluctuations in Bonneville Pool de-water shallow-water habitat in the lower White Salmon River. The islands will be revegetated with native plants such as grasses, sedges, shrubs, and trees. Excavation and regrading is expected to be completed by spring 2018, when the new islands will be planted.

The project received the following permits: US Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Washington State Dept. of Ecology Section 401 Water Quality Certification, Skamania County Critical Areas and Shoreline Substantial Development Permit, and Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Work is funded in part through the Condit Hydroelectric Project Settlement Agreement with PacifiCorp Energy, owner of the former Condit Dam hydroelectric facility. A grant from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund is funding the restoration work. Bureau of Indian Affairs funding will be used for boat ramp improvements.

Senator Cantwell and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler (3rd Dist.) were instrumental in advancing this important project.

Media requests for visits to the site will be scheduled based on availability.

For Release 12:00 PM PST, 1/19/18