



August 28, 2019

Objection Reviewing Officer
1400 Independence Ave., SW
EMC
Mailstop 1104
Washington, DC 20250

Via electronic submittal to jcapurso@fs.fed.us per the instructions at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=53001>

Re: Snoqualmie Tribe Support for Pacific Northwest Aquatic Restoration Project

Dear Reviewing Officer,

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe (Tribe) is a federally-recognized sovereign Indian Tribe with its governmental offices at 9571 Ethan Wade Way SE, Snoqualmie, WA 98065. The Tribe is a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855 in which it reserved to itself certain rights and privileges and ceded certain lands to the United States. As a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliot, the Tribe specifically reserved to itself, among other things, the right to fish at usual and accustomed areas and the “privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries on open and unclaimed lands” off-reservation throughout the modern day state of Washington.

The Tribe previously submitted comments on the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Restoration Project (Project), and holds standing as a party of record. We do not wish to object to the Project, however. Rather, we wish to utilize the so-called “Objection Process” to write in support of the Project. The Project planning effort has been responsive to our previous comments, and the Project itself will perform incredibly important, much-needed work, that will support Tribal resources. In particular, the Tribe would like to emphasize the critical need to address the huge backlog of USFS fish migration barriers in the region. Recent federal court rulings have supported tribal treaty rights in requiring the correction of these barriers, and we encourage the USFS to follow suit, and we also commend them for the advance planning work that will enable timely and efficient use of resources to address these needs, through the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Restoration Project. Please fully implement the proposed action.



Thank you for considering these comments. If you have questions or would like to discuss this further please contact Matt Baerwalde at (425) 363-2008 or mattb@snoqualmietribe.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matt Baerwalde
Water Quality Manager
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe