

NCAI Eighty-Second Annual convention

Officials with tribes, the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and other tribal organizations this month gathered in Seattle for the Eighty-Second Annual National Congress of American Indians Convention and Marketplace.

Collaborative sessions this year focused on tribal sovereignty, environmental stewardship, and energy vision for the Columbia Basin. The event marks an opportunity for tribal leaders, Native youth, and partners to strengthen nation-to-nation relationships, and strategize on key issues facing Indian Country.

A special reception featured tribal leaders joining New Mexico governor candidate Deb Haaland, of the Laguna Pueblo. Ms. Haaland is an historic figure as the



CRITFC

Representing the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs at the NCAI convention, Tribal Councilwoman Brigitte McConville, Chairman Dennis White III, and Secretary-Treasurer/CEO Edward Henderson (from left).

first Native American U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and a strong advocate for tribal sovereignty.

The gathering underscored broad tribal support for Ms.

Haaland’s gubernatorial bid in New Mexico, and reflected ongoing efforts to amplify Native leadership and policy influence at local, state, and national levels.

To Native people ‘salmon more than commodity’

Cascade Locks is one of the most popular and best-known places for people to stop in and buy fresh fish. But it’s only one of many throughout the region.

Buck Jones works on salmon marketing with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. Regarding places to stop for fish, he says, “There are almost 300 miles of river if you count both sides of the states.”

The importance of salmon is something Jones is proud to share with others. “The salmon is really culturally relevant to our people,” he said. “It is more than a commodity. It’s one of our traditional first foods.”

Steelhead trout, catfish and walleye are other important fish types. But salmon is the main fish Natives rely upon, especially chinook, also known as king salmon. There’s also coho and sockeye salmon, depending on the time of year.

CRITFC is a management and advocacy organization for the Warm



KOIN/CRITFC

Buck Jones, of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

Springs, Yakama, Umatilla and Nez Perce tribes since 1977.

Mersaedy Atkins with Northwest Fish Hogs helps run the family-owned business selling fish; and she and her family have no problem selling their fresh fish to the customers who visit their spot.

“We’ve got some really nice chinook that are coming through right here,” Ms. Atkins was saying the other day. “And then we’ve got some steelhead. These are all fresh caught every day. And then we filet them down.

“People buy them, buy the whole fish, or you could buy some by the pound, some filets.

“Salmon’s been one of our main foods since time immemorial, and it’s a sacred food to us, so it definitely is a feel good food to nourish your body, your soul spirit, and so it just feels good being able to give other people this high quality fish that just is taking care of us forever,” Mersaedy said. “So we continue to honor the fish by taking care of it so it can continue to take care of us.”

Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, Nov 30th • 6PM

• Holiday Treats • Craft Booths •

• Visit with Santa & Mrs. Claus •

• Drone Show •

• Native Round Dance •

• Christmas Carols •

Holiday Fun for the Whole Family!

Pioneer Rock & Monument

201 Crafton Rd - PO Box 348 509-773-4702

GOLDENDALE, WA 98620

Specializing in Native Design

Check our prices

Something for every budget

Family owned business, making custom **HEADSTONES** for the people of Warm Springs for 35 years

We carve them right in our shop **NO MIDDLE-MAN**

Check out our work in the **GALLERY** at www.pioneerrock.com



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
CRITFC IS HIRING!

Be part of the intertribal work to protect salmon and treaty fishing rights!



Applying is fast & easy.

Visit critfc.org/jobs or scan the QR code for full position details and application materials.

CRITFC Main Office

(based in **Portland, OR**)

- Manager, Policy Developement and Litigation Support Dept • **\$156-180K annual**

Law Enforcement Positions

(based in **Hood River, OR**)

- Police Officer • **\$32-38 per hour**
- Dispatch Supervisor • **\$28 per hour DOE**