

Tribal Government/ Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Proclamation

WHEREAS, tribal governments and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources share a common vision of stewardship of public owned and managed lands and share a deep commitment to sustaining our natural resources for present and future generations, and

WHEREAS, federally recognized tribal governments are sovereign entities that possess the right to self-governance and self-determination; and

WHEREAS, federally recognized tribal governments enjoy a unique trust relationship with the United States as set forth in the United States Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders, court decisions, and the general course of dealings of the United States with tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, the state of Washington is bound under federal law to respect the sovereignty and rights of the federally recognized tribal governments within the borders of the state; and

WHEREAS, the protection and preservation of our environment and natural resources are vitally important to securing a sustainable future for all the residents of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, tribal governments and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources commit to discuss issues of natural resources management, and

WHEREAS, in cooperative effort tribal governments and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources will develop a "Tribal Government/Public Lands Commissioners Order" that recognizes the unique government-to-government relationship between tribes and the Washington State Department of Natural Resources; improves effective working relationships and partnerships to promote conservation, cooperative assistance, consultation, and the sharing of information to promote healthy ecosystems and to carry out natural resource management responsibilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Brian Cladoosby, President of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians and Chair of the Association of Washington Tribes and I, Peter Goldmark, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands, do hereby proclaim the cooperation and commitment to the development of an Order that shall guide the Washington State Natural Resources Department in all interactions with tribal governments.

Brian Cladoosby
Brian Cladoosby
Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians President
Association of Washington Tribes Chair

2/18/2009
Date

Peter Goldmark
Peter Goldmark
Commissioner of Public Lands

2/18/2009
Date