



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

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March 20, 2020

Bryan Mercier
Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

Dear Mr. Mercier:

Due to the National State of Emergency regarding the COVID-19 or Coronavirus pandemic, the CRITFC Fishing Site Maintenance Department (FSMD) recommended the following maintenance plan to the Commission to help ensure the health and safety of the tribal members living and working on and at the In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites (IL-TFAS). The major limiting factor is the number of sites and the limited size of the FSMD crew.

In response, the Commission acted on March 19, 2020 to recommend that the Bureau of Indian Affairs close thirteen (13) of the upper river sites until May 1, 2020. Adequate communication and coordination with the tribes, Commissioners, and notification to tribal fishers is also recommended. This action will allow the CRITFC FSMD to focus its efforts and existing resources on the fifteen (15) sites currently being used. After deliberation, and on behalf of the Commission, I am forwarding its action to you by this letter so that BIA may act accordingly.

To address the need to focus limited operation and maintenance resources at the sites with the current use, we recommend that:

The following sites should be temporarily closed until May 1, which includes all Treaty Fishing Access Sites above John Day Dam:

North Shore TFAS
LePage TFAS
Goodnoe TFAS
Pasture Point TFAS
Rock Creek TFAS
Roosevelt TFAS
Moonay TFAS

Pine Creek TFAS
Three Mile Canyon TFAS
Alderdale TFAS
Alder Creek TFAS
Crow Butte TFAS
Faller Road TFAS

The following sites that should be kept open, which includes all In-lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites below John Day Dam:

North Bonneville TFAS
Cascade Locks In-lieu
Wyeth TFAS
Wind River In-lieu
Cooks In-lieu
Underwood In-lieu
White Salmon TFAS
Rufus TFAS

Stanley Rock TFAS
Lyle TFAS
Dallesport TFAS
Lone Pine In-lieu
Celilo TFAS
Maryhill TFAS
Preachers Eddy TFAS

Attached is a draft notice for the BIA Regional Director to post at the sites being temporarily closed.

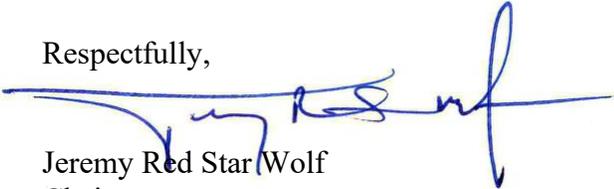
The tools, equipment, and supplies used to sanitize the surfaces at the IL-TFAS facilities are limited, but with some assistance we hope to provide additional COVID-19 safety measures to the residents and fishers using the sites.

The FSMD has sufficient personal protection equipment to safely conduct this maintenance plan for now. Tyvek suits and respirator filters are limited, but more have been requested through the CRITFC supply chain and local vendors in The Dalles. If resupply orders are delayed, we may need to seek assistance.

CRITFC is also preparing contingency plans to focus our actions if an outbreak of COVID-19 should happen on one or more of the IL-TFAS and will continue to work with you and your staff as well as appropriate health authorities.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Respectfully,


Jeremy Red Star Wolf
Chairman

Attachment