Replacing Long-lost Tribal Housing along the Columbia River: Recent Federal and Congressional Action

List Presenters: TBD, Yakama Nation; Phil Chang, Field Representative, Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley, Charles Hudson, Director of Government Affairs, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission;

Members of the Yakama Nation along with members of other CRITFC tribes live in distressed conditions at Columbia River In-Lieu and Treaty Fishing Access Sites. These conditions are a direct consequence of displacement from dam construction and decades of unmet obligations to mitigate, replace or relocate tribal homes and businesses. The Corps of Engineers, prompted by tribal resolutions in 2011, published a 2013 Fact Finding Report affirming unmet obligations to tribal members. Congress has responded by introducing and passing legislation to provide the Corps both authorizations and funding to begin developing plans for replacement village related to The Dalles Dam. Yakama Nation is exploring an inter-tribal housing authority concept with the other CRITFC Tribes and seeks to work with the CRITFC tribes, CRITFC, Corps of Engineers, BIA and Congress to see full compensation for lost homes in the Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day pools.

This session's presentations will provide the latest work being done by the Yakama Nation, CRITFC, and the NW Congressional delegation.