

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept these comments from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe. The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe—sduk^walbix^w in its Native language—consists of a group of Coast Salish Native American peoples from the Puget Sound region of Washington State. The Tribe has been in the Puget Sound region and the Snoqualmie Valley since time immemorial. sq^wed (Snoqualmie Falls) is the birthplace of the sduk^walbix^w. Historically, the Tribe had more than 90 long houses along the Snoqualmie River and its tributaries. These rivers and streams were the highways used to travel from village to village and connected all the ?aciɪtalbix^w (Natives). The fish, game, trees and roots provided the Tribe with everything it needed to live. All of this was given to the Tribe by duk^wibel (Transformer) in the ancient times when all of the animals could talk and before things were what they are now.

The Tribe's people are the sduk^walbix^w, People of Moon. They are the descendants of sluk^walb tɔ duk^wibel. The Tribe has lived, hunted and fished this area for as long as the earth and rivers remember. Its people were one of the largest tribes in the Puget Sound region totaling around 4,000. The Tribe is still here today; caring for the land, water, fish and game that duk^wibel gave them.

The Snoqualmie Indian 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. Treaty of Point Elliot, art. V, 12 Stat. 928."

Fishing in the Snoqualmie River, the Sammamish River, Lake Sammamish, and other streams, rivers and lakes throughout King County and Snohomish County are an integral part of the Tribe's culture. The Salmon Spawning Habitat Protection Rule, Chapter 173-201A WAC Water Quality Standards will support and help to protect many of the resources that are so important to the Tribe. The proposed rule is in keeping with the values that have been handed down from the Tribe's ancestors, and therefore the Tribe supports the proposed water quality rules.

Thank you for considering these comments.