

Yvonne Colfax

I am a member of the Yakama Nation. My blood quantum is 1/2 Yakama and 1/2 Warm Springs. I was born near and raised in Celilo village, OR. I gill net fish near the Goodnoe area on the Columbia River. This area also provides ample game and roots/berries and other cultural medicinal plants on both sides of the Columbia river and tributaries. The area has many ancient burials near and beside the waters other have been flooded by dam building. Since the building of the John Day Dam, the water flows have drastically changed and impacted fish migration as well as the water health for important aquatic species. Gathering of traditional foods are very confined and losing ground due to massive development along the Columbia River. Any new use of the Columbia River waters needs to be reviewed with my tribe. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Yvonne Colfax