



COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 1200
Portland, Oregon 97232

(503) 238-0667
F (503) 235-4228
www.critfc.org

ADDRESSING THE TRIBAL HOUSING CRISIS ALONG THE LOWER COLUMBIA RIVER

WE REQUEST: The Oregon and Washington Congressional Delegations familiarize themselves with the history and events leading to the current housing crisis via a 2014 site visit and that; the US Army Corps of Engineers submit a budget request for FY2016 to start a Post Authorization Change Report to address the outstanding obligation of the U.S. to the tribes and tribal people for the loss of their homes and villages due to construction of the federal Columbia River dams.

The Portland District Corps of Engineers (CoE) has completed a Fact Finding Report recognizing an outstanding U.S. obligation to these tribes and tribal people for the loss of their homes and villages due to construction of the federal Columbia River dams:

- The CoE Fact Finding Report provides sufficient justification to support a continuing budget request for FY2016 to continue its study and begin development of a project to address its outstanding obligations using its operations and maintenance funding.
- The study would recommend locations, development plans, and cost estimates for facilities required to meet the TBD housing target. The resulting project would formulate and recommend additional on-river housing at levels established through consultation with tribal governments.

ISSUE: Treaty tribal citizens are suffering substandard living conditions as a consequence of displacement by the construction and operation of the federal Columbia River dams. The loss of tribal villages and homes has been a contentious issue for decades. The tribes continue to insist that as long as the dams exist, the United States (through the CoE) has a continuing obligation for the impacts caused by the dams, including the loss of villages and homes along the river.

BACKGROUND: The Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites (TFAS) project was authorized by PL 100-581, Title IV (November 1988). The project was authorized to mitigate for Bonneville Dam impacts on the reserved treaty rights of four Pacific Northwest Native American tribes. The Treaty Tribes worked tirelessly on a government-to-government basis with the CoE and with Congress to implement this project. In 2011, CoE completed construction of the last two specifically authorized access sites.

In November of 2011 the four treaty tribes adopted formal resolutions requesting that the CoE review unresolved housing issues before closing out the Columbia River TFAS project. In response, the CoE conducted a fact finding review on related and unresolved housing issues using funds appropriated for this project. It is our understanding that the Corps would proceed if the agency and Congress determines that the fact finding review provides justification for additional study or Federal action.

The tribes and the CoE believe it would be useful for the Congressional delegations to tour the area with us to view on the ground conditions and discuss potential remedies.

CONTACT: Charles Hudson, Director of Government Affairs, CRITFC (503) 731-1257, hudc@critfc.org