

Kalispel Tribe of Indians P.O. Box 39 Usk, WA 99180

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January 20, 2015

Maia Bellon, Director Washington Department of Ecology PO Box 47600 Olympia, WA 98504-7600

RE: Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force

Dear Ms. Bellon:

Thank you for the invitation to participate in the Spokane River Regional Toxic Task Force. Although the Kalispel Tribe is concerned about the ongoing contamination of the Spokane River and other water bodies throughout the Columbia Basin, we respectfully decline your invitation. A number of the issues that the Task Force is designed to address are similar to those affecting the Pend Oreille River, and the Kalispel Tribe feels that it is more appropriate to spend our time and energy working on those issues in the Pend Oreille. That being said, we are supportive of the Task Force's present focus on developing a pollution prevention strategy and encourage the Task Force to consider the full suite of options for eliminating wastewater sources. The Task Force may specifically want to explore the possibility of alternatives to river disposal of toxics to eliminate biomagnification of pollutant loads into fish and the people who consume them.

Regards,

Deane Osterman, Executive Director

Kalispel Natural Resources

Cc:

Grant Pfeifer, Ecology-ERO

BJ Kieffer, Spokane Tribe