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The Tulalip Tribes are federally recognized successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied tribes and bands signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott.

## **Principles for Supporting Treaty Rights and Tribal Lifeways**

We, the Tulalip Tribes, the successor of the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish and other allied tribes and bands, have always lived here and will remain present and culturally vibrant for many generations to come. As the primary stewards of the land throughout the millennia, we believe we have a spiritual obligation to the land, water, plants, and animals who give themselves freely to us so that we may be sustained. We are a place-based people and the relationships between the land, water and our culture is one of immersion, interconnection and mutual respect. These relationships to the animals, plants, and places of our ancestors are the foundation of our traditional land stewardship practices that for thousands of years helped maintain a healthy and diverse environment. It is our view that the continued ability of tribes to exercise our treaty rights and our culture is the greatest indicator of a healthy and diverse ecosystem. Wise stewardship of forests and waterways is essential to protecting our treaty rights and the critical habitats necessary for plants and animals to thrive in our beautiful state. Treaties between our people and the United States are the supreme law of the land, woven into the United States Constitution and federal statutes, and confirmed by numerous high court decisions. At the time of treaty signing, our people made great sacrifices in ceding millions of acres of land in return for guaranteed access to all of our ancestral fishing, hunting and gathering grounds in perpetuity. Maintaining access to an environment that supports harvestable levels of natural resources is necessary to sustain our culture and lifeways and fulfill treaty obligations. Since treaty times there has been a significant change in the size and availability of open and unclaimed land which has led to a cumulative diminishment of our resources and sacred cultural heritage. In the brief one hundred and fifty years since the signing of our treaties, habitat loss from logging, agricultural, industrial and residential development and other land use activities has outpaced restoration and conservation. Population growth and development has greatly diminished the natural resources, sacred places and access reserved by treaty tribes. Climate change and population growth are two of the issues most critically threatening treaty rights and resources today.

Treaty tribes are co-managers of significant resources in Washington State. We have formal and informal relationships with many governmental and non-governmental partners to help achieve our mutual goals of ecosystem health, which in turn, supports tribal treaty rights. Tulalip's co-stewardship MOA with the US Forest Service is a good example of our ability to work in partnership with federal land managing agencies through true co-stewardship of the land and the treaty resources we depend on. The Tulalip Tribes understands well the strength that can be found in partnership. We pride ourselves on finding multi-benefit solutions with our neighbors, through efforts like the Sustainable Land Strategy (SLS), Qualco Energy, King Counties Fish, Farm, Flood (FFF), Local Integrating Organizations (LIO), and many others. We value the relationships we make with other organizations who share our concern for protecting the natural world and balancing economic interest with environmental protection. To assist organizations who do work in Washington that may affect tribal treaty rights and lifeways, we have outlined a set of principles and guidelines below to support the protection of tribal treaty rights

and resources. We ask your organization to support our treaty rights by adopting these principles in your work affecting treaty lands and resources.

- ❖ Acknowledge that for thousands of years, Coast Salish peoples have lived here, and maintain a strong spiritual relationship to these lands and watersheds of our ancestors from which we take our names.
- ❖ Acknowledge and support Treaty Tribes' inherent and reserved rights to fish, hunt and gather in our usual and accustomed grounds and on all open and unclaimed lands. Recognize tribes' role as co-managers of natural resources. Recognize that federal and state resource agencies have a responsibility to consult with Tribes whenever a project affects treaty rights or tribal interests.
- ❖ Actively support policies that protect and restore critical habitat necessary for sustainable populations of fish, wildlife and plant resources.
- ❖ Acknowledge that access to and protection of unoccupied privately held natural areas is a component of tribal treaty rights.
- ❖ Agree to do no harm to cultural uses and areas protected by treaty and federal law.
- ❖ Support and help to facilitate tribal treaty and cultural use and access. Commit to work together toward net gains in tribal treaty resource habitat and access. Understand that in many cases, access means passable roads.
- ❖ Engage tribes early in your organizations' projects or acquisitions that may affect tribal interests.
- ❖ Consider providing easements specifically for Tribal cultural activities. Also, propose land transfers to tribes when applicable.
- ❖ Support the tribes in our co-stewardship work with land management agencies and in our efforts to address policies that adversely affect tribal treaty rights.
- ❖ Recognize that landscapes, populations, and use patterns are changing. In order to mitigate the effects of these changes, support us in promoting creative solutions and flexibility necessary for tribes to maintain their lifeways.
- ❖ Promote public and institutional awareness and understanding about tribal treaty rights and interest. Facilitate education with members, board of directors, or shareholders on the importance of tribal treaty rights and stewardship.
- ❖ Support tribal efforts to revitalize our vision on the landscape including telling *our* story of these lands, and restoring Coast Salish place names.