



Washington Wild Board Resolution #100

Principals for Respecting and Supporting Tribal Treaty Rights and Tribal Lifeways

On the 24th day of February 2019, (as amended on the 7th day of December 2021) the following resolution was proposed and approved by the Board of Directors of Washington Wild:

WHEREAS, Washington Wild is a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1979 that works to protect wild lands and waters within Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Washington Wild acknowledges that for thousands of years Tribes have maintained strong connections to sacred lands including forests, mountains, lowlands, waterways, flora and fauna of what is now referred to as Washington State; and

WHEREAS, Treaties between Tribes 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; and

WHEREAS, since Tribal treaties were signed, there has been a significant change in the size and availability of wildlife, plant and other cultural resources due to logging, mining, development, population growth, recreational overuse and climate change, threatening the ability of Tribes to exercise their treaty rights and maintain their lifeways; and

WHEREAS, the habitat loss from development and land use has outpaced restoration and conservation efforts over the past century; and

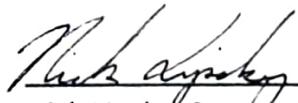
WHEREAS, Tribes have maintained and are currently "rebuilding" their spiritual connectivity to their language, water, land, animals, and plants and are seeking a broad coalition of support with agencies and organizations that acknowledge the past, present, and future role Tribes have in managing and conserving these resources.

WHEREAS, Washington Wild acknowledges the importance of how nonprofits and other organizations can support Tribal treaty rights and lifeways;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Board of Directors and staff of Washington Wild will:

- **Acknowledge that for thousands of years Tribal people have lived here in the Pacific Northwest and still today maintain a strong spiritual relationship with these lands and waterways;**
- **Acknowledge and support the Tribes' inherent and reserved rights to fish, hunt and gather in their treaty-protected usual and accustomed grounds;**
- **Recognize that Tribes are sovereign nations rather than simply stakeholders and, as such, require and deserve special consideration by other governments and by non-governmental organizations regarding all issues that affect them;**
- **Recognize that federal and state resource agencies have a responsibility to consult with Tribes whenever a project affects treaty rights or Tribal interests.**
- **Engage Tribes early in organizational efforts and projects that may affect Tribal treaty rights or Tribal interests;**
- **Solicit, listen to and respond to Tribal feedback and counsel on potential impacts to cultural uses and areas protected by treaty and other federal law;**
- **Support and help to facilitate Tribal treaty and cultural use access on our public lands which may include passable roads, recreation management and forest restoration;**
- **Support policies that protect and restore critical habitat necessary for sustainable populations of fish, wildlife and plant resources;**
- **Promote public and institutional awareness and understanding on the importance of Tribal lifeways and stewardship of resources by facilitating education with members, Boards of Directors, staff, other stakeholders and the general public;**
- **Support Tribal efforts to revitalize their vision on the landscape including sharing their story of these lands.**
- **Adopt a policy to generally support environmental programs sponsored by or involving Native American Tribes, at their request and with their consent. It shall, however, also be the policy of Washington Wild to avoid any involvement in projects or issues involving intertribal conflict.**


Andrew Escobar, Chair


Nick Lipsky, Secretary