

**ATNI Annual 2025 Convention**

**Suquamish, Washington**

**RESOLUTION # 2025 –** **DRFT-XX**

***Draft 1 Due to*** [***workroom@atnitribes.org***](mailto:workroom@atnitribes.org) ***by September 26, 2025***

***Final Draft passed by Committee due to*** [***workroom@atnitribes.org***](mailto:workroom@atnitribes.org) ***by 3:00 PM on October 15, 2025***

“The Klamath Tribes and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fisheries into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin”

**PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS,** the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

**WHEREAS,** creating opportunities for Indian Nations, preservation of tribal sovereignty and protection of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

**WHEREAS,** The Klamath and Modoc Tribes and the Yahooskin Band of Snake Indians signed the Treaty of 1864 establishing the Klamath Refservation,; and

**WHEREAS,** The General Council of the Klamath membership is the governing body of the Tribes, by the authority of the Constitution of the Klamath Tribes (Article VI & VII section IV E) as approved by the General Council and most recently amended on September 26, 2013; and

**WHEREAS,** The Klamath Indian Tribes Restoration Act of August 27, 1986 (P.L. 99-398) restored the Federal government-to-government recognition to the Sovereign Government of the Klamath Tribes; and

**WHEREAS,** Tribal Council Resolution TC 2024-51- FOR A DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY IMPLEMANTING A TRIBAL EMERGENCY FOR WATER, FISHERIES AND RESOURCES< passes September 27th, 2024 and was affirmed by General Council November 16th, 2024 (GC 2024-003); and

**WHEREAS,** the decline of these fish populations has disrupted cultural practices and ceremonies related to our fish, and this situation is placing significant strain on the survival of the Klamath Tribes. Tribal Elders also express concerns about passing on cultural knowledge as younger tribal members have fewer opportunities to engage in traditional fishing practices,; and

**WHEREAS,** continued Water Quality Degradation has caused a continued erosion of the viability of Klamath Culture since time immemorial, and our ancestors held true to the cultural traditions, subsistence, spiritual and medicinal gifts our relatives the c’waam and koptu provided life to our people, which now has been taken away since 1988. This Natural, Cultural and Social Impact Disaster is and has been a significant threat to the health, safety and general welfare to the people of the Klamath Tribes,; and

**WHEREAS,** , The Council places the highest of importance to the DECLARATION that immediate Tribal Action, as well as immediate action of local, state and federal agencies, is needed to prevent any further adverse effects, social impacts, harm, and to mitigate damages to the Tribal Natural, Cultural and Social trauma and overall general welfare to the people of the Klamath Tribes and their Treaty Protected Property Rights,; and

**WHEREAS,** The General Council directed Tribal Council to work with all the Tribal Departments and Staffs and outside organizations, to develop a path forward in an Action Implementation Plan to address the DECLARATION by the following; 1)Acknowledge and Utilize the Tribal Elder Resources from the Tribal Members who know and will serve as experts as Traditional Ecological Knowledge Practitioners; 2)Identify Critical Fisheries Habitats (CFH) for Wetlands and Watershed Restoration along our waterways; 3)Overlay the CFH with property ownership to seek willing partnership through Land Owner Agreements, Acquisition or Conservation Easements to begin the Wetland and Watershed Restoration Work; 4)Draft and Finalize the Tribes’ Action Implementation Plan to request formal action from the Tribes General Council and share with Federal, State and Local Agencies, as well as Private Foundations and other partners to seek commitments and partnership resources for Wetlands and Watershed Restoration to begin improving Water Quality to save the Fisheries in the Upper Klamath Lake and Klamath River Watersheds,; and

**WHEREAS,** Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) is a cumulative body of knowledge, practice, and belief that evolves through adaptive processes and is passed down through generations by cultural transmission. It reflects centuries of direct experience and observation of the natural world and offers valuable insight into sustainable stewardship; and

**WHEREAS,** the Traditional Ecological Knowledge and cultural practices of the Klamath Tribes have been systematically suppressed through federal and state policies, resulting in disruption of cultural lifeways, harm to the health and welfare of our people, and degradation of the ecosystems that sustain us; and the Klamath Tribes affirm our inherent right and responsibility to restore, revitalize, and apply our own Traditional Ecological Knowledge to the recovery of c’waam, koptu, the return of c'iyaal's, and the protection and enhancement of all treaty-protected resources,; and

**WHEREAS,** anadromous fish - including spring and fall Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), steelhead trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss), and Pacific lamprey (Entosphenus tridentatus) once migrated in large numbers into the Sprague, Williamson, and Wood River systems, providing critical ecological and cultural benefits to the Klamath Tribes,; and

**WHEREAS,** the native adfluvial redband trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii), a unique and culturally important subspecies of rainbow trout, has persisted in Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries despite significant environmental degradation, and remains a vital indicator species for water quality, ecosystem function, and fisheries recovery potential,; and

**WHEREAS,** the construction of four Klamath River dams beginning in 1918 extirpated anadromous fish from the Upper Klamath Basin for 107 years; and

**WHEREAS,** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Klamath River Anadromous Fishery Reintroduction and Restoration Monitoring Plan explicitly defers any active reintroduction of anadromous fishes for at least three to four generations (12-15 years), relying instead on volitional recolonization following dam removal; and

**WHEREAS,** The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Klamath Tribes’ Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin, released in December 2021 - specifies that the ODFW Klamath Hatchery and a future Klamath Tribes hatchery facility are the only approved facilities authorized to rear anadromous fish for the purpose of active reintroduction following dam removal; and

**WHEREAS,** The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Klamath Tribes’ Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin specifies that fall run Chinook salmon are eligible for trap-and-haul reintroduction; and

**WHEREAS,** the Klamath Tribes’ Ambodat Department has developed a phased, adaptive strategy emphasizing short- and long-term reintroduction pathways for spring Chinook salmon, expanded monitoring infrastructure, habitat evaluation, and restoration coordination, while integrating data and management to benefit native adfluvial redband trout populations,; and

**WHEREAS,** the strategy includes actions such as streamside incubation, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) and telemetry monitoring networks, rotary screw trap deployment, interim hatchery leasing, long-term Tribal hatchery development, and advocacy for fish passage at Keno Dam,; and

**WHEREAS,** the migration timing of Trinity River Hatchery spring Chinook is not well understood in the context of the Upper Klamath Basin, and it remains uncertain whether these fish will access critical over-summering habitat in the Sprague, Williamson, and Wood rivers before Upper Klamath Lake water quality deteriorates in late summer; and

**WHEREAS,** alternative stocks such as Rogue River spring Chinook, which exhibit earlier upstream migration, may prove more suitable for reintroduction under current thermal and water quality constraints in the basin; and

**WHEREAS,** The General Council of the Klamath Tribal membership approved a motion on February 24th 2025, that the General Council supports KIGC Recommendation of Development of the Klamath Tribes facility for release of > 1 million smolts per year for reintroduction of spring Chinook and possibly other salmonids in the future, working in consultation with KIGC and Tribal Council; and

**WHEREAS,** Keno Dam currently lacks suitable volitional fish passage, inhibiting anadromous species and native resident fish from accessing extensive upstream habitat in the Upper Klamath Basin; and poor passage at this location poses a significant barrier to the full recovery of culturally and ecologically important species; and

**WHEREAS,** the successful recovery of spring Chinook and other anadromous fish, alongside the protection and enhancement of native redband trout populations, is essential to the Klamath Tribes’ goals for food sovereignty, cultural revitalization, environmental justice, and Treaty-protected resource restoration.; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Klamath Tribes General Council affirms the vital importance of Treaty Protected Resources and the Klamath Tribe’s commitment to the reintroduction and long-term recovery of spring Chinook salmon, other anadromous species, and native adfluvial redband trout; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Klamath Tribes Ambodat department will develop and implement plans and strategies to assure the successful reintroduction and long-term recovery of spring Chinook salmon, other anadromous species, and native adfluvial redband trout guided by TEK. Furthermore, TEK will guide the implementation and will complement best practices to accurately describe a complete life history and understanding of the conditions necessary for these species to thrive within the Klamath Tribes ancestral territories; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council authorizes the Tribal Council - through the Ambodat, Natural Resources, and Cultural and Heritage Departments to pursue funding, coordinate with federal and state agencies, and engage in strategic partnerships necessary to implement this recovery plan in accordance with Tribal policy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council supports the installation and operation of PIT detection infrastructure at critical tributary junctions to monitor the movements and survival of reintroduced anadromous fish, c’waam, koptu, and adfluvial redband trout, and recognizes this as a critical tool for assessing passage throughout the basin - but particularly into the Sprague River (where little monitoring currently exists); guiding recovery efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and The Klamath Tribes’ Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin establishes that **ODFW and The Klamath Tribes are the sole entities responsible for active reintroduction upstream of the former Klamath River dams**, outlining a conservation hatchery approach and phased strategy to reintroduce **spring-run Chinook salmon** where volitional migration alone is insufficient; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** The Klamath Tribes Ambodat staff will work in coordination with ODFW to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to guide the use of state and federal hatchery facilities for active reintroduction activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council supports the use of Trinity River Hatchery stock for the reintroduction of Chinook salmon and will seek an adequate supply of eggs for immediate stocking; adaptive management will be used to determine the suitability of this source for future reintroduction efforts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council supports the use of streamside egg incubation systems in tributaries of the Upper Klamath Basin as an initial reintroduction method for spring Chinook salmon, and affirms their value for assessing habitat suitability, water quality compatibility, and early life-stage survival; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council authorizes the continued evaluation of out-of-basin spring Chinook salmon stocks with high ecological suitability for the Upper Klamath Basin, including stocks with earlier migration timing such as Rogue River spring Chinook, should Trinity River Hatchery stock be determined to be biologically incompatible with successful reintroduction and over-summering in the basin; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council recognizes the importance of developing hatchery capacity as essential to the successful recovery of culturally and ecologically significant anadromous species, specifically spring Chinook Salmon; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council does not support the collection of Chinook or Coho above the former location of Irongate dam for hatchery broodstock; fish traveling this far on their own exhibit ancestral traits that should be reserved for reintroduction above UKL;; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council supports the formation of a multidisciplinary group informed by the Ambodat Department to develop a plan to construct a salmonid hatchery - owned and operated by the Klamath Tribes which includes engineered designs, a comprehensive budget and a suitable location; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council supports the Tribal Council – through the Ambodat, Natural Resources and Culture and Heritage Departments to advocate for the timely design, funding, and construction of effective fish passage at Keno Dam to restore connectivity between the lower Klamath River and historical habitats in the Upper Basin, recognizing this action as essential to achieving the long-term recovery goals for spring Chinook salmon, other anadromous fishes, and native resident species; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the Council supports the Tribal Council – through the Ambodat, Natural Resources and Culture and Heritage Departments to evaluate and implement methods to assist the migration of fall run Chinook to suitable spawning habitat, including trap-and-haul, while effective fish passage at Keno Dam remains limited or water quality barriers prevent migration; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

OPTIONAL BOX: *If you’re not able to enter the clauses individually above, use this box for your resolution. Click or tap here to enter text*.

**NOTES FOR DRAFT:**

* Add additional ‘**WHEREAS**’ clauses by clicking the [+] at the bottom-right corner of the text box.
* Add additional ‘**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**’ clauses by clicking the [+] at the bottom-right corner of the text box.
* If you’re having trouble adding clauses individually, or if you’re copy-pasting from another document, use the OPTIONAL BOX for your whole resolution. You don’t need to include the preamble or first three ‘WHEREAS’s.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.

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Leonard Forsman, President [NAME], Secretary

Resolution Title [*CTRL+F9*]:

“TITLE”

**Author of Resolution**: Chariman William E. Ray Jr. **Cell Phone**: (541) 891-7422

**Author’s Email**: [wray.council@klamathtribes.com](mailto:wray.council@klamathtribes.com)

**Sponsor of Resolution\***: Chariman William E. Ray, Jr. & Member-at-Large Les Anderson **Cell Phone**: (541) 891-7422 (541) 810-8079

*ATNI Member in Good Standing*

**Sponsor’s Email:** [**wray.council@klamathtribes.com**](mailto:wray.council@klamathtribes.com)[**landerson.council@klamathtribes.com**](mailto:landerson.council@klamathtribes.com)

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