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Tulalip Tribes Secure Milestone Snohomish Confluence for Ecological and Cultural Revival

Tulalip, WA – The Tulalip Tribes have announced the acquisition of approximately 190 acres of land at the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers into the Snohomish River. This significant purchase, funded through five different grants totaling \$2.1 million, marks a major milestone in ongoing efforts to restore and protect this vital ecological and cultural site.

The newly acquired property, located at the head of Tualco Valley, is historically significant as an important fishing and gathering spot for the Skykomish and Snoqualmie tribes. The area holds deep ancestral connections. The cultural importance of this land is underscored by its historical use and the stories passed down through generations about its significance. The confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie Rivers into the Snohomish River is a unique location, currently the focus of a major restoration channel enhancement project in its design phases.

"We are excited about the potential this land holds for both ecological restoration and cultural preservation," said Teri Gobin, Chairwoman of the Tulalip Tribes. "This acquisition allows us to honor our ancestors and continue our stewardship of these lands for future generations."

The Tulalip Tribes have ambitious plans for the newly acquired land. The primary focus will be on ecological restoration, including enhancing riverside channels and Riley Slough to improve fish habitats and water quality. This project will create natural floodplain features to support a diverse ecosystem.

The purchase was made possible with grant funding from a Washington State Department of Ecology Floodplains by Design grant with Snohomish County, three Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board grants, and the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation.

"The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) is proud to play a key role in this broad-based collaboration," said Megan Duffy, RCO director. "It takes all of us working together to ensure salmon are healthy and harvestable for future generations. Conserving this important river confluence is a great collaboration between the Tribes, state and county agencies, local farmers and community members. We know the land is in good hands with the Tulalip Tribes, whose restoration work will benefit not only salmon, but all of us."

In addition to ecological restoration, the Tulalip Tribes will continue agricultural use on a portion of the property in collaboration with local Tualco Valley farmers and develop future educational and cultural programs that will allow community members and visitors to learn about the area's historical significance and the ongoing efforts to preserve it. These programs will include guided tours, cultural events, and workshops highlighting the traditional practices and knowledge of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie tribes.

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The Tulalip (pronounced Tuh'-lay-lup) Tribes is direct descendants of and the successors in interest to the Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Skykomish, and other allied bands signatory to the 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott. We agreed to cede title to our ancestral lands as signatories. In return, the treaty reserved the Tulalip Indian Reservation as our permanent homeland over which we have retained inherent sovereign jurisdiction.