



Presented by  
Spokane Indian Housing Authority  
(SIHA)





# Children of the Sun

(Spokane Tribe of Indians)

- **Spokane Tribe is a Washington interior Salish, river plateau Tribe**
- **sp'q'n'i? is the Salish word for Spokane**
- **The Spokane Tribe was made up of four bands that lived up and down the Spokane River all the way up to the Columbia River. The fourth being recognized as the Chewelah band.**
- **The Spokane Tribe is the only tribe known to have the signature Happy Dance song and dance routine.**





# Children of the Sun

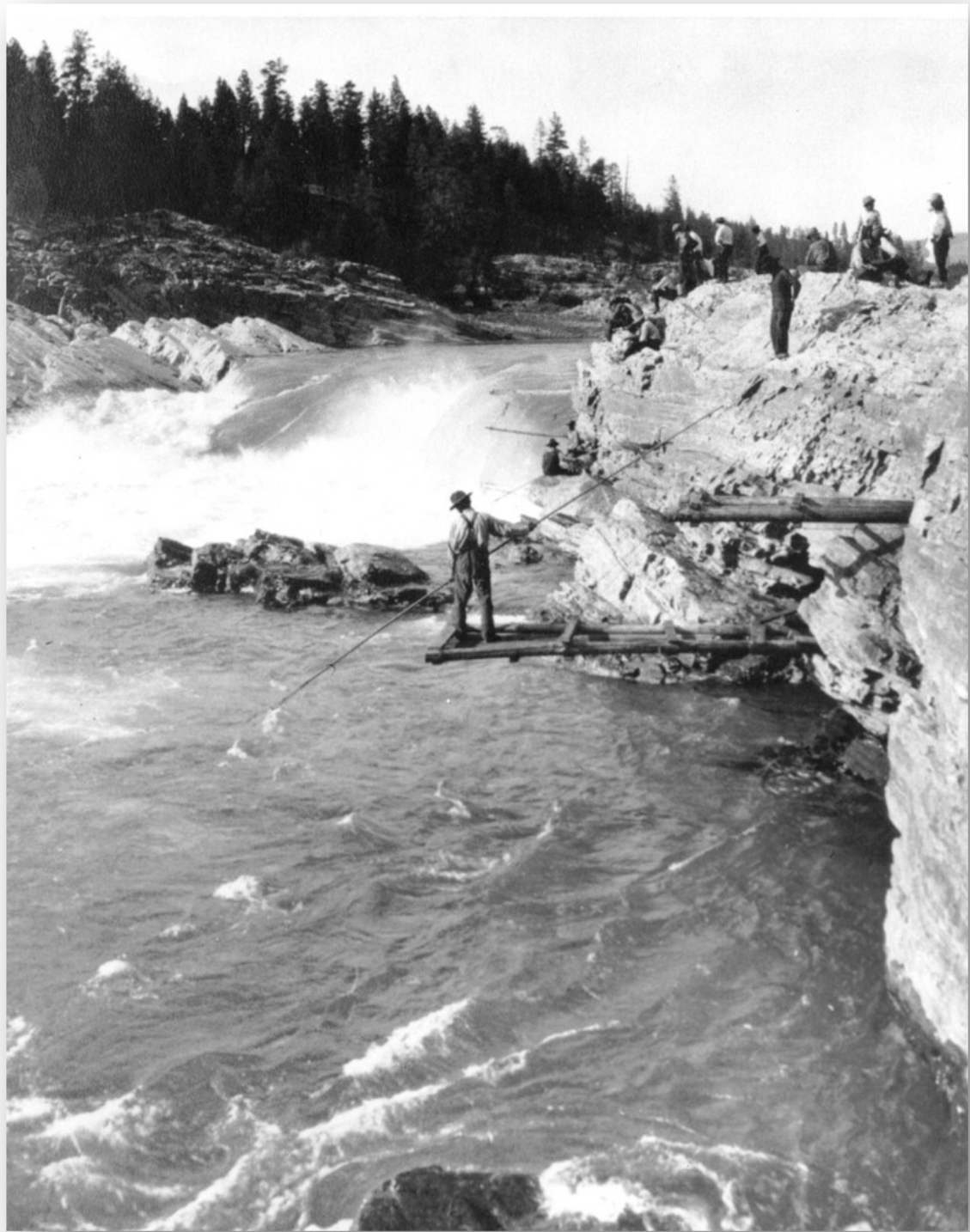
(Spokane Tribe of Indians)

(Peaceful Valley, Spokane, Washington) The Indian  
Congress of October 1925



- The Salish Tribe was nomadic and traveled with the seasons to gather and forge up and down the rivers.
- The Salish people lived in tee-pee's during the spring and summer months and settled in tule mat lodges and pit houses in the winter.
- The river was a main source of dietary foods. Roughly 80% of their food came from the rivers fish being their main protein with the salmon being the most sacred.











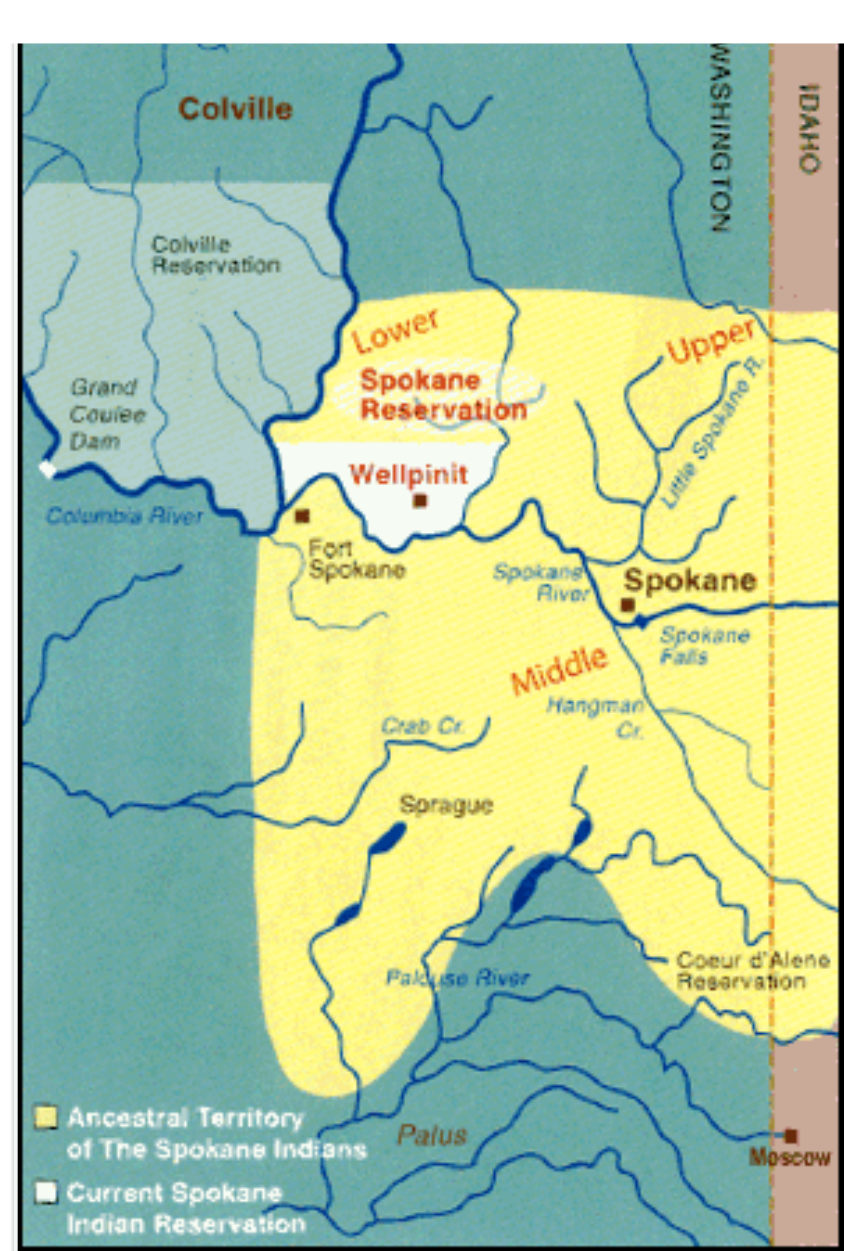
This is a picture taken by William S. Russell for the Bureau of Reclamation in 1941 of the traditional Chiefs of the Colville Indian Reservation. This is some of the final steps to completing the Grand Coulee Dam. These chiefs gathered before this structure to witness the finishing of the dam. The photo is held at the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation History and Archeology Program. It is also held at the WSU and University of Washington photo archives.



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- Spokane Reservation designated in 1881
- Wellpinit resides 50 miles Northwest of Spokane, Washington in the heart of the Spokane Reservation.
- As of May 2017, tribal membership includes 2879 people (spokanetribe.com)



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- Today the Spokane Reservation stretches to 159 thousand acres.
- Traditionally the Spokane Tribes economy was made up of trading and bartering with other tribes. Today's economy includes tribal enterprises such as The Spoko gas stations, The new Spokane Tribe and Chewelah Casinos, as well as timber sales.

Upper and Middle Band of the Spokane Tribe. Kettle Falls, Columbia River





# Cayuse Mountain Fire

(August 2016)

- In 2016 The Cayuse Mt. Fire left its devastating mark on the Spokane reservation causing much damage to local wildlife and land. In recent history this was the first time a fire of this scale had effected the Spokane tribal government, community and local first responders. The Cayuse wild fire awoke the consciousness of the Spokane tribe and (SIHA) that the severity of wild fires due to environmental change will not stop and we must be prepared for the worst scenario.







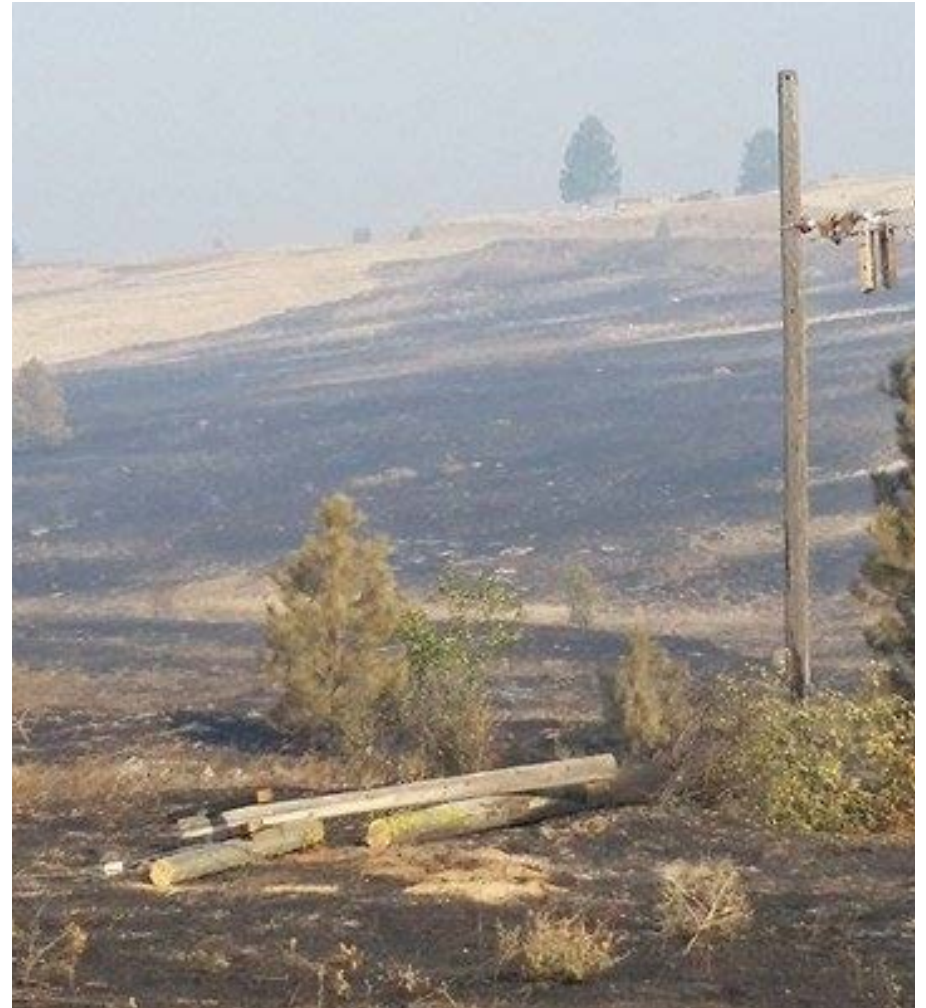




# Cayuse Mountain Fire

(Continued)

- Closing in within 1 mile of tribal governmental buildings the wildfire cut off electrical power and water to the locals and emergency responders.
- Tribal admin, shut down for a week due to power outage creating loss of revenues and hampering the progress of internal affairs.
- SIHA shut down for three days.
- 18,000 Acres lost to the fire impacted the tribe's timber sales.
- 14 homes lost to the wild fire. Due to evacuation notices no lives were lost.







**“We must be conscious of climate change and act to have a plan in place for emergency readiness while creating clean energy. Part of that solution is the beginning phase of the solar project known as The Children of The Sun Solar Initiative (COSSI), this is our commitment to the Earth and our tribe”.**

**Children of the Sun Solar Initiative**

**2017-2018**

# **What is COSSI?**

## **"Children of the Sun Solar Initiative"**

### **The Project**

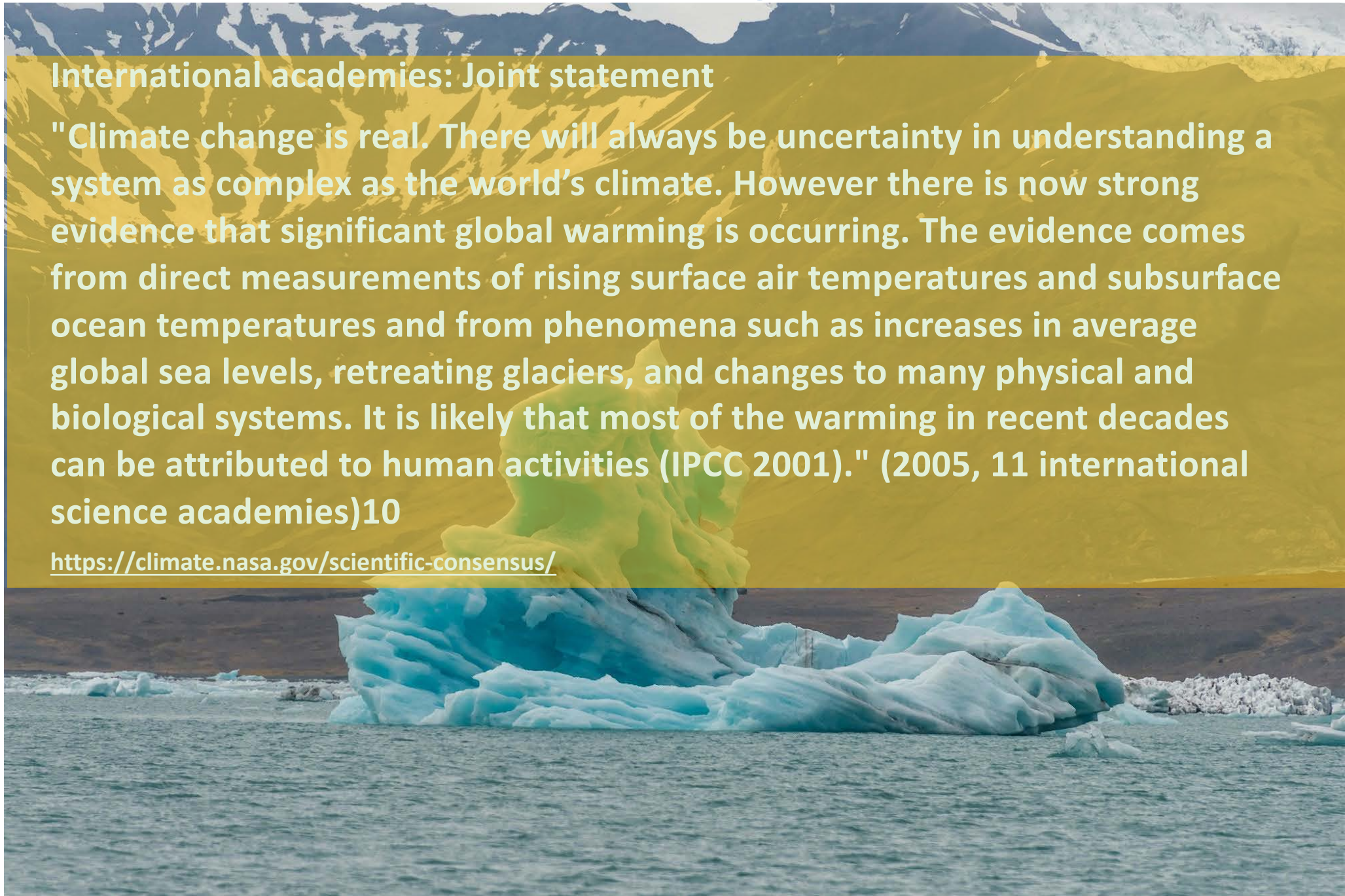
- **COSSI is a green energy plan that allows SIHA to install solar panels on essential tribal buildings that need to operate during an emergency and residential units.**
- **COSSI will lead into a second phase project of installing solar panels for SIHA managed units to reduce energy cost for families and tenants making affordable energy available.**
- **COSSI is an energy plan to address issues caused by environmental change that threaten the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Tribe, its people and land and promote energy sovereignty.**

# Climate Change is Real

## International academies: Joint statement

"Climate change is real. There will always be uncertainty in understanding a system as complex as the world's climate. However there is now strong evidence that significant global warming is occurring. The evidence comes from direct measurements of rising surface air temperatures and subsurface ocean temperatures and from phenomena such as increases in average global sea levels, retreating glaciers, and changes to many physical and biological systems. It is likely that most of the warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities (IPCC 2001)." (2005, 11 international science academies)<sup>10</sup>

<https://climate.nasa.gov/scientific-consensus/>





# **Our Vision**

- **Reduce tribal energy cost and become focused on energy self reliance, self-sufficiency and energy sovereignty.**
- **Emergency readiness, being prepared will give the Spokane Tribe the edge it needs to combat threatening conditions in the future.**
- **Contribute to lowering our carbon footprint as a tribal entity by promoting and utilizing green energy.**
- **Address the significant energy reliability we have through non-tribal energy sources and move towards energy sovereignty and self sufficiency.**

# Our Mission Statement

**“The Spokane Tribe adapts to change  
and we are still here”**

**-SIHA**

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q<sup>w</sup>emmstém lu? stix<sup>w</sup>x<sup>w</sup>lm hu  
púti que l?e.

# Plan of Action

- **Working with tribal and housing partners fund \$ 2.13 Million dollars with grant and tax credit investments.**
  - DOE matching grant for renewable energy for Indian lands
  - Tax Credit Investor
  - Wells Fargo Foundation
  - GRID Alternative Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund
- **Install PV solar panels on 29 homes and 9 essential tribal buildings.**
- **Move Spokane Tribe to energy sovereignty.**
- **Provide affordable clean energy.**
- **Blueprint for a second phase – COSSI II**



# Spokane Tribal Administration Building, Wellpinit WA (245.1 kW)

 HelioScope

Annual Production Report produced by Bjorn Johnson

 Detailed Layout





SIHA Office 2019





## SIHA Office and campus 2019





## SIHA Force account and Weatherization Shop 2019



## SIHA Force account and Weatherization Shop 2019





# SIHA Campus and Elder/Senior Housing 2019





STOI Longhouse May 2019





STOI Longhouse May 2019

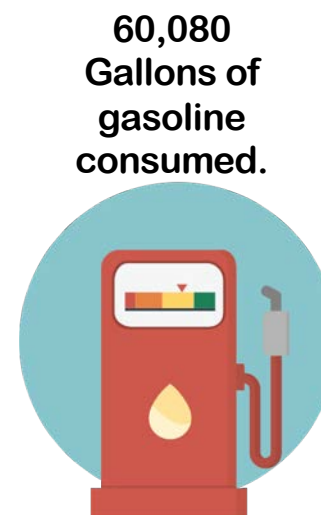


# **COSI Benefits**

- **The solar photo voltaic panels installed will produce 650 kW (annually)**
- **Providing 23,126,810 kW of electricity over the life of the project.**
- **COSI Energy will supplement 24% of the energy used in Wellpinit.**
- **Save tribal programs approximately \$ 2.8 million over the 35 year life span of the PV system.**
- **Reduction of CO2 emissions by approximately: 9.32575 Tons per year**



- **Environmental Reduction in greenhouse gas and other emissions.** The projected reduction of greenhouse gas emissions using projected solar energy, including SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and CO<sub>2</sub>, is 506 pounds of SO<sub>2</sub>, 960 pounds of NO<sub>x</sub> and 729,056 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.
- **Equivalency of greenhouse gas emissions.** The annual greenhouse gas emission reductions referenced are equal to: carbon sequestration by



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**The above amounts were calculated using the GHG Equivalencies Calculator at <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/energyresources/calculator.html>**

**This is for the full capacity of the Solar PV systems can offset annually in Wellpinit, Wa.**

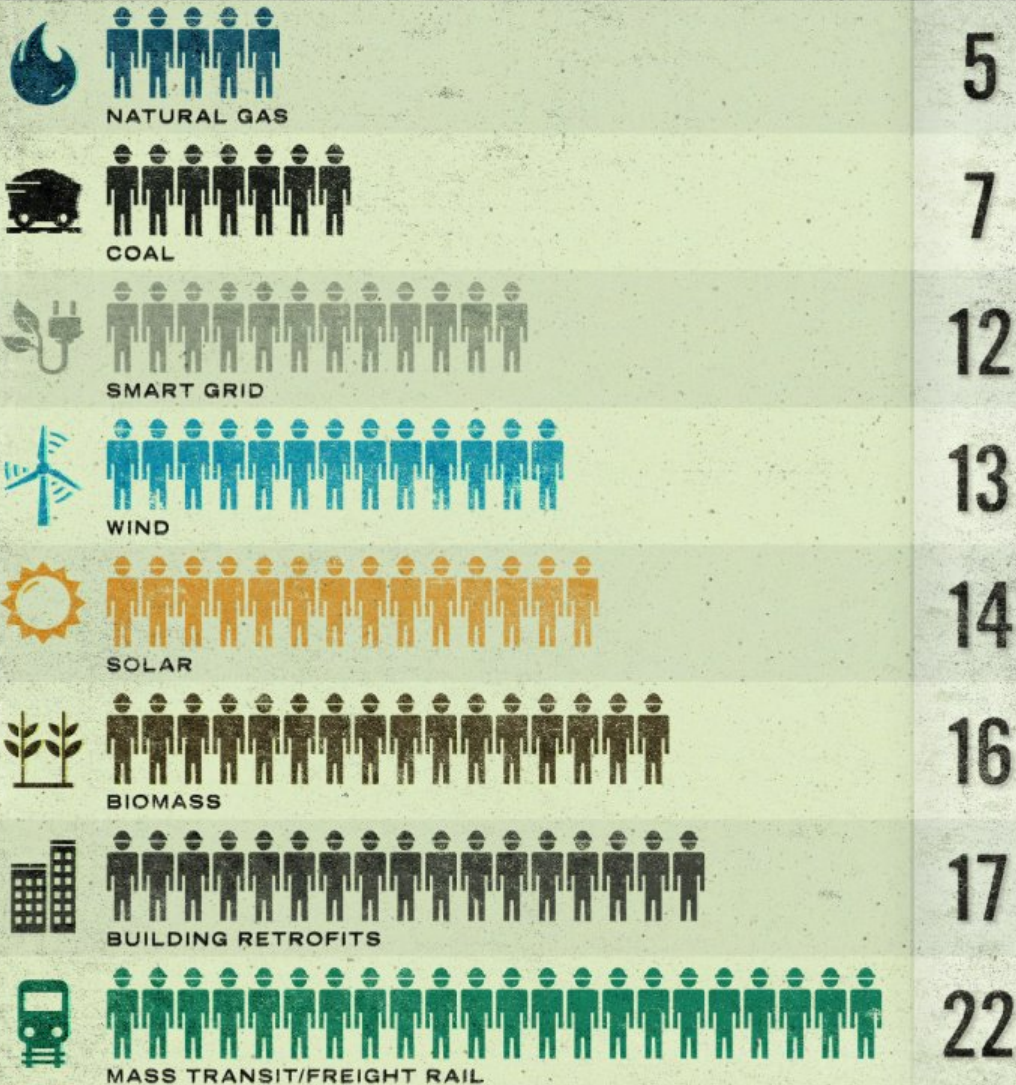
# Community Impact

- **Operations and Maintenance (O&M) contracted to Spokane Tribe's Sovereign Power entity .**
- **Train 6-8 tribal members.**
- **Create opportunity up to 4 Tribal member jobs.**
- **Lower energy bills for tribe.**
- **Change the status quo on renewable energy.**

# THE TRUTH

## ABOUT JOB CREATION

INVEST \$1,000,000 IN THE FOLLOWING INDUSTRIES, YOU GET THIS MANY JOBS:



SOURCE: Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts





# **Our Partners**



# Spokane Tribe Of Indians



**Spokane Tribe  
of Indians**

- In earlier times, the Spokane Tribe lived on, protected, and respected over 3 million acres of land. Tribal members fished the Spokane River, the Columbia River, and utilized the grand Spokane Falls as a gathering place of family and friends. The Spokane's lived along the river in three bands known as the Upper, Middle and Lower Spokane Indians. Traditional campsites were lived in depending upon the Seasons of the year.
- In January 1881, President Rutherford B. Hayes formally declared the Spokane Indian Reservation the new and smaller home of the Spokane Indians. The three bands of Indians were split up and some found new homes, which are now known as the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, the Flathead Indian Reservation, and the Colville Indian Reservation. Today the Spokane Indian Reservation is 157,376 acres in size. As of May 2017, tribal membership includes 2879 people; we are strong and growing. We welcome you and thank you for wanting to learn more about the proud Children of the Sun.

(Below) Salmon Chief monument on the Spokane falls, Spokane Washington. <http://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/508>





# Major Funders



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

- Indian Energy Policy and Programs Grant: Deployment of Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy on Indians Land-2017
- Between 2010 and 2016, DOE office of Indian Energy co-funded the deployment of 43 tribal clean energy projects values at more than 70\$ million.
- DOE's support in clean energy developments, helps improve the quality of life in Indian country.
- <https://www.energy.gov/>



- Developed over 3 Megawatts of solar energy on Indian lands.
- A National developer who has worked with over 600 customers.
- <http://sunvest.com/>

# Major Funders



- “\$5 million in charitable giving over three years to support solar projects in tribal communities.”
- <https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/corporate-responsibility/community-giving/>



- GRID Alternatives is a 501(c)(3) certified non-profit organization that brings together community partners, volunteers and job trainees to implement solar power and energy efficiency for low-income families, providing energy cost savings, valuable hands-on experience, and a source of clean, local energy that benefits us all.
- Installed over 3 Megawatts of solar panels on Indian lands.

<https://gridalternatives.org/>



<https://tribalsolaraccelerator.org/about/>

# Consultant: Godfrey & Kahn



- Consulted on solar projects leading to over 3 Megawatts of solar panels on Indian lands.
- <http://www.gklaw.com/GodfreyKahn.htm>

# Tribal Partner: Sovereign Power



- The partnership Sovereign Power has with the Spokane Indian Housing Authority to deploy community scale solar pv moves the Spokane Tribe toward energy independence while reducing the monthly burdens for tribal elders and tribal departments operational costs.
- The partnership creates job opportunities for unemployed and under-employed tribal citizens. The jobs created, matched with skilled labor development, supports Sovereign Power in creating a market driven business that is gearing up to operate on the reservation and throughout the region.
- <http://sovereignpower.co/#0>



# Spokane Indian Housing Authority

- Established 1971
- Operates and manages 220 rental and mutual help units.
- 2 low income housing tax credit projects.
- Staff and workforce of over 37 employees.
- Force account and weatherization crews.
- Three Bands Construction
- Preliminary planning to build the Spokane Urban Indian Village.

<http://www.spokaneiha.com/>





Energy Sovereignty



<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/aug/28/spokane-tribe-launches-children-of-the-sun-solar-i/>

<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/may/27/solar-celebration-hosted-by-spokane-tribe/>

### **THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW**

“We’re delighted to bring this benefit to the reservation,” Horan said.  
“Losing power during the fire was critical. Avista crews did an excellent job ... but they couldn’t work in the fire hot spots. We were looking at the loss of facilities – all of our administrative capacity could have been wiped out.” – Tim Horan, Executive Director of SIHA (The Spokesman Review)



# References & Websites

- ◆ <http://www.spokanetribe.com/>
- ◆ <http://sunvest.com/about/>
- ◆ <http://www.gklaw.com/GodfreyKahn.htm>
- ◆ <https://gridalternatives.org/>
- ◆ <https://www.inlander.com/spokane/nation-building/Content?oid=4660112>
- ◆ <http://www.spokaneiha.com/>
- ◆ <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/aug/28/spokane-tribe-launches-children-of-the-sun-solar-i/>
- ◆ <https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/office-indian-energy-policy-and-programs>
- ◆ <http://sovereignpower.co/#0>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS PROJECT,

Contact SIHA Executive Director:

Tim Horan

1(509)818-1460

[tim@spokanelHA.com](mailto:tim@spokanelHA.com)

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