



Chinook Indian Nation
Cathlamet · Clatsop · Lower Chinook · Wáhkakum · Willapa

First Foods Restoration, Federal Recognition and more

Sam Robinson



Chinook Nation members take the outer bark off a slice of bark pulled from an old cedar tree. Photo Credit: Amiran White

Following a conversation with project staff about their work [restoring wapato and Columbia River floodplain habitat at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge](#), BEF Watersheds staff Kayla Seaforth talked with Sam Robinson, vice-chairman of the Chinook Indian nation to get his take on the project and discuss other areas of focus for him and the tribe.

This streamed interview is outside of the Treeline project's normal print newsletter format, but Sam's passion and skill as a storyteller were so apparent that we felt this was the best venue to share his insights.

“We need to do some of the things that the ancestors would do to help out the earth. But without federal status they ask us to have a seat at the table, but it's not a seat at the table. That's what we keep fighting for.”

Listen [here!](#)



The Chinook People continue to harvest and use Cedar bark for a number of traditional uses today. Photo Credit: Amiran White



Paddlers transport the Canoe KLMIN at a stop along the annual canoe journey. Photo Credit: Sam Robinson