

Chair Jeremy Takala, Yakama

Jeremy Takala, Indian name Pax'una'shut and is from the Kahmiltpah Band (Rock Creek) of the Columbia River area. He is a member of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council, serving his second term. He sits on the Fish and Wildlife Committee, Legislative Committee, Law and Order Committee, and the Veterans Committee. In addition to serving as the Chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Takala also serves as a representative to the National Congress of American Indians and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. He is also a member of the Seattle Indigenous Advisory Council. Prior to being elected to the Tribal Council, he worked for Yakama Nation Fisheries for 12 years doing salmon and habitat work on the Klickitat River.

Takala is committed to managing fishery resources through the inherent rights that were affirmed through treaties between sovereign tribal nations and the United States. These legal contracts serve as guiding principles to help protect the natural foods, streams, and animals, as well as maintaining a stewardship role for future generations to understand and protect.

Takala represented the Yakama Nation on the Columbia Basin River Initiative, a 10-year commitment between the four CRITFC member tribes and the states of Oregon and Washington. The initiative strives for healthy and abundant levels of salmon and native species in the Pacific Northwest. The Biden-Harris Administration recently signed on to the initiative in April 2024. Takala also helped secure funding to assist the Yakama Nation Tribal Police Department address the fentanyl crisis on and around the Yakama Reservation.

Takala grew up in Goldendale, Washington and was brought up as a drummer and provider for the Rock Creek Longhouse. He acknowledges his traditional teachers which include a long list of family members and tribal elders. He and his children are very much involved in the community, in the longhouse and social activities/events.