



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

July 27, 2026

Re: Request for Assistance Concerning Signal Peak and Ransier Fire

Dear Federal, State, and Local Community Partners,

I write on behalf of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation ("Yakama Nation") to humbly ask your respective governments and community organizations for any support that you can provide to assist the Yakama Nation with the suppression and aftermath of the Signal Peak and Ransier Fire that continues to burn across our Yakama Reservation.

On July 24, 2026, a wildfire erupted in the community of White Swan on the Yakama Nation's Reservation and another fire on July 26, 2026. To date, it has destroyed at least 24 structures, including 16 occupied homes. White Swan is a small community of roughly 3,000 residents. Though the precise origins and cause of the fire are unknown at this point, extremely high winds in the days following ignition contributed to the fire's continued spread through White Swan's residential area, and have frustrated firefighters' efforts to combat and suppress the fire. The Yakama Nation Tribal Council issued a state of emergency for the Yakama Reservation, and as I draft this letter, our firefighters and other emergency responders continue to battle to protect our homes and community members.

The Yakama Nation, the American Red Cross, community organizations, and volunteers have taken immediate steps to provide support for those who have lost their homes, and those who remain under evacuation notices while the fire continues to burn. Shelters were established in Harrah, Toppenish, and Wapato. Donation sites and community kitchens were set up in Toppenish and Wapato and are feeding impacted community members daily. Yakama Nation Wildland Fire Management continues to fight the fire alongside their state and federal counterparts. Yakama Power has worked 24/7 to restore power to White Swan, even as power poles continue to burn. The Yakama Nation and Yakima County Emergency Management has stood up an Incident Command and are directing all Yakama Nation non-firefighter related response efforts.

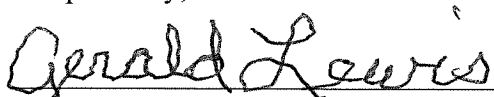
The Yakama Nation's main priority today is the safety of all residents of our community, and all those emergency responders who are putting their lives on the line to contain this tragic fire. To that end, evacuation notices and road closures will remain in place until it is safe to lift them. We are working to support those who have lost their homes, and those who have otherwise been displaced by the fire. Yakama Nation Police are actively patrolling to dissuade those who would use this emergency for their own nefarious goals.

Yakama Power will continue working to restore power to all of its impacted customers.

The devastation that continues to be caused by the fire and wind in this small, working class Reservation community is difficult to overstate. Those who lost their homes were largely unable to afford homeowners' insurance. Our enrolled Members and their neighbors who were victims of the fire have lost everything; their homes, family heirlooms, furniture, clothes, appliances. Rebuilding this community will be a long, uphill climb for the residents of White Swan and the Yakama Nation.

In the coming days, weeks, and months, the Yakama Nation will work diligently with our federal, state, and community partners to address the consequences of this tragedy. We are still fighting the fire, and it will take time to assess our Reservation community's exact needs in the months to come. We will share those needs as we identify them, but in the meantime, we humbly ask that your governments or organizations share any resources that you have available to help us suppress, rehabilitate, and recover from this tragedy. Please contact the Yakama Nation Incident Commander and Emergency Response Public Information Officer, Ms. Elizabeth Sanchez, at (509) 945-2939 or ws_fire@yakama.com, if you are able to provide any support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald Lewis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

GERALD LEWIS, CHAIRMAN
YAKAMA NATION TRIBAL COUNCIL