



Aja K. DeCoteau serves as the Executive Director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), where she leads a team of over 180 professionals working across the Pacific Northwest in fisheries policy, science, management, and enforcement. CRITFC is the technical support and coordinating agency for four Columbia River treaty tribes: the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Nez Perce Tribe. Under Aja's leadership, CRITFC works to restore fish populations, protect tribal treaty rights, uphold tribal sovereignty, and support the culture and economies of tribal fishing communities.

A citizen of the Yakama Nation with additional lineage from the Cayuse, Nez Perce, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, Aja was raised in Wapato, Washington, on the Yakama Reservation. She brings over 20 years of experience in natural resource management and policy within the Columbia River Basin, including previous roles as CRITFC's Watershed Department Manager and with the Yakama Nation in various environmental and policy capacities.

Aja is actively engaged in national and regional environmental and Indigenous advocacy. She serves on the Advisory Council for the Yale Center for Environmental Justice, the Board of Trustees for Earthjustice and the Native American Agriculture Fund, and the Boards of Directors for American Rivers and the Native American Youth and Family Center.

She completed her undergraduate studies at Dartmouth College, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Native American Studies, and went on to receive a Master of Environmental Management from the Yale School of the Environment.