

Ms. Aja DeCoteau
Executive Director
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Biography for Aja K. DeCoteau:

Aja K. DeCoteau is a citizen of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and has other tribal lineage with the Cayuse, Nez Perce, and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians. She grew up on the Yakama reservation and has over twenty years of experience working on natural resource management and policy issues in the Columbia River Basin. She has been the Executive Director for the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) in Portland, OR, since November 2021 and was previously the Watershed Department Manager for the last twelve years. With a team of 150 staff in five locations, she coordinates fisheries restoration and watershed protection activities on behalf of the treaty reserved fishing rights of the Yakama, Nez Perce, Umatilla, and Warm Springs tribes in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Aja sits on the Board of Trustees for Earthjustice, the Board of Directors for the Columbia Land Trust, American Rivers, and Portland Energy Conservation, Inc. (PECI), and the Board of Advisors for WorldOregon. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Native American Studies from Dartmouth College and holds a Master of Environmental Management from Yale University, School of the Environment.