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Community Open House to Introduce Celilo Falls Memorial Project

Portland, Oregon (November 3, 2010) – Community members from the Portland Metro area are invited to attend an open house for the Celilo Falls memorial project on November 7, 2010. This free event will take place in Miller Hall at the World Forestry Center in Portland, from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. Project organizers and local community supporters will present a model for the Celilo Falls memorial as designed by internationally renowned artist Maya Lin. [Lin](#) is well known for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Those who attend can enjoy food and wine as they hear about plans to build the memorial at Celilo Park by 2012. Traditional storyteller Ed Edmo will share stories about Celilo Falls, and master net maker Terry Courtney will demonstrate his craft. Information on Celilo Falls and Celilo Village will be presented by the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and the Center for Columbia River History.

The event is being hosted by former congresswoman Elizabeth Furse, Antone Minthorn (Columbia Gorge Commission, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) and Paul Lumley (Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission). “The loss of Celilo Falls is a tragedy,” said Paul Lumley, executive director of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, “It is a tragedy for the tribes that relied on Celilo, the environment and the wildlife on the Columbia, especially salmon.”

“The memorial proposed by Maya Lin bring attention to this loss and create a place for people to reflect on the fact that decisions have consequences,” said Furse. “Collectively, we must take great care when making these decisions.”

The memorial to Celilo Falls has a special meaning for tribes along the Columbia River. “We see Celilo as a legacy, an icon, a cultural, religious kind of place. We want to keep that place present on the river. We want it to remain a part of us — the Indian tribes,” said Antone Minthorn, elder of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and chairman of the Confluence Project. “Celilo is kind of like a stamp that signifies that the Falls are still a part of us.”

Efforts are underway to raise funds for the Celilo Falls memorial. Contributions will be accepted at the event, and donations may be made online at www.confluenceproject.org. The Confluence Project has raised \$27 million to date to complete the first five art installations and the restoration of the land at each of these sites. To complete the Celilo Park installation, an additional \$2.5 million will be needed.

To learn more about the Confluence Project and Celilo Park, visit www.confluenceproject.org.