



Clean River ♦ Healthy Community

For Immediate Release  
Spokane, Washington

## **Center for Justice Hires New Spokane Riverkeeper**

### ***Local Angler and Long Time River Advocate Takes the Reins as the Third Spokane Riverkeeper***

July 10, 2014 – Today, the Center for Justice, Spokane’s legal advocacy organization dedicated to social and environmental justice, announced the hiring of the new Spokane Riverkeeper, Jerry White.

Jerry will serve as the third Spokane Riverkeeper replacing Bart Mihailovich, who recently accepted a position with the International Waterkeeper Alliance. Rick Eichstaedt, the current Executive Director of the Center for Justice, was the founding Riverkeeper.

Jerry was born in Corvallis Oregon very near the Willamette River. His family moved to Cheney, Washington where he grew up exploring the lakes, rivers and forests of the area. From a young age he traveled each spring to fish for native Chinook salmon with his grandfather on the Willamette River. It was there, watching salmon roll, that his fascination for the power of all rivers was born. With a mother who stopped to move turtles out of the road and a father who loved spending time outside, Jerry became an early advocate for the plants and animals of the Columbia Basin.

Jerry has a long history of working to protect rivers in the Inland Northwest. As a former staff member of Save our Wild Salmon, Jerry advocated for the restoration and protection of native Snake River salmon and steelhead. He has worked for native trout as conservation chair and continues to volunteer for Spokane Falls Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Currently, he is a board member of Inland Northwest Nature Connection.

Jerry loves to spend time on the Spokane River fly fishing for trout, rowing his drift boat, shooting one of his longbows or backcountry skiing on the very snow that feeds our River. Jerry lives with his wife, two sons and two barky heeler dogs within

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earshot of the Spokane River. Not a day goes by when Jerry does not find an excuse to drive, ride, walk, wade or just day dream along the river he is so dedicated to protecting.

Jerry plans to focus some of his attention as Riverkeeper on addressing pollution problems in Latah Creek, one of the largest tributaries of the Spokane River.

“It is an honor to take the helm of one of the Spokane Riverkeeper and I look forward to working with our members, partners and community to build on Bart’s efforts to protect the Spokane River,” says Jerry.

Jerry says, “As a lifelong river lover, it is a great pleasure for me to expand my environmental efforts to the protection of the Spokane River and its native redband trout, its habitat, and everyone’s basic fundamental need of clean water within Spokane’s iconic river.”

Center for Justice Executive Director Rick Eichstaedt is excited about adding Jerry to the team, “With Jerry’s strong leadership and experience, we will continue our ability to protect our Spokane River. “

The Spokane Riverkeeper is a program of the Center for Justice. It was founded in 2009. Its mission is to preserve and protect the Spokane River. The Riverkeeper uses legal tools and credible science to advance its mission. While the Riverkeeper strives to collaborate with local organizations, such as its role in founding the Spokane River Regional Toxics Task Force, legal enforcement of the Clean Water Act is a tool that the Riverkeeper uses to protect our watershed.

*For more information, please contact Rick Eichstaedt, Center for Justice, Executive Director at 509-835-5211/ 509-251-1424 (cell) / ricke@cforjustice.org.*