

Partners in Preservation

The Columbia River and its tributaries cut through the landscape of the Pacific Northwest, exposing deep layers of history and heritage. Traces of this history are evident at pre-contact and historic archaeological sites and at culturally significant places for Native American tribes and communities throughout the region. Pre-contact sites are those generally attributed as Native American and older than written record. Historic sites are older than 50 years old. A federal partnership helps ensure that these irreplaceable and invaluable sites are preserved for future generations.

The Federal Columbia River Power System harvests the energy of 31 dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries, offering valuable benefits to the Northwest economy — namely clean, cost-effective and reliable electricity.

The FCRPS Cultural Resource Program manages cultural sites that the operations and maintenance of 14 of the dam and reservoir "Projects" can affect. Fluctuating water levels in reservoirs can cause erosion or otherwise destroy or expose irreplaceable cultural resources.

In place since 1997, the Program is jointly managed and funded through a partnership between the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). To ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act — and to ensure historic and cultural sites are managed for the benefit of all — these three federal agencies collaborate with 10 Native American tribes, four state historic preservation offices and several other federal land managers in nine separate cooperating groups.

Fiscal Year 2022 accomplishments

The FCRPS Cultural Resource Program and its implementers carry out the important work of identifying cultural sites, evaluating their historical significance, assessing the effects of FCRPS operations and maintenance on these sites, and determining how sites can best be preserved or managed. This fact sheet summarizes the results of Program work from Oct. 1, 2021 through Sept. 30, 2022.

Inventory — Archaeologists and people with specialized knowledge of Native American traditional cultural places and practices identify cultural sites by doing research, surveying landscapes and interviewing Native American tribal elders. At present, inventory of accessible lands within the FCRPS Projects is largely complete. In FY 2022, the FCRPS Cultural Resources Program accomplished the following inventory work:

- Completed field surveys of 3 acres to identify archaeological and historic sites.
- Documented two new archaeological sites, bringing the total number of recorded sites in the system to 4,775.
- Produced 21 reports and at least 17 individual forms documenting important cultural places known as traditional cultural properties, also called TCPs, or historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes, referred to as HPRCSITs.

Evaluation — When sites are located, they are assessed for the information they convey about important historic events and figures or for the specific architectural, engineering or artistic forms they exemplify. If a cultural site conveys this type of information, it may be considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic property. The agencies completed 36 National Register eligibility determinations in FY 2022, 10 of which are newly eligible for listing in the National Register. In addition, a majority of the produced TCP or HPRCSIT forms provide statements on potential eligibility.

Assessment of effects — Federal agencies must evaluate the effects of their actions; in this case, the operations and maintenance of the FCRPS dams and reservoirs on cultural sites that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The agencies accomplish this through monitoring or visiting sites to document changes in their condition, physical or otherwise. Of the 272 sites monitored, 156 sites had physical changes in FY 2022.



The Dalles Dam is 192 miles upriver from the mouth of the Columbia River and two miles east of the city of The Dalles, Oregon. The dam was authorized by Congress for power and navigation in the 1950 Flood Control Act and began operating in 1957, forming Lake Celilo. Lake Celilo extends upstream of the dam for 24 miles to the John Day Dam. The Dalles Lock and Dam, owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District, is one of the ten largest hydropower dams in the United States.

Resolution of adverse effects — Federal agencies must resolve adverse effects on historic properties that result from their actions. Resolving adverse effects can take many forms, including stabilizing or rehabilitating existing sites, protecting culturally sensitive areas, or creating interpretive signs, curricula or presentations to educate the public or increase cultural perpetuation. Notable achievements in resolving adverse effects in FY 2022 are as follows:

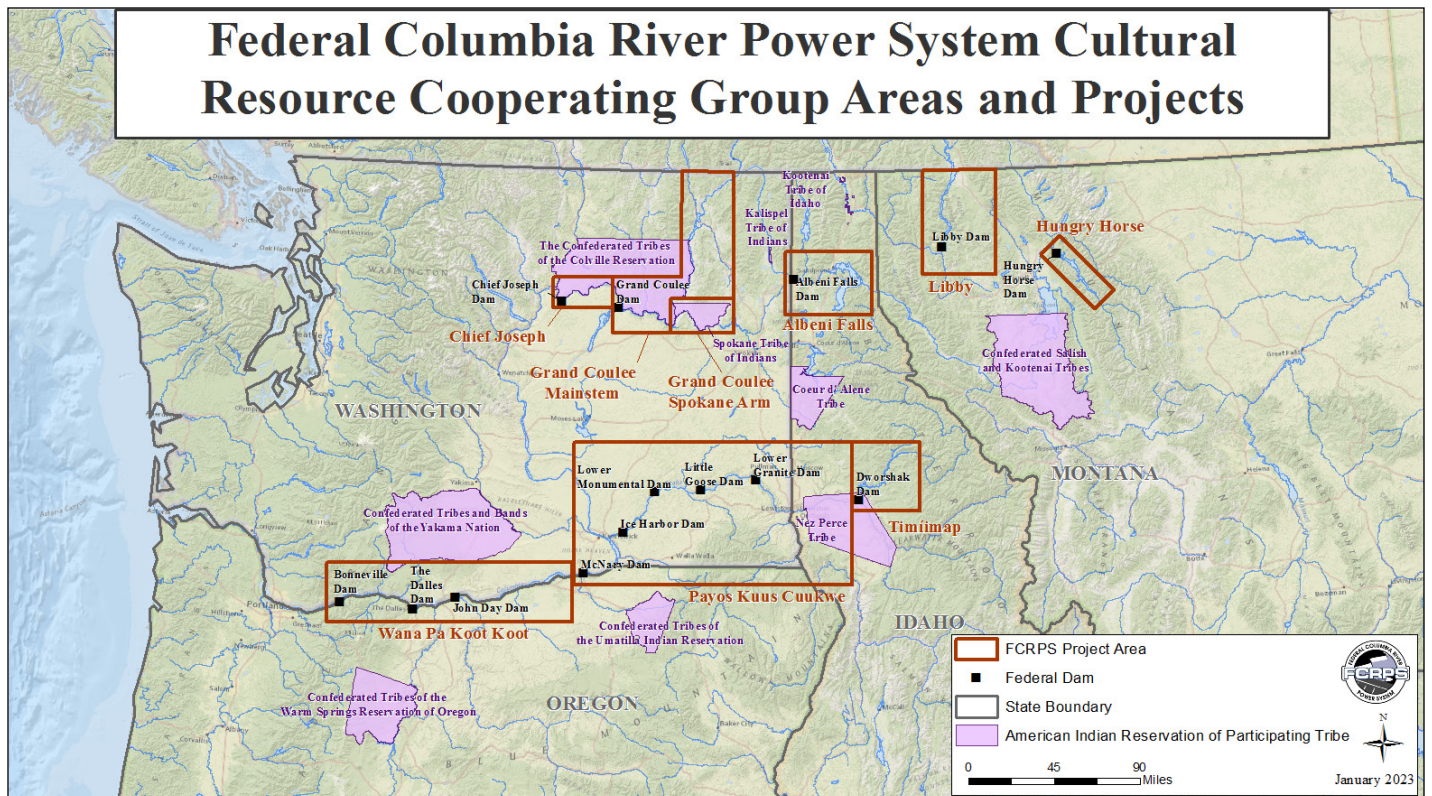
Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Cultural Resources Protection Program partnered with the CTUIR Department of Children and Family Services, Family Engagement Project and Tribal Fisherman to provide education and knowledge about First Foods. This included gathering beargrass and huckleberries on Mount Adams and the Nciwana Excursion to Cascade Locks.
- The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission hosted a training on the Archaeological Resource Protection Act.
- The USACE installed fencing to protect several archaeological sites being trampled by cattle encroaching from properties adjacent to the John Day Project.
- The USACE continued to develop a standalone Historic Properties Management Plan/Cultural Resources Management Plan for The Dalles Project.
- The Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program took a group of students and teachers from the Yakama Nation Tribal Summer School to Columbia Hills State Park to tour the petroglyphs. Gregg Kiona with the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Department spoke about the importance of the petroglyphs, their history, including their removal and return, and the cultural resource laws that ensure their protection and preservation.



Yakama Nation Tribal Summer School students and teachers in front of "She Who Watches," July 26, 2022. Photo by Gregg Kiona, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Department.

Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resource Cooperating Group Areas and Projects



This map shows the 14 hydroelectric dams and Cooperating Groups that make up the Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resource Program.

Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- The CTUIR completed rock imagery educational materials to be presented at local schools, including a PowerPoint slideshow and three lessons for students of various ages.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation History/Archaeology Program, or CCT H/A, conducted a site visit and oral history work with tribal elders at Palus Canyon TCP, and the elders also visited other culturally significant areas at McNary, Ice Harbor, Little Goose and Lower Granite Projects.
- The Nez Perce Tribe continued with ongoing Palus Canyon TCP research, now in Phase 2, continued development of an ESRI story map and geodatabase, as well as entered data collected under prior contracts into a user-friendly software system.
- Contractor AINW completed a final synthesis report for archaeological collection analysis of McNary village site 45FR14/15/101 settled at least 7,800 years ago. The contract included analysis of over 19,000 artifacts, including shell and bone, some 1,726 lithic tools and a sample of faunal remains.



Installation of a buck-and-rail fence and gate to discourage recreational impacts to a site at Lower Granite in FY 2022.

Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- The CCT H/A completed five public outreach events for the Chief Joseph Dam Project that included elementary and high school students, State Wildlife interns, and geology graduate students.
- Albeni Cove stabilization repair efforts replaced approximately 300 total linear feet of missing and slumped material in the existing bank stabilization.
- The Libby Cooperating Group continues to plan and work on the production of interpretive signage across from overlapping sites to address previous incidences of looting.
- The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (CSKT) Tribal Program concluded a three-year Trail Study to create a GIS geodatabase of traditional terrestrial trails based on known routes.



Albeni Cove Rip Rap showing the bank stabilization repairs FY 2022.

Bureau of Reclamation accomplishments

- The CCT H/A completed the analysis of a tephra sample collected from a site near Kettle Falls and determined that it is from the cataclysmic eruption of Mount Mazama approximately 6,900 radiocarbon years BP.
- Reclamation continued protection/stabilization construction at site 45LI377 on the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt. The expansive protection system includes a cellular system packed with gravel and anchored into an eroding cutbank, finished with topsoil and native plantings in areas above the ordinary high-water mark.
- The CSKT Tribal Program continued background research on traditional landscape use at selected TCP sites at the Hungry Horse Project. Elder interviews have been successful and the CSKT are working to incorporate a wealth of new knowledge into the ongoing ethnobotanical and TCP reports for the Cooperating Group.



Excavation of an eroding bank at 45ST1111 on the Mainstem of Lake Roosevelt in FY 2022.



Site protection/stabilization construction at site 45LI377 on the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt in FY 2022.

Next steps

Artifacts, significant cultural sites, historic properties and structures are non-renewable limited resources. Once destroyed, they are gone forever. To that end, the important work of the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program will continue preserving the rich history of people and traditional ways of life in the Pacific Northwest.

Cooperating groups, tribal participants, and state and federal agencies will build upon the inventory, evaluation and assessment, and important treatment and mitigation work accomplished in FY 2022. This collaborative work prioritization effort continues shared management for the common goal of preserving the region's finite cultural resources for generations to come.