

Places of traditional cultural significance often serve as vital links between contemporary tribal members and ancient ancestral cultural sites and landscapes.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation welcomes you to our homelands and invites you to be a part of preserving this legacy for future generations.



Unnamed creek near Gaviota Bend.

**CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE
COLVILLE RESERVATION**

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Main Webpage
www.colvilletribes.com

History and Archaeology Program Webpage
www.colvilletribes.com/history-archaeology

A Brief History Story Map Webpage
storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bb31cd48d0284fa59d6f454cafabe962

Places of Traditional Cultural Significance within the Chief Joseph Dam Project

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
History & Archaeology Program



Places of traditional cultural significance

The Chief Joseph Dam Project is located within the traditional territories of the šntiyátkʷəxʷ people, known today as the Okanogan Tribe, and the nspíləm people, known today as the Nespelem Tribe, two of the twelve constituent tribes of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT).

Traces of the lives of the ancestors of today's Okanogan and Nespelem people are found within the Chief Joseph Dam Project dating back over 7,000 years. There are hundreds of archaeological sites and places of traditional cultural significance to the CCT within the Chief Joseph Dam Project, and each one of them carries the history and teachings of our people.

Examples of places of traditional cultural significance include villages and camps, resource gathering locales such as fishing stations, plant food harvesting areas, and hunting areas; transportation related features such as trails and the Columbia River and its tributaries; and places with associations with Legendary Beings such as Coyote, Fox, and Eagle.



CCT Elder Nelson lukes sharing his knowledge of the Nespelem River.

VILLAGES AND CAMPS

sqe'tastum

"rocks ready for tipi"
located between Box Canyon and Long Rapids

xaʔəmíʔsaxn

"forehead" or "brow of hill"
encompassing portions of the Nespelem River

spukʷpukʷmín

"scattered rocks"
underlying the City of Bridgeport, WA



Approximate location of sqe'tastum, now undated.

RESOURCE GATHERING LOCALES

snq'íʔkáłxʷtn

"place of tipi poles"
fishing location at a creek flowing through Elmer City, WA

snwə́n'łún'q

"white camas"
root harvesting area below Belvedere, WA

sk'ix

"fence"
deer hunting area near Seaton's Grove, WA



Overview of the deer hunting area known as sk'ix.

LEGENDARY LOCATIONS

nqaʔqaʔáws

"set in the middle"
a topographic feature placed by Coyote to punish Eagle and his daughter.

smiyaw spəlq

"Coyote's member"
a rock near the Nespelem River at which people left offerings for good fortune.