

## CULTURAL STEWARDS

You can help protect these invaluable pieces of **s̓n̓s̓ay̓ckstx**, **s̓x̓'y̓?ilpx**, **s̓n̓p̓s̓awilx**, and **n̓spiləm** history. Native American artifacts are non-renewable. Per Tribal, State, and Federal laws, they are to be left in place, undisturbed.

## REPORT VIOLATIONS

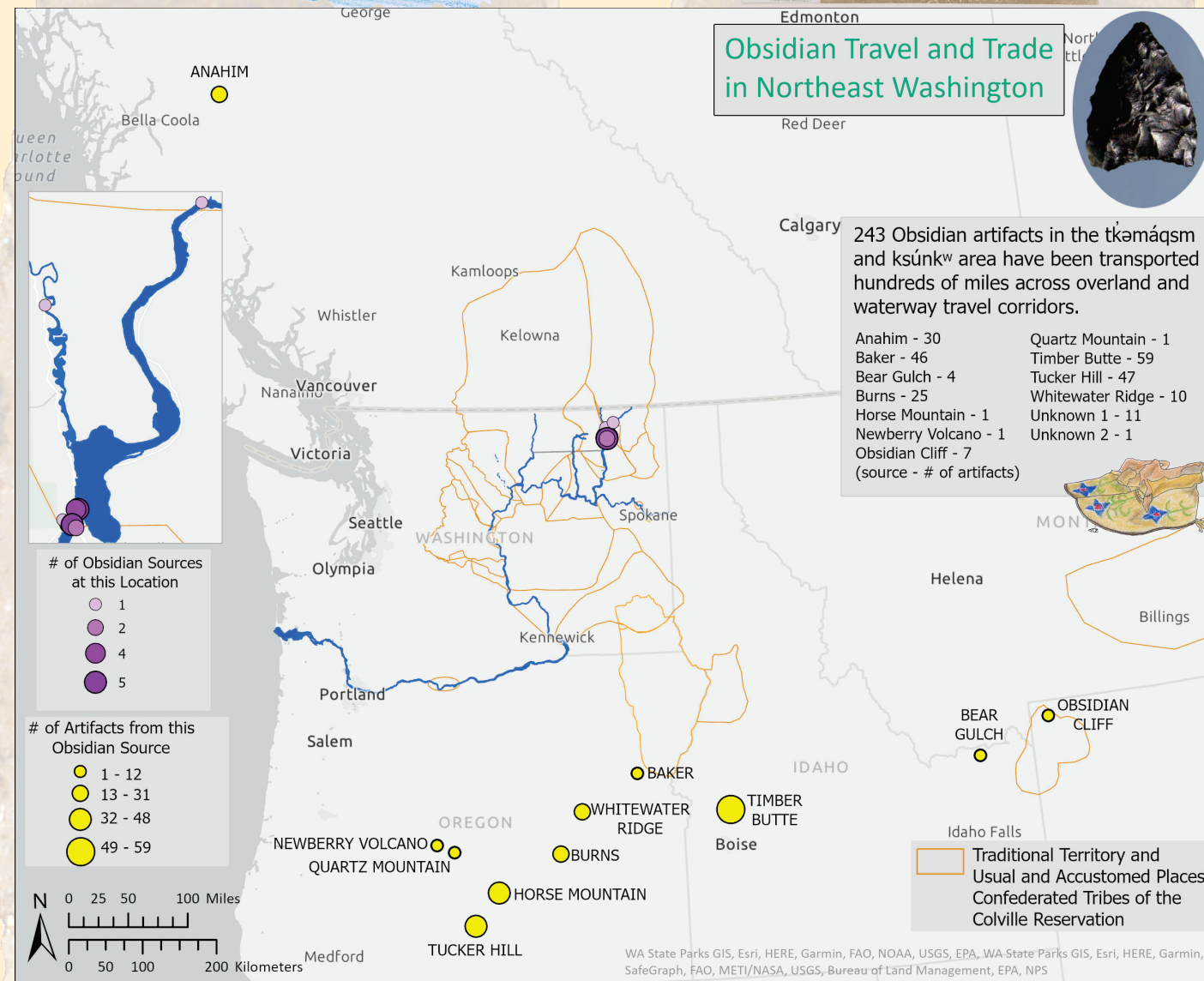
If you suspect a violation, do not get involved or approach the scene!  
Immediately report the violation to local law enforcement:

Ferry County Dispatch: 1-800-324-344  
Lincoln County Dispatch: 509-725-3501  
Stevens County Dispatch: 509-684-5296  
Colville Tribal Police Dispatch: 509-634-2472  
Spokane Tribal Law Enforcement: 1-888-258-6899

Cover photo courtesy of Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Photo L85-143.380



tk'amáqsm



All Artwork by Sylvia Jane Peasley, Colville Confederated Tribes

s̓t̓t̓əw̓ina?

(flint)

Obsidian

What is it?

Where does it come from?

How did it get here?

Sourcing, Travel, and Trade along the ntəx̓w̓itkw̓ (Columbia River) in northeast Washington



Photo courtesy of Victoria and Albert Museum - The Fishery Reference No. 2016JE5256





kʷəlkʷəl'əfkn'

### Traditional and Ethnographic Knowledge

kʷəlkʷəl'əfkn' (Woodpecker) helped get fire. All the animals on earth did not have fire. kʷəlkʷəl'əfkn' used an elk rib bone bow, sl̥əq (service berry) shaft, Bald and Gold Eagle feathers, and Flint Rock arrowheads to help the People obtain fire from the sun.

snk'aʔlip (Coyote) helped the two-leggeds to obtain arrow shafts and flint. ʔəʔicʔic (Sparrowhawk) was a lookout for q'wəmqənicaʔ (People Eating Monster) who lived on the hill behind what is now known as the town of Kettle Falls. q'wəmqənicaʔ had the only sl̥əq and flint. snk'aʔlip tricked ʔəʔicʔic and defeated q'wəmqənicaʔ and threw sl̥əq and flint throughout the region so the two-legged people could harvest the wood and flint for arrow shafts and arrowheads.

Book of Legends  
Arrow Chain and Theft of Fire, as told by John Tom, Sanpoil, 1928.  
Woolly Hide, as told by Martin Louie, Lakes.



ʔəʔicʔic

sl̥əq

### What is obsidian?

**Obsidian** is a volcanic glass formed by lava that has cooled quickly. When hit by a skilled flintknapper/tool maker, this type of rock will break in a predictable manner that is ideal when making stone tools with thin, sharp edges.

In northeast Washington, **obsidian** is made into cutting and piercing tools.

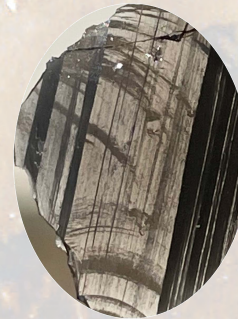


### Where does obsidian come from?



syiʔyaʔ

**Obsidian** is found globally and there are numerous sources in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and British Columbia.



### Obsidian Sourcing

**Obsidian** has a unique chemical signature that can be identified through scientific analysis called x-ray fluorescence.

Scientists have created a database of **obsidian** sources and their respective chemical signatures. Cross-checking the chemical signature of a piece of **obsidian** against the database, scientists can identify the most likely geological source of the raw material.

How did **obsidian** from Burns, Oregon come to be in northeast Washington at tk'əməqsm (Kettle Falls Fishery) and ksúnkʷ (Hayes Island) along the ntəx'ítkʷ (Columbia River)?



snk'aʔlip

Place Name Document



### Travel and Trade

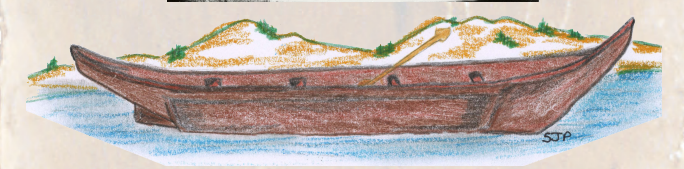
s̥n̥ʕəyckstx (Lakes), s̥x̥'ýʔilpx (Colville), s̥np̥ʕawilx (Sanpoil), and n̥spiləm (Nespelem) travel and trade brought **obsidian** for stone tools to the Pacific Northwest.



**Obsidian** in the s̥x̥'ənítkʷ (Roaring Waters, Kettle Falls) area has been transported between 240 to 600 miles from its source. Obsidian from Burns, Oregon was transported approximately 280 miles to arrive at tk'əməqsm.



s̥x̥'ənítkʷ



Colville Business Council Resolution  
Place Name Document  
Cuthbert Expedition 1891, Photo 42