

Áwtní Tk^wátat (First Foods) As Climate Resilience

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservations (CTUIR)

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CTUIR Treaty of 1855

- Confederation of three Tribes:
 - *Weyíiletpuu* (Cayuse)
 - *Imatalamláma* (Umatilla) &
 - *Walíulapam* (Walla Walla)
- 6.4 million acres ceded to the US in NE Oregon & SE Washington
- Retained reserved treaty rights within ceded lands
- Sovereign Nation – Created the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- 1859 Surveyed 254,699 acres
- Dawes Allotment Act reduced lands to 158,000 acres
- Actively restoring land to increase reservation land base

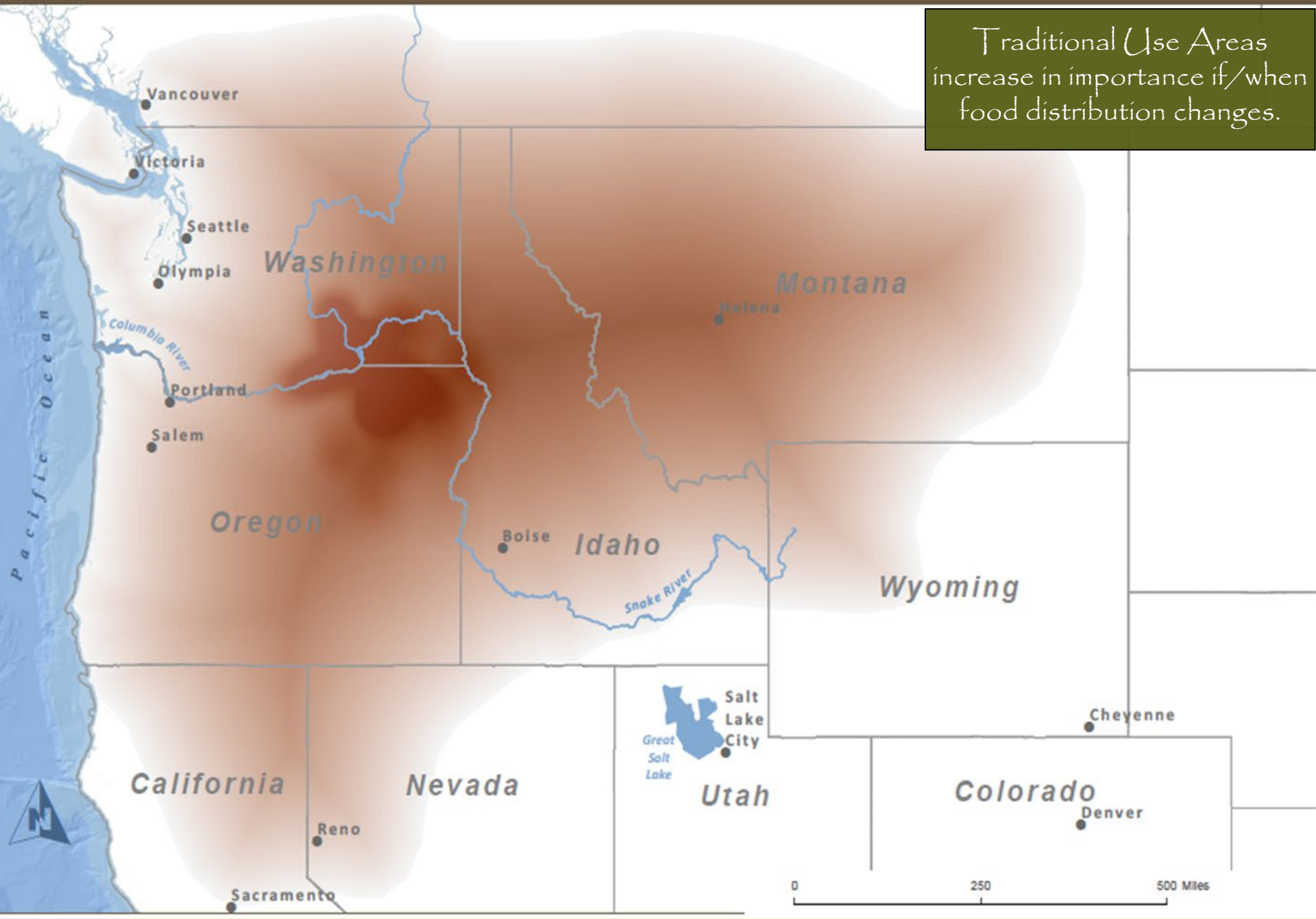


Treaty of 1855, Article 1



....Provided, also, that the **exclusive right of taking fish** in the streams running through and bordering said reservation is hereby secured to said Indians, and at all other usual and accustomed stations in common with citizens of the United States, and of erecting suitable buildings for curing the same; the **privilege of hunting, gathering roots and berries and pasturing their stock** on unclaimed lands in common with citizens is also secured to them.

Traditional Use by the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla Tribes



First Foods Traditional Feast as Climate Resilience



First Foods Feast is not just a tradition — it's a governance system, a teaching tool, and a resilience practice. It ensures that Treaty Rights are lived, ecosystems are prioritized, sustainable foods are celebrated, and elders and children remain at the center of adaptation in a changing climate.



DNR's First Foods Mission Statement

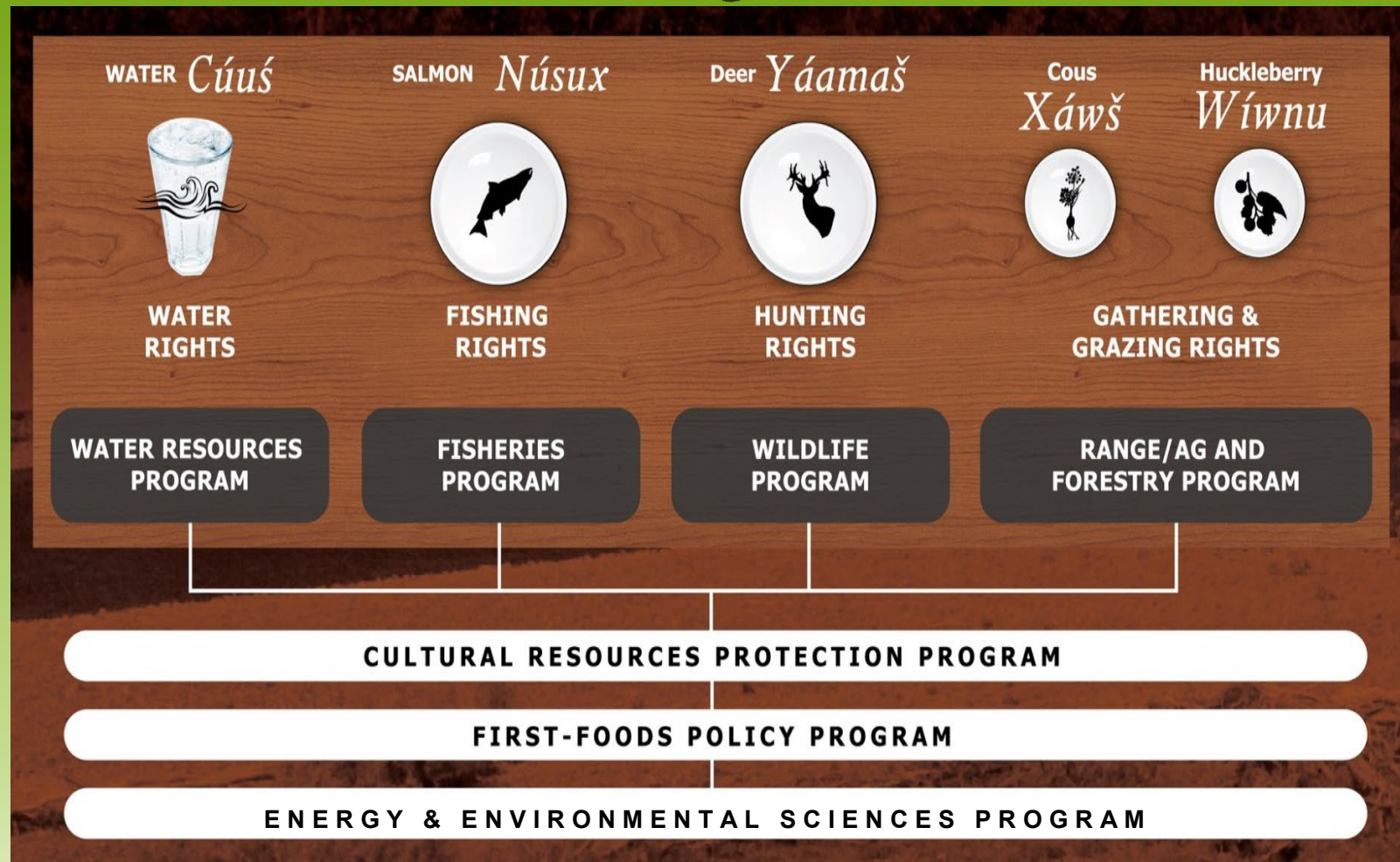
To protect, restore, and enhance the first foods - water, salmon, deer, cous, and huckleberry - for the perpetual cultural, economic, and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR. We will accomplish this by utilizing traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science to inform:

- 1) population and habitat management goals and actions; and
- 2) natural resource policies and regulatory mechanisms.



"EXTENDING THE TABLE"

Serving Order



Men's Foods

Women's Foods

First Foods Order



Water



Salmon

Chinook

Coho

Sockeye

Lamprey

Smelt

Steelhead

Trout

Whitefish

Sturgeon

Mussels



Deer

Elk

Bison

Bighorn

Mountain Goat

Antelope

Moose

Bear

Quail

Geese

Duck



Cous

Celery

Bitterroot

Luksh

Mariposa Lilly

Indian Carrot

Camas

Wapato

Black Moss

Elephant Ear



Huckleberry

Chokecherry

Service Berry

Strawberry

Current

Mt. Black Berry

Thimble berry

Hawthorn

Elderberry

Men's Foods

Women's Foods

The First Foods Order: A Framework for Climate Resilience



The order is climate resilient and reflects an ecological chain of dependence: each food is protected in relation to the one before it. By prioritizing water first, then fish, animals, roots, and berries, the order itself becomes a climate adaptation model — guiding communities to protect the most vulnerable and essential systems first, ensuring resilience for all.

ČÚUŠ



NÚSUX



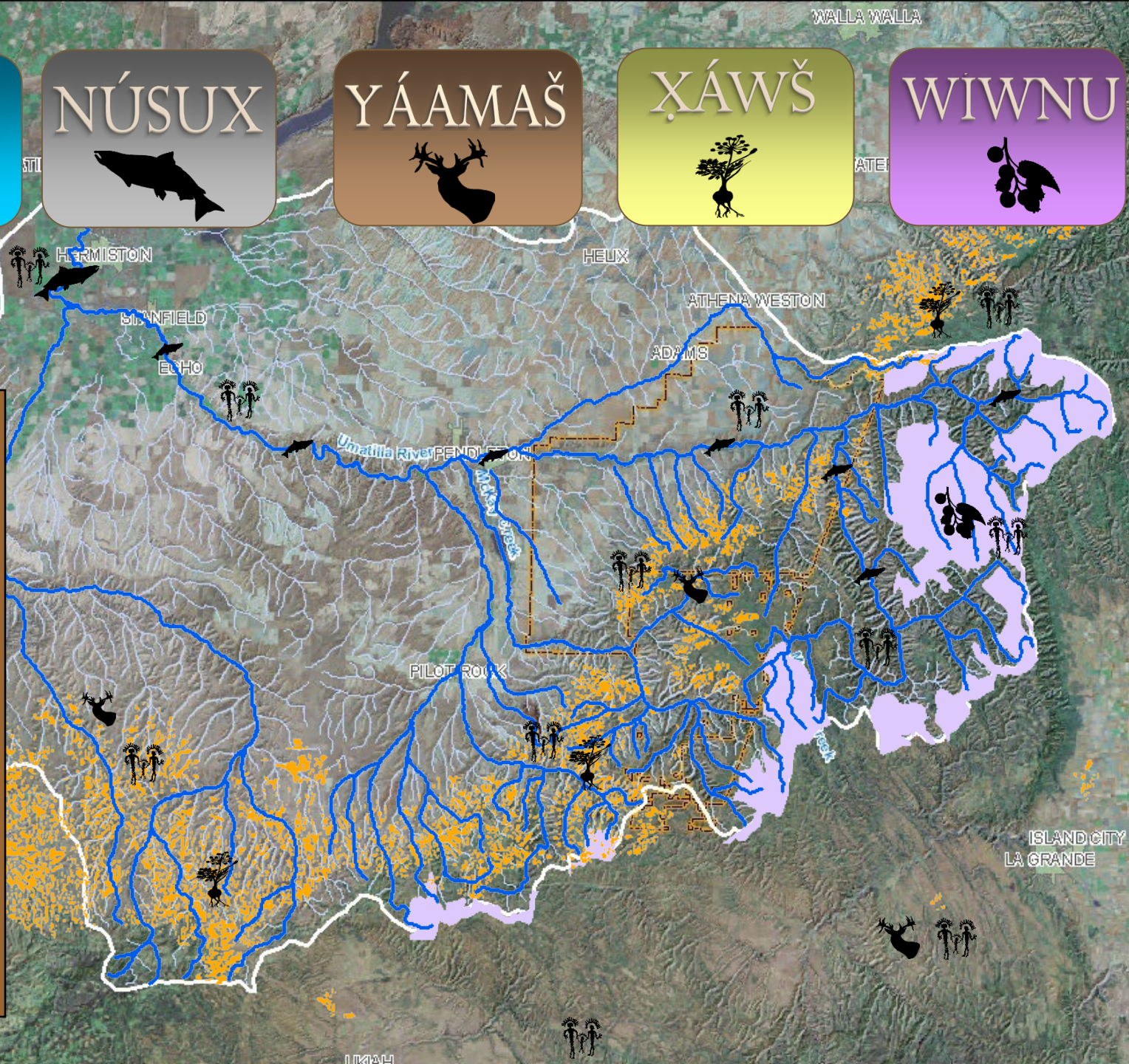
YÁAMAŠ



XÁWŠ



WIWNU



CTUIR River Vision and Tribal Community Connections



“ The Umatilla basin includes a healthy river capable of providing First Foods that sustain the continuity of the Tribe’s culture. This vision requires a river that is dynamic, and shaped not only by physical and biological processes, but the interactions and interconnections between those processes.”



Cultural Continuity & Preservation



- First Foods Mission, project management and restoration
- Identify, locate, document and provide First Foods gathering areas ensuring legal access to sites
- Teach participants when and how to identify, harvest, process and store First Foods



- ❑ Treaty rights directly tied to first foods
- ❑ History and tribal language
- ❑ Sharing cultural knowledge and traditions for future generations



Cultural Continuity and Preservation Build Climate Resilience

Knowledge – Elders guide, youth carry forward, traditional ecological knowledge adapts with climate change.

Sovereignty – Practicing Treaty Rights ensures self-determination in protecting First Foods and lands.

Community – Shared identity, ceremonies, and values strengthen unity during crises.



Cultural Sites and the Land: Foundations of Climate Resilience



Access as Climate Resilience

Limited Access – The Umatilla Indian Reservation does not contain all First Foods, making access to ceded lands and usual & accustomed areas essential.

Climate Impacts – Climate change is altering habitats, timing, and availability of salmon, roots, berries, and game, threatening food security and cultural practices.

Partnerships for Resilience – Building strong partnerships ensures continued access to First Foods and cultural resources across landscapes, supporting both Treaty Rights and climate adaptation.

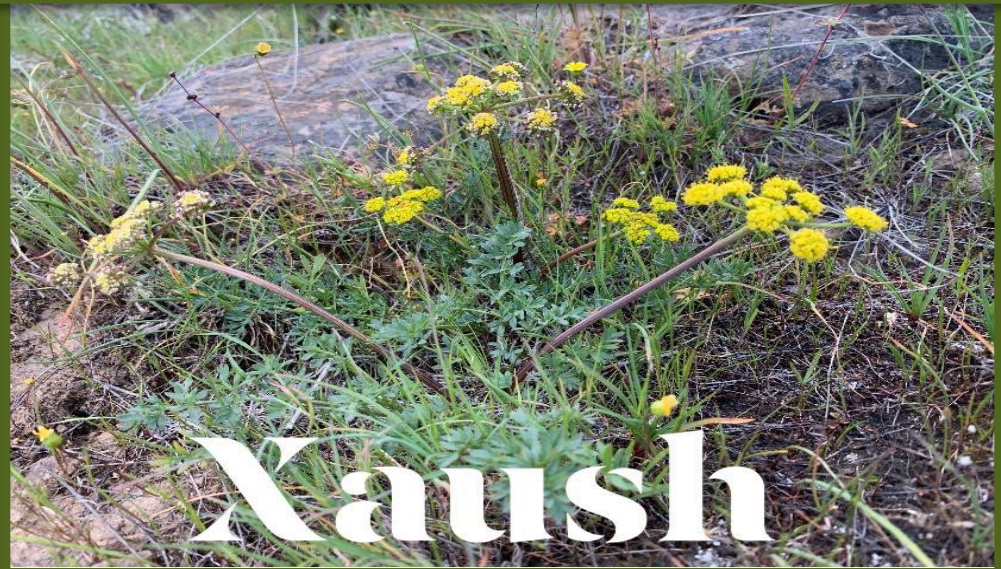
Wallowa Land Trust Tribal Partnership for Resilience

The Wallowa Land Trust's Tribal engagement in First Foods gathering is a model of climate resilience assisting Tribes to restore access to traditional foods, strengthening Treaty rights, sustaining intergenerational knowledge, and building healthier ecosystems through partnership.





Paul Flanders Property
Reconnaissance Scouting Trip













First Foods Root Digging Excursion



Reconnecting Tribal Community



Reestablishes physical, social, emotional, and cultural well-being and promotes the sharing of traditional knowledge, language, stories, and teachings.



First Foods Feast Returns to Wallowa Valley



Reconnecting to Land Locked Food

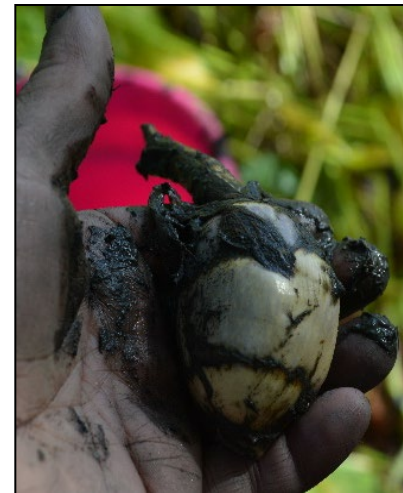




Passing Tradition to the Youth



Cultural Revitalization



Wapato Located and Harvest, Richland, WA



Anipáš



Nunás



X máaš



Síkni

Cultural Revitalization as Climate Resilience



- Anchors CTUIR in values of respect, reciprocity, and stewardship.
- Sustains Treaty Rights and First Foods practices amid climate change.
- Strengthens identity, unity, and intergenerational knowledge.
- Ensures First Foods are protected, safe, accessible, and celebrated







Cultural Story Keepers & Climate Resilience



Ramona Kiona, Yakama



Cultural story keepers pass on resilience by carrying the memory of how First Foods, lands, and waters endure change — guiding CTUIR to adapt to climate shifts with knowledge rooted in generations of oral tradition.

First Foods Values: Enduring and Climate Resilient





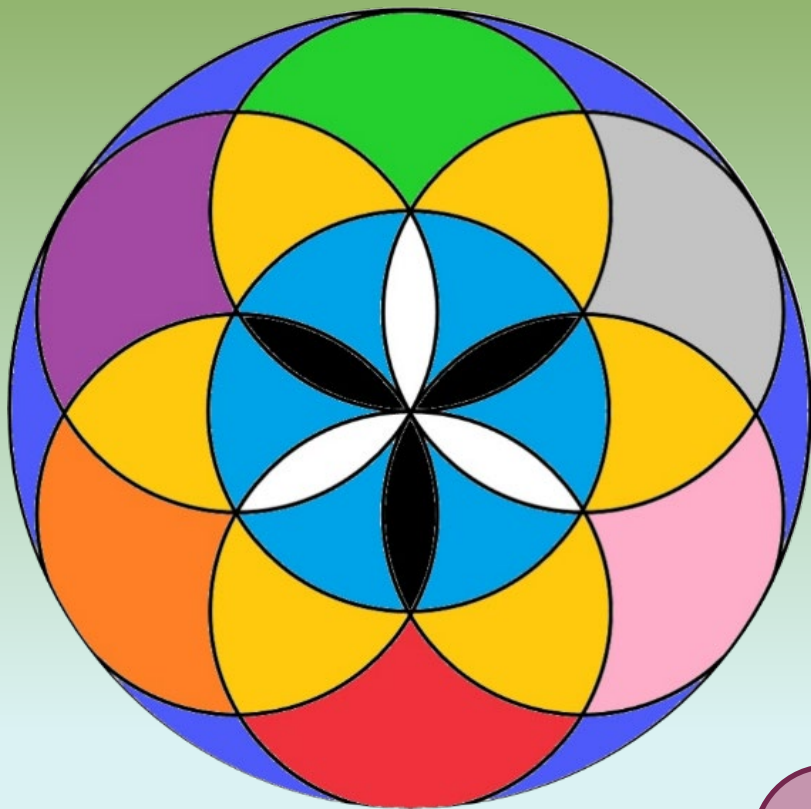
Well-Being and Climate Resilience



By practicing Treaty Rights, we carry forward the wisdom of our elders, protecting and revitalizing First Foods. They sustain our bodies and spirits, guide us in caring for them, and the land and waters that sustain all life. Through this continuity, we build true climate resilience, ensuring that our children and future generations will inherit a world where First Foods remain protected, accessible, and celebrated.”



Re-Indigenizing Policy and Economics



Cúuš

Water (Surface & Groundwater)

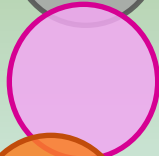


Áwtñi Tkʷátat

First Foods Availability & Access



Infrastructure & Built Systems



Sǎpánaknuwit ku Kʷalanáwit

Human Health & Happiness

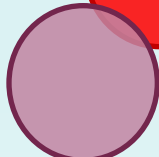


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Economics & Community



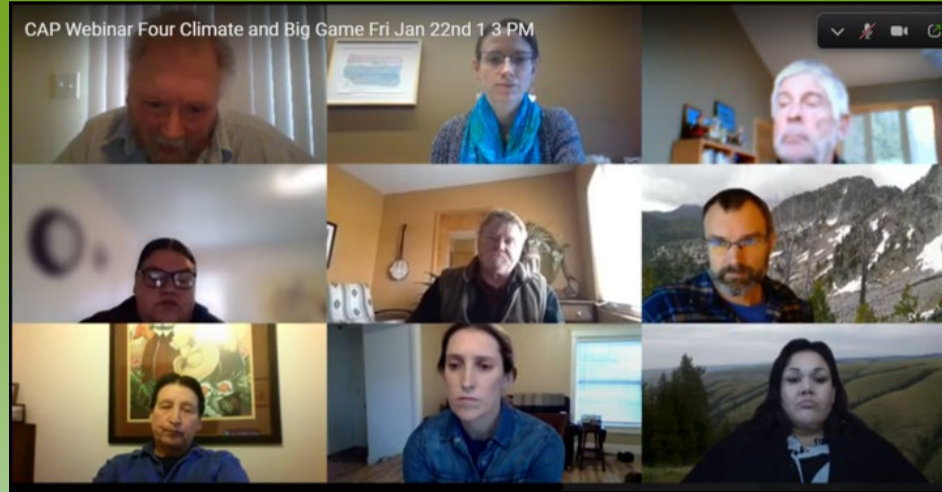
Energy Production & Use



Tímani Tamánwit

Sovereignty & Treaty Rights

CTUIR Climate Adaptation Participatory Planning



- Developed by Tribal community and knowledge keepers through webinars & guidance
- CTUIR Climate Adaptation YouTube Channel
- ODEQ Climate Pollution Reduction Grant partner for PCAP and Symposium



Tribal Sovereignty as Unique Mechanism for Climate Action



Tribal Sovereignty as a Unique and Powerful Mechanism to Force Action on Climate

- “Treatment as State” status – Tribes can set their own regulatory thresholds for air & water
- Federally recognized Tribes have access to legal avenues and Federal Trust Obligation
- 1st and 5th Amendment protections for Tribal Ways of Life
- International venues like UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)
- Amicus - Rights of Nature, Future Generations, & Prosecuting Fossil Fuels for harms

Centering Indigenous Joy

Living Indigenously is Climate Resilience

Reframing First Foods as “food” not just in a conservation framework

Indigenous People have adapted to changes since time immemorial

- Indigenous knowledge and culture have resilience at its core
- Living in a post-apocalyptic future already

Value of Indigenous life and belief in planning

- Indigenous ways create tremendous value not accounted for in cost/benefit analyses
- Particularly for energy and carbon capture interests



Photo by Kaitlin Moor

Photo by Annie Warren, NWPB



Building Resilient Futures



Working with Partners

Symposium as an extension of previous work

- Climate resilience listening sessions in Oct 2023 for this event

- Expand and deepen our understanding and co

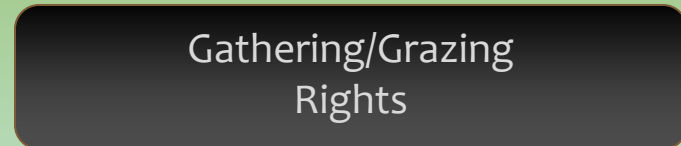
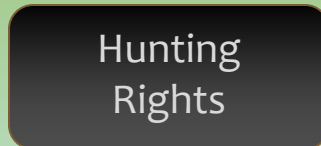
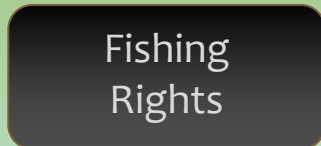
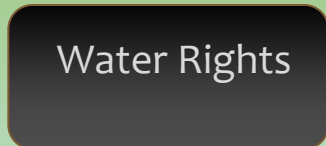
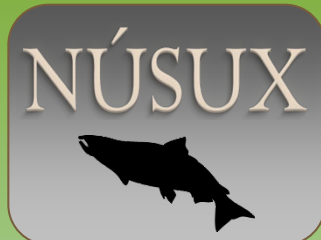
We recognize that we cannot do the work alone

- Resources and land are managed by many different
- Goals and objectives may not always be the same
- Working with partners that have a similar vision for the future



Treaty Rights in Action: Building Resilient Futures

Treaty Rights Links



By practicing Treaty Rights and caring for First Foods, guided by the wisdom of our elders and carried forward by our children, we build climate resilience for our lands, waters, and future generations.”

Food for Thought

"That struggle is not yet ended. Deeds of such magnitude cannot be undone and over with, as many of you believe. They cannot stand alone in a period of time. Their tentacles reach out to oncoming generations and touch the lives of our people. We live centuries after the deeds themselves seem only echoes in history."

Maudie C. Antoine, CTUIR BOT Chairwoman,
Walla Walla June 11, 1955



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