

WASHINGTON TRIBES



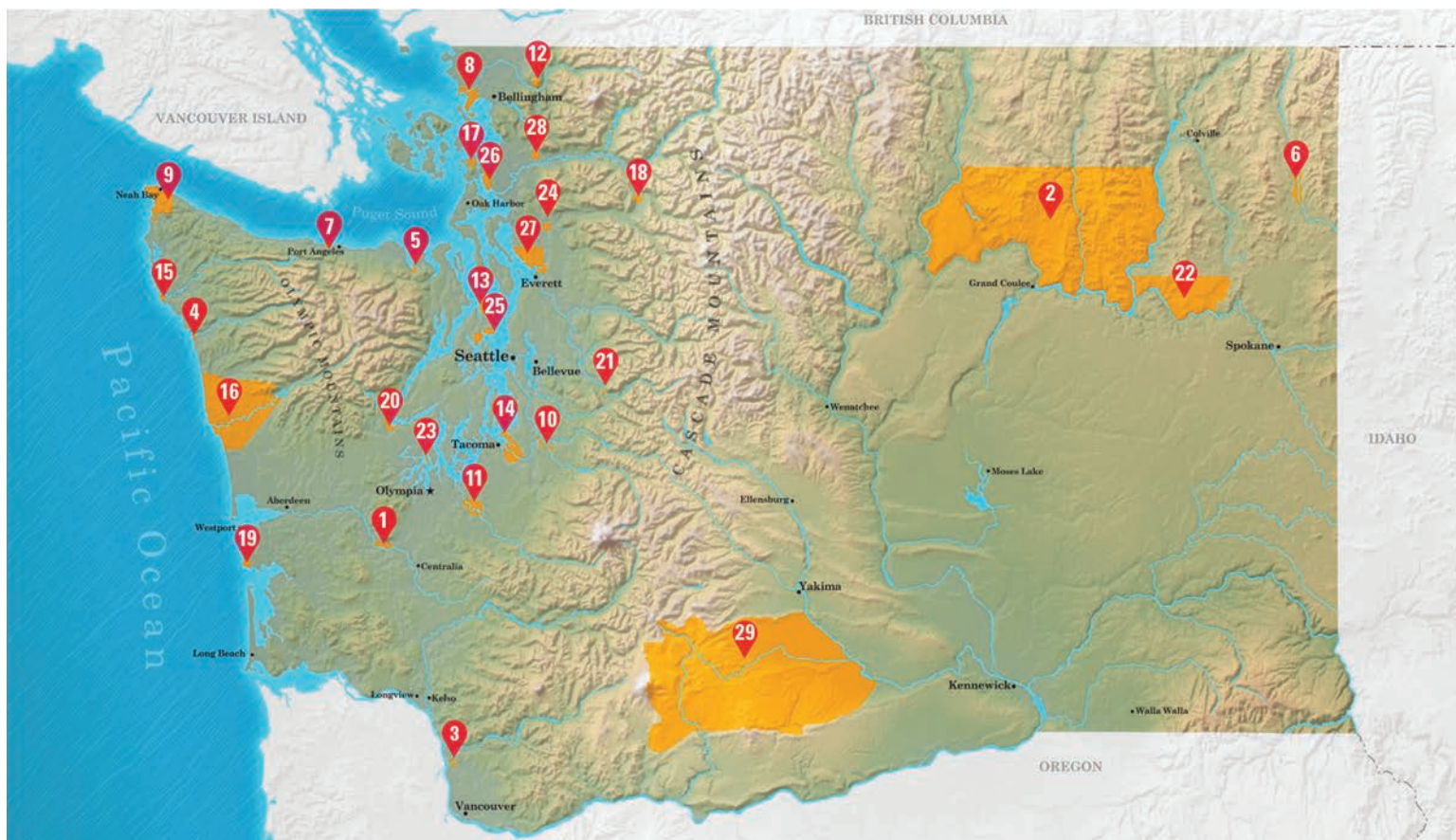
WASHINGTON INDIAN TRIBES TODAY

PRESERVING CULTURE, ENRICHING PEOPLE, SUSTAINING THE
ENVIRONMENT AND BUILDING COMMUNITY



WASHINGTONTRIBES.ORG

Washington Tribes is a public education initiative sponsored by
the Washington Indian Gaming Association.



To request a free poster-size color print of the map, please complete a request form at: <http://bit.ly/WashingtonTribesPoster>

1. **Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation** chehalis-tribe.org
2. **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation** colvilletribes.com
3. **Cowlitz Indian Tribe** cowlitz.org
4. **Hoh Indian Tribe** hohtribe-nsn.org
5. **Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe** jamestowntribe.org
6. **Kalispel Tribe of Indians** kalispeltribe.com
7. **Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe** elwha.org
8. **Lummi Nation** lummi-nsn.org
9. **Makah Tribe** makah.com

10. **Muckleshoot Indian Tribe** muckleshoot.nsn.us
11. **Nisqually Indian Tribe** nisqually-nsn.gov
12. **Nooksack Indian Tribe** nooksacktribe.org
13. **Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe** pgst.nsn.us
14. **Puyallup Tribe of Indians** puyallup-tribe.com
15. **Quileute Tribe** quileutenation.org
16. **Quinault Indian Nation** quinaultindiannation.com
17. **Samish Indian Nation** samishtribe.nsn.us
18. **Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe** sauk-suiattle.com
19. **Shoalwater Bay Tribe** shoalwaterbay-nsn.gov
20. **Skokomish Indian Tribe** skokomish.org

21. **Snoqualmie Indian Tribe** snoqualmietribe.us
22. **Spokane Tribe of Indians** spokanetribe.com
23. **Squaxin Island Tribe** squaxinisland.org
24. **Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians** stillaguamish.com
25. **Suquamish Tribe** suquamish.nsn.us
26. **Swinomish Indian Tribal Community** swinomish.org
27. **Tulalip Tribes** tulaliptribes-nsn.gov
28. **Upper Skagit Tribe** upperskagittribe-nsn.gov/
29. **Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation** yakamanation-nsn.gov



TODAY'S TRIBES

Washington State is home to 29 federally recognized American Indian tribes and more than 200,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives. Tribes are located throughout the state — from Neah Bay on the Pacific Coast to Usk near the eastern state border. Tribal governmental and business enterprises are creating tens of thousands of jobs and investing billions of dollars in the state's economy.

Annual Community and Economic Benefits of Tribes in Washington:

37,369

WASHINGTON STATE RESIDENTS
DIRECTLY EMPLOYED BY TRIBES

\$1.5B

WAGES AND BENEFITS PAID

\$722M

STATE AND LOCAL TAX
REVENUE GENERATED

\$5.7B

VALUE ADDED TO THE
STATE ECONOMY

IN THE BEGINNING

Native peoples inhabited North America long before European governments sent explorers to claim lands and resources. No one knows how many people inhabited North America prior to 1500. Estimates vary widely from 1.5 million to 20 million.

Representatives of European governments interacted with tribes in diplomacy, commerce, culture and war — acknowledging tribe's systems of social, cultural, economic and political governance.

As the United States formed its Union, the founders continued to acknowledge the sovereignty of tribal nations, alongside states, foreign nations and the federal government in the U.S. Constitution.

Native peoples and their governments retain fundamental political and treaty rights in their relationship with the U.S. government that are not derived from race or ethnicity. They are based on treaties and actions by the President or the Congress and confirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court. Tribal citizens are citizens of three sovereigns: their tribe, the United States and the state in which they reside.

WHAT IS TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY?

Sovereignty is a legal term meaning the right of a people to self-govern within jurisdictional borders. Tribal sovereignty recognizes American Indian tribes as having the political status of nations, however it recognizes that Indian nations are geographically located within the territorial boundaries of the United States. As sovereigns, tribal nations have a government-to-government relationship with the two other sovereign governing bodies in the U.S. — the federal and state governments. Tribal law, federal law and state laws define government's responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations. Tribal sovereignty allows tribal nations autonomy to govern, exercise jurisdiction and protect and enhance the health, safety and welfare of tribal citizens within tribal territory.

The Congress shall have the power to ... regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the states and with the Indian tribes.

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8



WASHINGTON'S NATIVE AMERICAN NATIONS



WASHINGTON: 29 TRIBAL NATIONS

There are 29 federally recognized American Indian tribes located on reservations and other tribal lands throughout Washington state. Each tribal nation is different. Some reservations are just a few acres in size, while others span more than a million acres; some have a few hundred citizens, others have thousands of citizens; some have significant financial resources to finance government services, others have very limited funds. Because water provided a means of transportation and natural resources, reservations are often found along rivers, Puget Sound or the Washington coast. Only four tribes are in eastern Washington, and each of them rely on rivers.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Tribal governments determine their own governance structures, pass laws, enforce laws, exercise jurisdiction and deliver programs and services. Led by a body of elected officials, tribal governments are responsible for health care, education, housing, public safety, courts, transportation, natural resources, environment, culture and economic development. Tribal governments collaborate with state and local jurisdictions on a multitude of issues from taxation to transportation improvements to natural resource management to emergency services.

INDIAN LANDS

Indian land ownership is complex and includes lands held in fee and in trust. Reservation boundaries are established by treaty, executive order or an act of Congress, but tribes have jurisdiction over a broader category of land defined in federal law as "Indian country." Indian country includes all land within reservation boundaries and land held in trust for the tribe or one or more of its members outside of the reservation.

FEDERAL RECOGNITION

A federally recognized tribe is an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations and obligations attached to that designation, and is eligible for funding and services from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Many tribes were recognized as legal entities through treaties, acts of Congress, executive orders or federal court decisions. The process of attaining federal recognition is long, complex and extremely stringent.



LEARN MORE ABOUT TRIBES:

- › National Congress of American Indians | [ncai.org](https://www.ncai.org)
- › National Museum of American Indians | [nmai.si.edu](https://www.nmai.si.edu)
- › Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission | [nwifc.org](https://www.nwifc.org)
- › Since Time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State (Curriculum Resources) | bit.ly/SinceTimeImmemorial
- › Washington Tribes | [washingtontribes.org](https://www.washingtontribes.org)





CONFRONTING CHALLENGES

The relationship between tribal nations and the U.S. government has evolved throughout history. Early policies left a legacy of challenges (fragmented and marginalized land rights, isolation of many Indian reservations, loss of culture and language, limits on the ability to raise revenue via taxation and development limitations on trust land) that continue to affect American Indian communities today. Particularly, these policies made economic development in Indian country very difficult, limiting income sources largely to extraction of local resources and federal grants. Before the early 1990s, most tribal governments struggled to pay for even basic services.

While much progress is being made in the late 20th and early 21st century, the challenges facing American Indian communities continue to be significant. On reservations, many of which are in geographically isolated areas far from economic, education and health centers, the poverty and unemployment rates remains very high.

Today’s tribal leaders are making progress improving people’s lives, protecting the environment and sustaining natural resources, building up communities that benefit everyone and preserving culture. These efforts also support and improve the health and prosperity of neighboring communities.

ABOUT 2020

PROTECTING HEALTH DURING A PANDEMIC

In the early days of the coronavirus pandemic, Washington’s tribal sovereign nations adopted strong public health measures to limit the spread of coronavirus and treat those in need of medical care (more on page 8). This included the difficult decision to close tribal casinos and many other enterprises. Tribal governments rely on casino and other business enterprise revenue to generate vital funds for basic services such as health care, education, elder programs, infrastructure and human services. Tribal governments continue to monitor and adapt to the evolving situation with a commitment to protecting public health and restoring the economy.

FIGHTING SYSTEMIC RACISM

“Tribes understand the trauma of systematic oppression, racial inequity and racial discrimination and its inevitable expression in police brutality and bias. Tribes in Washington stand together and support Black Lives Matter and the fight for change, justice and equality.”
(Chairman Leonard Forsman, Suquamish Tribe)

After police in Minneapolis brutally murdered George Floyd, people throughout Washington, the U.S. and the world were awakened to the horrors of police brutality and racial injustices that have plagued the U.S. for decades. Record numbers of people took to the streets to protest racism, support Black Lives Matter and call for change.

The Black Lives Matter message resonates deeply with tribes who have also suffered from racially biased policies. Tribes mourn the lives that have been lost and join the fight for dignity and human rights. Tribes dream of a world free of injustice and inequality.



Award winning artist, Jeffrey Veregge

Enter an essay for your chance to win!

What Inspires You About Tribes in Washington?
(GRADES 7-12)

Tell us what you’ve learned about tribes in Washington and what inspires you about the future. Learn more at **k12nie.com/washingtontribes**.

The top prize winner will receive a \$100 gift card and a comic book by the award winning Port Gamble S’Klallam artist, Jeffrey Veregge. Second and third place finalists will also receive prizes. All qualified submissions will receive a certificate of merit.

LEARN MORE ABOUT NATIVE JUSTICE:

- Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Washington | www.facebook.com/MMIWWashington
- National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center | www.niwrc.org
- Native American Rights Fund | www.narf.org
- United Indians of All Tribes Foundation | www.unitedindians.org/about/



PRESERVING CULTURE

Tribes in Washington State place a high priority on enhancing and preserving their rich and vibrant cultures. Thriving tribal communities with arts and culture are critically important. American Indian culture has flourished in our region for thousands of years, despite past failed efforts by the U.S. government to “assimilate” American Indians into the general population by stripping away their cultural identity.

American Indian children sent to government boarding schools were forbidden to speak their native language, wear traditional clothes or practice their religions.

Tribes in Washington State are working to ensure native culture continues to be an integral part of our regional identity, for the benefit of American Indians and non-Indians alike. This is achieved by investing in tribal community building efforts such as museums, art and cultural centers, elder programs, school programs, song and dance, language programs, carving and weaving, and restoring traditional foods and medicine programs.

SALMON: A SYMBOL OF TRIBAL CULTURE

Salmon play an important role in the region’s ecosystem. Salmon return from the ocean providing nutrients to rivers, feeding wildlife and enriching forests. Salmon have shaped the lives of American Indians influencing their cultures, interactions with other tribes, fishing technologies and religions. Salmon are an integral part of religion, culture and sustenance.

Salmon need good quality habitat. Harvest reductions are only effective if there are equally strong efforts to restore salmon habitat. Salmon are tough. Despite dams, pollution, predators, climate change and many more challenges, they never stop trying to return home. Tribes have to be just as tough when it comes to their recovery and return to sustainable levels.

Fishing is still a culturally preferred livelihood for many American Indians and an essential aspect of their nutritional health and culture.

“We all share the responsibility to ensure there will be salmon for future generations. That is why we value cooperative efforts to educate key decision-makers about the importance of a healthy Puget Sound to the salmon.”

— Lorraine Loomis, Swinomish Tribal Fisheries Manager, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission Chair

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FISH WARS:

Native Knowledge 360, a project of the National Museum of the American Indian, offers an interactive teaching aide that tells the story of the decades-long Fish Wars, where tribal members from the Northwest took bold actions to compel the U.S. government to uphold treaties that guaranteed tribal rights to fish in usual and accustomed fishing sites outside reservation borders: <https://americanindian.si.edu/nk360/pnw-fish-wars>

CANOE JOURNEY

Canoe Journey is a celebrated tradition in the Pacific Northwest. It is one of the largest regular gatherings of indigenous people anywhere in the world with native peoples from throughout the Pacific Rim joining tribes from Alaska, British Columbia and Washington. Host tribes welcome as many as 100 canoes and 15,000 people for a week-long celebration. Canoe families take turns telling stories, singing, drumming and performing dances.

Canoe Journey is a revival of the traditional method of transportation and is a significant cultural experience for participants. Each year, a different nation hosts Canoe Journey. Depending on distance, the trip can take up to a month. Participants learn traditional canoe carving and

decorating and learn to work together as a “canoe family.” All Tribal Journey activities are family-friendly, drug- and alcohol-free.

The 2020 Canoe Journey (Paddle to Snuneymuxwq) was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting the health of elders, paddlers, volunteers and guests is imperative. The tradition will continue to be honored as tribes prepare for next year’s gathering.



SEAHAWKS’ ORIGINAL LOGO INSPIRED BY NORTHWEST COAST INDIAN MASK

The Kwakwaka’wakw pronounced: KWA-kwuh-kyuh-

wakw) eagle mask is in a collection at the Hudson Museum in Maine and was loaned to the Burke Museum in Seattle for public display several years ago. The mask likely represents a supernatural eagle — or thunderbird — transforming into its human form.

Artist Bruce Alfred, a member of the Namgis Band of the Kwakwaka’wakw Nations, studied the mask for the Burke. He described how a dancer would enter the big house wearing the mask in its closed position, dancing counterclockwise around the fire — imitating the movements of a large raptor — with firelight reflecting in the mask’s mirrored eyes. At a certain point, the drummers would beat faster, and the dancer would dramatically open the mask and reveal the inner human face and long-necked bird rising above.

Have you noticed native-inspired art in your community?

Snap a photo and post it on Instagram or Facebook using the hashtag **#WashingtonTribesArt**

LEARN ABOUT TRIBES ONLINE:

Due to COVID-19, many tribal cultural activities have moved online. Tribes hosted and performed at virtual pow wows, tribal museums launched online activities and native language educators provided digital resources.

- › Burke from Home | burkemuseum.org/burkefromhome
- › Kalispel Tribe Salish Curriculum | kalispeltribe.com/our-language/curriculum/
- › Puyallup Tribal Language YouTube Channel | bit.ly/PuyallupLanguage
- › Quileute Language | quileutenation.org/language/
- › Social Distance Pow Wow | www.facebook.com/socialdistancepowwow/
- › Yakama Nation Cultural Center Dance Contest | www.facebook.com/YN CulturalCenter



SUSTAINING THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Tribal environmental and natural resource programs play a critical role in efforts to restore and protect important cultural and natural resources. Tribal governments employ experts and scientists in all disciplines. Their work includes watershed planning, water quality programs, environmental education, environmental assessments, salmon recovery programs and more.

Tribal natural resource programs play an important role in balancing the sustainable harvest of salmon, game, timber and other resources with environmental restoration and the protection of sensitive species and habitats.

Washington’s rich natural resources provide thousands of jobs for tribal members and non-tribal members alike. Tribes are committed to making investments in smart natural resource management practices so that resources can thrive and be available to all for future generations.



WILL 100-POUND SALMON RETURN?

Legend has it that mighty salmon weighing as much as 100 pounds returned to spawn on the Elwha River. Salmon returning from the ocean had to be big and strong to swim up the fast-moving river to spawning areas. In the early 1900s, two dams were built on the river. The dams fueled economic growth, but blocked salmon migration and flooded the historic homelands and cultural sites of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. After two decades of planning, the largest dam removal in U.S. history began in 2011. Today, the Elwha River once again flows freely from its headwaters in the Olympic Mountains to the Strait of Juan de Fuca. And salmon and other fish and wildlife are returning!

Tribal governments, in collaboration with state and federal agencies and conservation interests, are working to restore fish and wildlife habitat. The Nisqually estuary was restored in 2009 by removing dikes and reconnecting 762 acres with Puget Sound. This is the largest estuary restoration project in the Pacific Northwest and an important step in the recovery of Puget Sound.

The refuge was renamed in honor of Billy Frank Jr., a Nisqually tribal citizen who achieved international prominence.

Watch an animated video from Salmon Defense featuring Billy Frank Jr. | bit.ly/BillyFrankJrVideo



Tribes with reservations on and near other major rivers—Snohomish, Skokomish, Stillaguamish and Skagit, for example—are also involved in collaborative efforts to restore estuaries.

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP IN ACTION:

- › Billy Frank Jr. Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge | bit.ly/BillyFrankJrNNWR
- › Elwha Dam Restoration | bit.ly/SeattleTimesElwha
- › Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe Jimmycomelately Creek Restoration | <https://bit.ly/JamestownJimmycomelately>
- › Middle Fork Nooksack River Fish Passage Project | bit.ly/NooksackFishPassage
- › Skagit River | skagitcoop.org
- › Swinomish Climate Change Initiative | www.swinomish-climate.com/
- › Quinault Indian Nation Climate Change and Blueback Salmon video | bit.ly/QuinaultNationBlueback



Salmon Art Activity

(GRADES K-3)

Create your own salmon art or start with this image from Squaxin Island Tribe and make it your own. Visit k12nie.com/washingtontribes for a pdf version you can download and color.

ENRICHING PEOPLE



All Washingtonians aspire to the same basic things — safe communities, excellent schools, decent jobs, clean air and water, good health and roads and transit that make travel easy. We want our kids to have more opportunities than were given to us. And we value a culture where neighbors help neighbors.

Tribal governments place the highest priority on education. They are investing in education — building and operating early learning centers, schools, libraries and youth activity facilities. Most tribes provide substantial financial support to college students. The investment is paying off — high school graduation rates are improving and the number of tribal citizens attending college is increasing.

Tribal governments are expanding medical, dental, behavioral health and wellness care facilities for tribal citizens. Some of the facilities, especially in rural areas, are open to the public.

Providing adequate housing, especially for low-income families and the elderly, is a priority for Washington’s tribes. Throughout Washington State, tribes are constructing new affordable homes and apartments.

Tribes are building roads, sidewalks, bridges, communications networks, transit, electric power companies — even small hydroelectric generating plants. Most of the projects are done in collaboration with local governments, or the state, and are intended to benefit the general public, as well as tribal members.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tribes invest in enterprises to build sustainable economies. Hundreds of millions of dollars are being invested in hotels, restaurants, entertainment venues, tourist attractions, retail, forest products, fisheries, agriculture, ranching, real estate development, manufacturing, aquaculture and more. In tribal communities where the ability to generate tax revenues is limited, these enterprises take the place of a sufficient tax base to support tribal governmental functions.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Tribes invest in public safety, emergency services and disaster preparedness and response to protect all citizens, property and natural resources. Tribal governments pay for critical services like police, courts, emergency medical response and fire departments.



TRANSPORTATION/UTILITIES

Tribes invest in road projects, provide direct transit services, invest in wastewater treatment facilities and provide other utilities that are essential to healthy communities. They often collaborate with local governments to jointly finance improvements that benefit tribal and non-tribal communities.



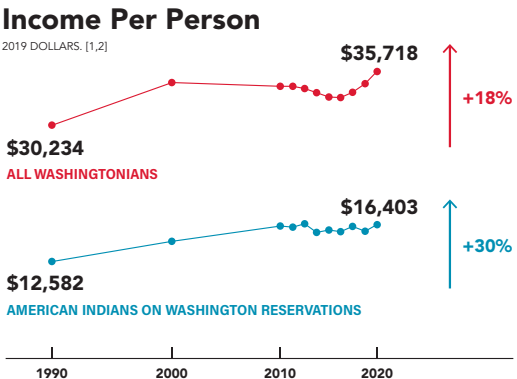
TRIBAL GAMING GENERATES GOVERNMENT REVENUE

Profits from gaming and other governmental enterprises is tax revenue for tribal governments. The money is used to create jobs and business opportunities for all Washingtonians. It helps pay for housing, health care, public safety, economic development, environmental/natural resource programs and transportation.



TRIBAL GAMING HELPS ALL OF WASHINGTON

As money from tribal enterprises flows through the economy, it generates hundreds of millions of dollars in tax revenues for local and state government. Tribal government operations and enterprises are responsible for more than 55,000 jobs — most held by non-Indians — and investing billions of dollars in goods and services, and on capital projects.



TRIBAL INVESTMENTS ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
Tribal investments have helped Indian communities recover from long-lasting hardships, yet much still needs to be done. Washington Indians experience social and economic challenges more than most Washingtonians and needs are particularly great in remote, rural areas.

COVID-19 HEROES

Tribal governments are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing essential services, protecting communities, conducting testing and public health education, caring for the elderly, immunocompromised, and ensuring people have the basic necessities.

TRIBES ARE:



Suquamish Tribe | Meal Distribution

Coordinating food donations and distributions of face masks and protective equipment to the community.



Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians | Angel of the Winds Food Bank Donation

Raising and distributing emergency funds and direct relief and meeting with state and federal leaders to advocate for communities when structuring relief packages.



Quinault Indian Nation | Washington Guard Testing

Establishing testing sites to support community health and business re-openings.



Swinomish Indian Tribal Community | Education Parade

Adapting culture, health, education and environmental programs to a new reality.



Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation | Senior Meals Preparation

Continuing to support, honor and celebrate elders during a very difficult time.



Squaxin Island Tribe | Grab-n-Go Kids Meals Distribution

Taking a variety of precautions to protect their communities (stay-at-home measures, isolation, etc.).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES THE UNITED STATES STILL MAKE TREATIES WITH INDIAN TRIBES?

No. There were 370 treaties signed by the U.S. government and American Indian Tribes between 1778 and 1871.

DID TREATIES GRANT NATIVE AMERICANS SPECIAL RIGHTS?

Treaties represented a contractual acknowledgement of certain rights already held, and to be retained, by tribal governments and their people. Tribes relinquished some rights (land) in exchange for retaining others (hunting and fishing including outside reservations). Indian treaties have the same status as treaties with foreign nations, and because they are made under the U.S. Constitution they take precedence over any conflicting state law.

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR TRIBAL CITIZENSHIP?

Federally recognized tribal governments set their own citizen enrollment eligibility requirements.

WHAT IS INDIAN COUNTRY?

Indian Country is land under the jurisdiction of tribal governments and the federal government. Federal law describes Indian Country as "all land within the limits of any Indian reservation," "all dependent Indian communities within the borders of the United States" and "all Indian allotments, the Indian titles to which have not been extinguished." Indian Country includes all lands within reservation boundaries as well as off-reservation land owned by the U.S. in trust for tribes and individual Indians. (18 U.S. Code § 1151)

HOW DO TRIBAL CITIZENS GOVERN THEMSELVES?

Most tribes are governed by an elected body—usually a tribal council, typically led by a Chairperson or President.

DO NATIVE AMERICANS PAY TAXES?

Yes, American Indians pay most of the same taxes as every other citizen. American Indians pay federal income taxes and state sales tax on most goods purchased outside Indian Country, except certain treaty related purchases. The major tax difference is on income an American Indian may receive directly from a treaty or trust resource such as fish or timber. That income is not taxable.

IS IT DISRESPECTFUL TO CALL NATIVE AMERICANS "INDIANS"?

The term "Indian Tribe" appears in the U.S Constitution. Indian is not a derogatory term (like R*sk*n). Many American Indians refer to themselves as Indians, or American Indians or in Alaska as Alaska Natives. Different words and word combinations have been used over the years. Native American is very common. Some Indians prefer to be identified with their tribe, e.g., Tulalip.

WHY DO TRIBES HAVE CASINOS?

Tribal gaming has taken place since before recorded history. In the 1970s and 1980s, several Indian tribes established bingo operations to raise revenue to fund tribal government operations. Tribal and state government were at odds over whether tribal governments had the authority to conduct gaming outside of state regulation. The issue was resolved in 1987 when the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed the inherent authority (sovereignty) of tribal governments to establish and regulate gaming operations independent of state regulation, provided that the state in question permits some form of gaming (California v. Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, 480 U.S. 202, 1987). The issue ultimately led to the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 which provides the framework that presently governs Indian gaming.

COAST SALISH STICK GAMES

Stick games, also called hand games or Slahal, is a Native American guessing game that predates recorded history and was a traditional form of trade, landholding and social networking. Hand game bones and counting sticks have been identified in ancient anthropological digs. Oral tradition tells us that people originally learned hand game from the animal.

LEARN MORE ABOUT TRIBAL GAMING:

- Washington Indian Gaming Association | washingtonindiangaming.org/
- Washington State Gambling Commission | wsgc.wa.gov/tribal-gaming