LEVERAGING GEOGRAPHIC DATA FOR TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Examples from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Stacy Schumacher, GIS Program Manager
Nicole Novak, GIS Analyst
OUTLINE

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  • CTUIR: History CTUIR and use of GIS
• Current Infrastructure
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  • The Web
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WHO ARE THE CTUIR?

• A confederation of three Columbia Plateau Tribes in Northeast Oregon:
  • Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla tribal peoples
• 2,857 Tribal Members
• 2,927 residents of the Reservation (including non-Indians)
• 1,500+ employees (in government and enterprises)
Why use GIS in tribal government?

- To improve services to the Tribal people:
  - Supporting better management of resources and more informed decision-making

- To provide access, ownership, and control of the process for creation of geographic information and data management.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF TODAY’S TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

- Tribally Owned Lands
  - Facilities Management
- Reservation Lands
  - Landuse Planning
  - Utilities – Transportation, Water, Sewer, ISP
  - Cadastral Mapping
- Traditional Use Lands
  - Natural Resource Management
    - Water
    - Fisheries
    - Wildlife
    - Fiber and Foods
    - Climate Change
Čáw Pawá Láakni
They Are Not Forgotten

on Comas Creek a few miles below its junction with Cable Creek, a tributary of the Umatilla and Cayuse. This is a rare occurrence when the same place is favored by organisms in both languages.

Tsiman: Berries
PLACE NAMES
Shes; "good berry" (chubs)" has another meaning according to individual belief and practice.

Local Events
This is the time of the year when the people traditionally gather berries along Cable Creek. The people gather berries along Cable Creek because they are a key part of their diet and culture. The berries are also a source of vitamin C, which is important for maintaining a healthy immune system.

Anishinabe Gathering Curtains

Wiyápuyt Wapawewini
“We Are Beginning Our Testimony”

Kiskinki (E. Thomas Morning Owl), Stossenborg (Robert L. Cass), Pessawolnose (Moderate M. McMillan), and Rashoowinowin (Jennifer Karson Engum)

We will live legally in the place the Creator gave us. While this reservation is only a part of a much larger land we use, it is very precious to us. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) was created during very difficult, protracted treaty negotiations by agents who knew that we would only continue our way of life in perpetuity if we had a place to reside for that purpose. The thinking of the commissioners represented by the United States was typical for that era. They assumed that Indian people would adapt only by becoming like white people, and they expected reservations to serve as a transitional location toward that goal. Instead, the area of land called the Umatilla Indian Reservation has become the stronghold for our Tribal culture and our Tribal emergence.

Handcrafts of generations of ancestors have been handed down from or for thousands of years. Every person, every event, every activity, every location has meaning in our lives. We are fortunate to live in a country that respects and values this rich history.

EUGENE S. HUNN • E. THOMAS MORNING OWL
PHILLIP E. CASH CASH • JENNIFER KARSON ENGUM

Armitage T'Avgwaa (Joe Spire-Hall) prepares lamp oil for drying.
FISHING DISTRIBUTION. This density map shows the combined traditional distribution areas of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes.

HUNTING DISTRIBUTION. This density map shows the combined traditional distribution areas of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes.

GATHERING DISTRIBUTION. This density map shows the combined traditional gathering distribution areas of the Cayuse, Umatilla, and Walla Walla Tribes.
This map reflects traditional and customary areas used by the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Walla people over different seasons at or before treaty negotiations. Areas of heavier use are identified with darker color saturation. Data and information used to create this map includes the 1855 Treaty negotiation minutes, adjudicated use areas, oral histories information and documentation from literature. This map reflects non-exclusive traditional uses beyond current reservation boundaries, aboriginal lands and ceded lands defined by the Indian claims Commission findings – all of which are judicially established as inadequate to reflect the total extent of CTUIR uses, interests and rights under the Treaty. In many instances, the CTUIR Member used those areas in common with other tribes.
Multiuser Geodatabase
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