

Albeni Falls Dam and Lake Pend Oreille Project's Interpretative Signage Potential



- Objective -

- Analyze the current cultural resources interpretative signage at the Albeni Falls Dam (AFD) project area.
- Highlight the limited presence and effectiveness of existing signs in educating the public about cultural resources.
- Advocate for the enhancement of interpretative signage to provide culturally inclusive narratives.

- Opportunities -

- Educate the approximately 400,000 visitors at the Project area each year.
- Collaborate with tribal programs to meet their desire for increased local public outreach.
- Collaborate with museums and tourism boards to provide landscape-based public education experience.
- Replace outdated existing signage.

- Constraints -

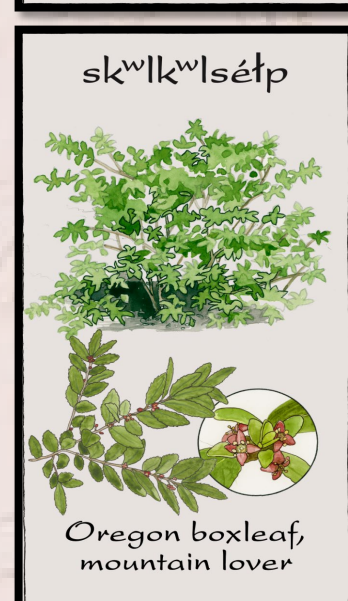
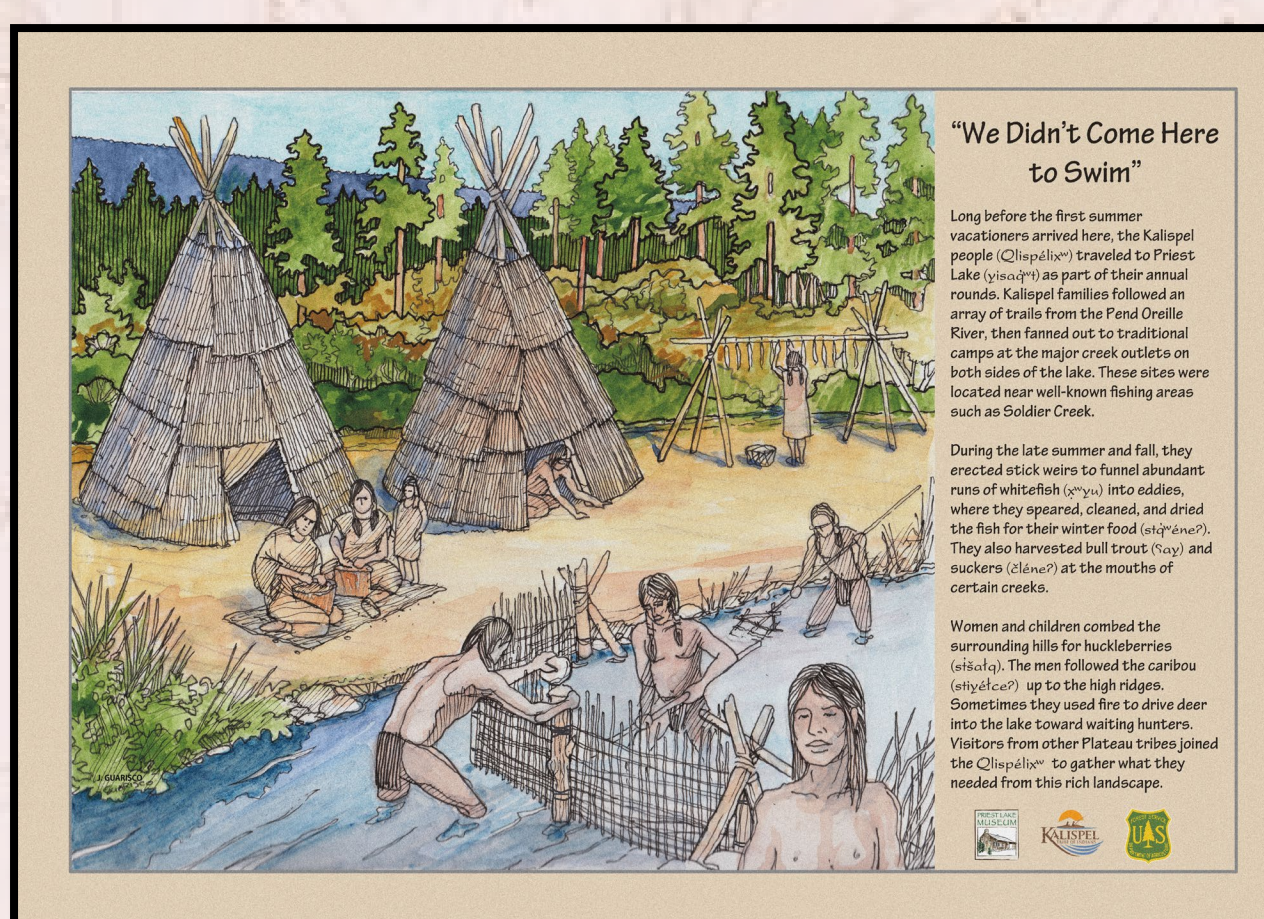
- Fear of cultural misrepresentation in narrative construction. It is imperative that tribal programs have a role in the development of the signage.
- Funding limits number, size, and durability of signage.
- Collectively determine the appropriate scale of the effort both geographically and contextually. Signs should contain accurate information that matches the location for the best educational experience.

- Values -

- **Accurate:** The audience wants the narrative to be factually supported.
- **Authentic:** Going beyond facts; importance of voice and meter.
- **Accessible:** Knowing the audience's needs and how they consume information.
- **Approachable:** Balance of design and information.
- **Inspirational:** Providing other avenues to seek further education that begins at the signage (i.e., QR Codes and web links to tribal programs, museums, and agency prepared pages).

"Engagement means leaning in and trusting that the audience will learn and grow into the experience ... historical thinking requires the abandonment of our contemporaneous bias of normal and the abandonment that our motivations are universal and timeless. Teaching history to the public need not be overburdened with dates and numbers to be compelling."

- Kevin J. Lyons, Kalispel Tribe



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