

## Partners in Preservation

The Columbia River and its tributaries cut through the landscape of the Pacific Northwest, exposing deep layers of history and heritage. Traces of this history are evident at archaeological sites and at culturally significant places for Native American tribes and communities throughout the region. A federal partnership helps ensure that these irreplaceable and invaluable cultural sites are preserved for future generations.

The Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) harnesses the energy of 31 dams on the Columbia River and its tributaries, offering valuable benefits to the Northwest economy — namely clean, cost-effective and reliable electricity.

The FCRPS Cultural Resource Program, jointly managed and funded through a partnership among the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), manages the effects of the operation and maintenance of 14 federally owned dam and reservoir projects on cultural sites in the Columbia Basin. Changing water levels in reservoirs can cause erosion or otherwise destroy or expose irreplaceable cultural resources within the area of potential effects for these 14 FCRPS projects (Albeni Falls, Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee, Hungry Horse, Libby, McNary, Ice Harbor, Little Goose, Lower Granite, Lower Monumental, Dworshak, Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day).

In place since 1997, the program provides compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. To ensure cultural sites are managed for the benefit of all, the three federal agencies comprising the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program collaborate with 10 Native American tribes, four state historic preservation offices and several other federal land managers in nine separate cooperating groups.

The FCRPS Cultural Resource Program and its nine cooperating groups (Albeni Falls, Chief Joseph, Grand Coulee Mainstem, Grand Coulee Spokane Arm, Hungry Horse, Libby, Payos Kuus Cuukwe, Timiimap, and Wana Pa Koot Koot) carry out the important work of identifying cultural sites, evaluating their historical significance, assessing the effects of FCRPS operations and maintenance on these sites, and determining how sites can best be preserved or managed.

### Fiscal Year 2023 accomplishments

This fact sheet summarizes the results of the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program work from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.

**Inventory** — Archaeologists and people with specialized knowledge of Native American traditional cultural places and practices identify cultural sites through research, surveying landscapes and interviewing Native American tribal elders. As of FY 2023, the total area of potential effects for the 14 FCRPS Projects is 603,061 acres. Of this total, approximately 365,541 acres are accessible for survey (not inundated by Project reservoir pools or otherwise obstructed). The total area surveyed for cultural sites as of the end of FY 2023 is 173,473 acres. At present, 4,843 archaeological sites and 1,167 culturally significant places are documented within the 14 FCRPS projects.

**Evaluation** — Newly located sites are assessed for the information they convey about important historic events and figures or for the specific architectural, engineering or artistic forms they exemplify. If a cultural site conveys one of these types of information, it may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic property. In FY 2023, the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program completed 20 National Register eligibility determinations for 14 archaeological sites and 6 culturally significant places.

**Assessment of effects** — Federal agencies must evaluate the effects of their actions; in this case, the operations and maintenance of the 14 FCRPS projects on cultural sites that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The agencies accomplish their assessment through monitoring or visiting cultural sites to document changes in their condition, physical or otherwise. Of the 247 cultural sites monitored, 193 sites had physical changes in FY 2023.



The John Day Lock and Dam is 216 miles upriver from the mouth of the Columbia River near the city of Rufus, Oregon. Construction of the John Day Lock and Dam was completed in 1972. It is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Portland District and authorized for navigation, hydroelectric power generation, and other purposes.

**Resolution of adverse effects** — Federal agencies must resolve adverse effects on historic properties that result from their actions. Resolving adverse effects can include stabilizing or rehabilitating archaeological sites, protecting culturally sensitive areas, or creating interpretive signs, curricula or presentations to educate the public or increase cultural perpetuation. The following lists are the notable accomplishments in resolving adverse effects in FY 2023.

#### Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- Each of the tribes participating in the Wana Pa Koot Koot cooperating group completed community education and outreach activities related to cultural resources and the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's (CTUIR) Cultural Resources Protection Program hosted a First Foods and Oral History Project booth at the CTUIR Community Picnic. The Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program took part in the Yakama Nation Wildlife Youth Wilderness Camp, speaking about types of artifacts that might be found along the river and their tie to the landscape. Warm Springs GeoVisions participated in the Warm Springs K-8 Academy Career Day. The Nez Perce Tribe Cultural Resource Program participated in the Nez Perce Tribe Environmental Education and Cultural Knowledge Day with a booth focused on the importance of ethnographic accounts.
- In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USACE completed removal and replacement of signs at a petroglyphs site to better ensure the long-term protection.
- The Portland District commander prohibited metal detecting at all Portland District projects, including Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day dams.
- USACE and BPA finalized a standalone Historic Properties Management Plan/Cultural Resources Management Plan for The Dalles Project.
- Based on documentation prepared by the tribes, USACE completed six determinations of eligibility for historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Native American tribes.

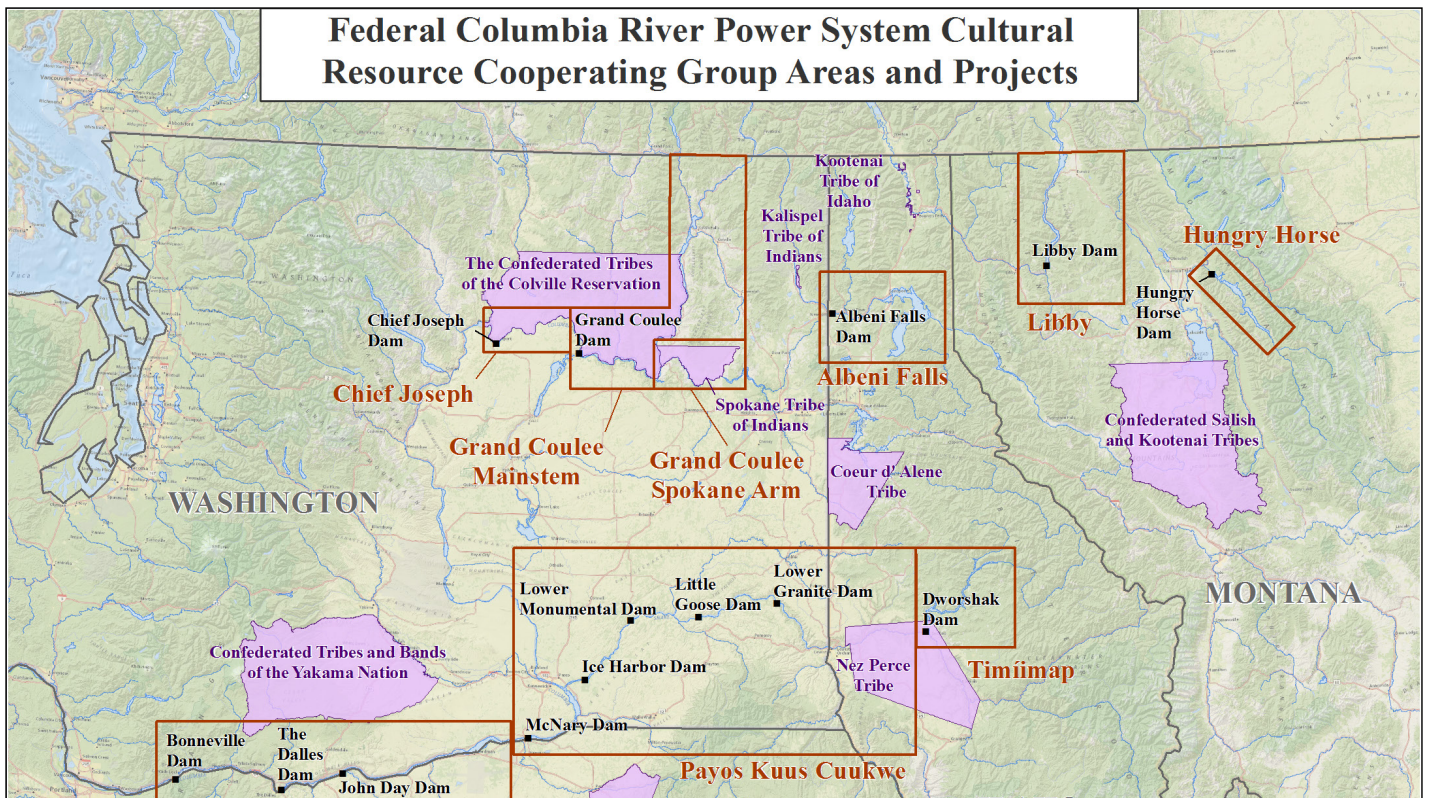


The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Resources Protection Program hosted a First Foods and Oral History booth at the CTUIR Community Picnic.



Gregg Kiona (Yakama Nation) speaks to Society for American Archaeology members about petroglyph relocation at Columbia Hills State Park in March 2023.

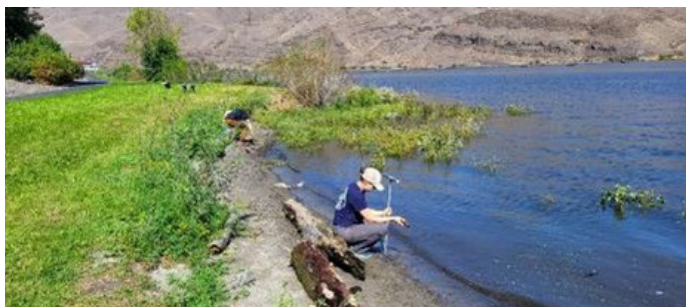
# Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resource Cooperating Group Areas and Projects



This map shows the 14 hydroelectric dams and cooperating groups that make up the Federal Columbia River Power System Cultural Resource Program.

## Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- In FY 2023 a new cooperating group began named Timiimap, after the Nez Perce fishing site at Bruce's Eddy that was inundated by Dworshak Dam.
- The Payos Kuus Cuukwe cooperating group implemented treatment measures to document and remove graffiti at an important rock image site at the McNary Project. The contractor used a combination of pressure washing, brushing, and a potassium hydroxide-based biodegradable solvent to remove graffiti.
- The Payos Kuus Cuukwe cooperating group implemented treatment measures of tule plantings and access restrictions at an archaeological site subject to exposure and erosion at Lower Granite Project.



Tule planting along the shoreline at Lower Granite Project in September 2023.

## Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers accomplishments

- Albeni Falls Dam's chief of natural resources and rangers installed nine "No Camping" signs at an archaeological site.
- The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation concluded a three-year trail study at Lake Koocanusa as part of the Libby Dam Project to create an interactive web-based story map of traditional terrestrial trails based on known routes and knowledge gathered from elder interviews.
- Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation History/Archaeology Program's Repository staff photographed and rehoused the artifact assemblage from an archaeological site within the Chief Joseph Dam Project. All associated records were digitized, and the artifact database has been expanded and corrected.
- Historic Human Remains Detection Dogs services were used at the Chief Joseph Dam Project and Lake Rufus Woods to identify potentially sensitive areas at five archaeological sites, providing important information to support decisions on site management.



Historic Human Remains Detection Dog searches part of an archaeological site.

## Bureau of Reclamation accomplishments

- FY 2023 marked the fifth year of the use of Historic Human Remains Detection Dogs at Lake Roosevelt as part of the Grand Coulee Dam Project. Success with this non-invasive method of defining sensitive areas in the drawdown for future monitoring has been seen on both the mainstem Columbia River and the Spokane River.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation History/Archaeology Program continued excavation at a precontact site on the mainstem of Lake Roosevelt as part of the Grand Coulee Dam Project. A new, older component of the site was revealed that ranges in age from 2,684 to 2,346 years before present.
- FY 2023 marked the concluding phase of a site stabilization project on the Spokane River as part of the Grand Coulee Dam Project. This expansive 900-foot-long protection project includes a cellular system packed with gravel and anchored into an eroding cutbank with manta ray style anchors and large gravels placed above the cellular system. It was completed with topsoil and native plantings in areas above the ordinary high-water mark.



Grand Coulee Mainstem Cooperating Group visits site in Kettle Falls, Washington.



The concluding phase of a stabilization project on the Spokane River shows the expansive 900-foot-long protection system and barge used to supply materials.

## Next steps

Artifacts, significant cultural sites, historic properties and structures are non-renewable, limited resources. Once destroyed, they are gone forever. To that end, the important work of the FCRPS Cultural Resource Program will continue preserving the rich history of people and traditional ways of life in the Pacific Northwest.

Cooperating groups, tribal participants, and state and federal agencies will build upon the inventory, evaluation and assessment, and important treatment and mitigation work accomplished in FY 2023. This collaborative work and shared management continues for the common goal of preserving the region's finite cultural resources for generations to come.