

Repatriation: at peace after 142 years

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The Memaloose Islands were known solely as burial islands and were used by the descendants of the claimant tribes who now reside on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Reservations.

It is the traditional culture and beliefs of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs that demand the utmost reverence and respect for the remains of our departed ancestors.

These beliefs require that the resting places of our ancestors not be disturbed, and that any remains or objects, which have been removed, be reburied in accordance with our customs and traditions.

It is premised upon a shared group identity, shared traditional life ways, past and present and the cultural affiliation that binds the Wasco, Wishxam, White Salmon and Hood River peoples buried on the Memaloose islands and the present-day Wasco, Wishxam, White Salmon and Hood River peoples represented today by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs are direct descendant communities from the Native people that are aboriginal to and traditionally used the region of the Mid Columbia River area of The Dalles, also known as *Winguat and/or Wascopum*.

Cultural Affiliation Evidence

The Wasco and Wishxam practiced the art of cranial modification which was done in infancy by placing the baby in a specially made cradle board that had a piece of board attached to the head and lowered onto the baby's forehead to provide a gradual and slight head flattening.

This was done to show beauty and signified an upper class or elite status as the Wasco had a class system of social stratification in place.

The term "Memaloose" is a Chinook Jargon word and was taken from the Wasco *Kiksht* word "Idmimlusbdiksh,"



Val Switzler, Pam Cardenas and Wasco Chief JR Smith Jr. at the repatriation.

which means "dead people." This term was used for the burial islands that were located in the Columbia River.

For the Wasco and Wishxam they primarily used the Upper and Lower Memaloose Islands as well as Grave Island, two of the islands are now submerged.

After Lewis and Clark arrived, many of the Memaloose Islands were swarmed by curiosity seekers and by scientific explorers.

Many of our ancestral remains were removed from the islands. When the Army Corps of Engineers built The Dalles and the Bonneville Lock and Dam Projects, many ancestral remains were removed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Yakama Nation to inland cemeteries before the islands were inundated.

At present, we have been finding our ancestral remains in museums and universities across the United States and some have been located across the seas in other coun-

Repatriation and Reburial

A Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act grant was awarded to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs from the National Parks Service to cover the expenses of this repatriation. This included transportation for the ancestors to return home, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Yakama Nation staff and traditional undertakers to travel, prepare and reinter the ancestors, and the needed supplies such as muslin and tule mats.

Due to the number of ancestors, the grant was not sufficient to cover the full expense of the undertaking, therefore many staff donated their time to complete this repatriation and reburial.

The ancestors reburied included 120 males, 97 female and 55 children. After 140 years after their removal from their original resting

place they are finally home and at peace.

The Army Corps of Engineers graciously provided a room at The Dalles Dam to wrap and prepare the ancestral remains for reburial.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Enforcement graciously coordinated the escort for the procession from The Dalles Dam to the reburial location.

Thanks to our Spiritual Leaders and the undertakers for all of their hard work, thanks to our Wasco Chief Alfred Smith Jr., and all that came to witness and be a part of this historic event. This was the biggest Wasco, Wishxam repatriation to date.

Tribal history tied up in land fight

WISHRAM (AP) — Some time ago, Robert Zornes, a Forks RV-park owner, purchased 122 acres on more than a mile of the Columbia River.

Then came the big surprise: He had purchased one of the most historically and archaeologically sensitive pieces of property in the state.

Home to a campsite and portage route on the Lewis and Clark Trail. A cave, with prehistoric Indian rock art. Indian burials, petroglyphs and story stones. And some of the last upland vestiges of an important Indian village near Celilo Falls, once one of the greatest Indian salmon fisheries, gathering grounds and trading areas in North America.

Since he purchased the property in 2011, Zornes often can be found in what he calls his war room: a study in his double-wide by the river, packed with historic photos and books — and documents from two years of frustrating correspondence with the Bonneville Power Administration.

The federal agency is in the middle of construction of a 28-mile, more than \$200 million transmission line. Construction started right about when Zornes bought the property — and

he soon received a letter from the agency informing him the BPA was about to cross the river and replace a tower near the cave. The new tower would be taller, wider and require blasting to construct — which he feared would destroy the cave and its ancient art.

And Zornes, as it turns out, is a history buff. As he put two and two together, he came to understand just how special the landscape he had purchased was. "BPA starts talking about a bulldozer and we kind of freaked out."

BPA informed him in a 2012 letter that if he didn't grant access across his property, the agency would dynamite an alternative access road, doing potentially more damage. The fight was on.

Zornes denied access across the easement on his property, saying it was granted to a different federal agency for another purpose, and since expired. He filed trespass claims. He invited the Yakama Indian Nation to revisit sacred lands on his property. Zornes' efforts so far have helped shut down construction of the project on his property at a cost of \$2 million and counting.

Exhibit celebrates life, art



The Apalonia Susana Santos exhibit will be on display until September.

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