

# 10,000 Years of Knowing

Traditional Knowledge and Climate  
Justice

# Lifeways

- We are a “place based” society. Coast Salish culture is intimately tied to the land and water.
- The honorable harvest
- A solemn promise
- “I don’t believe in magic. I believe in the sun and the stars, the water, the tides, the floods, the owls, the hawks flying, the river running, the wind talking. They’re measurements. They tell us how healthy things are. How healthy we are. Because we and they are the same. That’s what I believe in. Those who learn to listen to the world that sustains them can hear the message brought forth by the salmon.” Billy Frank Jr.

# What are Treaty Rights

- Treaty Rights are inherent rights. Treaty Rights were not given to tribes by the federal government, they are upheld by the federal government as a part of its trust relationship with Treaty Tribes. The right of tribes to self governance is the supreme law of the land woven into the U.S. constitution as well as many legal decisions and legislative articles.
- The Boldt Decision upheld the guarantee made by the federal government to the tribes, the rights to hunt, fish and gather in our usual and accustomed grounds and the rights to harvest half of all salmon returns as well as to be co-managers of the resources guaranteed in the treaty.
- In Indian law the treaties are meant to be interpreted the way they would have by the native people of the time.



JAMES BUCHANAN,

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

TO ALL AND SINGULAR TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas a treaty was made and concluded at Muckl-te ob, or Point Elliott, in the Territory of Washington, the twenty-second day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five, by Isaac I. Stevens, governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for the said Territory, on the part of the United States, and the hereinafter-named chiefs, headmen and delegates of the Dwamish, Suquamish, Sk tahl-mish, Sam-ahmish, Smalh kahmish, Skope-ahmish, St-kah-mish, Snoqualmoo, Skai-wha-mish, N'Quentl ma-mish, Sk-tah-le jum, Stoluck-wha-mish, Sno-ho-mish, Skagit, Kik-i-allus, Swin a mish, Squin ah-mish, Sah ku melu, Noo wha ha, Nook wa-chah mish, Mee see-qu-guilch, Cho bah-ah-bish and other allied and subordinate tribes and bands of Indians occupying certain lands situated in said Territory of Washington, on behalf of said tribes and duly authorized by law; which treaty is in the following words and figures to wit:

Articles of agreement and convention made and concluded at Muckl-te-ob, or Point Elliott, in the Territory of Washington, this twenty-second day of January, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, by Isaac I. Stevens, governor and superintendent of Indian affairs for the said Territory, on the part of the United States, and the undersigned chiefs, headmen, and delegates of the Dwamish, Suquamish, Sk-tahl-mish, Sam-ahmish, Smalh-kahmish, Skope-ahmish, St-kah-mish, Snoqualmoo, Skai-wha-mish, N'Quentl-ma-mish, Sk-tah-le-jum, Stoluck-wha-mish, Sno-ho-mish, Skagit, Kik-i-allus, Swin-a-mish, Squin-ah-mish, Sah-ku-melhu, Noo-wha-ha, Nook-wa-chah-mish, Me-see-qu-guilch, Cho-bah-ah-bish, and other allied and subordinate tribes and bands of Indians occupying certain lands situated in said Territory of Washington, on behalf of said tribes, and duly authorized by them.

ART. I. The said tribes and bands of right, title, and interest in and to the Indians hereby cede, relinquish, and lands and country occupied by them, convey to the United States all their bounded and described as follows: Com-

# Adapting to a Changing Climate

- For thousands of years Indigenous cultures have adapted to a changing environment.
- Reservations do not contain the diversity of resources required.
- Today all of our fishing is restricted to the reservation or other designated areas in our U&A and hunting and gathering takes place on “Open and Unclaimed” lands

# Looking to Tribes

- People around the country and the world can look to tribes as a place for the knowledge required to maintain a balanced ecosystem.
- Tribal scientist represent some of the world leaders in their respective fields.
- We have led the way in Washington completing massive habitat restoration projects and innovative conservation programs.

# The Effect of Inaction

- Inaction today poses major risks to the resources that tribes depend on including species like the Chinook Salmon and Southern Resident Killer Whales which are icons of not just tribes but the entire Northwest.
- The Federal Government has a trust responsibility to tribes to protect the resources guaranteed by the treaties between our two sovereigns into perpetuity.

# Taking Action Today

- Many of the resources that tribes have depended on since time immemorial are already threatened or endangered
- Tribes bring valuable knowledge passed down for generations that can help make equitable and effective climate policy a reality
- The combined work of Washington tribes on I-1631 helped shape a policy that will protect Washington's ecosystems and help us reach important emission reduction goals.

# Solar Power at Tulalip

- Partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation's Soar 4R Schools program
- Four 20'x14' solar panels were installed at our Learning Center
- Has produced 32,308.5 kilowatt-hours of energy over the life since April of 2017
- The project has avoided the release of 45,232 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> to date