



Presented by
Rue Hewett-Hoover- Nez Perce Tribe
Seth Book- Skokomish
Janice Martin- Quinault Indian Nation

How did TWIG start?

2009 Initial EPA meeting in
Spokane

2010-11, EPA HQ, a small
grant to organize meetings

2011-present, EPA Region
10 Wetlands Program Dev.
Grants and EPA nationwide
Tribal WPDG prime
funding sources

Workshops in Oregon, at
the Umatilla Tribes,
Mission, and at Klamath
Tribes, Klamath Falls

Past workshops have been
hosted by Nez Perce,
Cowlitz, Warm Springs,
Snoqualmie, Tulalip,
Quinault, Umatilla,
Yakama, and many more.

Mission

The Tribal Wetland Working Group exists to share knowledge in support of the protection and restoration of wetlands and aquatic resources from a tribal perspective.

Steering Committee Members

Rue Hewett Hoover, Nez Perce Tribe, current TWIG
Lead

Matt Baerwalde, Snoqualmie Tribe

Kelsey Payne, Snoqualmie Tribe

Janice Martin, Quinault Indian Nation

Seth Book, Skokomish

Stacy King,
Colville Confederated Tribes

TWIG Objectives

Promote

Promote wetland and aquatic resources training opportunities for Tribes

Provide

Provide a place for information sharing and the transfer of technical expertise regarding restoration, protection, and management strategies for wetlands and aquatic resources among Pacific NW Tribes staff

Support

Support the development and implementation of wetland and aquatic resource monitoring strategies

Increase

Increase awareness and appreciation of the cultural importance of wetlands and aquatic resources

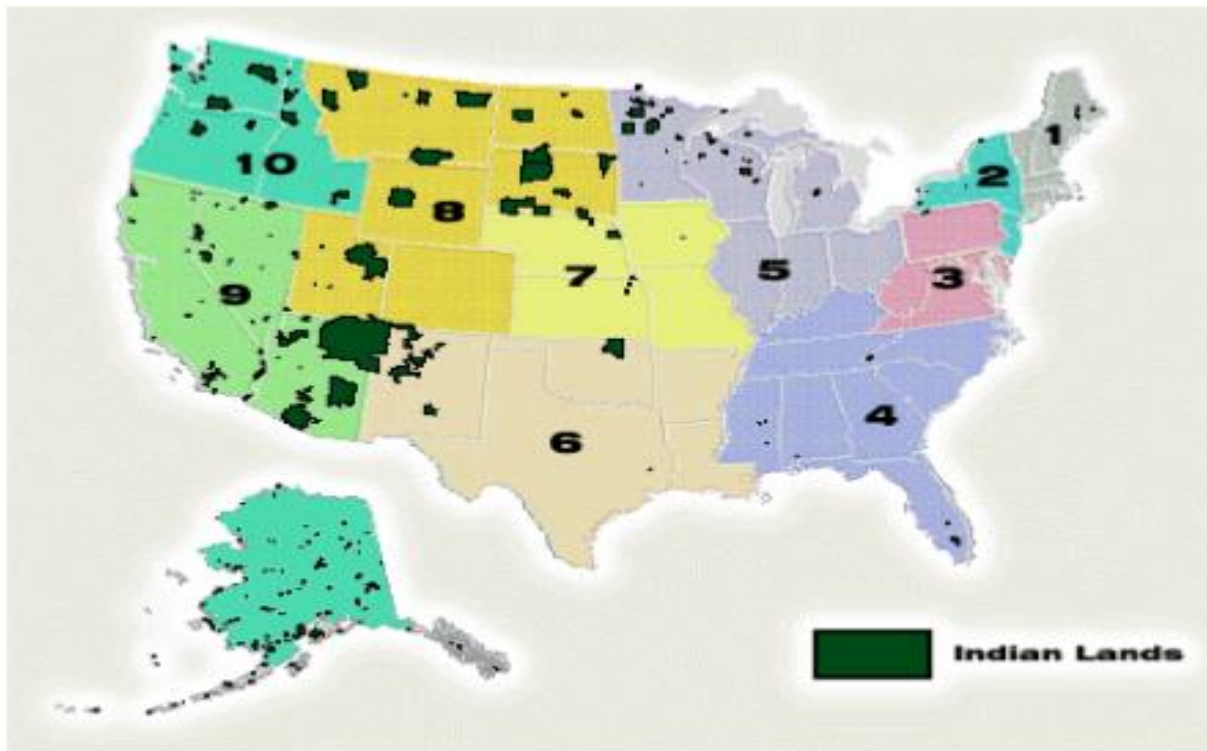


Broad Themes

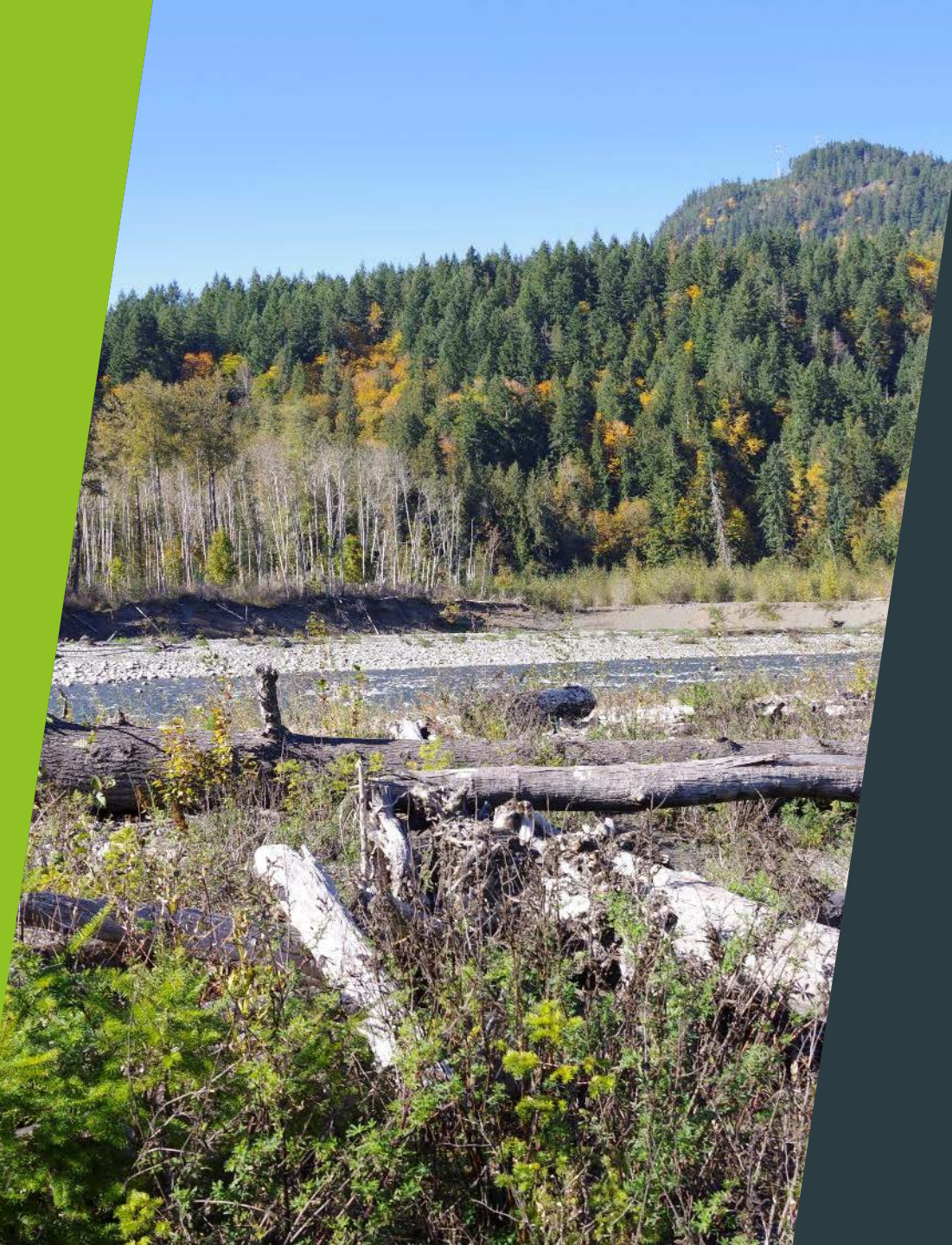


- ▶ **Wide range of cultural uses and physical expressions of waters across PNW**
- ▶ **Extending the framework to enable more informed program plans**
 - ▶ **Strong pathway to (W)WQS**
 - ▶ **Provide Tribes with a peer network for plan conceptualization and development**
 - ▶ **Recognize biophysical functions along with cultural use patterns**

Tribal Lands



EPA Region Map



Participating Tribes

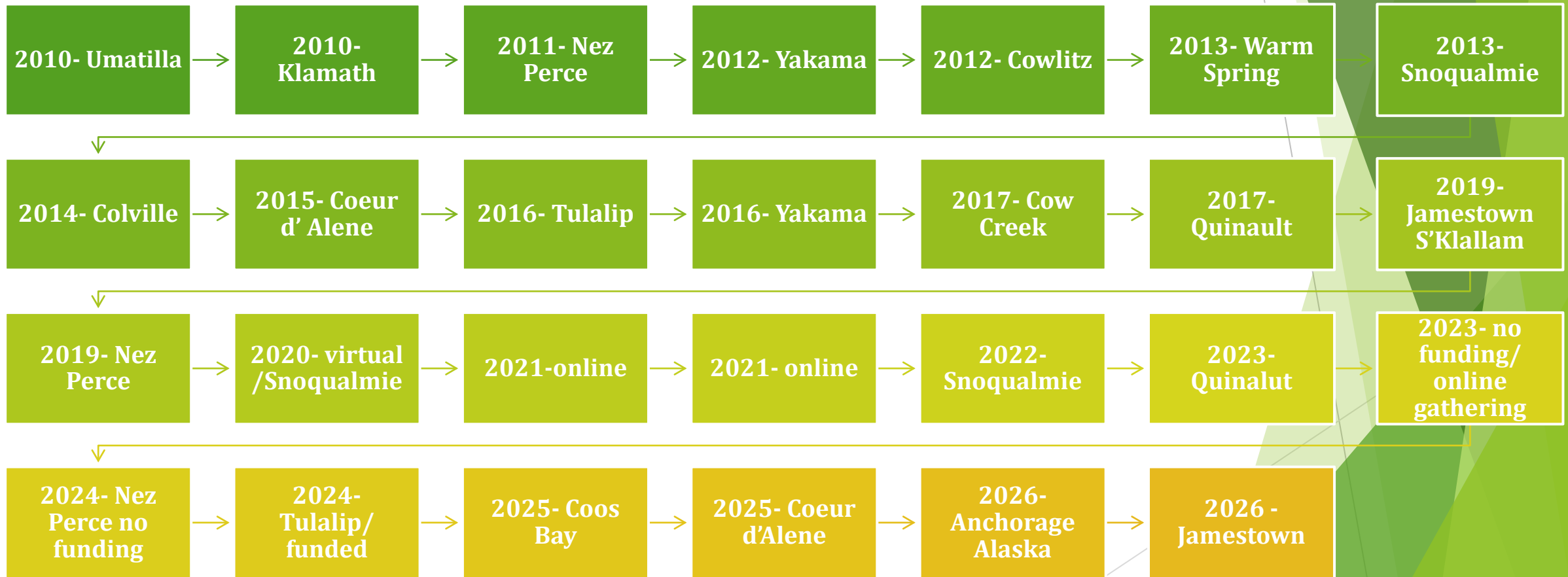
- ▶ Region 10 has 271 Tribes, with 48 tribes that have participated in workshops.
- ▶ There are 29 tribes in Washington, and 24 of them (82.8%) have attended workshops/training.
- ▶ There are nine tribes in Oregon, and five of them (55.5%) have attended workshops/training.
- ▶ Idaho has five tribes, and four (80.0%) have attended workshops/training.
- ▶ Alaska has 228 tribes, and 15 of them (6.6%) have attended workshops/training.
- ▶ Alaskan Tribes and Native Villages are much more isolated than Tribes in the lower 48 states, and travel is expensive and often difficult. Internet connectivity is also a challenge.
- ▶ Alaska has approximately 63 percent of the nation's wetland ecosystems.

Participating Tribes

- ▶ Tlingit and Haida Tribes
- ▶ Skagit River System Cooperative
- ▶ Stillaquamish
- ▶ AVCP
- ▶ Crooked Creek
- ▶ Lower Elwha Klallam
- ▶ ONC
- ▶ Qawalangin
- ▶ Quileute Nation
- ▶ Shoshone-Paiute
- ▶ Spokane
- ▶ Skokomish Tribes
- ▶ Nooksack
- ▶ NWIFC
- ▶ Salish and Kootenai Tribes
- ▶ Jamestown S'Klallam
- ▶ Native Village of Eklutna
- ▶ Yukon River IWC
- ▶ Lummi
- ▶ Shoalwater Bay
- ▶ UCUT
- ▶ White Mountain
- ▶ CRRC
- ▶ Port Gamble S'kallam
- ▶ Sitka
- ▶ Yakutat Tlingit
- ▶ Coos
- ▶ Kalispel
- ▶ Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
- ▶ Coquille
- ▶ Klamath
- ▶ Makah
- ▶ Warm Springs
- ▶ Coeur D' Alene
- ▶ Colville
- ▶ Cow Creek
- ▶ Quinault
- ▶ Suquamish
- ▶ Snoqualmie
- ▶ Cowlitz
- ▶ Nez Perce
- ▶ Tulalip
- ▶ Yakama
- ▶ Umatilla
- ▶ Tyonek Tribal Conservation District
- ▶ Chickaloon
- ▶ Chugach Regional Resources Commission
- ▶ Togiak

Workshops and trainings Timeline

(32 workshops/ trainings)





Funding

- ▶ TWIG currently receives funding through an EPA Wetland Program Development Grant administered through the Nez Perce Tribe.
- ▶ (Umatilla and Snoqualmie have also managed the TWIG grant funding.)



Core Elements Framework

- ▶ EPA suggests 4 elements for developing a wetlands/aquatic resources program
 - ▶ *Protection*
 - ▶ *Regulation*
 - ▶ *Monitoring and assessment*
 - ▶ *Wetland water quality standards*
- ▶ An additional element for tribes is Tribal/Cultural uses and Education

Supporting the Development of Tribal Wetland Programs

**Incorporate Tribal
values into Core
Element
Framework and
wetland programs**

**Develop tools
specific to Tribal
needs**

Materials Associated With Culture

First Foods

Access

Physical +
Ecological
Processes



Teaching &
Learning

Harvest

Preparation

Consumption

Celebration

Sharing

Care
(Reciprocity)

Workshops



- ▶ Content organized and presented by the hosting Tribes and their collaborators
- ▶ Begins with an elder discussing the important cultural uses/items that come from wetlands in their area
- ▶ Workshops are split between field visits and presentations at Tribal offices
- ▶ Occasionally, state and federal partners are invited if they contribute to a theme
- ▶ Emphasis on cultural use of ecological products from water (ex., fish, plants, and birds)

Workshops are:

- ▶ Every 6 months
- ▶ Alternate sides of the Cascades, wet/dry areas
- ▶ The agenda and theme are developed with the host Tribe
- ▶ 2 days, usually with each afternoon in the field



- The hosting Tribe tailors each workshop to their current issues/concerns
- Examples from past workshops include the role of wetlands in stream temperature regulation, weather patterns on high meadows, and the urban encroachment of floodplain wetlands

Persistent topics at Workshops

- Shared ideas about developing Wetland Program Plans
- The importance of Tribal community values for the EPA Core Elements Framework
- Many Tribes, currently participating in TWIG, have water quality and wetland programs integrated

Workshops



Training TOPICS

- ▶ Also begin with an elder discussing the important cultural uses/items that come from wetlands in their area
 - ▶ Training topics are decided through online polls to the participating tribes or at workshops
 - ▶ Previous trainings: WESP, drone, and other wetland assessments
 - ▶ Usually, last ~2 days
 - ▶ Travel costs for those who do not have a WPDG can be offset by the TWIG grant
 - ▶ Scheduled for one every grant cycle

Summary

Pacific Northwest Tribal Wetlands Working Group (TWIG)

- ▶ TWIG supports Region 10 Tribes in protecting wetlands and aquatic resources by sharing knowledge and expertise.
- ▶ Create meaningful workshops and trainings that help tribal staff grow and share.
- ▶ Share videos, newsletters, and announcements are available to everyone.
Website- <https://pnwtwig.wordpress.com> (website update in process)
- ▶ We're working to help other regions to have a wetland group like the TWIG.
- ▶ TWIG is always learning, and we check in with our participating tribes to determine the next steps to improve meetings and trainings.



Fall Workshop 2024 Tulalip

Spring Workshop 2024 Nez Perce





TRAINING JUNE 2025

Training featured Paul Adamus on his Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) assessment tool, which covers essential topics such as evaluating wetland restoration, as well as wetland mitigation credit and debit calculations. He has assisted in several trainings for the TWIG.



WESP Training @ Coos Bay
June 2025

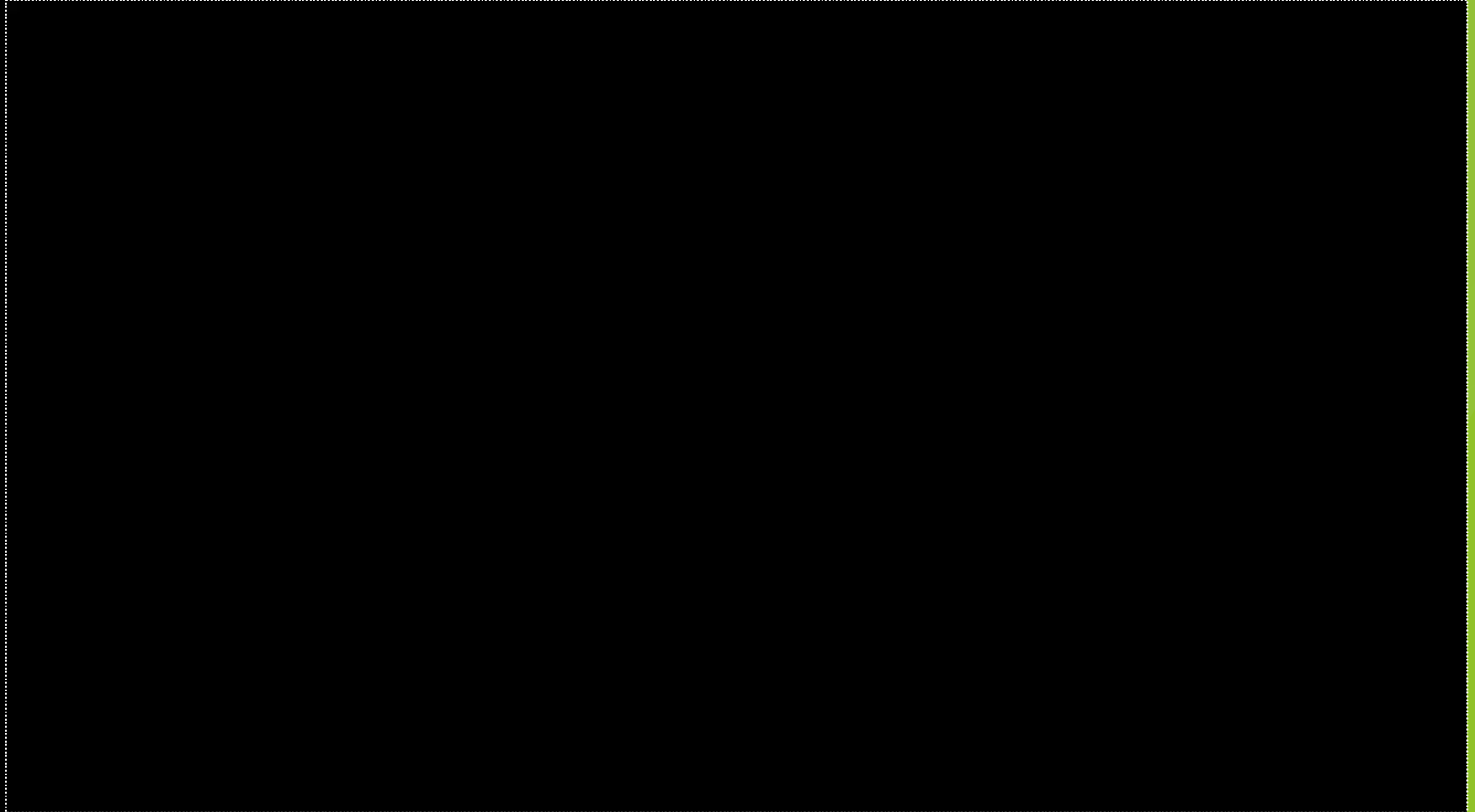


Fall Workshop at Coeur d'Alene, theme was Wapato- water potato

October 22-23, 2025



Highlight Video





TWIG Spring 2026 Anchorage, Alaska





**Upcoming Workshop in Jamestown
S'Klallam Tribe, Washington**
October 20-22, 2026

TWIG PANNEL

Rue Hewett-Hoover- Nez Perce Tribe

Seth Book- Skokomish

Janice Martin- Quinault Indian Nation



WHAT HAS TWIG DONE FOR YOU?