

Traditional Cultural Use of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation

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Abstract:

This presentation will cover the mission of the Yakama Nation Environmental Restoration Waste Management Program (Cultural Resources), which is completely funded by the Department of Energy. The Hanford Site is located on lands ceded to the US Government by Yakama Nation in the Treaty of 1855. Yakama Nation and other area Tribes have a cultural interest in the land. The Manhattan project destroyed many cultural sites, but also preserved many sites. The cultural remains of pre-contact activities are evident throughout the Hanford Site. Under the National Historic Preservation Act the archaeological sites need to be identified and protected. The presentation will show some of the types of sites and artifacts found at Hanford, and how the Program staff participate in the protection of the sites. We will also share some of the challenges of preserving and protecting sites during active remediation.

Hanford Nuclear Reservation Post Cleanup

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Abstract:

This presentation covers the Hanford Site from the beginning of operations in the 1940s, to the cleanup efforts currently underway, and to the projected end-states and potential human health and environmental concerns that will last far into the future. The end-states are based on USDOE documents and mission visions. These end-states will leave radioactive and chemical contaminants in the soils and groundwater that will prevent use for hundreds if not thousands of years.