



Visit NIMIIPUU

Where the Drum Meets the Land: Building Trust Through Nimipuu Story, Place, and Relationship



k'uusn'im qicxnew'eet
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q'emes'nim l'aatis
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building trust. building community.



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT

march 16-17, 2026

Welcome to
Our Homelands



Whose Homelands do you
work/live on?

tim' né•pe

HEART OF
THE MONSTER





On a scale from 1-5,
how prepared is your
community to tell a
16,000-year old story rather
than a 250-year story?

Land The First Relationship

Before partnership with people, there is relationship with place. The land that holds the history, the knowledge, and the responsibility we carry forward.

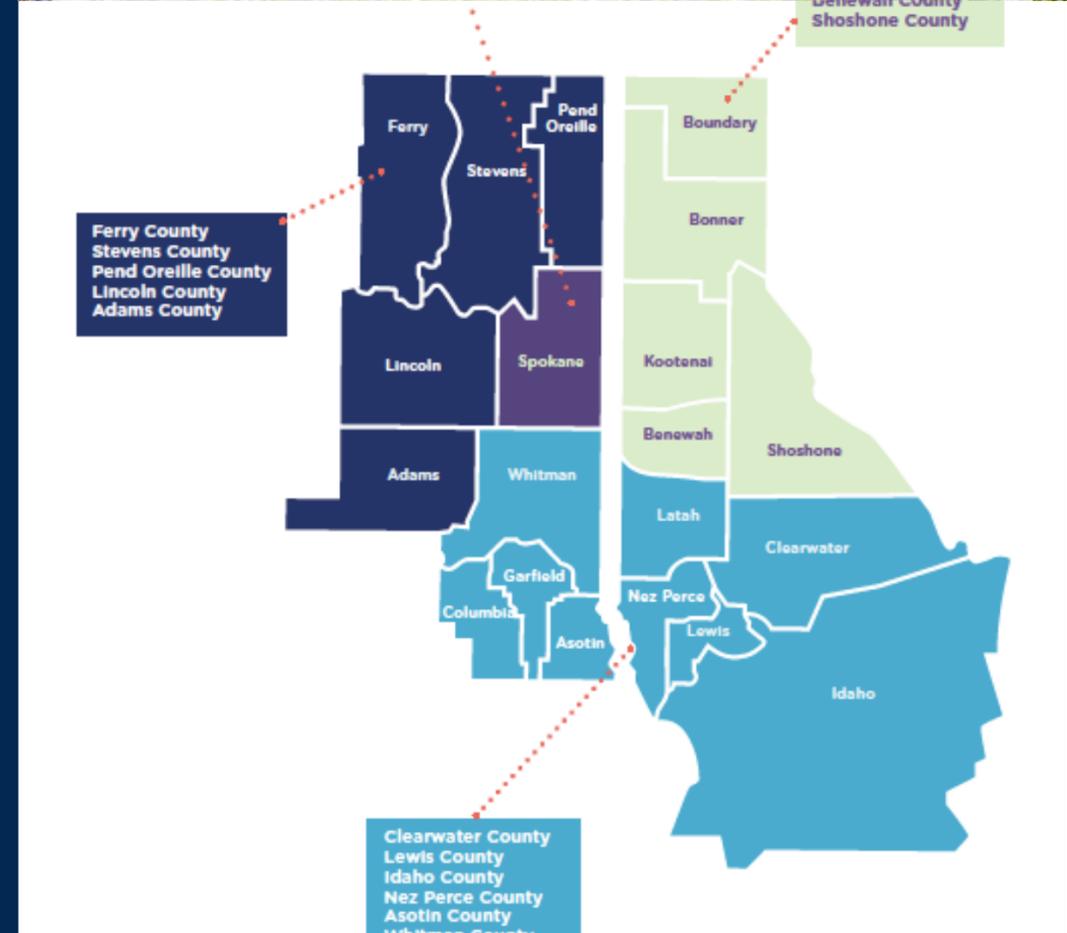
Regional Landscape

- 20 counties
- ~21 million acres of land
- ~33,000 square miles
- 85+ incorporated cities
- 180+ communities
- ~900,000 residents

Natural Landscape

- 30+ rivers and major tributaries
- 50+ lakes and reservoirs
- 8 major mountain ranges
- All within the Columbia River Basin watershed

I am special, 'iin wees hete'ew. 'iin 'ee wees hete'ew. You are special.



Water The Flow of Understanding

Water connects us all. This stage is about identifying shared interests and initiating the first "ripple" of contact through reciprocity.

Major Rivers

- Columbia River
- Snake River
- Clearwater River
- Pend Oreille River
- Spokane River
- Salmon River
- Palouse River
- Kettle River
- St. Joe River

Across the region there are approximately:

30+ significant rivers and tributaries

40+ lakes and reservoirs

Water: Rivers, lakes, and watersheds connect ecosystems, communities, and cultures.



People The Pulse of the Community

Tribal communities are living networks of relationships - families, Elders, youth, cultural practitioners, leaders and professionals who each carry knowledge about the place and the future of community.

Tribal Nations of the Innowia Service Area

The region overlaps the homelands of several Tribal Nations:

Nez Perce Tribe

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Spokane Tribe of Indians

Kalispel Tribe of Indians

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Confederated Tribes of the Colville
Reservation

The drum carries the heartbeat of the people and the



Lewis & Clark



LEWIS AND CLARK
AMONG THE NEZ PERCE
Strangers in the Land of the Nimiipuu

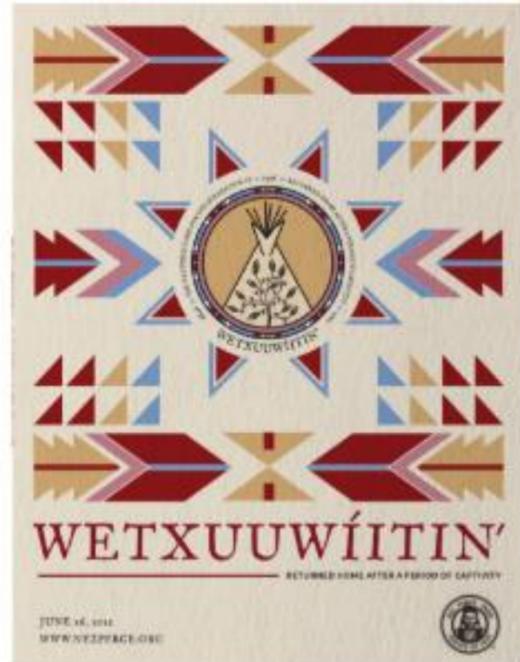
ALLEN V. PINKHAM and STEVEN R. EVANS
Foreword by FREDERICK E. HOXIE



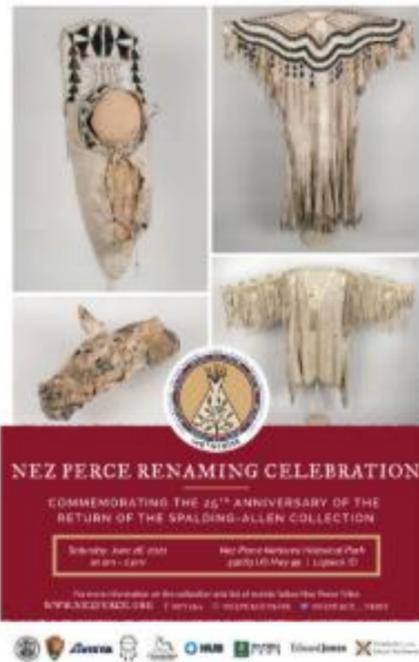


What is one “Untold Story”
from your county that
deserves to be part of the
narrative of this region?

Wetxuwitín Collection



VIEW THE RENAMING CEREMONY BOOKLET
<https://bit.ly/2W8eWwW>



EVENT POSTER



VIEW THE MEDIA KIT
<https://bit.ly/3wz7joo>



EVENT TABLE TENT

NEZ PERCE ARTIFACTS REACQUISITION COMMITTEE

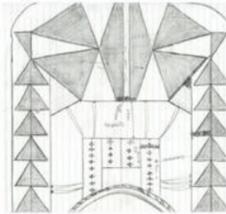
ROBERT CHENOWETH
 TABITHA ERDEY
 THOMAS GREGORY
 JULIE KANE
 KRISTINE LEIER
 JASON LYON
 ANN MCCORMACK
 STACIA MORFIN
 KAYELONI SCOTT
 DARREN WILLIAMS
 NAKIA WILLIAMSON

READ THE BOOK

COMING HOME TO NEZ PERCE COUNTRY
 Dr. Trevor Bond. The Nimiipu Campaign to Repatriate their Exploited Heritage
<https://www.koza.org/2018/08/01/coming-home-to-nez-perce-country/>

LESSON PLAN

Nez Perce Tribe Reeducation of the Spalding Allen Collection Lesson Plan
<https://bit.ly/2JwvCz1>



Cradle Board Illustration by Tisa (Pineham) Matheson



Cradle Board

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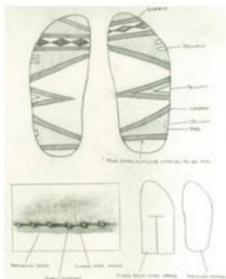
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QE'CIYÉW'YEW'

THANK YOU
 For more information about the collection please visit www.nezperce.org/renaming

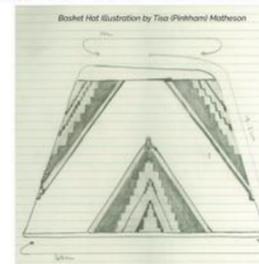


Tisa (Pineham) Matheson



Moccasins Illustration by Nakia Williamson

"THIS RENAMING WILL BE THE FINAL ACT TOWARD TRULY AND COMPLETELY RECONNECTING THESE AMAZING PIECES OF MATERIAL ART TO THE NIMIIPU PEOPLE."
 —Samuel N. Penney, Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman



Basket Hat Illustration by Tisa (Pineham) Matheson



Women's Woven Hat





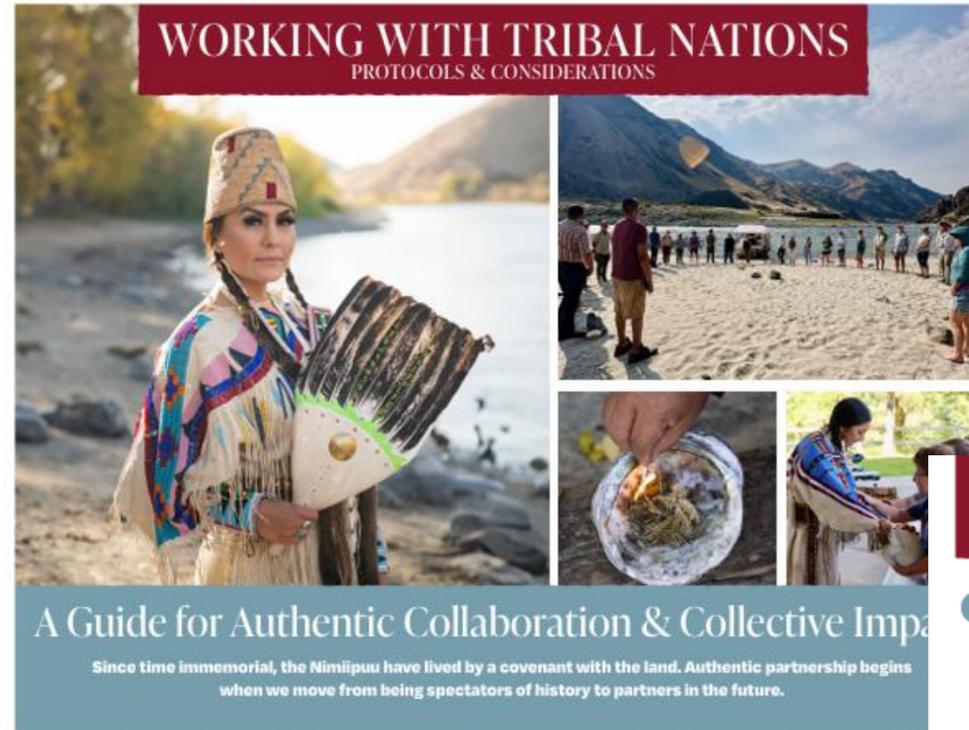
What is one action item you can take back to your county to promote unity?

Why This Matters for America 250

While the United States prepares to mark 250 years since 1776, the Native Nations of this region carry histories here spanning thousands of years and hundreds of generations.

America 250 provides an opportunity to:

- Share a more complete history of place
- Support Native-led storytelling and cultural education
- Strengthen partnerships with Tribal Nations
- Highlight Native artists, entrepreneurs, and cultural leaders
- Promote respectful cultural tourism and education



Cultural Values

Sacredness of Place

We recognize the land and its resources as living relatives rather than commodities, moving with reverence for the spiritual integrity of the landscape.

Intergenerational Exchange

We bridge the wisdom of Elders with the vision of youth to ensure every action is rooted in ancestral knowledge and built for the future.

Relational Responsibility

We move with the understanding that we are all related, holding ourselves accountable to the people, the land, and the long-term trust we build together.

Reciprocity

We ensure the flow of knowledge and resources moves in both directions, giving back to the community with the same intentionality with which we receive.

Narrative Justice

We honor the community's right to define its own identity by prioritizing local voices so the story of the land is told by those who belong to it.

Core Values for Partnership

To work effectively with Tribal Nations and communities, align your approach with these foundational principles of conduct:

Tamáálwit (Natural Law)

This is the overriding law that dictates our relationship to the Earth. Respect the interconnectedness of all things—land, water, people, and movement. When you plan a project, ask: How does this honor the four interconnected elements?

Sovereignty & Protocol

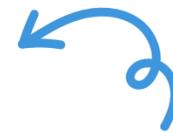
Tribal Nations are sovereign governments with their own laws, leadership structures, and decision-making processes. Elected leaders, elders, cultural knowledge keepers, and community leaders often help guide discussions. Never assume that one Tribe's process applies to another.

Generational Responsibility

Move beyond short-term timelines and consider the long view—how decisions today affect future generations and the lands we share.

Cultural Humility

Approach Tribal engagement with the understanding that you are a guest in a long-standing story. Listening to community perspectives, cultural teachings, and lived experiences is essential before proposing partnerships.



LEARN MORE

THE ELEMENTS OF TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

- 1 Land: The First Relationship**
Before partnership with people, there is relationship with place. The land that holds the history, the knowledge, and the responsibility we carry forward.
Step 1: Learn the Homelands. Understand whose land you are on and the history carried in that place. Recognizing the Tribal homelands connected to the project area is the first step toward respectful partnership.
Step 2: Spend Time with the Land. Understanding begins with presence. Spend time with the land itself and participate in community spaces, such as Tribal events or gatherings, where the relationship between the people and place can be experienced and better understood.
Step 3: Audit Your Presence. Identify how your organization's current work impacts the land. Does it align with or disrupt Tribal stewardship?
- 2 Water: The Flow of Understanding**
Water connects us all. This stage is about identifying shared interests and initiating the first "ripple" of contact through reciprocity.
Step 4: The Headwaters of Consultation. Engage early, while the vision is still forming. Come with humility and a willingness to listen. Partnerships that begin at the headwaters flow from shared understanding and community priorities.
Step 5: Where Connection Begins to Flow. Use your time spent on the land and community presence to identify the appropriate point of contact, such as a Tribal leader, department director, non-profit lead, or independent consultant. Focus on aligning with the individual whose expertise matches the work, ensuring your outreach is targeted and respectful of the Tribe's internal protocols.
Step 6: Practice Reciprocity. The offering of a gift and the sharing of a meal are longstanding cultural practices that acknowledge respect and relationships. Through hospitality, trust is built and people are welcomed into a space of listening and learning.
Step 7: Creating the Confluence. A meaningful partnership is like two rivers meeting: when they merge with respect for one another's rhythm, they move forward as one powerful stream.
- 3 People: The Pulse of the Community**
Tribal communities are living networks of relationships - families, Elders, youth, cultural practitioners, leaders and professionals who each carry knowledge about the place and the future of community.
Step 8: The Heartbeat. The drum carries the heartbeat of the people and the land. Take time to connect with the many voices within the community; Elders, youth, cultural practitioners, leaders, and professionals each carrying knowledge of place, culture, and the future. When these voices are honored, the work moves forward with one heart, one mind, and one sound.
Step 9: Amplify the True Voice. Ensure the community's voices are the ones telling their own stories, hiring Native historians and educators to speak for themselves rather than interpreting the culture through an outside lens. Honor cultural and community knowledge as specialized professional expertise by providing honoraria or professional fees for Elders, artists, and consultants.
Step 10: Honor Cultural Privacy. Understand that some knowledge and ceremonies are sacred and not meant for the public. Always ask for permission before documenting or sharing community stories. If a boundary is set, respect it without question.
- 4 Movement: Walk the Trail Together**
Movement connects our past to our future. This stage turns vision into action through permanent partnership and an open invitation for others to join the walk.
Step 11: Stepping onto the Path. Turn vision into action by formalizing how we will walk together. Clearly define roles, establish a consistent communication plan, and identify the specific resources each partner contributes. By setting this foundation early, we move from "talking about the work" to "doing the work" with transparency and accountability.
Step 12: Invest in Local Capacity. Direct your resources toward the community's existing strengths. By prioritizing Tribal businesses, professionals, and local talent, you strengthen the community's own infrastructure and ensure the economic benefits of the work stay on the land.
Step 13: Maintain the Trail Relationships. Stay intentional and open, welcoming new partners to the path while keeping existing connections strong. When you treat the work as a lifelong commitment to the people and the place, you move from being project partners to being a reliable part of the community.

Titóoqanaawit

WAY OF LIFE

Titóoqanaawit is a multigenerational initiative created and led by the ʔóykalaʔayn (community) for the preservation of Nimiipuu cultural values and history through hands-on educational experiences and advance Nimiipuu cultural identity, connection to place, and maintain and extend the narrative of the Nimiipuu.



DONATE ONLINE



A scenic landscape at sunset. The foreground is filled with lush green evergreen trees. In the background, rolling mountains are visible under a sky with soft, colorful clouds. The sun is setting on the right side of the frame, casting a warm glow over the scene.

Qe'ci'yew'yew'

THANK YOU