

Sqigwts.org

Chronology of the “Sqigwts” Project - “Schitsu’umsh Relationships with Their Dynamic Landscapes: Identifying, Managing and Applying Indigenous Knowledge and Praxis.”

May 1, 2014: **Initial consultation** with Alfred Nomee (Coeur d’Alene Director of Natural Resources and Tribal Council member), Quanah Matheson (Coeur d’Alene Director of Cultural Resources Program), Leanne Campbell (Coeur d’Alene Cultural Program), Tiffany Allgood (Coeur d’Alene Director of Environmental Program), Steven Daley-Laursen (UI Natural Resources), Rodney Frey (UI Ethnography). Discussed the proposed broad initiative dealing with Indigenous knowledge and climate change, with possible funding from Dept of Interior USGS. Initiated the design and outline of possible initiatives (protocol, Tribal Garden, curriculum, etc.). All agreed to move proposal forward to Culture Committee. Met at the Coeur d’Alene Casino over lunch.

May – June: Rodney Frey met with Tiffany Allgood, later joined by Leanne Campbell, in consort with Jeremy Kenyon (UI research librarian), Greg Goldberg (UI partnership manager) and Steve Daley-Laursen, to develop research design and what would become a five-deliverable project (listed below).

Proposal Intent: The overall intent of the project is to legitimize the Schitsu’umsh *hnxhwelkhwlnet* (“our ways of life in the world”) and *mi’yp* (“teachings form all things”) associated with *sqigwts* as essential and insightful knowledge and practice, complementary to scientific knowledge, and that both are equally important in addressing climate change. The five specific “deliverables” are fully defined and developed as reflected in the Dept. of Interior USGS-funded proposal: “Schitsu’umsh Relationships with Their Dynamic Landscapes: Identifying, Managing and Applying Indigenous Knowledge and Praxis.” The **primary audiences** would be USGS scientists and future generations of Schitsu’umsh, as well as the general public.

Deliverable #1 – Protocol and Legal Agreement. Identify best practices for engaging collaborative research with a Tribe, develop a legal agreement that protects Tribal “intellectual property” and “traditional knowledge,” while providing a researcher with a “license” to conduct research. No research on Tribal information can be disseminated to a third-party without approval of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe.

Deliverable #2 – Inventory of *sqigwts/Sagittaria latifolia*. Identify and present the Schitsu’umsh knowledge and practice, i.e., *hnxhwelkhwlnet*, associated with the plant, *sqigwts* (also known as “water potato” – *Sagittaria latifolia*), within its full scientific biological and ecological contexts, and most importantly, within its full Schitsu’umsh cultural context. Using an innovative virtual world platform, the interactive 3-D Landscape module was determined to be the most appropriate and effective way to present Schitsu’umsh knowledge, from a Schitsu’umsh perspective.

Deliverable #3 – Link with Metadata Repository. Render the inventory accessible and useful for climate change scientists, doing it in a manner that retains the Schitsu’umsh meaning of the plant inventoried. It is a significant accomplishment to have Schitsu’umsh *hnxhwelkhwlnet* successfully integrated and housed with International Standards Organization (ISO) digital metadata repository, without compromising the integrity and nature of that knowledge.

Deliverable #4 – Plan for a “Tribal Garden.” Demonstrate the utility and applicability of *hnhkwelkhwnet*, in association with scientific knowledge, in a proposed plan for a Tribal Garden. It would provide: 1. educational opportunities for youth, 2. food production for needy families, and 3. the protection and perpetuation of traditional foods into the future given climate change projections. No traditional foods or associated practices would be publically shared without the consent of the Coeur d’Alene Tribe. The “Garden” is inclusive of a “Native Garden,” seeking to protect and perpetuate traditional access and practices associated with such plants as camas, and of a “Garden Grid,” using scientific-based methods.

Deliverable #5 – Curriculum. Based upon the focus and scope of this project, with appropriate Schitsu’umsh and scientific content and pedagogical considerations relating to climate change, provide lessons plans appropriate for high school and first-year college students. The curriculum could be used by the Tribe, the NWCSC, and area colleges and universities

May 21, 2014: **Culture Committee Review** included an overview of proposed project, with request to Committee to designate a species (plant, fish or animal) to focus the research. The Committee unanimously agreed that it should focus on *sqigwts*. The Committee agreed that the proposal should move forward to Tribal Council for review and possible approval.

July 17, 2014: **Tribal Council Reviewed and Approval** full proposal approved unanimously.

August 2014 – August 31, 2015: **Dept. Interior/USGS** submission of proposal and approved for funding. Specifically, proposal jointly funded by the Northwest Climate Science Center (NCSC) and National Climate Change and Wildlife Science Center (NCCWSC).

May 11, 2015: **Effective Start Date for Collaborative Research.** Delayed primarily to allow the attorneys from the Tribe and University to develop a legal protocol agreement that would safeguard the Tribes’ intellectual property and traditional knowledge, and provide a pathway for research by investigators. This agreement is a fundamental part of deliverable 1, the Protocol.

Established the **Sqigwts Team:** Schitsu’umsh: Leanne Campbell (Co-Pi), CarylDene Swan, Audra Vincent, Michelle Clark; University of Idaho: Jeremy Kenyon (Co-Pi), Rodney Frey (Co-Pi), Steven Daley-Laursen (administrative PI and Northwest Knowledge Network “NKN”), Greg Goldberg (NKN partnership manager) Brian Cleveley (virtual world designer), Marisa Guarinello (NKN), David Vollmer (NKN), Abram Grisham (graduate student), and Amber Ziegler (undergraduate).

May 21 – August 4: **Sqigwts team members** met on a weekly basis in Plummer (occasionally twice a week) to develop, review, and critique project content. Team members also worked on own, developing content for review and critiqued by the team members.

June 2, 2015: **Natural Resources and Culture Committee.** Provided an update on the status of the project deliverables. Lack of quorum prevented the Culture Committee from meeting.

July 7, 2015: **Natural Resources and Culture Committee.** Provided an update on the status of the project deliverables)

July 23, 2015: **Culture Committee.** Invited members to a demonstration of the interactive 3-D Landscape.

August 4, 2015: **Natural Resources Committee** reviewed deliverables and approved for public dissemination.

August 14, 2015: **Culture Committee** reviewed deliverables and approved for public dissemination.

September 9, 2015: **Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council** reviewed the five USGS Deliverables and in a voice vote unanimously approved them for public dissemination.