

Skagit CR04 – Ross Lake 2022 (April, June-July, and September 2022) Field Season



Ross Lake – April 2022 (Big Beaver Creek)

Work being conducted was highly regarded as high potential, a request from the Nlaka'pamux Leadership.

Work planning for the Skagit Field work was coordinated by Pauline Douglas, who helped with all the logistics.



1 of many meetings with Pauline Douglas

The work conducted in the Skagit Valley began April 4, 2022. Crew consisted of Nathan and Chad Edwards from the community of Spuzzum, who are employed by A.E.W as cultural technicians. Kevin Duncan (ShwoohA'yakts) from TLKemtsi'n known as Lytton.

We had begun our work, first by entering Washington State. Travel to Marble Mount and then via Diablo lake. Where we had to be barged to Ross Dam and start our trek to Mac Millan and set up base camp to begin our work.



Ross Dam – Draw down 2022 headed north to lightning creek

First session of the trip, we experienced a variety of different weather patterns ranging from snow, sleet and occasional sunshine.

Our task during draw down was to revisit areas from the previous visits conducted in 2011 and 2012. Looking for and recording all cultural values in draw down.

We had visited many areas, documenting and recording plant species, wildlife, trails and all cultural properties. We had documented lithic scatter, remnants of pit houses and smaller CD's (cultural depressions).



Draw down near 10 mile island- 2022

April 3,2022 to April 12, 2022

April 17,2022 to April 26, 2022

We would return to Ross Dam- June 5,2022 to June 15,2022

June 26,2022 to July 6,2022



Cat Island- 2022

A more detailed work itinerary conducted, and a wider swath than the 50 meter buffer set out in the first surveys of 2011 and 2012.

Survey scope was set at 350 meters, but not limited to that. As our people didn't travel in a straight line. Nlaka'pamux utilized everything from the water to the highest mountain top.

We had again documented and recorded plants, wildlife and all cultural properties.

We had hiked along a few NPS trails on the eastside of Ross Lake, looking for Nlaka'pamux cultural properties. Some of the trail networks included Big Beaver, Devil's Creek , Lightning and Hozameen.

We had tried to pin down a segment of trail on the south west side of little beaver creek, but steep slope and big wake action from the high winds always made it impossible to go back and finish recording.



Evidence of Beaver in Big Beaver Creek Drainage



Nlaka'pamux First food of the year- TSawAta' – (celery)



One of many Rock Shelters we located

A great feature to get out of the elements, because of the variety of ever changing weather patterns produced in the watershed.



shwuheeeTLATS- Mountain goat above Ross Lake

Although present in the area, mule deer is by far the most abundant ungulate population. The watershed also hosts a wide variety of wildlife, cougars, black bears, bob cats, waterfowl, bald eagles , grouse, osprey, squirrels, chipmunks and much more. Various species of fish in the system as well.



Dinner time, after a Hard day's work.

September 4,2022-

September 20,2022 Skagit Fall work, and preparing for the Elders visit to the Skagit Valley.



Hozameen Lake – September 2022

Partial survey at Hozameen Lake, We would require additional time to survey the area.

There is so much potential here, the area just bought a sense of warmness and spiritual feelings , a feeling of Welcomeness.

Hopefully return Spring 2023.



A Visit to camp from Washington , Biologists and Plant Specialists (September 22, 2022

We had compared our documented list of plants to theirs and only three I could not recognize .

3 wildfires were burning in the valley, bringing a blanket of smoke. We had continued our work, looking and identifying areas for the up coming Elders trip September 28,2022.

We had come up with a route to show the Elders and explain where the work was done and some of the finds we had documented.

Ground Truthing- Nlaka'pamux Elders from the Nation.

Our Elders who would be coming to meet us, at the Skagit came from the following communities .

Spuzzum- Gordon Edwards, Harold Bob

Boston Bar- Harold Thomas

Skuppah- Jack McIntyre

Lytton- Dr Ruby Dunstan, Elder pastoral, Amy Charlie, Jim F Brown

Ashcroft- Les Edmunds

Coldwater- Jane Mcleod

Noaitch- Art Sam, Esther Voght

90% of the Elders Nlaka'pamux speaking.



Nlaka'pamux Elder's , Tribal Council Staff- at New Halem, Washington



It was a great trip enjoyed by all who had joined us. A lot of great discussions on the ride.

Although somewhat smoky , everyone was glad they made this trip.

Thanks to everyone who helped arrange the logistics side, the young women for helping to assist and take care of Our elders.

Interviews with the elders to be done, once we get back to Canada. Ground truthing and experience.

Thanks

Kevin Duncan