



Nisqually Indian Tribe Community Vision Plan



Learn from the Past, Look to the Future

2013 Update



Our Vision

Squalli-absch (sq^wali abš), People of the Grass Country, People of the River, Nisqually Indian Tribe, we are strong, proud, resilient, and sovereign. We are connected to the past as we look to the future with optimism and confidence. We draw strength from Ta-co-bet (taqubad) our sacred mountain, our sacred river, and the natural world for our sustenance. We exercise our inherent rights to provide opportunities for our people, ensuring a safe, healthy, and happy place for all. We protect and conserve our natural resources and defend our treaty rights secured by our ancestors. Our economic base sustainably supports our tribal members and surrounding communities. Our elders pass on their wisdom and traditional ways to our youth. Our people work together to help each other thrive, perpetuating our home and culture now and for the next seven generations.

The 2013 Community Vision Plan was adopted by Nisqually Tribal Council
Resolution Number 6-13 on January 24, 2013.

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Executive Summary

We want the best for our people, our homeland. We know that whatever actions we take, there'll always be a benefit and a cost. We have a choice. This plan is for our children's children, built upon tribal values as the building blocks for cooperation and success. We work together toward a vision that perpetuates our culture and enables our people and homeland to thrive.

Description. The 2013 Community Vision Plan is twenty-year strategic plan (2013-2033) updating the original 1995 Community Vision Plan. Like the old plan, it is a Tribal Council initiative based on the desire of the General Council to assess progress and guide direction with a *community-based* tool for planning and development. "Learn from the past, look to the future" is the plan's motto.

Purpose. What will the plan do?

- Provide a community-based outline for the direction of future development, helping Tribal Council and Administration plan and make decisions in the best interest of the community.
- Provide for a greater degree of self-determination by coordinating the efforts of tribal members.
- Serve as reference when seeking funds.
- Help explain to various groups and agencies what Nisqually is doing and why.

Process. Tribal Council authorized a Vision Committee to work with Planning and the Executive Team and involve the community to update the plan over two years. Outreach included a committee dinner and three community dinners, committee, management and community surveys, monthly news articles, logo contest, interviews, numerous presentations, exhibits, and discussions at community events, and several reviews of the draft plan, Over a thousand community comments were documented.

Contents. The 2013 Community Vision Plan is organized in *three parts* to resemble the previous plan as closely as possible. The first part includes overall vision statement, values, focus, principles, goals, and profile. The second part has three *sections*, each with its own vision statement, key initiatives, and *related areas* that include five-year goals and potential capital projects. The third part addresses self-governance and plan implementation. *Quotes* throughout the plan are community comments made at various outreach events throughout the planning period. *Separate documents* on accomplishments and public involvement related to the plan are available at the Nisqually library, Nisqually offices, and available upon request.

About the logo. Marian Smith (Puyallup, Nisqually, Cowlitz) is an elder who has lived in the Nisqually community most of her life. She has drawn since elementary school. "I watched my dad draw on paper bags and my grandpa draw on pieces of wood. They got me started." The Eye of The Mountain design represents the vision of the Nisqually people. Within the eye is the sacred mountain surrounded by the forest and water near Nisqually State Park where the Nisqually and Mashel Rivers come together.

Values, Focus, Principles, and Goals

Values

All community planning and visioning is driven by the values of the community. Values are passed from generation to generation through the stories and actions of individuals, families, and the community.

Collective values include:

Respect	Tradition
Generosity	Spiritual health
Courage	Physical health
Humility	Good food
Togetherness	Healthy Earth
Honor	

– 2011 Garden Visioning event



Focus

- **Youth.** Our youth are our most precious resource for in their being holds the hope and future of the Nisqually Tribe. Their health and wellbeing is a reflection and leading indicator of the health and well-being of all Nisqually people, families, and community.
- **Elders.** Our elders hold an important position as an intergenerational link, enabling the circle of knowledge to be completed. They have a responsibility to share their wisdom by passing on their knowledge to the youth and those who will carry it forward to future generations.



Principles

- **Equity/Fairness.** Actively including everyone, openly communicating all relevant information, patience, compassion, caring for people, listening to people, empowering people, treating everyone respectfully, togetherness, and reliable, accountable support systems.
- **Prosperity.** Successfulness, richness, wellness, good fortune.
- **Wellness.** A conscious, self-directed and evolving process of achieving our full potential that is positive and affirming. A multi-dimensional, holistic, encompassing lifestyle of mental and spiritual, well-being. A healthy sustainable environment.
- **Culture.** Our Nisqually way of life, including language, beliefs, morality, norms and customs. Culture is a set of traditions, a way of knowing that is transferred through activities, ceremonies, and formal and informal teachings. Returning to our cultural traditions strengthens our capacity to fight for treaty rights and self-govern.

Goals

- **Sovereignty.** Continued assertion and teaching of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights.
- **Basic needs.** Meet the basic needs of tribal members and cultural revival (food, salmon, natural resources access, shelter, jobs, health, safety, housing, recreation, social services).
- **Happiness.** Increase the happiness of more tribal members (culture, work-life balance, life satisfaction, civic engagement, community, income).
- **Services.** Improve services for more people with clear service standards and preparation to make strategic investments (culturally-based, effective, efficient, collaborative, dynamic).
- **Planning.** Develop/update action plans in all areas of tribal government, coordinating with the Vision Plan to improve quality of life.
- **Communication.** Improve effectiveness of communication (internal and external).
- **Sustainability.** Plan and implement culturally appropriate design practices.



*View of the sacred mountain from the old reservation,
currently part of Joint Base Lewis-McChord*

Profile of the Nisqually People

History. For 10,000 years the Nisqually Tribe lived in peace and prosperity in their original homeland of over two million acres. This land encompassed the present towns of Olympia, Tenino, Dupont, Yelm, Roy, and Eatonville, and extended to the top of Mount Rainier. Tribal life changed radically with the coming of White settlement about 170 years ago. Forced to compromise their interests and rights over the years, the people of the Nisqually Tribe have always sought to maintain their integrity, dignity, and sovereignty. With the Treaty of Medicine Creek, negotiated on December 26, 1854, the Nisqually people agreed to share their traditional tribal lands and their natural resources with the newcomers. Unfortunately, Nisqually warriors and allied tribes had to resort to a state of war before an agreement was made on the Nisqually present reservation homeland along the Nisqually River.

The treaty provided for the Nisqually people to have education, healthcare, and the continuing right to fish, hunt and gather in all their usual places. This treaty right has been under attack many times, and tribal leaders had to fight to protect these rights. Leschi fought to insure that the Tribe's reservation was located on the Nisqually River. In the 1930's and again in the 1960's tribal leaders went to court to fight against the state's attempt to limit their fishing rights on the Nisqually River. The 1974 Boldt decision upheld treaty right fishing, and properly implementing that decision has been a 35+ year effort. Even in 2013, the hunting rights of the Nisqually people are under attack, and further treaty rights litigation is likely.

Lands and Resources. The Nisqually people concentrate their efforts on maintaining the health and happiness of their tribal members, protecting their hunting, fishing and gathering rights as reserved and secured in the treaty, and promoting economic self-sufficiency within the tribal structure. As a shared responsibility, the Nisqually Indian Tribe advocates, encourages, and supports continued conservation of the lands and streams of the entire Nisqually River watershed.

Over the years, the tribe has shared in many different ways. As a labor force, tribal members worked hard in field and forest, on the water and in offices in various fields such as law, politics, education, government, business, and health as major contributors to the economy. Firm, loyal, and patriotic members of the tribe fought and died in all of the United States' wars, helping preserve and protect our state, nation, and its ideals.

The tribe also has shared traditional knowledge and attributes of Nisqually culture. Our trails became present-day roads. Our language became present-day geographical names. Our material culture became art and artifacts. Our spirituality and morality has been integrated into the American culture and our perseverance as native people is an inspiration for the survival of all citizens.

The Future. Let us work together to ensure that the Nisqually people continue to live and thrive in our homeland for another 10,000 years. Let our children for many generations be strong, healthy, and wise. Let us protect the Earth and enjoy a balanced and beautiful natural world as the Creator intended.

Tribal Characteristics and Maps

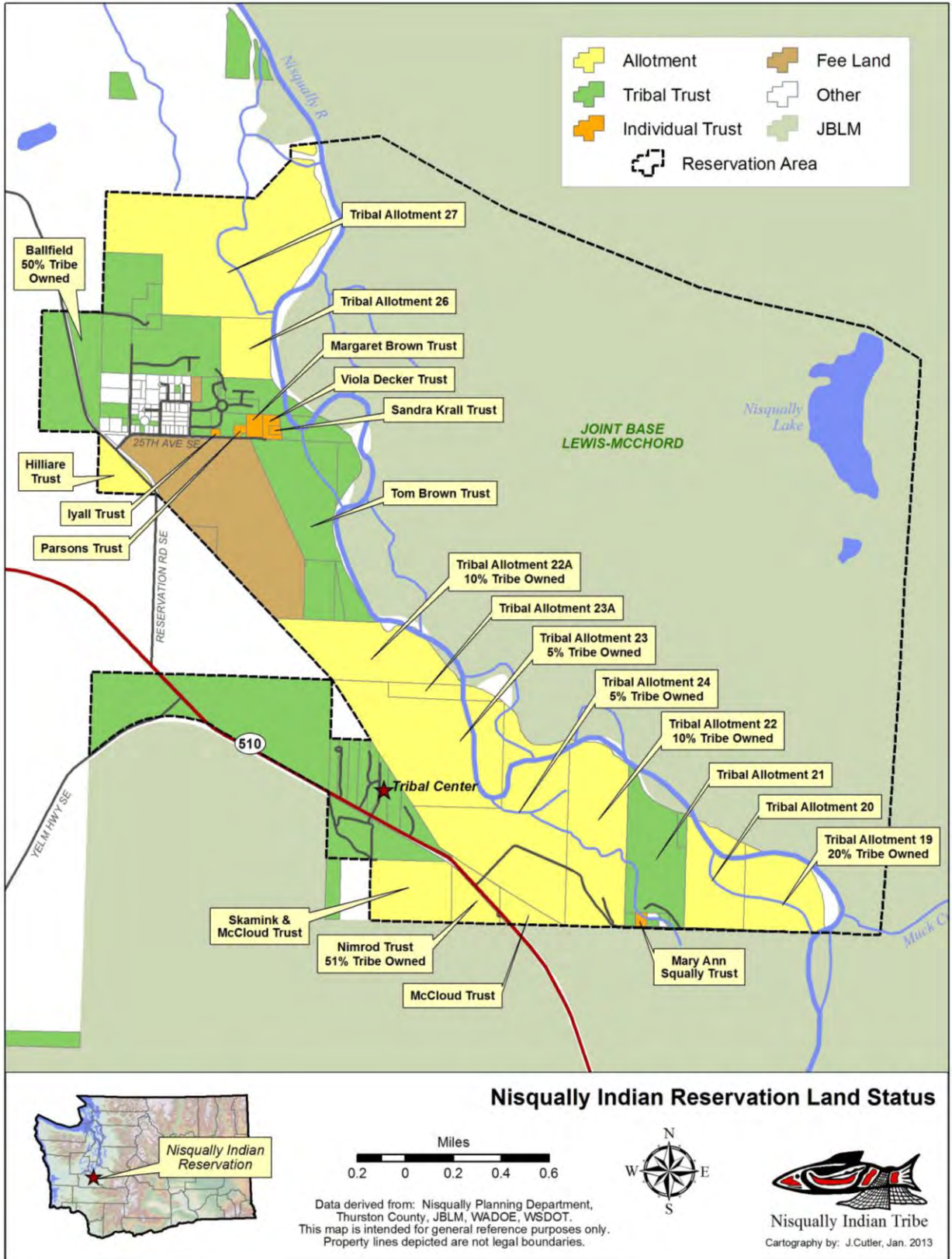
Population. Concurrent with the Nisqually Tribe's community development effort over the past 40 years has been a sustained increase in both the reservation and tribal service populations. This increase has been due both to natural increase, as well as the influx into the service area of new Indian families as housing, tribal government employment, and social and health programs have become available on the reservation.

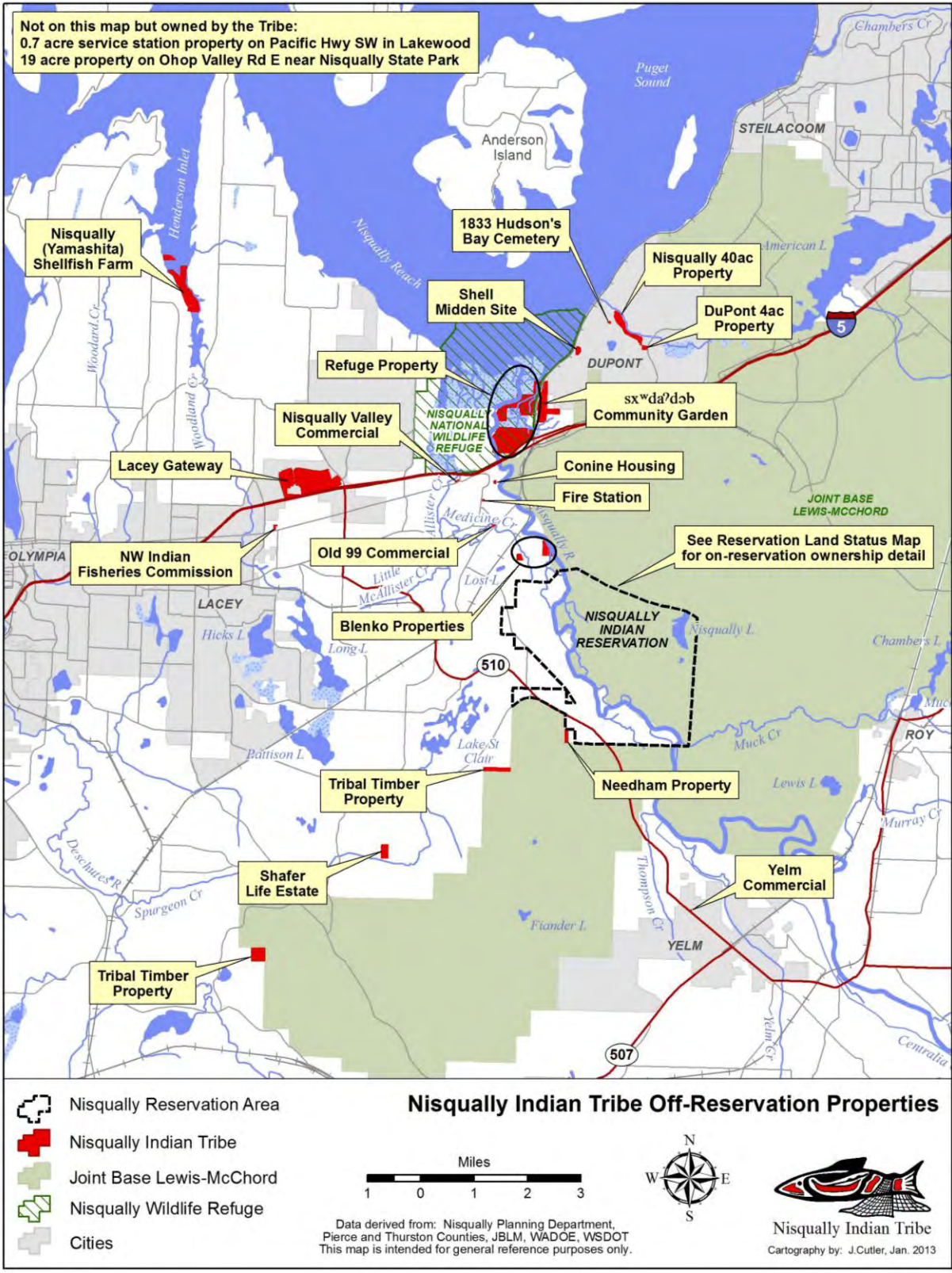
The Nisqually Tribe has 758 enrolled tribal members (125 adults ages 55 and older (elders), 534 adults ages 18 and older, and 224 children ages 17 and younger (youth). The Tribe provides social, economic, and health services to over 7,800 Native Americans residing on and off the reservation in the Nisqually service area located in Thurston and Pierce Counties. Nisqually Tribe has around 72 veterans who have served in the military since the early 1900s.

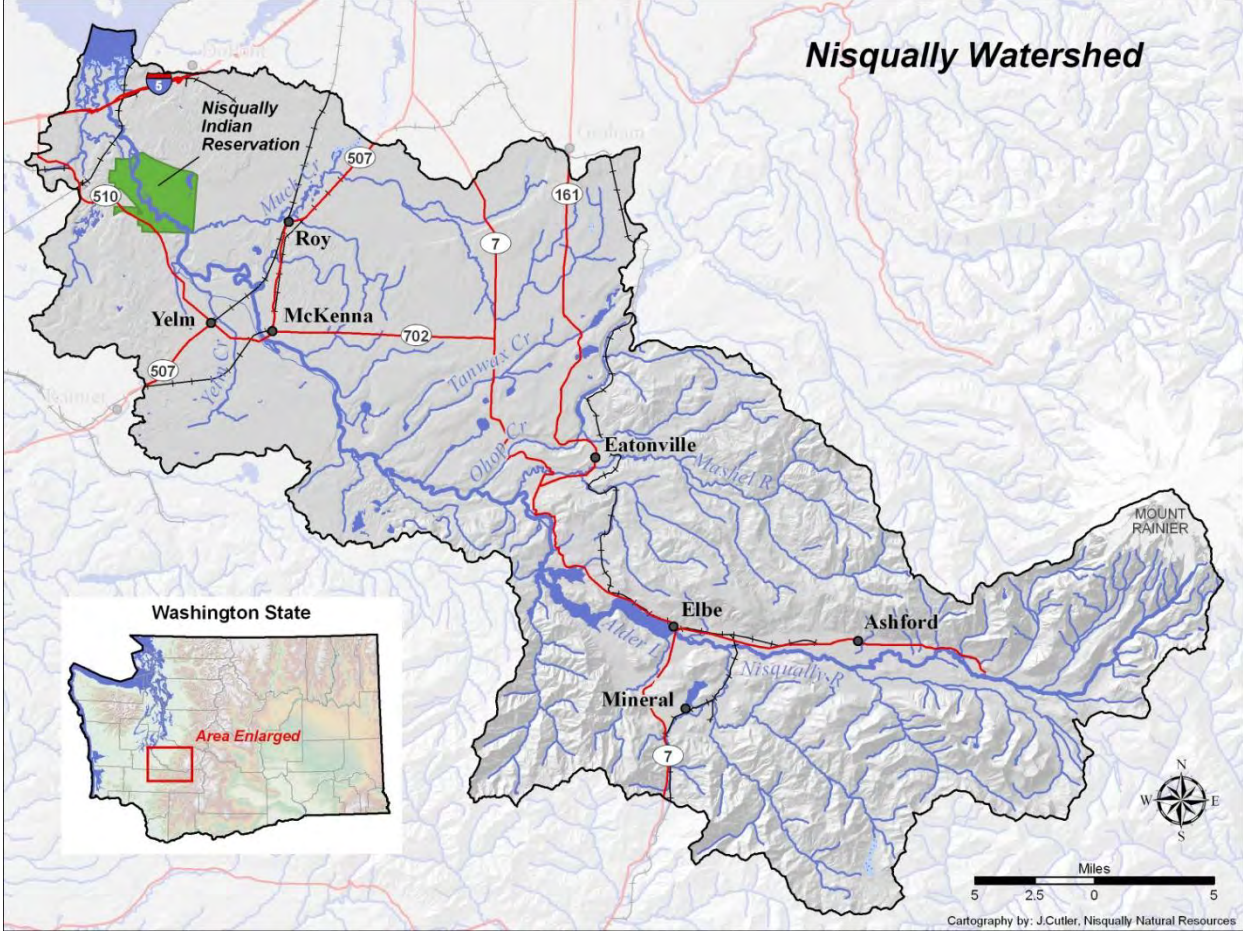
Housing. Nisqually currently has 175 homes on the reservation, including duplexes and elders homes. Most are owned by tribal members; the rest are owned and managed by the tribe.

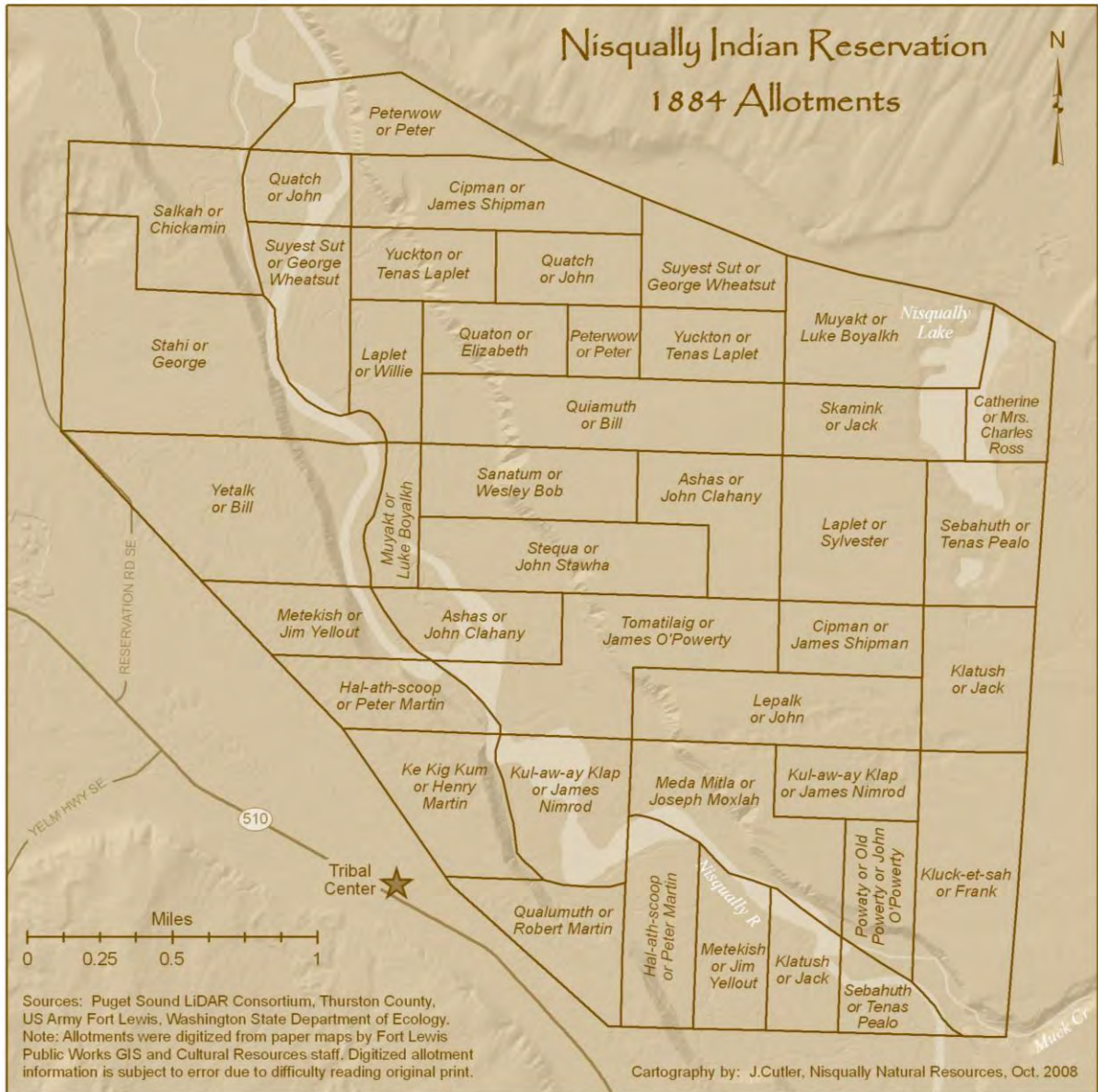
Land. The Nisqually Indian Reservation, approximately 5,000 acres, is located fifteen miles east of Olympia, Washington, along the Nisqually River. Two-thirds of the reservation located north and east of the Nisqually River in Pierce County is under the control of the Joint Base Lewis-McChord military base, mostly serving as an artillery impact area. The other third of the reservation located west and south of the Nisqually River in Thurston County is in a combination of tribal ownership (450 acres), private Indian allotments (800 acres), or held by non-Indian owners (450 acres). Virtually all development that has taken place on the reservation within the past 40 years has been on the tribally owned lands.













Tribal Resources

DIRECT SERVICES for tribal and community members.

Vision Statement

We envision the Nisqually Indian Tribe as a community of healthy, safe, and secure individuals and families. United, together, we honor one another, especially our elders, veterans, and youth, with strong intergenerational connections. We are an alcohol and drug free community, resolving our conflicts and problems thoughtfully and peacefully, responsible for ourselves, supportive of each other. We are adaptable during difficult situations and changes. We continue to fight for and support the Nisqually Tribe's treaty rights to fish, hunt and gather food and medicines. Our history is preserved and passed on from generation to generation. Our language and culture is alive and well. We have the knowledge and places and ways to freely practice the traditions and ceremonies of our people. We are rooted, connected, and spiritually, mentally, physically, emotionally evolving as part of the interconnected web of Mother Earth.

Key Initiative: Language and Oral History

- Reclaim and revitalize our Squalli-oot-seed (sq^wali ucid) language and oral history.
- Create and fund an ongoing oral history program that allows Community members the opportunity to record and secure their stories for the benefit of future generations.
- Assess current language status and available resources.
- Create a plan and approach with short- and long-term language goals.
- Encourage teachers, leaders and “stewards” to engage as many tribal and community members as possible.
- Outreach to help people of all ages understand the importance of bringing back the language and carrying on oral history.
- Offer classes in a range of fluency levels and approaches (written, spoken, oral, physical).
- Focus on competency around practical activities, cultural activities, and family relationships.
- Offer opportunities to practice and interact with people in the language.

Key Initiative: First Foods

150 years ago, our ancestors secured to current and future generations a diet that could include traditional foods – salmon, shellfish, plants/roots, game, etc. We must ensure that treaty right harvests of traditional foods are available to current and future generations and incorporate the important culture and traditions of Native foods into everyday life and economies through:

- Fishing, hunting, gathering, preparing, and eating traditional foods for sustenance and income.
- Conserving the vital habitat for fish, game animals, and traditional plants.
- Maintaining salmon hatcheries, food and medicine gardens, shellfish farm, and other ways to ensure secure access to traditional foods.
- Developing related enterprises (value-added services, products, markets, etc.).
- Developing the Suff-da-dub (sx^wda[?]dəb) food and medicine garden as a community resource to sustainably support the physical and spiritual health of the Nisqually people and natural world.
- Recording and archiving the development process.
- Engaging the community in First Foods activities (e.g. dinners, celebrations, ceremonies).

“Our Nisqually people came from the Red Star.” – Elder comment

“As a Nisqually I envision our people coming together as a family, like our grandparents and great-grandparents did, with teachings passed down with care for the next generations.”

Culture

“Keep the Nisqually people and culture alive and strong so that we can contribute to making the world around us a better place to live.”

“Culture, tradition, and family are most important.”

“It is important that we celebrate our cultural heroes like Leschi.”

Five Year Goals

- Rebuild and revitalize culture through Squalli-oot-seed (sq^wali ucid) language renovation.
- Continue to celebrate Leschi, Wa-He-Lut, and other important leaders, past and present.
- Celebrate Leschi by continuing the tradition of having his birthday as a Nisqually Tribal holiday.
- Encourage, maintain, and perpetuate positive aspects of traditional culture, including language, dances, songs, stories, and ceremonies through tribal/community-wide participation in tribal and intertribal gatherings (e.g. Canoe Journey, community dinners).
- Promote Nisqually artists through skill-building and marketing/technical assistance.
- Strengthen cultural connections between Nisqually people, families, communities, generations, and the natural world.
- Exercise our treaty rights to fish, hunt and gather as a central element of our culture.
- Commit to activities at all levels of government that embrace culture and identity, building a legacy, ensuring that Nisqually will continue for many generations to come.
- Preserve, protect, and restore Nisqually cultural resources that are irreplaceable and endangered, fundamental to traditional life ways, values, and histories of Nisqually people.
- Establish a Tribal Historic Preservation Office and certification program that meets or exceeds state and federal standards.
- Record, and when possible, repatriate Nisqually historical documents and artifacts.
- Take care of the ancestors and non-living ones with love and respect. Maintain and upgrade the cemeteries and assist with burials.
- Preserve and perpetuate the traditional ways of the Nisqually people by developing a strong, sustainable cultural education program for tribal and community members of all ages.
- Ensure that Nisqually cultural and historical information in displays and exhibits is accurate.

Potential Capital Projects

- Cultural archives and sharing facilities (Tribal museum, art gallery).
- Traditional Long House with room for large and small gatherings and traditional ceremonies.
- Longhouse or non-denominational church for funeral services, memorials.
- Cultural Resources Complex with lab, learning and sharing areas, storage for cultural belongings.
- Natural Resources Center to house staff, demonstrate our leadership in resource management, and celebrate our treaty and all those who have fought and exercised those rights.
- Public art throughout the reservation.
- Cemetery expansion and enhancement.
- Suff-da-dub (sx^wda[?]dəb) food and medicine garden expansion and enhancement.

Education

“Education is the mind’s food.”

“Make sure you finish white man’s education, but don’t forget where you come from.”

Five Year Goals

- Increase high school on-time graduation rate through tutoring, experiential learning, developmental based learning, counseling, advocacy, technology, parent involvement, physical environment, and new ways of thinking and doing.
- Promote, inspire, and support life-long learning of Nisqually youth and adults in a variety of ways, including Early Childhood, Child Care, Headstart, K-12, Adult Education, and Life Skills programs.
- Teach a curriculum that prepares youth for entry into the larger world, yet also grounds them in Nisqually culture and traditional values.
- Provide effective, efficient child care for children ages 1 month to 12 years and help parents promote their children’s healthy development.
- Manage Head Start as a comprehensive early childhood educational and social services program that serves low-income Nisqually families and children ages 3 to 5 years old.
- Nurture children’s health, growth and development in their early years through healthy parenting.
- Enhance library services (the library is fully functional for patrons of all ages, providing recreational reading, community information, community activities, independent learning, research center, and computer access).
- Promote Indian education in the local and regional schools, including the Nisqually story and recognition of Leschi in curriculum.
- Develop a vocational program for training Nisqually youth in natural resource management.
- Support commercial harvest diver training program.



Potential Capital Projects

- Library expansion.
- Tribal college expansion (Northwest Indian College).
- Tribal School expansion (high school grades 9-12).
- Childcare expansion.

Employment

“We need meaningful jobs and living wages for tribal members.”

“My vision is for all our native youth to excel in school, college, or trade, to learn all the skills they need to walk in both worlds, so our nation of proud people can truly take care of ourselves.”

Five Year Goals

- Attract, develop, and retain talented employees to serve the tribal government and enterprises, with special focus on tribal and community members and their career paths.
- Address barriers to successful employment, working closely with related programs (e.g. Workforce Development, Native Employment Works, Red Wind Casino STEPS program).
- Enhance employment programs and processes that improve tribal services, employee professionalism, and tribal member career development, including training programs, work plan implementation, seminar and conference attendance, school and career fair hosting and attendance, culture programs, hiring processes, and seasonal and temporary jobs programs.
- Strive for full tribal employment through a variety of meaningful work/career opportunities that strengthen the economic base, including fishing/shellfish harvesting as significant sources of employment.
- Promote professional capacity building (higher education) that enables tribal members to manage natural resources conservation and all tribal assets and resources, in general.
- Keep the casino and other enterprises growing to increase opportunities for tribal member employment and careers.
- Enforce tribal preference in hiring as a condition of all tribal construction contracts.
- Provide opportunities to help tribal members qualify and thrive in.
- Help tribal members qualify for and thrive in jobs on and off the reservation.
- Place more tribal members in tribal government jobs.
- Help more Nisqually tribal members advance to management positions, assisting them as needed with resources (e.g. Dress for Success program).
- Expand commercial dive opportunities through contracts and inter-local agreements with local, state and federal governmental agencies.

Health

"I envision greater collaboration among departments to eradicate substance abuse and provide a safer social environment for youth."

Five Year Goals

- Address the challenges of smoking, obesity, diabetes, substance abuse, and other chronic illnesses through health promotion (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual) and healthy living opportunities such as nutrition programs, recreational activities, counseling, and healing.
- Ensure the needs of veterans and elders are met, encouraging their participation and consulting with them in all community and economic development.
- Enhance the key role elders play in conveying cultural knowledge and teaching future generations.
- Ensure that elders have fish and meat and other traditional food to eat (real food) and staff support is available to help them with their food choices.
- Provide activities (social, health, recreation, nutrition, fitness, transportation, learning) that inspire and support youth and elders.
- Develop a mentoring/training program with education, health, and recreation emphasis.
- Establish innovative wellness/prevention programs.
- Enhance chronic disease management.
- Reduce costs through successful negotiations with private health care providers.
- Encourage use of healthy food and healthy eating habits at community meals through assistance, information, training, and employment.
- Secure and protect elements of a natural diet through treaty right harvests of natural resources, including salmon, shellfish, plants, and game.
- Expand the Suff-da-dub (sx^wda[?]dəb) food and medicine garden as a major source of traditional foods to support health and wellness.



Potential Capital Projects

- Health Clinic expansion.
- Wellness Center.
- Treatment Center.
- Women's Shelter.
- Transitional Living Center (after treatment care).
- New Elders Center.
- Eldercare facility (skilled nursing facility).

Housing

"I want an extra bathroom and all the green stuff." –Elder comment

"We need more housing... Too many families are crowded into some homes." –Elder comment

Five Year Goals

- More safe, healthy/sanitary, and affordable housing for tribal members.
- More housing options for singles, couples, families, elders, people with disabilities, and veterans.
- Greater housing mix within the tribal neighborhoods for people with a range of income levels.
- More culturally appropriate, green-built homes supported by policies, plans, and procedures.
- Neighborhood enhancements, including curb/gutter/sidewalks, lighting, parks, trails, and transit stops and shelters.
- Help owners/renters maintain homes that are clean, non-toxic, sustainable.
- Coordinate housing, community and economic development.
- Assist all of our tribal members with their home issues.
- Assist all tribal members in the home purchasing process, whether on or off the reservation.
- Work with the Elders program to build a funding source for health and safety improvements so that elders have access and are able to use the facilities inside their homes.
- Work with all departments so that all needs of tribal members are met.
- Encourage tribal member hands-on participation in the construction of new or remodeled homes.

Potential Capital Projects

- A variety of housing (e.g. single family housing, rentals, apartments, duplexes, townhomes) on new and existing properties.
- Assisted Living Center for seniors, veterans, tribal/community members with disabilities.
- Transition home as a safe place for youth and families.
- Homes with green-built elements that optimize energy efficiency and health/indoor air quality.



Recreation

"I want to have much more events that help the people in the community come together."

Five Year Goals

- Provide a variety of parks and recreation opportunities (passive and active).
- Build staff and Nisqually P&R Commission capacity and partnerships to optimize effectiveness.
- Develop parks with a high level of service and benefits with amenities such as water access, trails, camping, gathering and recreation areas, art and culture, and with open space/places to relax, breathe, enjoy beauty, access water and nature, celebrate events, and be with family/community.
- Upgrade and maintain quality community playgrounds in our neighborhoods.
- Develop and maintain picnic areas available for tribal member use along the Nisqually River.
- Employ Tribal members in every aspect of parks management and maintenance.



Potential Capital Projects

- Neighborhood playgrounds.
- Neighborhood picnic/recreation areas.
- Track & Field.
- BMX (dirt bike) park.
- Aquatic Center (swimming pool).
- Skate parks (Upper/Lower Reservation).
- Neighborhood playgrounds, basketball courts.
- Entertainment (arcade, bounce center, water park, bowling, movie theater, karaoke studio).
- Art and music (media/recording studio, music studio, art studio).



*Ace Youckton and great grandfather
Ray Hicks*

Social Services

"I envision greater collaboration among departments to eradicate substance abuse and provide a safer social environment for our youth."

"I envision a community that has families free of the historical anger, frustration and fear we have had to live with for generations, a community that is safe, warm, and secure."

Five Year Goals

- Develop a comprehensive health and social services delivery system that is reinforced and protected by traditional values, removing barriers to success and building strong, self-sufficient individuals and families.
- Teach/engage youth in cultural activities that expose them to a holistic worldview and indigenous knowledge regarding animals, plants, and spirituality, as well as to leadership development. Convey skills while integrating indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing into the teaching and transference of these skills.
- Provide a variety of youth programs to serve the entire population, programs that empower, engage, and provide positive reinforcement.
- Establish an active Youth Council, consult with them on a regular basis about issues that affect them, and recognize them for their contributions to government.
- Enhance parenting and case management plans to better reflect Nisqually values.
- Continue our program to honor the many community *veterans* who have served their community and nation in military service.
- Honor community members who in the future chose military service and develop programs to support them and their family.



Potential Capital Projects

- Community Services Center as a "one-stop shop" for social services needs.
- Transit program for youth for on and off reservation needs.

April 2011 Take Your Kids to Work Day "Future World" Drawings from Nisqually Youth





Natural Resources

Vision Statement

We envision the Nisqually Indian Tribe as keepers of the natural world, preserving, enhancing, and protecting the environment surrounding our aboriginal and treaty lands (our homeland) with special love and care for the native populations of plants, animals, and aquatic species. We live in a balance of give and take, work and play, in respect and thanksgiving for all things, in close relationship with all around us. Natural resources conservation - from the waters to fisheries, forests, and wildlife - is a priority. From waste reduction and water quality to a growing focus on sustainability, we are committed to providing a variety of services to meet our environmental vision. In keeping with the above vision, the Tribe's natural resources program has adopted a mission to protect, restore and enhance the Tribe's treaty rights and the natural and cultural resources of our homeland.

Key Initiative: Salmon Recovery

Nisqually Chinook salmon and steelhead have been listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Federal law requires that the endangered salmon species on the Nisqually River and nearby marine areas be recovered. The Nisqually Tribe is taking the lead for the salmon recovery effort within the Nisqually watershed.



Five Year Goals

- Provide the Tribe with ongoing technical management in all phases to salmon recovery.
- Develop and implement recovery plans, including adaptive management.
- Meet salmon conservation and harvest objectives.
- Research on salmon usage in fresh and marine waters.
- Develop and implement an education program about salmon and salmon recovery.
- Influence policy level decisions throughout the region that impact Nisqually salmon recovery.
- Implement habitat protection Key Initiative.

Twenty Year Goals

- Making substantial progress toward salmon recovery and removal from ESA.
- Regularly meeting Tribal harvest objectives.

Key Initiative: Habitat Protection

Over the next twenty years we could see much of the Nisqually commercial forest lands converted to non-forest uses or managed without adequate regard to conservation values and the Tribe's cultural needs. Our desire to harvest abundant salmon, shellfish and game into the future (our treaty and cultural rights), is dependent of a sustained and significant investment in the long-term protection of the natural habitat that supports these resources. This habitat includes not only the stream corridors, essential for fisheries, but the entire Nisqually watershed, and especially its forest lands and remaining prairies.

Five year goals

- Lead the work in habitat protection in the Nisqually watershed.
- Protect the Nisqually River, the central element of our watershed and identity as Nisqually people.
- Insure excellent water quality and abundant stream flows.
- Develop a marine shoreline protection and enhancement plan based on Nisqually-developed science and information, including traditional knowledge.

- Investigate the feasibility of creating a permanent locally owned and managed protected forest (the “Nisqually Forest”) to better insure that the long term sustainability of the Nisqually watershed remains much as it is today.
- Maintain and expand partnerships to secure a high level of habitat protection.

Twenty year goals

- Establish a locally owned and managed Nisqually Forest that will manage commercial forest lands for both commercial and environmental benefits, and Tribal traditional cultural uses.
- Insure that 95% or more of the Nisqually River shoreline is in permanent protected status.
- Insure that abundant natural resources are available to support Nisqually Tribe’s fin and shell fishing, hunting and gathering treaty rights.
- Insure that the Nisqually watershed develops sustainably so that future generations of Nisqually Indians may enjoy a natural homeland.

Key Initiative: Climate Change

Climate change is a long-term change in the Earth’s climate or that of a region on Earth. We are experiencing climate instability caused by greenhouse gases released decades ago, a crisis that will only grow worse in coming years. We can expect changes in weather patterns with increased intensity, shorter winters, warmer ocean temperature, and shifting patterns in forestry, fisheries, and wildlife.

In the next 40 to 80 years we may see the loss of more than half of the salmon and trout habitats throughout the United States, fish that a large number of tribes rely on for subsistence, cultural practices, and economic development. Other native terrestrial species may also decline. Tribal access to traditional foods and medicines may be impacted as species ranges shift in response to ecological stress. A possible result of climate change in separating tribal people from their natural resources poses a threat to Indigenous identity.

Five Year Goals

- Coordination and collaboration between agencies and groups to meet tribal needs in accessing climate change science resources and information.
- Planning to identify the scope of climate change issues, assessing capacity and internal needs, as well as opportunity for collaboration with partners.
- Develop and implement action plans with adaptation goals, strategy evaluation and priorities, action recommendations, coordination, funding needs, adaptive management, and other implementation issues.

Twenty Year Goals

- Action Plan implementation and updates.
- Continued extensive monitoring and adaptive management.

Environment

“Take care of the environment – our land, air, forest, plants, water, fish, wildlife – so it can continue to take care of us.”

“We need [tribal members who are] environmental engineers. We need all the skills of the professional world to protect this watershed of the Puget Sound. Commit yourself to a life.”

Five Year Goals

- Strengthen the tribal role and capacity of primary natural resources manager within the Usual and Accustomed (U&A) areas.
- Continue to encourage a more proactive role in protecting treaty rights in all the Tribe’s usual and accustomed areas for fishing, and traditional areas for hunting, gathering, and trade.
- Promote greater participation of tribal/ community members in natural resources management, at local, regional, and national levels.
- Secure natural resource harvests for the food, shelter, clothing, medicine, and other needs of tribal members as a key element of Nisqually quality of life.
- Expand and enhance traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering access to traditional areas (e.g. berry gathering grounds) to ensure that all tribal members, especially youth and elders, have access to vital resources and land.
- Continue policy and fiscal support for the recovery of endangered Nisqually salmon and steelhead, managing fisheries for harvest and conservation to ensure that current and future generations have opportunities to fully exercise treaty right harvests.
- Address climate change by reducing energy consumption and increasing reliance on renewable green energy sources.
- Sustain environmental areas (forest, wetlands, marine and fresh waters, ground water, prairies, wildlife habitat) with conservation standards, sustainable practices, regional alignment, and job development to minimize adverse impacts and enhance diversity of our natural world, keeping our ecosystems intact.
- Develop and maintain partnerships to secure for permanent protection important habitat lands throughout the Nisqually watershed.
- Develop marine habitat restoration program, including commercial diving, for derelict gear removal, oil spill response, water quality research, and underwater surveys.

Potential Capital Projects

- Natural Resources Complex with laboratory, learning/sharing areas, boat/equipment storage.
- Acquisition of forest land, including investigation of the feasibility of the Nisqually Tribe acquiring and managing long-term forest land throughout the Nisqually watershed.
- Community walk-in freezer facility for tribal members and community events.

Fisheries

“Work together and with others to protect the Nisqually Watershed and our homeland to ensure that its habitats are maintained.”

Five Year Goals

- Develop a sustainable year-round fisheries plan for finfish and shellfish harvesting, aquaculture, value-added products, marketing, and training.
- Continue to be a model river to the region, the nation, and the world.
- Continue as a primary manager of fisheries resource within the Usual and Accustomed (U&A) area, and primary manager of finfish and shellfish habitat.
- Continue to restore and maintain the Nisqually watershed so that the habitat supports sustainable salmon runs throughout the watershed.
- Maintain, improve, and expand the Tribe’s hatcheries if it is consistent with tribal, regional, and federal fisheries and salmon recovery goals.
- Expand capacity as primary manager of shellfish resources.
- Increase shellfishing opportunities for tribal members.
- Secure funding and support for restoring degraded freshwater and marine habitats within the Nisqually watershed and marine area.
- Expand marketability and tribal member involvement in the marketing of finfish and shellfish resources.
- Provide resources for tribal members, especially elders, who want to fish and process their fish.



Twenty year goals

- Develop a continuous fisheries resource to provide year-round fishing and economic return for tribal members, while working within federal guidelines for conservation of the resource.

Potential Capital Projects

- Safe moorings and landings for the tribal fishing fleet and Canoe Journey participants.
- Community fish processing facility.
- Community walk-in freezer facility for tribal members and community events.
- Maintain, modernize and potentially expand the Tribe’s hatchery facilities
- Nisqually River Science Institute to provide expertise and support for resource science and management for the watershed and the region.

Forest

“Get back to our roots and culture with net making, cedar clothing, and cedar floats, focusing on use of our traditional resources and skills.”

“Keep the trees going.” –Nisqually Youth

Five Year Goals

- Support development of incentive packages for timber production.
- Support sustainable harvest practices and promote local use of local timber.
- Promote sustainable harvest practices.
- Promote the conservation and use of timber products and non-timber products such as salal and mushrooms.
- Bring together resources, regulations, and contracts for non-timber products.
- Expand tribal gathering of traditional foods, medicines, and other forestry resources within our traditional areas.
- Restore native prairies wherever possible, including in tribal landscaping and protect on-reservation oak trees as a key prairie species.
- Manage forest lands in ways that enhance fisheries restoration.
- Manage community and economic development to protect the forest, providing natural forest canopy, wind breaks, and erosion prevention, preserving the natural character of the landscape, protecting the biodiversity of the area, enhancing qualities of the natural environment.
- Build more Nisqually tribal member capacity for forest management.
- Expand the land bases with restored prairies and restored cedar forests.
- Cultivate more native plants and establish them in appropriate habitats within the Nisqually watershed.
- Link the economic, environmental, and social values of forest lands within the Nisqually watershed and develop policies that prevent unnecessary destruction of timber stands and forest quality.
- Support development of a locally owned and managed forest for the Nisqually watershed (the Nisqually Forest).



Potential Capital Projects

- Tribal purchase and management of timber land in the Nisqually watershed.
- Forest products processing facility.

Water Resources

"I would like to see the tribe make more refuges." – Nisqually Youth

Five Year Goals

- Continue to be a role model in the region as manager and protector of water resources.
- Take the lead and maximize tribal participation in and benefit from watershed planning.
- Increase awareness of water resources and tribal rights.
- Continue work with stakeholders to establish and meet flow requirements for streams.
- Strengthen cultural ties to the watersheds in the Usual and Accustomed (U&A) areas.
- Monitor and anticipate all environmental impacts from economic development, land acquisition, housing, clean-up efforts, and provide timely data and reporting, and action alternatives.
- Continue restoration of high-quality habitat for fresh and marine waters.
- Maintain monitoring of groundwater levels and planning around water quality monitoring.
- Continue to monitor plant and wildlife communities as indicators of water quality and biodiversity.
- Continue to evaluate hatchery wastewater impacts on the environment.
- Continue restoration and protection of tribal water rights within the U&A areas.
- Continue restoration and protection of riparian corridors and wetland zones in the Nisqually watershed.
- Serve as a regional resource and advocate in watershed, wetland, habitat protection.
- Manage on-reservation land use and water resources with an on-reservation environmental protection plan.
- Develop plans and take actions in the form of policy statements, management strategies, and projects within the Nisqually watershed for high priority issues.
- Maximize the ability of the Nisqually watershed to produce high quality ground and surface water, while protecting and managing the related resources to support environmental, social, economic, and cultural values.
- Address the key issues of growth and land use, groundwater resources and supply, water rights, instream flows and surface/groundwater continuity, and water quality.
- Assist in developing culturally sensitive programs and education for around water resources.



Wildlife

“Learn through hunting and fishing, our traditional way of life.”

“I am a hunter. I love the sun and beach and I love to travel.” – Nisqually Youth

Five Year Goals

- Continue building tribal capacity to manage wildlife, enhancing its position as primary manager of wildlife resources for the traditional areas.
- Enhance the tribe’s wildlife program to include more species, more habitats, and incorporate more management, regulation, and enforcement functions.
- Exercise treaty rights to gain more access to hunting and gathering areas through negotiations with private and public land owners.
- Enhance co-management of wildlife resources, protecting wildlife habitat consistent with tribal goals and policies.
- Increase tribal participation in wildlife planning and development (game and non-game).
- Strengthen ties with neighboring tribes to work jointly on wildlife issues.
- Resolve any hunting and gathering concerns, optimizing what can be done with limited resources.
- Promote harvestable populations of game animals.
- Maintain healthy and viable populations of all native nongame species.
- Successfully defend the Nisqually Tribe’s treaty hunting in upcoming federal court litigation.



Long-Term Goals

- Nisqually Tribal members are able to fully exercise the Tribe’s treaty hunting and gathering rights in all the Tribe’s traditional areas throughout the state.
- Fully restore all state and federal threatened and endangered species in the Nisqually watershed.
- Work with partners to maintain the forested land base in the Nisqually watershed.



Community Resources

INDIRECT SERVICES for tribal and community members.

Vision Statement

We envision the Nisqually Indian Tribe as a sovereign nation and community responsive to the needs and desires of the Nisqually people, building healthy relationships with other governments, pursuing opportunities that benefit the tribe and community, with widespread participation of community members. We live in beauty, harmony, unity, equity, and peace, safe and secure with quality affordable housing for all, ample connection with the land, stable employment, meaningful work, self-sufficiency, and carefully planned economic growth to sustain our community and culture. We also recognize that it is essential for the Tribe to keep up with changes in current technology.

Key Initiative: Green Development

Green development helps sustain the earth and the health and well-being of our people through actions in the areas of resource conservation, energy efficiency, indoor air quality, environmental health, and waste reduction.

Green/low impact development includes policies and actions that reduce our carbon footprint and help avoid the negative impacts of climate change and global warming. It includes education, awareness, understanding, and initiatives that connect people more sustainably with the land. Initiatives include new projects, programs, or efforts (small- or large-scale) concerned with or related to conserving the world's natural resources and improving the environment. Areas to consider:

Housing	Culture	Education
Jobs	Construction	Housing
Natural Resources	Health Care	Waste Reduction
Power	Computing	Enterprises, Businesses

Key Initiative: Nisqually State Park

Our people have always lived in the area where the Mashel River meets the Nisqually River. Important sites in this area include the birthplace of Chief Leschi, traditional fishing camps, Medicine Springs, Mashel Prairie Cemetery, and the site of the 1856 Moxon massacre of Nisqually people. Washington State is planning a new state park in this area and we intend to tell our story there.

Five Year Goals

- Develop a family gathering and outdoor cooking area on or near Nisqually State Park.
- Purchase properties important to our history and culture in the Nisqually and Mashel River area.
- Develop outdoor educational and recreational experiences for tribal youth at the State Park.
- Create a partnership with the State for the joint development of Nisqually State Park.

Twenty Year Goals

- Build and operate an Interpretive Center at the Nisqually State Park, telling the story of Chief Leschi.
- Manage exclusive areas reserved for Nisqually tribal members.
- Build a longhouse and exclusive tribal camping area.
- Preserve the State Park's natural and cultural resources for future generations and provide for exceptional visitor experiences.

Administration

“The more info about what is happening on the reservation for tribal members, the better.”

Five Year Goals

To meet priority needs:

- Provide consistent, high quality goods and services.
- Keep up with current technology in our information technology (IT) and Geographic Information System (GIS) programs.
- Increase the quantity of services.
- Serve more tribal members.
- Increase public involvement in planning processes and tribal activities.
- Increase communication (e.g. web, mail, email, community reader board).
- Increase program collaboration.
- Increase partnerships (internal and external)
- Reduce capital and operating costs.
- Reinforce cultural traditions in operations and development.
- Deliver capital projects on time and within budget.
- Maintain nimble, efficient business processes.
- Enhance service linkages between departments.
- Provide a well-maintained vehicle fleet that serves staff priority needs.
- Empower tribal members and build leadership capacity, such as through technical training and staffing of future projects.
- Plan and prioritize tribal needs and directions aligned with the Community Vision Plan (e.g. comprehensive plans, land use plans, master plans, program plans, specific issue/topic plans).
- Build fundraising capacity.
- Advocate for full federal funding of contract support costs.
- Encourage sustainable actions with plans, policies, and procedures.



Potential Capital Projects

- Administration Building.

Economic Development

"Always be careful not to trade values for money."

Five Year Goals

- Stronger presence in the regional economic marketplace.
- A more sustainable economic base that optimizes natural resources and land use potential.
- Develop enterprises that are economically independent and prosperous, supporting individual tribal members so they may also become self sufficient.
- Provide policies, procedures, infrastructure, and facilities that promote economic well-being and vitality of the Nisqually community while preserving the treaty rights of the tribe.
- "Green built" community and economic development, whenever feasible.
- Support economic activities that optimize the revenues of the tribe and community.
- Increase the standard of living on the reservation.
- Strengthen economic viability through social viability, based on cultural values and revitalization.
- Enhance existing tribal enterprises.
- Encourage new tribal member-owned businesses.
- Provide the necessary infrastructure and regulations needed to promote economic development.
- Expand shellfish aquaculture for the Tribe.

Potential Capital Projects

- Gaming expansion.
- Other gaming related improvements (hotel, convention center, events center).
- Commercial development (Rez Mart, Nisqually Market, Lacey Gateway).
- Natural resources-based development (Shellfish Farm, Marine Services, She-Nah-Num Seafood, commercial processing facilities).
- Government contracting (WHH Nisqually Federal Services, JBLM, NAFLAC NW, logistics, IT, services, environmental, other 8a development, state minority business certification, HUB zone).
- Industrial development (waste processing, distribution).
- Green businesses (native plant/tree nursery, eco-tourism).
- Tribal member business incubator.
- Farmers Market (Lower Reservation).
- Professional Services Center.
- Post Office.
- Communications Tower.
- Radio/TV Station.
- Public Safety Complex.



Emergency Management

“The faster we respond to emergencies, the quicker we will recover and move on.”

Five Year Goals

- Protect people and all assets during an emergency/disaster, minimizing impacts on Nisqually people, property, environment, and economic enterprises.
- Develop a Community Emergency Management Plan and sub-plans addressing the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- Increase disaster response time and decrease disaster recovery time.
- Build emergency management capability and partnerships to ensure the continued survival of Nisqually Tribe and community with disaster preparedness response networks and teams for households, neighborhoods, businesses, and government, addressing natural and technological hazards.

Potential Capital Projects

- Emergency Operations Center (Upper Reservation)



Major events: 1981 Mt St Helens eruption, 1994 fire in Reservation woodlands, 1996 Nisqually River flood (see photo), 2000 Nisqually earthquake, 2007 major wind storm, extended power outage. 2009 major snow storm, 2011 major snow storm.

Infrastructure

*“To know where you are going you have to know where you’ve been.
That way you won’t repeat the mistakes of the past.”*

Five Year Goals

- Provide information technology (e.g. communication, high-speed internet access) to reach a greater audience and expand access to basic needs.
- Use technology to enhance care and basic services including keeping current with technology changes in our information technology (IT) and Geographic Information System (GIS) programs.
- Enhance multimodal transportation (e.g. vehicle, transit, rail, air, water, bicycle/pedestrian) to provide safe and efficient services that expand access to basic services.
- Provide utilities (e.g. drinking water, waste water, solid waste, electricity) for government and tribal/community members to access and sustainably meet their basic needs.
- Fund expansion and projects with related revenue sources (new and existing).
- Develop level-of-service standards to ensure adequate infrastructure for existing and proposed development.
- Maintain tribal facilities and grounds at optimal protection and safety (risk management).
- Preserve infrastructure with a long-range financial strategy and plans built on principles and guidelines for wise management of tribal resources.
- Optimize clean, safe, and healthy working and living environments built on green principles (e.g. non-polluting building materials, full-spectrum lighting).
- Support projected population growth and land use patterns with needed public facilities.
- Balance land acquisition and use with cultural preservation, resource protection, and community and economic development priorities.
- Designate sites for physical development that avoid areas that damage the environment, areas that are more costly to develop, and areas where the property investment may be lost due to natural events such as flooding, volcano, earthquake, wildfire, lahars, storms, etc.
- Develop site clearing policies and procedures that preserve native plants use them in landscaping.

Potential Capital Projects

- Public Works facility (maintenance, lab, storage, cleaning, offices, classrooms).
- Multimedia facility (TV/radio stations, etc).
- Water systems (drinking water, waste water, gray/reuse water facilities and conveyance).
- Solid waste system (hazardous/toxic, garbage, recycling, composting facilities and conveyance).
- Transportation system (Highway 510 frontage road, Highway 510 interchanges and roundabouts, Upper-Lower Reservation connector road, road maintenance and enhancements, motorized and non-motorized trails).
- Sustainable landscaping (e.g. rain gardens, use of native plants) to beautify, reduce pollution, reduce flooding, and create habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.
- 2016 Canoe Journey hosting needs.

Justice

“Every person on this reservation has the right to live in peace, to hold the community to a high living standard.”

Five Year Goals

Court/Judicial Services

- More independent tribal court and more effective judicial services for all tribal members.
- Enhance court system advocacy, diversion, and community service at tribal, county, state levels.
- Consider alternatives such as teen/youth court, drug court, peacemaking, parenting, healing. in consideration of natural law, traditional law, and allodia law.
- Enhance ICW with legal assistance and case management.
- Work more together to reduce delinquency, domestic violence, and substance abuse with tools to protect our children from predators, gangs, and drugs.
- Cross-train teams and coordinate intervention to address common priorities (case management).
- Enhance court, judge, and legal functions within judicial systems to better interpret laws and administer justice, resolving conflicts impartially, protecting individual rights guaranteed by the treaty and constitution as defined by tribal codes/laws.

Public Safety

- Strengthen the Zero Tolerance policy to increase safety and security.
- Provide adequate funding for 24/7 police presence.
- Enforce the animal control ordinance and promote responsible pet ownership.
- Explore traditional enforcement alternatives.
- Cross-train teams for coordinated intervention (case management) in social, law enforcement, and judicial environments.
- Collaborate with other departments on prevention, training/awareness, and problem-solving skills to reduce risk factors of delinquency, domestic violence, disputes, and substance abuse.
- Strengthen community policing (e.g. bike patrols, Police Athletic League).



Potential Capital Projects

- Public Safety Center (expanded jail, emergency response (medic), helicopter pad, and police headquarters, animal holding facility).
- Fire Station (with Lacey Fire District).
- Law and Justice Center to support existing and future court-related services.

THE LITTLE NISQUALLY SCHOOL
IN THE VALLEY

This school has been known to me in time memorial. My mother, Essie Kover Derickson, has attended this school. In other words, in 1929 Essie is in the 1st grade. As time goes on, she has excelled in skipping grades, three in fact. Personally, I recall my mother stating if the teacher was out, she would get up and teach the class. As time goes on, my oldest brother Douglas Derickson & my oldest sister Doris Derickson, including myself, have attended this Little Red School House.



Schoolhouse in the Nisqually Valley, 1868
Courtesy of Lacey Museum

One could graduate in the 8th grade and go on to North Thurston High School, in fact where we graduated.

I hold very clear memories of this school. If you arrived first at the school, you could ring the bell, which is as large as the bell tower. Hang your coat in the cloak room, go to your seat. First row is the 1st grade, second row is the 2nd grade, etc. on to the 4th grade, on one side. On the other side of the school is 5th grade thru 8th grade. The center of the building is the kitchen area. Our cook was Mrs. Blanco who was ever so kind to everyone. The first two students, upon arrival, would get to place lunch trays for all the students. Always, a sense of order, and never speak unless you were told to. It would be a slap of the ruler across your hands if you were not acting appropriate. The school consisted of two teachers, one on each side. Concept in learning is the Little Red School House Method. If you knew the answer of what was being taught, raise your hand and participate.

There were dances, plays. The teachers played the piano, Mrs. Wright, then Mrs. Summer. We had hay days where we would all clean the grounds and pick up debris and make the grounds nice. The play shed was for the red light/green light kids play, their four square, etc. In May it was rally around the may pole with ribbons. Let's not forget the merry-go-round. Endless playing.

By Deborah J. Derickson
Tribal Elder

Self-Governance

“Don’t forget where you come from.”

Five Year Goals

- Provide support systems that promote the general welfare of the Nisqually community in carrying out the provisions and purposes of the Medicine Creek Treaty and the Nisqually Constitution and bylaws.
- Ensure that Nisqually treaty rights in all areas are protected and enhanced.
- Provide strong, ongoing support for the Tribe’s right to manage its own treaty right harvests and co-manage natural resources with other governments in the Usual and Accustomed (U&A) areas.
- Protect our treaty rights to secure traditional foods – salmon, shellfish, plants/roots, game, etc.
- Improve government-to-government understanding with issue driven, collaborative, clear lines of communication.



Medicine Creek Treaty Tree, 1996

What Self-Governance Means to the Tribe

- Recognition of the tribe as a nation.
- Institutional capacity to plan, direct, implement, and evaluate all governmental functions.
- Recognition to exercise all governmental powers, including entering into agreements with public and private parties.
- Government-to-government relationship between the United States and the Tribe with transfer of control to the tribe over funding and decision-making for federal programs, services, functions, and activities.

Implementation Strategy

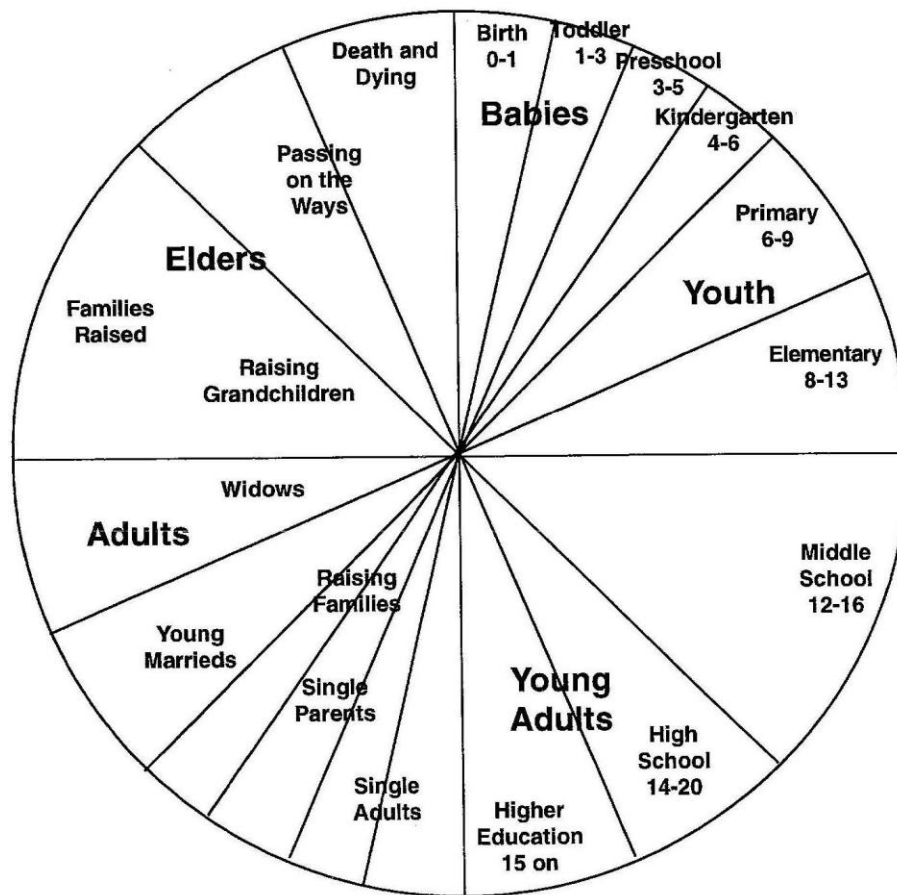
"Produce a very good vision plan and follow it."

To implement the plan and reach the goals and visions of the Nisqually community, we must:

1. Assign a staff person responsible for implementing and maintaining the Vision Plan.
2. Measure progress (goals, key initiatives) on a regular basis.
3. Evaluate and update the Vision Plan on a regular basis.

From Cradle to Grave

We must watch over each other the entire time we are on this earth as we journey through the circle of life. We must nurture and care for each other. We must honor and love each other. We must celebrate our culture, our traditions. We must celebrate each other.



by Cecilia Svinth Carpenter, Nisqually
Reprinted from the 1995 Vision Plan

Message from Tribal Council

Twenty years ago the Nisqually Tribe began to engage tribal and community members to help the tribe reach its goals and objectives for the future. Looking back on all that has taken place, much of 1995 Community Vision Plan has been achieved. The Youth and Community Center was completed in 2009. The Administration Building will be completed in this year. We are leaders in environmental protection and enhancement. The Red Wind Casino employs more than 100 tribal members and is the major revenue source for tribal government programs. More Nisquallys are returning for jobs, education, health care, family, and cultural enrichment. We are indeed learning from the past and with the help of the 2013 Community Vision Plan, taking actions to realize a brilliant future that is so richly expressed by the Nisqually people.

We thank our staff, especially Planning Director Joe Cushman and Planner Lynn Scroggins, for their help in updating the plan. We thank the Vision Committee for their advisory role and assistance. We thank the artists, storytellers, and photographers (Marian Smith, Erica Revey, Allen Frazier, Lacey Museum, Leilani Kalama, Lisa Breckenridge, Jim Longley, Lynn Scroggins, Leslee Youckton, Luann Squally, and our youth) for enriching the plan. And most of all, we raise our hands to you – Nisqually tribal and community members – for committing your time to our strategic planning effort. Your input has been an invaluable resource for the future direction of the Nisqually Tribe.



2013 Tribal Council: Cynthia Iyall (Chair), William Frank III (Vice Chair), Jean Sanders (Secretary), Stephanie Scott (Treasurer), James Slape, Brian McCloud, Joyce McCloud.

1995 Tribal Council: Michael A Stepetin (Chair), Reggie Wells (Vice Chair), Stephanie Scott (Secretary), Lorna Kalama (Treasurer), Jack McCloud Jr, I Dovey Slape, Albert “Chief” Squally.



From left to right: Joe Kalama, Jack McCloud Jr, Deborah Derickson, Frankie Sayward, Lorna Kalama (Chair). Not pictured: Norine Wells, Leon Dunstan, I Dovey Slape.

2013 Vision Committee: Lorna Kalama (Chair), Inez Dovey Slape, Frankie Sayward, Jack McCloud, Jr, Joseph Kalama, Norine Wells, Leon Dunstan, Debbie Derickson. *Past members:* Selina Oya, Daydishka McCloud.

1995 Vision Committee: Zelma McCloud (Chair), George McCloud Jr, Don Eddy, Bob Sison, Kiki Kalama, Brianne McCloud, Jack Simmons, Carmen Kalama, Jack McCloud Jr, Inez Dovey Slape, Consuelo Sison. *Past members:* Grace Ann Byrd, Cynthia Iyall, Darryl Stepetin, Linda Castillo, Sharon Schneider.



Feed our Indian inside of us

by Lou Ann Squally

Some years ago I was fortunate to have been able to gather clams and oysters with my great-grandma Alice Kalama and her daughter Sadie who was my grandma as well as with my dad Lewis and my mother Mary Anne Squally. All of the families would come together and gather food from the bay. When it was time for the fish, we gathered fish from the Nisqually River.

Hunting was done along the foothills for deer. Further up the mountain they hunted elk and we picked huckleberries and blueberries. And we gathered different types of medicines from each gathering place from the bay to the mountains. These are the pathways of our ancestors who gathered before us in these same places. Small camps would be set up at each place.

It is very important for the people to continue to follow these ways. We must feed our Indian inside of us. Many hunger for knowledge of the old ones.

Nisqually Vision



Squalli-absch (sq^wali abš) People of the Grass Country, People of the River, Nisqually Indian Tribe, we are strong, proud, resilient, and sovereign. We are connected to the past as we look to the future with optimism and confidence. We draw strength from Ta-co-bet (taqubad) our sacred mountain, our sacred river, and the natural world for our sustenance. We exercise our inherent rights to provide opportunities for our people, ensuring a safe, healthy, and happy place for all. We protect and conserve our natural resources and defend our treaty rights secured by our ancestors. Our economic base sustainably supports our tribal members and surrounding communities. Our elders pass on their wisdom and traditional ways to our youth. Our people work together to help each other thrive, perpetuating our home and culture now and for the next seven generations.



Nisqually Indian Tribe

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Learn from the Past, Look to the Future