ADVANCING INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH COMMUNITY COLLABORATION: SPOKANE TRIBE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

SPOKANE TRIBE OF INDIANS

OCTOBER 23, 2024

OVERVIEW

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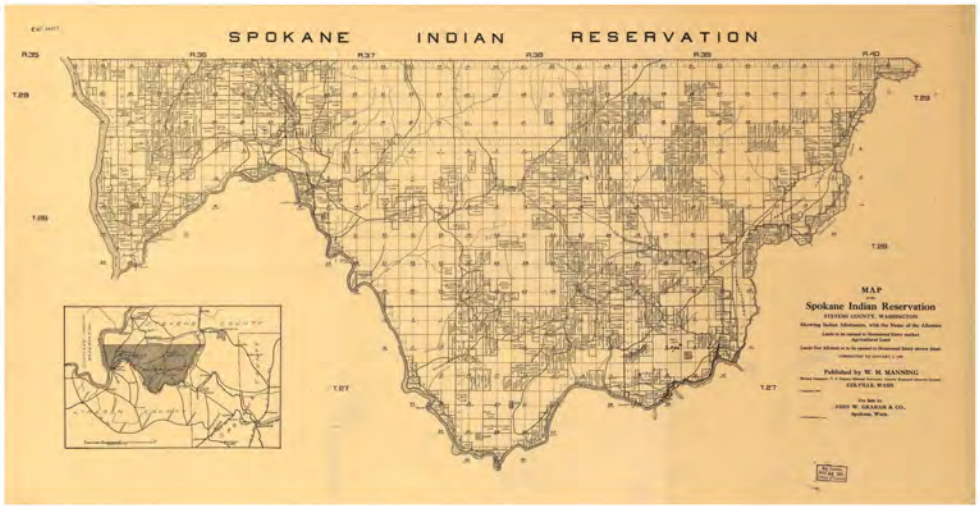
Spokane Indian Reservation



Spokane Tribe of Indians Demographics

- Executive Order Tribe – January 18, 1881 by President Rutherford B. Hayes
- Traditional Lands were reduced from 3M acres to 156,000 acres
- Roughly 3,000 tribal members
  - ½ live on reservation
  - ¼ live within the Spokane region
  - ¼ spread out across WA state, the USA, and the world

Wellpinit Lagoon & Drain Field Project Objective

- Discuss how infrastructure advancements through both projects are driven by community collaboration
- Highlight environmental sustainability, infrastructure improvements, and how community partnerships play a vital role

Project Overview – Lagoon Rehabilitation

Description: This project aims to restore and enhance the health of the lagoon ecosystem

- Improves water quality, restores wildlife habitat and increases resilience against environmental degradation

Community Role: Local community members contributed to identifying key issues with the lagoon (e.g., water quality decline)

Collaboration with local stakeholders, including environmental groups, tribal organizations, and governmental agencies

Project Overview – Wellpinit Lagoon Drain Field

Description: This facility serves as an essential infrastructure project to manage wastewater in a sustainable and efficient matter

- Addresses issues of groundwater and contamination and supports water filtration to prevent runoff into surrounding ecosystems

Community Role: Collaboration in planning, especially in identifying areas most impacted by inadequate drainage

- Engaging residents for input on design and identifying possible environmental and social concerns

Why Community Collaboration Matters

- Involving Stakeholders:
  - Project thrives on contributions from multiple stakeholders (tribal leaders, community members, environmental specialists, etc.)
  - Ensures the projects are designed with local context and concerns in mind
- Capacity Building:
  - Training and education provided to community members about the benefits of infrastructure improvements
  - Local residents involved in monitoring, maintaining, and protecting the project sites post-completion

Key Challenges Addressed Together

- Environmental Challenges:
  - Identified pollution sources and proposed collaborative solutions
  - Addressing soil erosion, habitat loss, and water quality with collective efforts
- Infrastructure Limitations:
  - Older infrastructure was ineffective; through collaboration, modern solutions were co-developed to improve drainage and lagoon health

Project Details – Lagoon Rehabilitation

- Actions Taken
  - Removal of excess sediment and pollutants from the lagoon
  - Restoration of native vegetation, providing better filtration and erosion control
  - Reintroduction of aquatic species and fostering biodiversity
- Community Involvement
  - Local contractor led the project
  - Ongoing community-led monitoring efforts to track water quality and biodiversity improvement

Project Details – Lagoon Drain Field

- Actions Taken:
  - Installation of an improved drainage system to prevent groundwater contamination
  - Creation of filtration systems to ensure that water is properly treated before returning to the environment
- Community Involvement:
  - Local contractor led the project
  - Community-based reporting on the system's effectiveness in address drainage issues

Results & Successes

- <u>Lagoon Rehab Impact:</u>
  - Enhanced water quality, improved aquatic habitats, and increased biodiversity
  - A more resilient lagoon ecosystem that serves both wildlife and the community
- <u>Lagoon Drain Field Impact:</u>
  - Reduced contamination risk, improved water management, and prevention of flood damage
  - Strengthened local infrastructure to cope with environmental challenges

Long-term Impact & Sustainability

- Community Stewardship:
  - The community plays a continuous role in maintaining and monitoring both projects
  - Training community members to take on leadership roles ion project upkeep, ensuring sustainability
- Ongoing Education & Involvement:
  - Projects serve as models for future community-led infrastructure improvements

Next Steps

- <u>Expanding Infrastructure Initiatives:</u>
  - Future projects building on the success of Lagoon Rehab and Drain Field improvements
  - Exploring how continued collaboration can enhance other local infrastructure
- <u>Community's Continued Role:</u>
  - Open invitation for more stakeholders to join in ongoing efforts

Conclusion

- <u>Recap of Key Points:</u>
  - Successful outcomes of Lagoon Rehab and Drain Field projects made possible through community collaboration
  - Highlight the importance of continued engagement for future infrastructure growth

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(Thank You)