



Tulalip Treaty Days 1914 -  
Tribal Long House

## **CHAPTER 3: CULTURAL RESOURCES**

### **Background**

Culture has several definitions depending upon the social fabric for which it is applied and the level of knowledge held by those who participate in its application. For the intent and purposes of the Comprehensive Plan, culture is defined as the relationship exercised between members of the Tulalip Tribes with the natural environment; although there are spiritual aspects that have a profound and significant impact upon the worldview held by the Tulalip Tribes. Tribal ancestors held a deep respect for the land, plants, and animals with an emphasis on the sacredness of the water. These values are still held by the Tulalip people and are incorporated into this Plan. There are two primary sections within this Chapter: 1) Preservation of Cultural Practices, and 2) Protection of Cultural Resources.

### **Preservation of Cultural Practices**

It is important to revive, protect, interpret, and enhance the traditional cultural values and spiritual beliefs of the Tulalip Tribes for future generations. By keeping cultural practices alive and well, cultural connections between the past, present, and future can be strengthened.

The social, economic, and cultural fabric of the Tulalip Indian Reservation is derived from the subsistence-based way of life carried out for thousands of years prior to contact with non-Indians. Cultural knowledge has been handed-down among generations of Tribal members including the use of medicinal plants, language, clothing, diet, shelter, transportation, spiritual beliefs, and burial practices. Each of these cultural components is evidenced within the Reservation in some form, fashion, or practice. As such, certain areas of the Reservation served as the location for food preparation/gathering, lodging, and burials.

The ancestral language is the glue that binds culture to the natural environment. The language is a dialect of the Coast Salish Language referred to as Lushootseed. Lushootseed comes from two words: one meaning “saltwater” the other meaning “language”. Lushootseed is the language common to the tribes of this region. Federal policies aided by missionaries aggressively attacked the use of the Lushootseed language in an attempt to assimilate and acculturate past generations of Tulalip schoolchildren.

Despite governmental policies to eradicate Tribal beliefs, language, and traditions, Tribal people were able to keep alive a substantial part of Tribal language and cultural practices. Today, Tribal cultural practices and traditions are cherished, and traditional ways continue to be taught to Tribal children.

### **Protection of Cultural Resources**

When ancestral leadership signed the Treaty of Point Elliot, they reserved an area of land presently occupied by the Tulalip people – the Tulalip Indian Reservation. The culture of the Tulalip people and the health of the environment are closely intertwined. Many of the most important cultural activities are tied to specific plants, trees, animals, and places. There are many culturally sustainable plants including Western Red Cedar, Licorice Fern, and Salal - which need to be persevered as valued cultural resources.

One of the goals of this Plan is to preserve cultural sites for future generations of the Tulalip Tribes in an effort to ensure the survivability and sustainability of traditional and cultural practices. Protecting cultural sites ensures that there are opportunities to practice cultural traditions. Cultural practices are closely tied to the Reservation environment and one of the most effective ways to protect culturally sensitive areas is to protect natural resources. The Reservation contains many significant cultural sites.

Cultural practices are manifested from inherent rights to hunt, fish, and gather within usual and accustomed areas. These inherent rights appear in the Point Elliot Treaty as Reserved Treaty Rights. The ability to exercise these inherent rights is directly tied to the health of the natural environment. The needs and goals of the Reservation Community for economic strength and sustainability are increasingly placing developmental pressure upon already strained natural resources.

### **Culturally Sustainable Areas**

Some sites are important to the entire membership; others have special importance to specific families. The best way these sites can be protected is to preserve the environment and protect the natural areas on the Reservation in a manner that does not identify the specific location of

cultural sites. In many ways, environmental and cultural protection are one and the same. The interdependence between the two should be acknowledged as each relies upon the other.

The Cultural Resources Department and Natural Resources Department assisted with the creation of **Map 3-1** which shows areas most likely to be culturally sustainable sites. These sites require further investigation or monitoring prior to or during development activities. Culturally sustainable areas are located in close proximity to freshwater or saltwater, which directly relates to the importance of water to the Coast Salish tribes.

Though many individual sites are known, there are more that have not been documented. It is critical that archeological surveys and cultural assessments are conducted in these areas prior to harvest or development activities.

### **Historical Sites**

Sensitive and significant sites important to the history of the Tulalip Tribes will be protected through addition to the Tribal Historical Register and/or the State Historical Register. Such sites include Saint Anne's Catholic Church, the Shaker Church, the original BIA administration building, and the Tulalip Longhouse.

### **Off-Reservation Cultural Areas**

There were many tribes that were brought together to form the present day Tulalip Tribes. Tribal people came from various areas throughout the Salish Sea Eco Region and were subsequently relocated to the Tulalip Indian Reservation. Therefore there are several sites of cultural significance located within and beyond the exterior Reservation boundaries. The Tribe actively asserts its interest in these off-Reservation cultural areas.

### **Hibulb Cultural Center and Historic Preserve**

One of the major efforts to preserve cultural heritage is the construction of the Tulalip Hibulb Cultural Center and Historic Preserve. The Cultural Center will be a place where culture and history can be shared with future generations and will also serve as a repository of artifacts and cultural items.

The Cultural Center will symbolically represent a "land based, water borne" people and is divided accordingly into two parts: one symbolizing the water and the other symbolizing the land. This new facility will enable the Tulalip Tribes to express unique history, art, and culture from their perspective; revitalize Tribal cultural values, skills and beliefs; instill pride in Tribal members and strengthen Tribal identity; honor the community; serve as a reminder of the Tribe's historic connections to the land; and provide visitors with a uniquely-valuable educational experience.

## **Cultural Resources Goals and Policies**

**Goal CR 1:**           **Protect cultural resources and support enduring Tribal traditions on and off the Reservation.**

Policy CR 1-1:        Guide future development to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts to culturally sustainable areas.

Policy CR 1-2:        Focus residential growth in existing development areas or corridors to reduce sprawl while preserving and protecting culturally sustainable areas.

Policy CR 1-3:        Maintain inventory of the Reservation's culturally sustainable areas and sites, the Cultural Areas Protection Plan, and Cultural Resources Ordinance for adoption.

Policy CR 1-4:        Require cultural review for all development proposals on sites that have not been developed previously.

Policy CR 1-5:        Require a permit for the following activities: harvest, gravel extraction, gathering, and uses that have impacts on the tidelands and uplands within the Reservation.

Policy CR 1- 6:        Work with State and local governments to protect culturally sustainable areas on and off the Reservation.

**Goal CR 2:**           **Protect and restore the unique wildlife and plant communities on the Reservation that are important to Tribal traditions and cultural practices.**

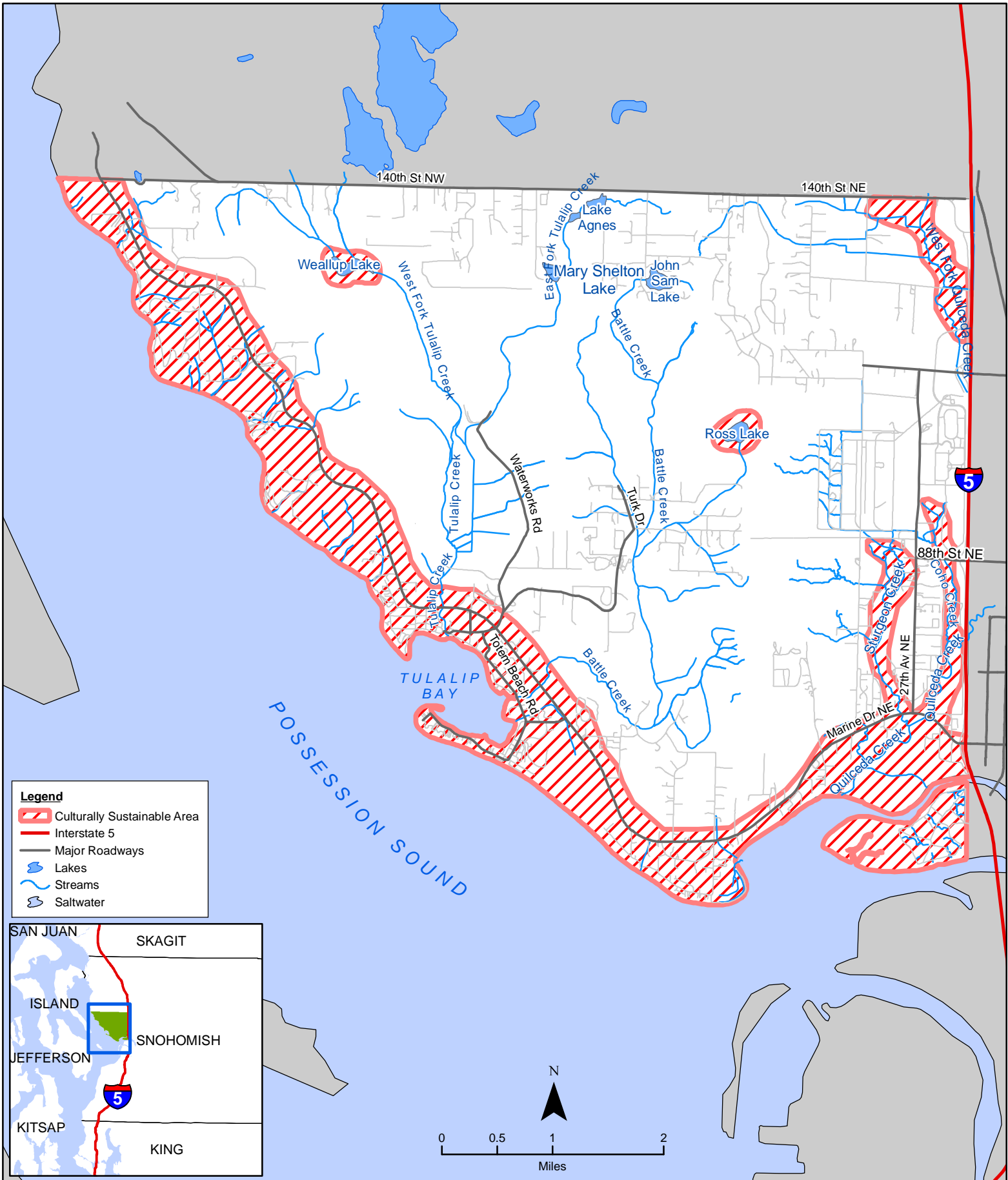
Policy CR 2-1:        Require Tulalip departments and agencies to consider impacts to cultural resources and sites when planning for Reservation developments.

Policy CR 2-2:        Develop a native vegetation plan to protect unique indigenous plant communities within the exterior Reservation boundaries.

Policy CR 2-3:        Maintain, protect, and restore natural salmon habitat as a cultural priority.

**Goal CR 3:**           **Protect and restore access to culturally identified areas for Tribal cultural and traditional practices.**

Policy CR 3-1:        Discourage new structures and land uses that adversely impact or limit Tribal member access to areas of cultural sustainability.



**Map 3-1 Culturally Sustainable Areas**



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Data Source:  
 Tulalip Tribes Community Development,  
 Snohomish County GIS Department,  
 Tulalip Data Services GIS

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Policy CR 3-2: Promote the development of access agreements to properties for Tribal members' cultural practices.

Policy CR 3-3: Support Tribal member access and utilization of Reservation tidelands, shorelines, and waterways for traditional and cultural practices.

**Goal CR 4: Preserve historical Reservation buildings and sites.**

Policy CR 4-1: Create a Tribal historic preservation program to identify, preserve, and restore historic buildings relevant to the cultural importance of the Tulalip Tribes, including buildings of cultural, historical, and spiritual significance.

Policy CR 4-2: Implement a Tribal historic preservation program on the Reservation.

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