TAKELMA
ROASTING COMPANY



Many people love to meet and talk over a cup of coffee, and coffee is often at the center of conversations. Takelma (pronounced Dagelma) is the name of our tribal language. Our ancestors' conversations were in Takelma from time immemorial. When we developed our coffee roasting company in 2016, we decided it was only fitting to name our tribe's coffee company after our resurrected language.







Coffee is the 2nd most traded commodity in the world. In fact, around 3.5 billion cups of coffee are consumed each day. Coffee does not grow in our ancestral territory, though. It only grows in tropical regions on earth (between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn), but it is very popular in the Pacific Northwest where we live. It is the basis for a business model that is good for our tribe and sustainable for future generations.

The mission of Takelma Roasting Company is to bring pride to our people and our community through the products we produce. We looked to have the name of our business reflect that.



We don't just sell the coffee to our tribe. We do business in many places of our community and throughout Oregon. We are working to grow awareness of our coffee brand so more people know what we offer. We hope to continue to grow our business and sell coffee to places like hotels, casinos, restaurants, and other markets. In addition to roasted coffee, we sell related products, such as Espresso Stout and merchandise that shows our company brand!



Culture Camp

Connecting Tribal Families with Cultural Arts

Today the Cow Creek Tribe hosts their annual Culture Camp in June. This event is designed to connect Tribal families with traditional cultural arts in a healthy and safe environment. Numerous booths are set are set up across the Tribe's park that engage participants in activities such as archery, flint knapping, basketry, language, necklace making, drumming, traditional food demonstrations, shinny (a traditional stick game similar to lacrosse), and many more. **Culture Camp helps Cow Creek Tribal members keep their culture alive and vibrant.**



▲*Tribal elder teaching Takelma language*



Tribal youth enjoying archery ▶



Basket weaving ▶



Making necklaces



Traditional earth oven



Making cedar headbands



Flint knapping



◀*Salmon being traditionally cooked for the Salmon Ceremony and dinner*

Plank Houses

Traditional Winter Homes

The Cow Creek people lived in permanent structures from the late fall to early spring known as plank houses. Plank houses were large rectangular semi-subterranean homes excavated approximately three feet underground with a centralized fire pit. The walls and roof were constructed of split cedar or sugar pine planks with a circular opening on one side that served as the entrance. A single plank house would be home to several extended families, easily sleeping upwards of 20 people. Cow Creek villages typically included numerous plank houses.











Tribal members building replica plank house, using traditional methods. Plank House is on display at the Canyonville Pioneer and Indian Museum



Branches from trees turned into mallets for splitting logs.

Housing

Our ancestors lived communally – together young and old – and everyone took care of each other in our villages. Many families would live in one plank house, for example.

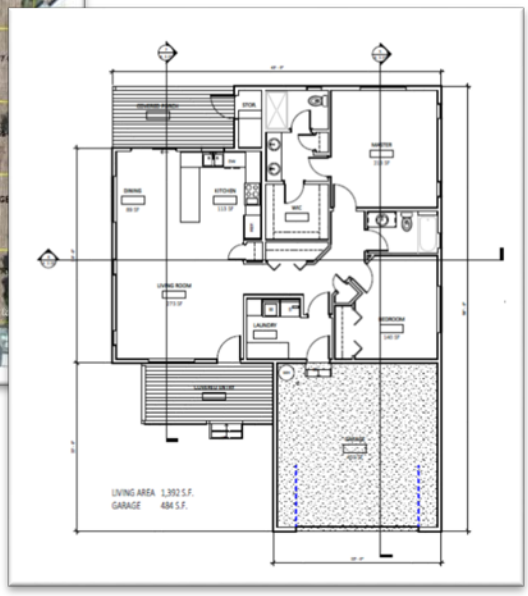
Today, the Cow Creek Tribe still supports our people's housing needs. Two examples are our transitional housing and the Gentry Estates Project.



The tribe converted the Riverside Lodge in Canyonville into 6 *transitional housing* units. This program gives Tribal Members the opportunity to overcome barriers to housing while also supporting employment and/or education needs. Other Tribal Departments and outside agencies coordinate services to help tribal members succeed.

The Tribal Housing Program will be building 33 homes in our *Gentry Estates Project*. There will be two-bedroom, three-bedroom houses, and four-bedroom rental units. Some of those houses will be save for low- to moderate-income families. This will help the tribe assist our community with a housing shortage.





Huckleberry Patch

Important Place, Important Resource

The Huckleberry Patch is a culturally significant place on the Rogue / Umpqua Divide. For centuries the Cow Creek people have been going there to hunt and to collect huckleberries, a traditional first food. Huckleberries ripen in the high mountains in the late summer which is a time for families to come together, pick berries, tell stories, and learn about cultural arts. **Tribal members continue to participate in the annual Huckleberry event every year.**



▲*Tribal elder picking berries*



▲*Ripe huckleberries*



▲*Baskets for gathering*



Meadow at Huckleberry Lake▶



▲*Ripe huckleberries*

The Cow Creek Natural Resources Department

Sustainable Resource Management

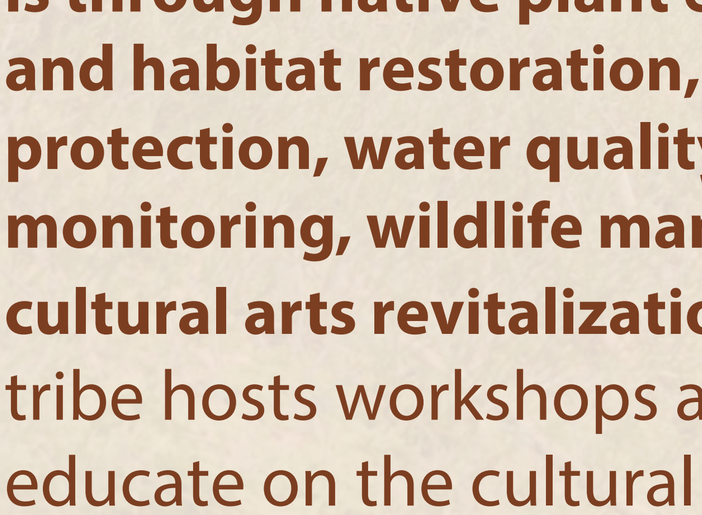
One of the Tribe's values focuses on the sustainable management of natural and cultural resources as they are vital to the Tribe's way of life. The Cow Creek Natural Resources Department has been tasked with carrying out this mission. **Some ways in which this work is being done is through native plant education, stream and habitat restoration, cultural site protection, water quality and wetland monitoring, wildlife management, and cultural arts revitalization.** Annually, the tribe hosts workshops and events to educate on the cultural and environmental importance of these resources. Sustainably managing natural and cultural resources secures their availability for future generations.



▲ *Spring Break Culture Days*

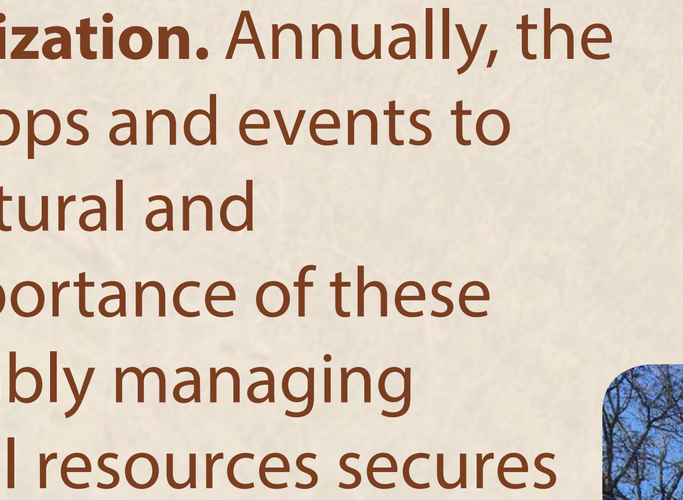


▲ *Fish Education Day*



▲ *Regalia Class — bear grass braiding*

Lamprey Education Day ▼





▲ *Plank house gazebo built at the Tuú Yap'a Xumá Tribal Gardens, used for plant education*

Wildlife Program

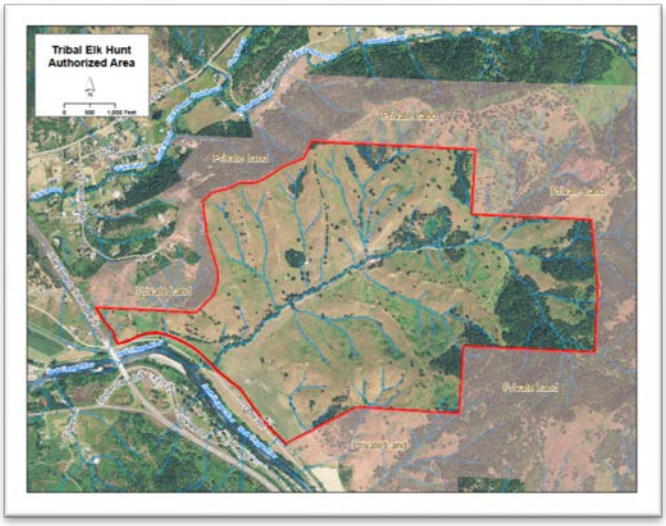
Our ancestors lived in harmony with the land and wildlife around us. We hunted for elk and deer to use for food and other resources. Deer and elk were plentiful on our ancestral lands. We respected the wildlife and did not overhunt them because our future depended on healthy herds.



Hunting and overuse after the arrival of non-Native settlers took a heavy toll on the deer and elk population, so there are not as many today. **Today, the Cow Creek people are working to accomplish two goals:**

1. **Manage the wildlife population on Tribal land to provide hunting opportunities and a healthy ecosystem.**

2. **Monitor wildlife populations, determine their habitat use, and set hunting goals and limits.**



Through the work of our *Tribal Hunting and Elk Conservation and Restoration Project*, we are giving our people the opportunity to hunt again on Tribal land. They are hunting for deer, elk, and waterfowl (birds).



We are also tracking the living population of elk to see where they go, how far, what habitat they use, and how many calves they have each year. This project also allows us to teach our people's knowledge about how to manage the elk and other wildlife to keep them as a healthy part of our ecosystem for future generations.

South Umpqua Falls

Significant Place of the People

South Umpqua Falls is one of the Cow Creek Tribe's most significant places. Traditionally it was an important fishing location that provided ample salmon, lamprey, and other aquatic foods. Today, South Umpqua Falls is home to their annual powwow. **This event is an opportunity for families to come together to drum, dance, and exhibit their cultural art skills through their native regalia.**











Traditional Clothing

Regalia and Everyday Wear

The Cow Creek people traditionally had a few different types of clothing that was worn depending on the occasion or the time of year. During the winter months both women's and men's clothing were made of deer hides. In warmer months women would wear grass skirts and capes made of cedar or maple bark while the men would wear bucks pants or breechcloths.



▲ *Tribal members showing their work after the first regalia series*



▲ *Men and women's traditional regalia*



◀ *Tribal youth trying on her regalia skirt*

For special occasions men and women wore clothing known as regalia. Men's regalia usually consisted of a buckskin belt with furs and women's was made of a buckskin skirt and apron that would be elaborately decorated with fringe, shells, pine nuts, bear grass braids, and beads. **Today Tribal member still make regalia for use in dances and other special occasions.**





▲ *Ringtail furs for the men's regalia*





Tribal members working hard on their traditional regalia ▲

Traditional Fishing

Celebrating Salmon

The rivers and streams are very important to the Cow Creek people because they provide some of the most significant cultural first foods such as salmon and lamprey. Salmon and lamprey were traditionally harvested using spears, nets, traps, gaffs, lines, and weirs.



Tribal elder demonstrating the use traditional fishing tools



Traditional Salmon bake



Salmon was so vital to the Cow Creek people that a ceremony celebrating the gift of the salmon and requesting for their continued return was conducted every year. **Tribal members still fish, participate in the annual Salmon Ceremony, and learn how to make traditional fishing tools.**



Teaching youth to make traditional fishing hook and line including stone weight and abalone shell lure.



Finished fishing line



Bone tipped fishing spear



Leister spear

Traditional Hunting

Skill and Craftsmanship Combined

Deer, elk, and bear are among the traditional first foods hunted by the Cow Creek people. In the past, tribal hunters would use spears, atlatls, bow and arrows, and snares to capture their prey. These items would be made out of locally available plant, animal, and stone materials. The bow, for example, would have been constructed from yew wood with the sinew, or tendon of an animal, serving as the bow string.



▲*Tribal elder with his grandson after a successful hunt*

Flint knapping at Spring Break Culture Days ▶



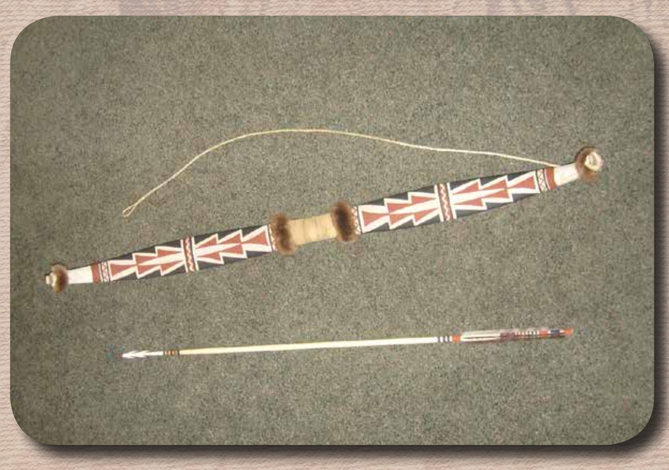


▲*Quiver*



▲*Tribal youth target practicing with bow and arrow at the annual tribal Culture Camp*

The arrow shaft would be made of ocean spray or arrow wood, be tipped with flint knapped jasper or obsidian, and fletched with bird feathers. These items were not only functional but also served as an artistic outlet for the craftsman whether through the skill of design or in the carvings and paints that decorated them. **Tribal members today still hunt and learn to flint knap although most hunt by using modern weapons like rifles and compound bows.**



◀ *Bow & arrow*

Atlatl ▶



Traditional Gathering

Food, Medicine, and More

Gathering was a significant part of the lives of the Cow Creek people. Gathering would provide important food staples that would be processed and stored for use in the winter when fresh foods were not available. Some of the important traditional first foods of the Tribe include camas bulbs, acorns, tarweed seeds, hazelnuts, and huckleberries. Gathering activities also provided raw materials to make medicines, basketry, and clothing. **Today the Tribe participates in gathering activities related to basketry and special events.**



▲*Camas plant*



▲*Harvesting maple bark*



▲*Tarweed*

▼*Bear grass*



▼*Woodwardia ferns*





▲*Acorns*



▲*Cedar bark harvesting*

Traditional Jewelry

Necklaces and Other Decorations

Both Cow Creek men and women traditionally wore jewelry. Necklaces consisted of beads made from shells, nuts, wood, plants, and animal parts strung together using sinew as the string. Some of the most common materials used as beads were dentalia, clam, olivella, and abalone shells along with bear grass pine nuts, and bear claws.

Necklace made by an elder





Tribal member with her beautiful necklaces she made



Tribal member making her necklace for her traditional regalia



Dentalia



Abalone beads

Pine nuts





Olivella shells



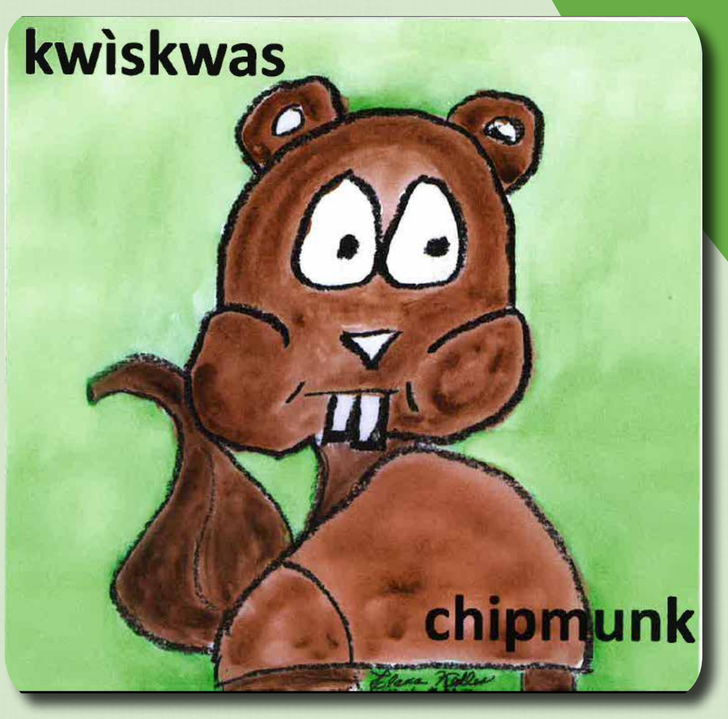
For special occasions, several necklaces would be worn. Men and women would also pierce their nose and ears wearing shells as jewelry. **Tribal members today make necklaces that incorporate glass beads along with traditional materials.**

Traditional Languages

Takelma and Chinook Jargon







Takelma was the traditional language of the Cow Creek people whose name in their native tongue was the Nahonkuotana. Takelma was a unique language as it was only spoken in southwestern Oregon. To communicate with neighboring tribes, the Cow Creek would speak Chinook Jargon, a trade language among Pacific Northwest tribes. After pioneers came to the area, Takelma and Chinook Jargon were used less and less, being nearly replaced by English. In 2011 the Cow Creek Tribe began Takelma language revitalization efforts. **Today, the Takelma language is being shared among Tribal members in classes, at events, and through various forms of media.**



Language booth at Culture Camp



Elder and member creating the Takelma Together book