

Chapter 8.

County/Tribal Planning Issues

A. Coordinating with Tribal Governments

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Chapter 8.

County/Tribal Planning Issues

A. Coordinating With Tribal Governments

There are 27 federally recognized tribal governments within Washington. These include the following, described in greater detail in Part B, “Indian Tribes of Washington State.”

Indian Tribes Of Washington State

Western Washington

Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
The Lummi Nation
Muckleshoot Tribe
The Nisqually Indian Community
Nooksack Indian Tribe
Suquamish Tribe of the Port Madison Reservation
The Puyallup Tribe
Samish Indian Nation
Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
Shoalwater Bay Tribe
Skokomish Tribe
The Stillaguamish Tribe
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Tulalip Tribes
Upper Skagit Tribe

Olympic Peninsula

The Hoh Indian Tribe
Jamestown S Klallam Indian Tribe
The Lower Elwah Tribal Community
Makah Reservation, Makah Tribe
The Quileute Tribe
Quinault Indian Nation
Port Gamble S Klallam Indian Community
Squaxin Island Tribe

Eastern Washington

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
Kalispell Indian Community
Spokane Tribe
Confederated Tribes of the Yakima Indian Reservation

These governments are not subdivisions of the state, but political entities, predating the U.S. Constitution and the colonization of this continent. Determined through early case law to be “domestic dependent nations,” subject to the plenary powers of Congress, tribes have retained inherent sovereign powers and are recognized as distinct, independent, political communities.

There are 25 Indian reservations within Washington state. Many were formed following a series of treaties in the mid-1850’s, known as the “Stevens Treaties” after the Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens. Subsequent to these treaties, reservations of a number of treaty tribes were modified or enlarged by statute or executive order.

Together, the reservations comprise more than eight percent of Washington’s land base. The tribes also reserve certain rights to natural resources - specifically, the right to fish, to hunt, and to gather shellfish, roots, berries and other foods. These are treaty-protected rights under the U.S. Constitution.

1. Sources of Tribal Government Authority

The source of tribal government authority is different from that of state and local governments, which derive their power from the Constitution, state enabling legislation and administrative codes. In the case of tribes, each tribe derives its authority from its own internal laws. Virtually every one of these is the subject of one or more federal treaties or statutes that deal with it in individualized terms. Some tribes operate under their own constitutions, which are adopted by their membership and approved by the federal government pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. Other tribes operate under constitutions not related to the Act, and still others have no constitution at all.

2. Functions of Tribal Governments

Not only do tribal governments differ from state and local governments with regard to their source of power, they also differ with regard to their purpose. In addition to such standard governmental functions as regulating, taxing and delivering services, tribal governments act to preserve and protect tribal culture, the tribal community and off-reservation treaty rights. As major landowners, tribal governments are responsible for the development, management and operation of tribal economic enterprises.

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Functions of tribal governments include:

- ✓ **Executive Actions**
similar to those taken by the governor of a state or the president of the United States
- ✓ **Legislative Actions**
similar to those taken by the state legislature or the U.S. Congress
- ✓ **General Government Administration**
personnel management, budgeting, capital programming, intergovernmental affairs
- ✓ **Public Safety**
police protection, tribal courts and prosecution, other legal services, fire suppression, emergency medical response
- ✓ **Health Care**
mental health counseling, medical services, dental services, environmental health
- ✓ **Public Works/Engineering/Infrastructure Development**
roads, sewers, water, cable television, facilities management, etc.
- ✓ **Planning and Community Development¹**
comprehensive planning, zoning and land development regulation, environmental protection
- ✓ **Education**
Headstart, K-12 schooling, remedial schooling and GED testing, vocational schooling, college schooling, scholarship support
- ✓ **Social Service Provision**
daycare services, recreation services, youth and elderly services, child welfare and protective services

Historically, tribal and local governments have not interacted extensively with one another, notwithstanding their interwoven interests and neighbor status. As a result, they find themselves today with little experience in intergovernmental dealings, few lines of communication and limited understanding of how each functions. These factors often prove to be major obstacles to intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, and generally inhibit collaborative ventures.

B. Indian Tribes of Washington State


Key information about Washington state's tribal governments and their reservations can be found at:


Governor's office of Indian affairs: www.goia.wa.gov/


Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI): www.atnitribes.org/

Facts for each may include the location of the reservation by county; address and telephone/fax numbers of the tribal headquarters; number of enrolled members; reservation population, including the number of Indian and non-Indian residents; reservation size in acres; the date established; a brief history of the reservation; and an overview of the structure and function of the tribal government.

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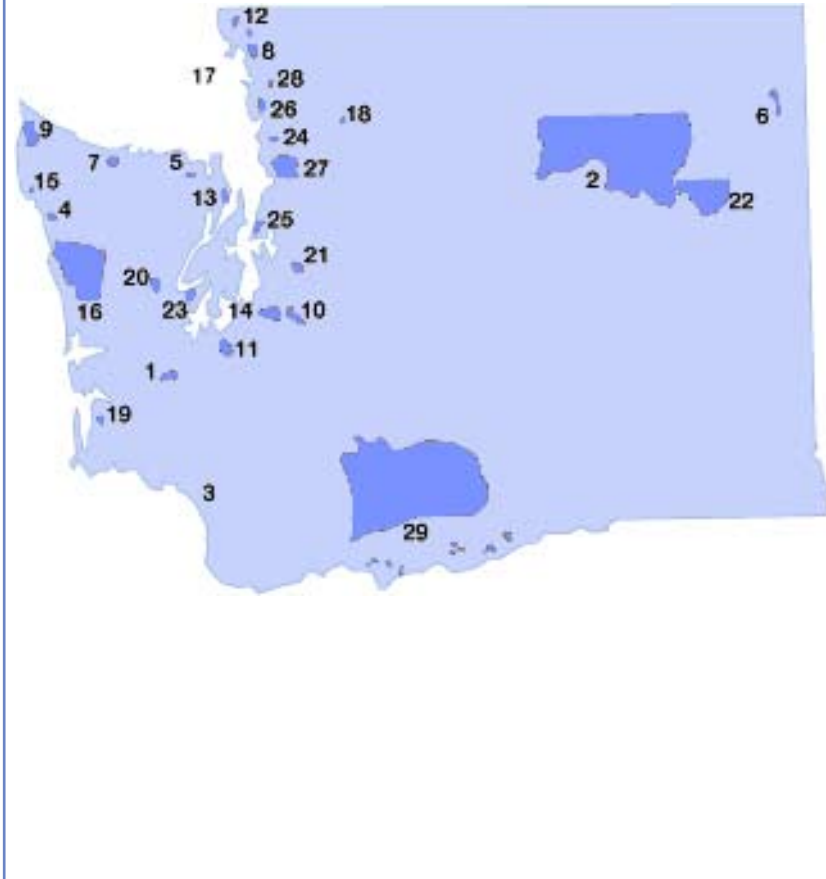
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Indian Tribes of Washington State



1. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation
2. Colville Confederated Tribes
3. Cowlitz
4. Hoh Tribe
5. Jamestown S’Klallam Indian Tribe
6. Kalispel Tribe
7. Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe
8. Lummi Nation
9. Makah Tribe
10. Muckleshoot Tribe
11. Nisqually Tribe
12. Nooksack Tribe
13. Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe
14. Puyallup Tribe
15. Quileute Tribe
16. Quinault Nation
17. Samish Nation
18. Sauk-Suiattle Tribe
19. Shoalwater Bay Tribe
20. Skokomish Tribe
21. Snoqualmie Tribe
22. Spokane Tribe
23. Squaxin Island Tribe
24. Stillaguamish Tribe
25. Suquamish Tribe
26. Swinomish Tribe
27. Tulalip Tribe
28. Upper Skagit Tribe
29. Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Indian Reservation