



JULY 2023 | VOL 5

THE COMPASS

Official newsletter of Plateau CRM

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6000-YEAR-OLD DISCOVERY IN NEWPORT



What's new at Plateau?

BY DAVID HARDER

Summer is in full swing, and in the Plateau CRM office, we are happy to be working in the field. One of our great joys is the opportunity to visit and see so many great places in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho while meeting the needs of our diverse clients. Aside from project travel, members of our team will be taking family vacations and going on hiking trips to places such as Whitefish, Montana, Lincoln City, Oregon, Mt. Rainier National Park, Scotchman Peak in Idaho, and riding Backcountry Discovery Routes. It can be a challenge for us to get outside, stow our archaeology fedora, and enjoy the pure recreation, but planning a good work-life separation helps. We hope your summer will take you to fun places or allow you to spend time with those that are important to you. And when you return to the office, Plateau CRM will be here to provide timely and professional help with your project.



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Time to Travel



Colville Tribal Museum

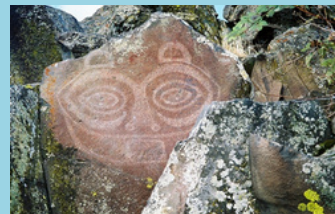
Just across from the Grand Coulee Dam lies the Colville Tribal Museum. The Museum holds cultural artifacts, books, and stories. The Museum's located in the center of town.



<https://www.colvilletribes.com/colville-tribal-museum>

Horsethief Butte

Visit the petroglyphs and pictographs of Horse Thief Butte Washington. Along with stunning views, enjoy the Native American rock art dotting the landscape.



<https://www.wta.org/go-hiking/hikes/columbia-hills-state-park>

Pullman Museum of Anthropology

Located on the first floor of the WSU College Hall, the Museum of Anthropology has collections from more than 1,600 sites across The State of Washington.



<https://archaeology.wsu.edu/>

Indian Painted Rocks Trail

Just north of Spokane, explore the Indian-Painted Rocks Trail. Marvel at the sight of 250-year-old art still clinging to the stone surface. This art is believed to be made by the Spokane Tribe in 1750.



<https://www.parks.wa.gov/575/Riverside>

Seafair Indian Days

On July 21-23, join the United Indians of All Tribes Foundation for dance, food, and music. Located at 5011 Bernie Whitebear Way, Seattle. Don't miss it.



<https://unitedindians.org/powwow-new/seafair-powwow-2023/>

Nez Perce Historical Park

Just outside of Lewiston, Idaho, get a taste of history. Get there at 9:00 and see the traditional tepee setup. Spend time and learn the story of the Nez Perce in this stunning park.



<https://www.nps.gov/nepe/index.htm>

Omak Stampede

On August 10-13, go to Omak, Washington, and enjoy the annual Stampede featuring rodeos, native art shows, and the famed Suicide Race.



<https://www.omakstampede.org/>

Burke Museum

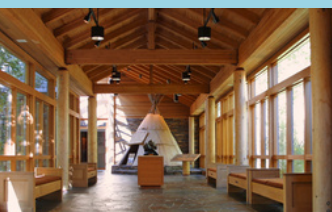
With over 18 million items in its collection, see the Burke Museum. Experience the history of the Pacific Northwest with experts on the region. The Burke Museum is located on Memorial Way in the heart of Seattle.



<https://www.burkemuseum.org/>

High Desert Museum

Visit the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon, to learn about local wildlife, Native history, culture, and art exhibits.



<https://highdesertmuseum.org/>

Other Opportunities

- The Pipestone Canyon Trail
- The Precious Lands Project
- Crown Point Trail
- Gnat Creek Trail
- Tail Creek Trail
- Fort Worden Park





Meet a Geologist

Sean Coan

Where am i From?

I was born in Washington D.C. and spent the first few years of my life in Odenton, Maryland, a small town in between D.C and Baltimore. We moved to southern Idaho and lived there for eight years. My grandparents all lived in Maryland, and we would travel back for a month each summer, spending time on the beach and in the national museums, zoo, and aquarium, connecting with both the East Coast and Mountain West lifestyles.

What Brought you here?

As a teenager, we moved up to Moscow, Idaho, and my parents fell in love with the Palouse. My young adult life was spent hiking on the mountain and exploring the hills and rivers of this unique geological region.

What do i do here?

Sean is a registered geologist and joined the Plateau CRM team to edit and review reports. His background of geological fieldwork and technical report writing serves well for his position, and is a valuable and important part of our reporting process.

Archaeology in the News

Near the town of Newport, Washington, an excavation team under The Kalispel Tribe and Professor Shannon Tushingham of WSU uncovered evidence of 6,000-year-old ovens made for the use of fire pits and cooking.

The discovery was made in an area preparing for the development of a housing complex on the Pend Oreille River, four feet under the surface, during preliminary survey work. The Kalispel Tribe had purchased the plot of land to accommodate new housing projects. The site was identified through the discovery of fire-cracked rocks in a cluster. The rock formation features range in age from 6,000 years to 700 years old. These may be some of the oldest ovens identified in North America.

The ovens were created for baking food. The process of baking started with a bowl-shaped excavation dug out of the earth along the riverside. The bowl was then lined with rocks, filled with the food to be cooked, and capped with rocks and earth, providing vent holes to help with the heating process. These features required a complex process of building large fires, heating and placing rocks, layering food and protective mats of moist vegetation, capping with hot rocks, and covering the entire construction for an extended period of cooking. The ovens may also have included additional fuel to keep the oven hot for many hours. A team of archaeologists is working this summer to take samples to find any traces of food residue to help determine what was processed and cooked at this location.

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/11543-230619-washington-kalispel-ovens>

