

JUL 24 2000

Mr. William F. Yallup, Sr.
Chairman
Confederated Tribes & Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

SM
7/24/00

Dear Chairman Yallup:

On behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), let me thank you and your tribe's representatives for attending the July 7th Spokane consultation meeting regarding the human remains inadvertently discovered at Columbia Park, Kennewick, Washington. At this meeting we focused our discussion on the cultural affiliation evaluation currently being conducted for these human remains by DOI.

We appreciated the participation of all the concerned tribes and interested parties at the meeting. The extensive number of verbally expressed comments on the four cultural affiliation studies DOI initiated for the Kennewick human remains and the cultural affiliation information the tribes previously submitted were welcome.

J.P.R.
7/24/00

You and your representatives were also asked to provide any further information that your tribe wishes us to take into account for the ongoing cultural affiliation review of these remains. Baring any unexpected delays, we anticipate being able to provide you with DNA results by the second week of August. If you or any of your representatives have additional comments or information that can aid the Kennewick cultural affiliation study, please provide them to me in writing by August 14, 2000. If a delay in DNA testing results arises, we will provide some additional time to comment. This date is necessary in order for DOI to fully consider the information and to provide its determination to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) by the first week of September 2000, which will enable COE to answer the court imposed deadline of September 24, 2000.

Your tribe's participation with DOI is greatly appreciated and we hope it will continue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Francis P. McManamon

Francis P. McManamon
Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Manager, Archeology & Ethnography Program

cc: Tom Zeilman, Johnson Meninick, Fred Ike, Sr.

JUL 24 2000

Ms. Colleen Cawston
Chairwoman
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
P.O. Box 150
Nespelem, WA 99155-0150

Dear Chairwoman Cawston:

On behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), let me thank you for having representatives of your tribe attend the July 7th Spokane consultation meeting regarding the human remains inadvertently discovered at Columbia Park, Kennewick, Washington. At this meeting we focused our discussion on the cultural affiliation evaluation currently being conducted for these human remains by DOI.

We appreciated the participation of all the concerned tribes and interested parties at the meeting. The extensive number of verbally expressed comments on the four cultural affiliation studies DOI initiated for the Kennewick human remains and the cultural affiliation information the tribes previously submitted were welcome.

Your representatives were also asked to provide any further information that your tribe wishes us to take into account for the ongoing cultural affiliation review of these remains. Barring any unexpected delays, we anticipate being able to provide you with DNA results by the second week of August. If you or any of your representatives have additional comments or information that can aid the Kennewick cultural affiliation study, please provide them to me in writing by August 14, 2000. If a delay in DNA testing results arises, we will provide some additional time to comment. This date is necessary in order for DOI to fully consider the information and to provide its determination to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) by the first week of September 2000, which will enable COE to answer the court imposed deadline of September 24, 2000.

We have read and considered the documentation submitted by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation on February 28, 2000. The various components of this documentation, including the "Summary of the Southern Plateau/Lower Snake River Archaeological Record" by Brent Hicks, have assisted us in our review of the four cultural affiliation studies. The documentation has also provided us with additional information to utilize in our ongoing cultural affiliation review of the Kennewick human remains. We have the following comments and would welcome any additional information or interpretations you would like to provide.

As is the case with most rock shelters, the deep and generally artifact-rich cultural layers are often interpreted as evidence of continuous occupation. Most recent analyses, however, emphasize that rock shelters often reflect seasonal occupation and, further, generally preserve only an eroded remnant or series of palimpsest deposits that reflect short-term occupation. Are there seasonality, faunal taphonomic, soil micro-morphological or other studies using the Marmes data that address this question?

A series of other sites in the lower Snake River area also are described briefly in an attempt to establish that settlement was continuous following the initial Marmes occupation. However, the relationships

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among these sites and between them and the Marmes site is not described in detail. The existence of later sites in the same area does not in itself prove cultural continuity. Is there additional information or a more specific interpretation that can be provided on this matter?

Some consideration should be given to alternative means of procurement of raw materials throughout the prehistoric period on the Plateau. Sean Hess has argued, in a dissertation completed at Washington State University in 1997, that obsidian flakes and points that decrease in size with increasing distance from source areas in central Oregon are indicative of group mobility during the Early Cascade phase. Hess contrasted the use of obsidian during the Early Cascade with that of the late prehistoric (2000-150 BP); in the latter, different utilization patterns for obsidian suggested (to Hess) indirect procurement of obsidian and probably exchange between social groups. The point is that a continued presence of a material such as obsidian may in fact reflect different patterns of procurement, mobility, and group interaction. Do you have any information on the manner in which obsidian and other materials such as olivella shells were used through time on the southern Plateau?

The traditional histories seem to acknowledge two successive time phases: the time of the Animal People or the "first creation" and the arrival of humans on the Plateau or the "second creation." (Published or soon-to-be published sources for this information include the following: Clifford Trafzer, 1998, *Grandmother, Grandfather, and Old Wolf*, Michigan State University Press, East Lansing; Daniel Boxberger, 2000, *Cultural Affiliation Study of the Kennewick Human Remains: Review of Traditional Historical and Ethnographic Information*.) Could you provide any information that would assist us in distinguishing further between these two time periods? Is there any additional information that might shed light on whether these oral traditions are actually referring to earlier human populations that resided in the area?

The traditional histories contain references to occurrences that might be geologic events such as volcanic eruptions or floods within various river valleys on the Plateau. Since such events have occurred with considerable frequency in the Pacific Northwest, it is important to correlate them with known chronologies. What is the strongest evidence that you think associates eruptions or floods with the late Pleistocene, i.e., the end of the Ice Age?

Your tribe's participation with DOI is greatly appreciated and we hope it will continue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Francis P. McManamon

Francis P. McManamon
Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Manager, Archeology & Ethnography Program

cc: Joanne Leith, Tim Brewer, Adeline Fredin, Brent Hicks

JUL 24 2000

Mr. Rex Buck, Jr.
Wanapum Band
Grant County PUD
P.O. Box 848
Ephrata, WA 98823

Dear Mr. Buck:

On behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), let me thank you for having representatives of your band attend the July 7 Spokane consultation meeting regarding the human remains inadvertently discovered at Columbia Park, Kennewick, Washington. At this meeting we focused our discussion on the cultural affiliation evaluation currently being conducted for these human remains by DOI.

We appreciated the participation of all the concerned tribes and interested parties at the meeting. The extensive number of verbally expressed comments on the four cultural affiliation studies DOI initiated for the Kennewick human remains and the cultural affiliation information the tribes previously submitted were welcome.

Your representatives were also asked to provide any further information that your band wishes us to take into account for the ongoing cultural affiliation review of these remains. Barring any unexpected delays, we anticipate being able to provide you with DNA results by the second week of August. If you or any of your representatives have additional comments or information that can aid the Kennewick cultural affiliation study, please provide them to me in writing by August 14, 2000. If a delay in DNA testing results arises, we will provide some additional time to comment. This date is necessary in order for DOI to fully consider the information and to provide its determination to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) by the first week of September 2000, which will enable COE to answer the court imposed deadline of September 24, 2000.

Your band's participation with DOI is greatly appreciated and we hope it will continue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

~~Francis P. McManamon~~

Francis P. McManamon
Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Manager, Archeology & Ethnography Program

cc: Lenora Seelatsee, Richard Buck

DOI 08716

JUL 24 2000

Mr. Antone C. Minthorn
Chairman
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation
P. O. Box 638
Pendleton, OR 97801

Dear Chairman Minthorn:

On behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), let me thank you for having representatives of your tribe attend the July 7 Spokane consultation meeting regarding the human remains inadvertently discovered at Columbia Park, Kennewick, Washington. At this meeting we focused our discussion on the cultural affiliation evaluation currently being conducted for these human remains by DOI.

We appreciated the participation of all the concerned tribes and interested parties at the meeting. The extensive number of verbally expressed comments on the four cultural affiliation studies DOI initiated for the Kennewick human remains and the cultural affiliation information the tribes previously submitted were welcome.

Your representatives were also asked to provide any further information that your tribe wishes us to take into account for the ongoing cultural affiliation review of these remains. Barring any unexpected delays, we anticipate being able to provide you with DNA results by the second week of August. If you or any of your representatives have additional comments or information that can aid the Kennewick cultural affiliation study, please provide them to me in writing by August 14, 2000. If a delay in DNA testing results arises, we will provide some additional time to comment. This date is necessary in order for DOI to fully consider the information and to provide its determination to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) by the first week of September 2000, which will enable COE to answer the court imposed deadline of September 24, 2000.

We have read and considered the report submitted in March 2000 by Dr. Manfred Jaehnig, Cultural Resources Protection Program, Department of Natural Resources, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, with attachments by Dr. Roderick Sprague. The report and associated attachments have assisted us in our review of the four cultural affiliation studies. The documentation has also provided us with additional information to utilize in our ongoing cultural affiliation review of the Kennewick human remains.

We have the following comments and would welcome any additional information or interpretations you would like to provide. Dr. Jaehnig has argued that the supposed "gap" in pit house construction c.3800 BP may simply reflect an artificial break in the suite of radiocarbon dates or a failure to consider upland sites. However, Dr. Jaehnig recognizes on page 7 of his study that the limited number of sites (N = 20) at present provides weak support for the argument of a population shift to the uplands. How many of the upland sites, if any, are pit houses? Does any additional evidence exist to support or suggest a movement of population to the uplands on something more than a seasonal basis?

Dr. Jaehnig indicated on page 19 that the appearance of the earliest pit houses coincided with the "height of the hot and dry" Altithermal climatic period. The dates of 6000 BP or earlier presented by Ames

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suggest association with the succeeding cooler, wetter period described by Chatters and others. What impact, if any, does the association of the early pit houses with a cooler, wetter climate have upon the apparent shift in settlement patterns?

We also believe that it is important to distinguish different modes of procurement for obsidian and other materials, as has been attempted by Sean Hess ("Rocks, Range, and Renfrew: Using Distance-Decay Effects to Study Late Pre-Mazama Period Obsidian Acquisition and Mobility in Oregon and Washington." Ph.D. dissertation, Washington State University, 1997). The continued presence of a particular material may reflect very different modes of procurement, mobility, and social organization. Do you have any information that addresses the manner in which obsidian and materials such as olivella shells were used through time on the Plateau?

Dr. Sprague discussed on page 8 of his attachment that the characterization of "relative stability" of burial patterns is based partially on negative evidence and the "relatively stable nature of the artifact assemblage." Given the limited data on the earliest burial practices on the Plateau, what other bases exist to extend an argument of mortuary continuity into the early Holocene, i.e., before 7000 BP? Regarding the continuity of artifact assemblages, we note substantial differences over time in the relative frequencies of different artifact types that may reflect cultural change.

The oral history information provided by Dr. Jaehnig described a series of traditional stories that discuss the devastating impacts of river floods. The archaeological data that are cited in support of these stories (for example, on page 6) refer to artifacts such as stone mortars and pestles and horn spoons that typically date much later in time than the late Pleistocene-early Holocene timing of the Bretz floods. Does any evidence exist for mountain-top and very high elevation occupation during the early Holocene or even earlier?

The traditional history information also refers to and relates in part a story describing an "elephant-like" creature that is inferred to be a mammoth. There is no indicator of the date when this story was recorded or its historical reliability. The report also refers to the discovery of mammoth remains, but no publication or report is cited. Dr. Jaehnig mentions on page 28 of his study that two mammoth teeth, dating more than 10,000 and more than 14,000 years old respectively, have been excavated on the Umatilla Reservation. Were any artifacts found in association with the teeth or did the teeth reveal any indications of modification that may have been induced by humans?

Your tribe's participation with DOI is greatly appreciated and we hope it will continue. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Francis P. McManamon

Francis P. McManamon
Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Manager, Archeology & Ethnography Program

cc: Armand Minthorn, Dan Hester, Audie Huber

JUL 24 2000

Mr. Samuel N. Penney
Chairman
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540-0305

Dear Chairman Penney:

On behalf of the Department of the Interior (DOI), let me thank you for having representatives of your tribe attend the July 7 Spokane consultation meeting regarding the human remains inadvertently discovered at Columbia Park, Kennewick, Washington. At this meeting we focused our discussion on the cultural affiliation evaluation currently being conducted for these human remains by DOI.

We appreciated the participation of all the concerned tribes and interested parties at the meeting. The extensive number of verbally expressed comments on the four cultural affiliation studies DOI initiated for the Kennewick human remains and the cultural affiliation information the tribes previously submitted were welcome.

Your representatives were also asked to provide any further information that your tribe wishes us to take into account for the ongoing cultural affiliation review of these remains. Barring any unexpected delays, we anticipate being able to provide you with DNA results by the second week of August. If you or any of your representatives have additional comments or information that can aid the Kennewick cultural affiliation study, please provide them to me in writing by August 14, 2000. If a delay in DNA testing results arises, we will provide some additional time to comment. This date is necessary in order for DOI to fully consider the information and to provide its determination to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) by the first week of September 2000, which will enable COE to answer the court imposed deadline of September 24, 2000.

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Sincerely,

~~Francis P. McManamon~~

Francis P. McManamon
Departmental Consulting Archeologist
Manager, Archeology & Ethnography Program

cc: Carla High Eagle, James Holt

DOI 08719