Glossary - Treaty Tribes Words of the Day

Wałłaxłłx
2/11/2020 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Brigette McConville, Vice Chair Tribal Council Member, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, shared the traditional word of the day which is Wałłaxłłx. Wałłaxłłx means “Her Face Paint.” Brigette explained that there is a red pigment in the wall of the earth near what is now called Cascade Locks. This red pigment is chipped out and used as sunscreen. When on the river, Wałłaxłłx is put on tribe members’ skin to avoid sun burn.

N’chi Wana
4/14/2020 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller presented the Word of the Day, which was N’chi Wana. This is a word from the Warm Springs language meaning Columbia River.

Latít latít
5/12/2020 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared the word latít latít meaning “wildflower” from the Warm Springs Language.

Tanán ?? šuyápu
10/13/2020 - Treaty Tribe Words of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the words of the day. Indian person is tanán (pronounced teen). In Ichishkíin language, Warm Springs people call each other ?? (waiting for clarification from Commissioner Miller on spelling.) A white person is šuyápu.

Pshwá
11/10/2020 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared pshwá as the word of the day which means rock. Commissioner Meninick stated that pshwá is significant because rock has been many things to our people. Our homes have been made of rock, such as a cave in the cliffside. We have made tools out of rocks, not only arrow points but also gaff points for spearfishing. Rocks provide weights for our fishing nets. Rock also plays a role as a tablet for us when events are recorded within our lives. There are petroglyphs all up and down the river. The word pshwá has significance with our people.

Nimoo
12/8/2020 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared nimoo as the word of the day which means relatives, loved ones, or elders. Commissioner Meninick mentioned that this word is shared by all of the Northwest tribes and some of the Coastal tribes. When tribe members greet each other, the members shake each other's hands and convey this expression of respect. Nimoo is not only a greeting or sign of respect to tribe members but also to foods, such as roots, berries, and fish.
Yak’i k’iła
1/12/2021 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared Yak’i k’iła as the word of the day which means January. Commissioner Miller offered her appreciation to the Commission that it shares the language she learned from her Mother and Grandmother. Commissioner Miller mentioned that many words shared with the Commission are words that were developed with colonialism. The tribes moved by seasons and did not need names for calendar months, so Yak’i k’iła was developed after the white people came. She further explained that Ichishkín is the language of Warms Springs. The Umatilla, Nez Perce, Yakama, and others all speak different dialects of Ichishkín.

Yaka
A’Yakama
2/9/2021 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared Yakama as the word of the day. Commissioner Meninick shared that his grandfather taught him oral history about a band of people in Medicine Valley who resembled small bears. Yaka is a bear and those members of the band were known as Yakama. An extension of that word relates to when a woman is carrying a child and that word is A’Yakama. At some point the name Yakama attached itself to the Confederation of 14 Tribes and Bands, now known as the Yakama Nation.

Latít latít
3/9/2021 - Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared latít latít as the word of the day, which is the Warm Springs Sahaptin word for wildflower. Latít is a flower and latít latít is a wildflower. Many first foods have wildflower blossoms, so this is a special word for Spring. Commissioner Miller shared that when she was young, she traveled the Gorge with her Grandmother and Great-Grandmother and they taught her to identify first foods in her native language.

Xaaslu
4/13/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared the word of the day, Xaaslu, meaning star. He explained the meaning of the nine-pointed star: three are witness to your body, three are witness to your soul, and three are witness to your heart. The morning star was once a person that walked the Earth. Light is sacred to all living things on Earth and in the heavens. Legends confirm we are witness to the sparkle of life from the heavens when we see the stars glow in the sky.

Kiksht
5/11/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared the word of the day, Kiksht, which is the Wasco word for the language Wasco. Under Warm Springs there are three confederated tribes: The Warm Springs, the Wasco, and the Paiute. The Warm Springs and the Wasco were the original treaty signing tribes in 1855 who mostly lived in this area. Commissioner Miller is a member of the Yakama and Palús (Palouse) from Colville and was the Wasco representative in the past.

Wilx
6/8/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pitt shared the word of the day, Wilx, which is Earth in the Warm Springs language Kiksht. Commissioner Pitt also shared that she named her son Wilx.
Sahaptian/Sahaptin
7/13/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared the Yakama Nation word of the day, which is Sahaptian/Sahaptin. Commissioner Meninick mentioned that both his mother and father were Small Hawk Palouse. Small Hawk is located at the south end of Lake Wallowa in the valley where there are thousands of little hawks. Sahaptian/Sahaptin means “stranger in the land”. Academics have identified Sahaptian/Sahaptin as the language of the region, but Commissioner Meninick offered that the language spoken is Ichishkíin.

Alashik
8/10/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pitt shared the Ichishkíin word of the day, which is Alashik, which means turtle. Commissioner Pitt offered that the turtle teaches us different lessons and is relevant to water and lake issues.

Tiyam
9/14/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Miller shared the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs word of the day, which is tiyam, which means Fall.

Páxaat
10/12/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Meninick shared the Yakama Nation word of the day, which is páxaat, which means the number five.

Ilimúk and Wíwnu
11/9/2021 – Treaty Tribe Words of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Warm Springs word of the day, which is ilimúk and means blueberry. Commissioner Miller also mentioned that wíwnu is huckleberry in the Ichishkíin language.

Twít’aš
12/14/2021 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared the Yakama Nation word of the day, which is twít’aš. This is how the Yakama Nation identifies the grizzly bear. Commissioner Meninick told of the legend of this animal being part of the celestial bodies and how twít’aš got into the stars. Twít’aš was the provider of tribes.

Waxshxwt
1/22/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared the Wasco language Kiksht word of the day, which is waxshxwt, meaning downpour. Commissioner Pitt mentioned that since this is the season of dodging downpours, staying inside, and watching creek levels rise, waxshxwt is an appropriate word to share.

Sk’ín
2/8/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared the Yakama word of the day, which is sk’ín, meaning baby board or cradleboard. Commissioner Meninick shared that prior to the dams, the Columbia River meandered from Celilo across to the Wishram side. There was a legendary rock formation on the Wishram side called baby board (sk’ín). The word Skinpah appears in the Land Acknowledgment and denotes the people of that region.
Aq’elbu
4/12/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Pah-tu Pitt shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, aq’elbu, which is the Kiksht word for Skunk Cabbage. Skunk cabbage is starting to emerge now that it’s Spring. Chair Pitt shared that Skunk Cabbage can be used for many things, including cooking and emergency shelter.

Ila
5/10/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, ila, which means mother. Commissioner Miller mentioned that this word was appropriate because Mother’s Day was May 8, 2022.

Alukw’át
6/14/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, alukw’át, which means frog. Commissioner Miller shared that when she was growing up, she was taught by her Grandmother that the frog was a very important animal because it controlled the water. If you bothered alukw’át, it could dry up the water and take it away.

Shatam and Pt’aq pt’aqni
7/19/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick was not available to share the Yakama Nation word of the day. Although Commissioner Carina Miller was having connectivity issues, she texted two words to Connie Acker: Shatam which means summer, and Pt’aq pt’aqni which means July.

Ishulxmax
9/13/2022 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice-Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day, ishulxmax, which is the Kiksht word for fishing scaffold. Vice-Chair Pitt thought this word was appropriate to highlight the importance of water quality and fish species. Fall Chinook, Coho, and Steelhead are currently running.

Kwałamatash Tananmami Ł’kwi

Xaaslú

Ei
1/10/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Chair Carina Miller shared the Treaty Tribe word of the day, ei, which means pregnant. Chair Miller mentioned that this was appropriate because several staff are expecting babies in 2023.

Kinuwaqshumax
2/14/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice-Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared the Treaty Tribe word of the day, kinuwaqshumax which is the Kiksht word for thunderers.
Ibiaxia and Pyaxí
4/11/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared the Wasco language Kiksht Treaty Tribe word of the day, ibiaxia, which means Bitterroot. Chair Miller also shared that the Ichishkiin word for Bitterroot is pyaxí. Bitterroot is a culturally significant plant.

Atáchiish/Atáchuush
5/9/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Commissioner Jerry Meninick shared that the Sahaptin (Yakama Dialect) word atáchiish/atáchuush is how the ocean is identified and refers to the vastness of the water.

Emkiax
7/11/2023 – Treaty Tribe Word of the Day: Vice-Chair Pah-tu Pitt shared emkiax as the Treaty Tribe Word of the Day which means happiness in Kiksht, the language of the Wasco people. Vice-Chair Pitt shared that summer is a time of happiness and taking time to cultivate emkiax is important.