My heart is in the Wallowa. The crisp air, the cool water, the scenic beauty. Unfortunately, due to responsibilities and commitments, I am not often able to make the journey south. From my home on the Colville Indian Reservation, it is about a 263-mile trek, and depending upon road conditions, can take 5 hours at least. But the Wallowa is my homeland, and the homeland of many of my Joseph Band of Wa’wáma friends and relatives who live on the Colville Reservation. Despite the distance, I have made several new friends and connected with distant relatives while volunteering for the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland. The few trips I have been able to make down south can probably all be counted on one hand, but I cannot tell you how many times we’ve laughed and shared stories over Zoom! Though we are fragmented by time, space, and jurisdiction; we remain connected through one another - voices on the wind, roots in the soil, memories and experiences shared. That is what ties my heart to the Wallowa. Fellow NPWH Board Member Rich Wandschneider wrote as much in a recent article for the Wallowa County Chieftain. To quote: ‘Nez Perce language elder Jewie Davis told us recently that the ‘wal’ part of [Wal’wáma] has to do with tying together.’ As we enter this winter season and the pace of life slows, let’s think of what ties us together and to this special place. It might still be awhile before I travel back to Wallowa, but I know the warm welcome that awaits me once I return. Best wishes to all our friends, relatives, and partners for an enjoyable and safe Holiday Season!

GREETINGS FROM VICE CHAIR AMELIA MARCHAND

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HONORING THE LIFE OF RESPECTED ELDER ETHEL “TESSIE” WILLIAMS

Tessie Williams, 90, died at her home on the Umatilla Reservation on Monday, Nov. 21, 2022. She was born Dec. 14, 1931, to William and Nannie (née Crow) James at Cayuse and was an enrolee of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Her parents named her Ethel Marie and her grandmother called her Tessie. Through their maternal line, Tessie and her brothers Edward and Peter James descended from the Cayuse leader Five Crows, half-brother to Old Chief Joseph. Tessie was mother to three daughters and two adopted daughters, grandmother to seven grandchildren and 6 adopted grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren.

Tessie was a dedicated community health advocate. She served more than 28 years as a Community Health Representative on the Umatilla Reservation, advocating for improvements in housing and healthcare. She was a Happy Canyon princess and later a chaperone for 9 years (she was inducted into the Pendleton Round-up and Happy Canyon Hall of Fame in 1991). She was a faithful fan of Niýáawii Community School basketball, and often traveled over the hill to Wallowa to watch her Golden Eagles compete against the Cougars and other local teams.

Tessie was also a devoted member of the Tamkaliks community. She and her family have attended the Tamkaliks Celebration every year since the first powwow in the Wallowa High School gym. Tessie and her husband Bob were Whipwoman and Whipman in the early years, her daughter Nancy became Whipwoman after Tessie. When Tessie wasn’t on the dance floor she could be found in her seat at the edge of the green; watching the dancers and enjoying the company of Leah and Etta Conner, who are now also passed. Tessie was generous with her time and her knowledge. She often traveled to Wallowa to share cultural presentations with the Wallowa United Methodist Church. She was a strong proponent for building relationships between our Native and non-Native communities.

In remembering Tessie, Tamkaliks co-founder Nancy Crenshaw said “She was a strong spirit that added to my spirit. She was uplifting to me every time I saw her”. More than a community health advocate, Tessie was a person who healed your spirit when you were around her. She will be dearly missed by the Tamkaliks family and all who knew her.
A YEAR OF IMPACT

Throughout the year we’ve welcomed longhouse services and weddings, camps, youth groups, high school graduations, visitor groups and even bicycle tours. Approximately 800 people came through our Visitor Center and 1100 used our grounds for cultural, educational, or community activities (not including Tamkaliks). 25 groups stayed at our Wallowa guesthouse, 80% of which were tribal. Here are some highlights:

This spring students from Enterprise High School, Building Healthy Families Alternative Education, and Joseph Charter assisted Wallowa Resources and Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries with fish monitoring at the Tamkaliks habitat restoration site.

In May, 35 Whitman College students camped out on our grounds while they worked on a podcasting project called "Land, Water, & Justice". They also helped us get ready for the Community Potluck as a part of the Wallowa Gathering event.

In June, 53 youth spent three days in the Wallowa homeland engaged in activities that promote Native wellness and healthy relationship building within their communities and with themselves. They heard from guest presenters, did team building exercises, and held their own mini-powwow. This Annual Wallowa Youth Retreat through the Nez Perce Tribe’s Indian Child Welfare program (formerly I-Vision) is in its sixth year at our facilities. (Pictured right, photo provided by Ashton Picard)

It was great to be back in-person at the Woodlands & Watershed Festival hosted by Wallowa Resources and Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center in Enterprise this June. And in July, MVP volunteer and educator Ginger Gramm, led a session about tamaalwit at Chief Joseph Summer Camp. These events strengthened local partnerships and allowed us to connect with and educate dozens of local youth outside of Wallowa.

Luk’upsimey held their second language camp in Wallowa this July. The group of Nez Perce writers and language activists spent the week at our guesthouse studying and practicing nimpupumtit together. For a weekend in July we welcomed 90 people from the Nez Perce reservations’ Wellbriety group as they engaged in healing through nature and traditional activities.

We partnered with Nez Perce Tribal Fisheries to share a lesson on tamaalwit and salmon to 50 Eastern Oregon University students this Fall when we welcomed the EOU Bridge Program to our Visitor Center and grounds.

"I truly appreciated the opportunity to touch the earth alongside other diggers in a sacred manner as our ancestors did long ago." — Carla Timentwa
INTRODUCING THE PAN DION INSTITUTE

Following the success of the first Saqáanma School, a number of our original team (instructors Tiyana Casey, Josiah Pinkham Blackeagle, and river guide Clark Shimeall) were motivated to create a standalone organization—the Pandion Institute—to build on the confluence of Indigenous cultural revitalization, youth work, and the outdoor recreation industry. Pandion is centered around land-based education and outdoor job training for Native youth with the goal of preparing our future elders to be our next generation of environmental, cultural, and climate leaders across our region. This summer, Pandion partnered with NPWH to run the 2022 Saqáanma School, in addition to two other land-based programs. They are planning another summer of programming in 2023, including the third iteration of the Saqáanma School and a backpacking trip in the Wallowas. Pandion is also creating a Native youth internship program to provide career-development opportunities in fields of outdoor recreation, climate change, and land management. If a young person you know is interested in these things, reach out!

Pandion board members include NPWH board members Tiyana Casey, Josiah Pinkham Blackeagle, Jeremy Wolf, Joe Whittle, and Angela Bombaci. The director is Clark Shimeall.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHY CAMP

In August of this year, the Pandion Institute facilitated a National Geographic Photography Camp based here in Wallowa. Thirty Nez Perce and local Wallowa County youth spent five days camped out on the Tamkaliks Celebration grounds and exploring the Wallowa country as they learned the art of photography from professional National Geographic photographers. At the end of the camp, they gave a presentation at the Joseph Center for Arts and Culture and their photography was put on exhibit there for several weeks. From their photos arose the collective themes of “connected by water” and “what is home?”.

"The Rez and the River are my home. To me, home is where I feel safe, it’s where I feel comfort. When I’m at the Homelands, or with my friends, I feel a certain type of joy.” —Devin Reuben, Nez Perce Tribe

"What is water to me? What is my connection to water? This camp helped me open my eyes to how water connects people.” —Chase Murray, Wallowa Co.
After three very long years, Tamkaliks returned in July of 2022. The 30th Anniversary of the Tamkaliks Celebration was one to be remembered with a record breaking turn out of dancers, drums, vendors and campers. The celebration grounds came alive with the return of the people as family members reunited, songs and dances were remembered, and feet touched the earth. Feelings of joy at the homecoming were also met with sadness as we honored those our communities had lost during the pandemic. Over the course of the weekend there were giveaways, namings and other longhouse ceremonies, the memorial horse procession, recognition of the Women Warriors of the Flight of 1877 by their women descendants, and blessings and wisdoms offered by elders. Four hundred people attended the Friendship Potluck on Sunday afternoon and an estimated 2,500 people attended the Celebration over the course of three days.

This year we hosted five special contest dances. The Tamkaliks Committee sponsored a Women’s Traditional Missing Children Memorial Dance Special in honor of the missing children of residential schools. The Conner Family sponsored an Old Style Slick Special in honor of Leah Conner. Mildred Quaempts sponsored a special for young girls to honor Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women. Mike Badwarrior and Teata Ellenwood honored their sons, Thunder Badwarrior and Timinah Ellenwood, with a Chicken special and a Men’s Traditional. Qeci’yew’yew and see you next year!

Thank you Angelika Dietrich and Roger Averbeck for contributing photographs. If you have Tamkaliks photos you wish to share, please send them to info@wallowanezperce.org

JOIN THE CELEBRATION IN 2023!
JULY 21—23
Check our website for updates, vendor applications, and 2023 scholarship applications
wallowanezperce.org/tamkaliks

CONGRATS SCHOLARSHIP Awardees!

Taz Conner Memorial Scholarship $1000
Teresa Leighton Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai, ID
Attending Lewis Clark State College Business program

Terry Crenshaw Memorial Scholarship $1000
Adalyn Bennett-Deal Wallowa, OR
Attending University of Houston and majoring in Political Science

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: A TAMKALIKS FILM PROJECT

History in the Making is a short documentary film about the Tamkaliks Celebration and its meaning for the Nez Perce and Wallowa communities. It features interviews with key originators of the event and shines a light on the contributions of Earl “Taz” Conner, a descendant of Old Chief Joseph and curator of the idea for the powwow. The film captures the beginning through the return: from the first powwow in 1990, climaxing with the 2022 Tamkaliks Celebration when the people came together after three long years, and continuing with what this story means for the future of our communities. The Tamkaliks Celebration exemplifies how healing from a difficult shared history can grow into a hopeful future. Through this film we hope that our story will inspire other communities to work collaboratively to heal rifts caused by historical injustices, as we have and will continue to do. Our film is intended as a testament to the importance of relationships and the advancement of healing through mutual respect and celebration of both our commonalities and our differences.

Qeci’yew’yew thank you to those who have generously shared stories, memories, and knowledge for the creation of this film: the late Grandmother Tessie Williams, Fred Hill, Bobbie Conner, Steve Axtel, Soy Redthunder, Nancy Crenshaw, Mary Hawkins, Verl Lewis, Brian Conner, Jason Crenshaw, Carla Timentwa, Bill Timentwa, Deborah Reth, Jo Hallam, Cece Whitewolf, and Joe McCormack

Qeci’yew’yew to our production team: Lewonne Teasley (Producer/Director), Weston Fahey (Director of Photography), Nathan Chiaravalle (Editor), Mathew Bermudez (Audio Engineer), and Victor Jones (Audio Engineer) for their dedication, creativity, and vision for this project

Qeci’yew’yew to our funders: State Library of Oregon through the American Rescue Plan Act, The Collins Foundation, Eastern Oregon Visitors Association with support from Travel Oregon, Wild Carrot Herbals, and individual donors

Qeci’yew’yew and see you next year!
I got the opportunity to learn things about my culture I've never experienced before.

Reid Wynans & Family
Crenshaw Family
Lindsay Slater
Margie Hudson
Steve Grant
Wheatland Insurance
Gunter Kleemann
Sondra Skinner
Tamara McGuire
James Saveland
Matt & Beth Gentle
Kathy & Gary Willett
Dave & Sue Smyth
Jeff & Debbie Smyth
Marcie & Dennis Sheehy
Community Bank

Jud Hart
Chris & Christina Geyer
Caitlin & Spencer Shadle
Mary Hawkins
Charten Ray
Jim & Bonnie Brockamp
Heartwood Biomass
Roger Averbeck
Favorite Finds
Bill & Nancy Barkell
Robert Berry
Denine Rautenstrauch
Judy Grayson
Stephen Wehr
Joell Bradshaw
Bernice Beornat

Sandi & Mike McFarland
Daniel Murphy
Margaret Maxwell
Kent Salisbury
Alexander Ikard
Jim Zimmerman
Lucrecia Bowley
Diane Marie Hubert
Becky Rasmussen
Mike Rosenbaum
Jeanne Landkamer
Margaret Maxwell
Donna & Roland Johnson
Linda Chrisman
Jack and Maggie Conley

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BOARD AND STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

Nancy Crenshaw
Fred Hill
Bobbie Conner
Cece Whitewolf
Ron Cameron
Joe McCormick
Andrew Wildbill
Bob Webb
Raphael Hoffman
Steven Begay
Angelika Dietrich
Chris Geyer

Lee Boyle—Vendor Coordinator
Deb Retl & Kitchen volunteers
Leita Barlow & Feast volunteers
Marty Stevens & Raffle volunteers
Tim Bombaci & First Aid volunteers
Steve Grant & Grounds Volunteers
Elwayne Henderson
Ryan Hook Construction
Liam Slater
Joshua Sigmon
Sara Averbeck

Thank you raffle & in-kind donors

Valley Meat Service
Dollar Stretcher
Pepsi-Cola of La Grande
Coca-cola of La Grande
Little Bear
Wallowa Food City
Safeway
Stange's Bison Ranch
Alder Slope Nursery
Bookloft
Carpet One
Dollar Stretcher
El Bajo
Enterprise Floral
Friend Restaurant
Heartbeat Wellness
Heavenly's
Hurricane Coffee
La Laguna
Les Schwab
Main Street Motors
Moonshine Glass
Olaf Pottery
Sugartime Bakery
Wild Carrot
Wallowa Nursery
Wallowa Lake Lodge
Heidi's Gift Shop
Val's Delicatessen
Wallowa Lake Tramway
Glacier Grill
Blonde Strawberry
Wallowa Food City
Back Achres
Little Bear
Kathy Willett
Bill Burkett
Chief Joseph Days Rodeo
Rahn’s Sanitary Service
Dave Clemens
Elwayne Henderson
Joseph Center for Arts and Culture
Stein's Distillery
Sports Corral
Winding Waters River Expeditions
Aspen Grove Print
Element
To Zion
Joseph Hardware
Copper Creek Mercantile
Heidi's Gift Shoppe
Anton’s Home & Spirits
Flannel Lantern
Ember's Brewhouse
Restaurant & Public House
Mad Mary’s Gift Shop
Arrowhead Chocolates
BeeCrowBee
Saralyn Johnson

We could not do it without you!
EMBRACING LATERAL LEADERSHIP

In keeping with the collaborative spirit that has always guided our work, we have made the decision to embrace lateral leadership in our staffing structure. We envision a team of equals, working together with complementary skill sets, backgrounds, and experience. In the coming months, we will be looking to build this team by hiring two new positions: Community Engagement Director and Development Director.

The Community Engagement Director will lead program development and community outreach efforts. This position will be offered with the option to work remotely, with planned visits to Wallowa. The ideal candidate will be creative, motivated, and flexible with a willingness to learn and seek understanding. A candidate already connected with tribal communities in the northwest and/or the community of Wallowa is highly desirable.

The Development Director will be responsible for budgeting, leading fundraising efforts, developing relationships with donors, managing grants, and maintaining the Nez Perce Wallowa Homeland Visitor Center and office. The ideal candidate will be passionate about fundraising, value relationships, and have strong organizational skills. They must be willing to live in or near Wallowa.

The two positions will work closely with the Facilities Director and the NPWH Board of Directors. Applications will open soon. You can help us find our team by watching for job postings in your email and on social media. Please share them broadly with family, friends, and community members.

MEET OUR FACILITIES DIRECTOR: JOSHUA SIGMON

Joshua joined our team in March. Since coming on at NPWH, Joshua has not only kept the Tamkaliks grounds maintained, but has managed capital projects, lead hailstorm recovery efforts, and has been a friendly face to welcome visitors to the Wallowa Homeland. In his short time, he has proven to be an essential member of our team.

Joshua was born and raised in the Southern Appalachian Foothills of Hickory, North Carolina. He attended Appalachian State University and earned a B.S. in Park Management and Geology. He participated in Collegiate Soccer, Climbing Team, and trail crew. After graduation in 2014, he packed up his jeep and moved to Leavenworth, WA. Over the next 8 years, Joshua worked as a Ranger for the National Park Service, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Army Corps throughout Oregon and the West Coast. He also served as an Outdoor Instructor for NW Outdoor Science School for 2 years. His experience and skills include trail maintenance, forestry, interpretation, Search and Rescue, wildlife patrol, as well as Emergency Management. Joshua enjoys fly fishing, hiking, hunting the Wallowas and gardening with his beautiful daughter, Stella Jo, and his Oregonian wife, Anne Louise.

If you spend time on our grounds, you’re likely to run into Joshua along with deputy Facilities Managers Stella Jo and Marley the Pup. Feel free to say “Hello!”

Wallowanezperce.org
BOOK THE WALLOWA HOMELAND GUESTHOUSE

If you are planning a trip to Wallowa, we have a very special place for you to stay. Refurbished in 2021, the Wallowa Homeland Guesthouse has been welcoming people to Wallowa for over a year now. From encampment for language group luk’upsíimey’s annual gathering, periodic home to a Nimiipuu canoe carver, and a place to land at the end of the day for Indigenous gatherers—the guesthouse is fulfilling its purpose to provide tribal people a homey place to stay when they come to the Wallowa Homeland.

The 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house stands well away from the road, overlooking the river and the Wallowa Mountains. With 2 queen beds, 2 twins, and a futon, the house comfortably sleeps 7 people and is a kid and pet friendly space. Amenities include: a fully stocked kitchen, washer and dryer, WI-FI, lots of parking, a fireplace inside and an outdoor fire pit.

While the house is intended to provide free and comfortable guest lodging for tribal people, we accept reservations by non-tribal groups for a suggested donation. We do have a policy to prioritize Native use. Reservations by non-tribal groups can be canceled by NPWH no later than 30 days prior to the reservation date to accommodate reservations by tribal groups.

Wallowa County Nonprofit Special! Our suggested donation rates for local nonprofits in need of guest lodging for staff retreats, guest speakers, educators, and events are half the usual suggested rate. Save money and work towards your mission, while also supporting ours!

Learn more and book the Wallowa Homeland Guesthouse on our website: wallowanezperce.org/farmhouse

GIFT SHOP

Checkout our online Gift Shop! We have t-shirts, hoodies, and stickers with designs based on original pieces by Nez Perce artists Mikailah Thompson and Kellen Trenal. 5% of all sales from these designs go directly to the artists. We also have trucker hats and bandanas that sport a sharp NPWH logo. Look fly and feel fly knowing that when you rock our merch, you rock our mission.

wallowanezperce.org/giftshop

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wallowanezperce.org/giftshop
TAMKALIKS SHOWERHOUSE GETS A LIFT

With our busy year of impact came a busy year for the Homeland facilities. This includes our unique open air shower house, which serves the important purpose of allowing campers and visitors to the Wallowa Homeland stay fresh. Constructed in 2009, it has seen years of use and extreme weather and was in dire need of a lift. The original outer wrap was sun faded and torn from the dry summer sun and the wooden structure was rotten. We contracted Ryan Hooke Construction to rebuild the structure to include new interior walls for improved privacy and a sharp new look. Heartwood Biomass milled 28 new poles to support the structure. Master sewer Cece Whitewolf came up with a genius design for a new outer wall that can be easily removed and stored during the harsh winter months to better preserve the life of the shower house as a whole.

The new and improved shower house was open for business just in time for Tamkaliks this July. Next Spring, we’ll continue these improvements with updated plumbing for better temperature control, a new hot water heater for longer lasting hot water, and a lean-to storage shed. As we continue to see increased use of our grounds for camps and multi-day events, these improvements will make sure guests to the Homeland are comfortable, clean, and happy.

Thank you to our funders, Cycle Oregon and Wildhorse Foundation for making this project possible. And special thanks to Cece Whitewolf, Ron Cameron, and Liam Slater for volunteering many hours of time and expertise to the project!