

**Traditional Use Study for the Proposed Schumann Wind, LLC Wind Development, Umatilla
County, Oregon**
Executive Summary

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Cultural Resources Protection Program (CRPP) was contacted by Schumann Wind, LLC regarding a proposed wind power generation project between the towns of Athena and Milton-Freewater, Oregon. Schumann Wind, LLC proposes to construct wind turbines and associated infrastructure within an area covering approximately 712 acres. Schumann Wind, LLC hired the CRPP to conduct a traditional use study of the proposed project. The project area lies within the lands ceded to the U. S. Government by the CTUIR as part of the Walla Walla Treaty of June 1855. Traditionally, this area was occupied by the *Weyíletpu* (Cayuse), *Walúulapam* (Walla Walla), and *Imatalamláma* (Umatilla) Tribes, who together comprise the CTUIR.

The CRPP identified one historic property of religious and cultural significance to the CTUIR as a result of this traditional use study. This historic property encompasses the entire Schumann Wind, LLC project area. The property includes the Pine Creek drainage, a traditional travel corridor and First Foods gathering area. It holds a traditional place name (*Laaqanúšpa* ‘at the wind in pines’), which shares the name with a traditional village upriver from the project area. This historic property also includes a portion of the Oregon Trail known as ‘the Whitman Cutoff,’ which connects to Pine Creek and overlaps with the route that Indian horses were moved from the reservation to the project area for grazing and on to other areas for seasonal grazing and for trade.

This larger area, which includes the Schumann Wind, LLC project area, shares a larger relationship which centers around the CTUIR’s traditional seasonal round as well as events that occurred in historic times. The travel routes link these resource gathering areas and grazing areas into a larger area of cultural significance to the tribes. Therefore, the historic property boundary cannot be drawn onto the project area map as it spans outside of the scope of that map.

CTUIR traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering areas as well as pre-contact and contact era travel corridors and horse grazing areas are known to exist in the vicinity of the project area. Additionally, this study revealed the presence of natural and cultural resources in the project area. While agriculture has altered much of the plant composition, steep hillsides in the Pine Creek drainage still afford abundant First Foods harvesting opportunities within this traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering area.

Tribal members migrated from traditional village sites throughout the various seasons of the year, beginning with fish and root gathering in the spring, berry gathering in the summer, and deer and elk hunts in the fall. These activities are all tied to the religious beliefs of the CTUIR that a reciprocal obligation exists between themselves and the resources on which they live. This obligation is a covenant that Indian people have with the Creator. Indian law decrees that the Tribes and traditional subsistence foods are integrally linked.

Lastly, unmarked burials could also be encountered in this area. Tribal elders stress that while traveling, if someone died, they would be buried right where they died, thus making it impossible to know where every burial site is and increasing chances that inadvertent discoveries could happen within the proposed project area. It is recommended that a cultural resource monitor be on site to monitor ground disturbing activities of this project and an inadvertent discovery plan be closely followed. Therefore, this historic property could be directly affected by the entirety of the proposed project. It is recommended that the CRPP and Schumann Wind, LLC work together to determine how the project will affect the property and how to avoid, minimize, or to mitigate for potential adverse effects to this historic property. One mitigation action could include tribal member access to First Foods resource gathering areas.