



## The Kalispel Tribe and Native Plant Nursery

### Preserving Wildlife and Supplying Large Native Tree and Shrub Stock for Restoration

#### The Kalispel Tribe

The Kalispel Indians were semi-nomadic hunters, diggers and fishermen and were often called the “River/Lake paddlers.” During the mid to late 19th century, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians worked to preserve its culture and life in the midst of increasing white settlement in the area.

In 1855, the Upper Kalispel Tribe ceded its lands and moved to the Jocko Reservation in Montana at the request of the U.S. Government. The Lower Kalispel Tribe, ancestors of today’s Kalispel members, refused to give up ancestral lands and continued to work toward an agreement that would allow the Tribe to remain on its homeland.

By 1874, Congress had stopped establishing treaties with tribes altogether, leaving the Kalispel Tribe with no legal protection. By 1875, the Tribal population had shrunk to only 395 people. From 1880 to 1910, as more white settlers moved into Kalispel territory, the tribe witnessed its land disappearing, but could do nothing to prevent it.

With most of the land on the reservation unsuitable for development, the tribe has had to develop innovative ways to create opportunity for tribal members. The tribe’s pioneering spirit, combined with sheer determination, resiliency, and community cohesiveness, has allowed the tribe to overcome many difficult circumstances.

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians is rich in heritage. It is the tribe’s mission to continue strengthening and building its community while preserving its cultural and natural heritage. The tribe’s traditions have taught its members cultural pride and to work together to continue the advancement of their people. The tribe is committed to promoting a bright future that respects traditions, education, nurturing environments for their children, and successful enterprise.

The Kalispel Tribe lives in harmony with nature and is a national leader in preserving wildlife habitat and fish hatcheries. The Kalispel Natural Resource Department (KNRD) seeks



*The native plant nursery currently uses 10-15 gallon pots to grow their native stock before planting.*

to protect and enhance all natural resources and the health of the entire ecosystem. KNRD is responsible for managing the historic properties, fisheries, wildlife, water, and other natural resources of the Kalispel Tribe of Indian's reservation in Usk, Washington, and other ceded lands in the lower Clark Fork and Pend Oreille.

### The Kalispel Native Plant Nursery

The Kalispel native plant nursery was established in 2012 to grow larger native tree and shrub stock for planting in Kalispel restoration sites. The nursery grows mainly riparian and wetland species with the goal of planting them in the native soils, which are poor glacial lakebed sediment. This growing practice is a way of reducing transplant shock.

As a unique approach, we use a 'bathtub' watering design to avoid leaf rot from surface watering and to help roots train downward as opposed to surface. It is cheaper and easier to operate than a drip system. We are open to any information or advice that could help us succeed, but so far our methods seem to be working as is.

The native plant nursery currently has space for about 10,000 trees in 10-15 gallon pots. Welcomed advice and technical outreach for information on the nursery stock was done in connection with the local WSU extension office foresters and professors. As we expand the nursery's capacity, we will continue to engage with our community partners.

Climate change is an important consideration in all restoration projects. Functional riparian areas and wetland ecosystems help to make the landscape more resilient to climate change. This nursery gives the KNRD team access to good quality stock that will survive in the extreme conditions we face in the Pend Oreille basin. We are fortunate to have this resource and we plan to continue improving our operational efficiencies and stock quality.

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Do you have questions or want more information on the Kalispel Tribe's Native Plant Nursery?

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## What Will Nature Do? Call to Artists

Exhibition Dates:  
September 30-  
November 13, 2021

**Deadline for Submissions:  
July 1, 2021**

This call is to artists of all media and levels of experience, who are interested in the communication of the science of climate change through the arts. Submissions will be accepted online only. If you have any difficulty with the submission process, please contact [hester@theartscenter.net](mailto:hester@theartscenter.net), or 541-754-1551, Ext 658.

### Background:

In the fall of 2021, The Arts Center will host the exhibit What Will Nature Do? a collaboration with guest curator Dr. Dominique Bachelet. Dr. Bachelet is a senior climate change scientist and associate professor in Oregon State University, as well as an artist and a member of The Arts Center's Exhibition Committee.

Dr. Bachelet has curated a roster of climate change scientists from all over the country. Prior to the deadline for submissions, artists will participate in the scientists' presentations and discussions on the positive and hopeful aspects of their research to inspire their artwork created for the exhibit. It is an exciting opportunity to distance ourselves from the standard doom and gloom messages and gather a deeper insight into the complexities and opportunities of climate change.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://theartscenter.net/call-to-artists-what-will-nature-do-deadline-july-1-2021/>



Aerial photo of the Kalispel native plant nursery, which has space for about 10,000 trees.