

Summary

The Secwepemc have lived in harmony and balance with the natural world for thousands of years. The basis of this harmonious relationship is the traditional, ecological knowledge of the Secwepemc. One example, of this knowledge is the care and management of food harvesting areas. Root digging areas were tended and cared for by the replanting of corms, crop rotation, and continuous harvesting. This practice ensured plentiful crops in future years. Spiritual practices were an integral part of the care of the land. Ceremonies, which included prayers, song, and dance, were conducted to show reverence and thank the plants and all things which enabled the plant to grow. Together these practices ensured the survival of the Secwepemc.

Today, the Secwepemc still depend on the land to provide many of their traditional food and medicines. They continue to conduct spiritual practices when using resources from the land.

The Secwepemc require lands which are undisturbed so they can continue practicing aspects of their traditional way of life.

Activity

Choose an ecosystem (mountain, lake,) or a combination of ecosystems within the Secwepemc Nation (see map of Nation). Consider the Secwepemc land usage, such as hunting moose and deer; gathering berries and medicines; and spiritual practices. Consider the non-Secwepemc land usage– tourism, forestry, mining, housing developments.

Write an essay describing how the two groups can co-exist, share the resources, develop a harmonious relationship, and ensure cultural and spiritual maintenance of the Secwepemc.