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“Yakama Nation has subsisted on salmon for many, many centuries now. Our main focal point used to be Celilo Falls down on the Columbia River. That was the area of where our people used to congregate . . . They would spend days upon days and weeks fishing for salmon off the scaffolds above the high rushing water. When they would get enough that they could use for their own, they would catch extra and would barter or trade with tribes that would come to the area.”

Gerald Lewis (Yakama), NMAI Interview, August 2016

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The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation were just one among many nations who traveled to Celilo Falls to trade. Tribes were said to have come from as far away as the Dakotas, Alaska, and Northern California. The building of The Dalles Dam in 1957 inundated Celilo Falls.