

Duwamish Tribe

We are the People of the Inside, the Host Tribe of Seattle and King County

- Originally lived in the interior on the Duwamish, Black & Cedar Rives, one of several distinct groups in Puget Sound area
 - Lushoot-language speakers of W Washington & Seattle area (including Burien, Tukwila, Renton & Redmond) since end of last glacial period
 - Have yet to receive formal tribal recognition from US government (573 recognized Tribes in US, granted federal benefits of healthcare, subsidized housing, casino licenses, & sovereignty rights)
- 1855 Treaty of Point Elliott signed by Chief Si'ahl, (for Duwamish & Suquamish people) & other local tribal leaders agree to cede land & move to reservations, in exchange for retaining access to traditional hunting & fishing grounds.
- Suquamish receive land across Puget Sound; Sa'ahl is buried there. Duwamish cede 54,000 acres, but never receive tribal land
- 1865 Seattle Board of Trustees bans Native Americans from living in Seattle
- 1866 Seattle residents block proposal for Duwamish reservation
- 1975 Cecille Hansen, descendant of Chief Si'ahl, heads Tribal Council
- 1978 Duwamish make first application for formal tribal recognition
- 1983 Duwamish establish Duwamish Tribal Services, non-profit to provide social/cultural services
- 1990's Duwamish purchase acre of land to erect a Longhouse across the Duwamish River from traditional village site; Longhouse becomes center for Duwamish cultural life and outreach
- 2001 Duwamish River, once "teeming with salmon" is described as "one of the most polluted rivers in the country" and declared a Superfund site by the EPA
- Duwamish finally receive Tribal Recognition in waning days of Clinton Administration; decision is nullified by GW Bush admin on a technicality
- 2014 Seattle City Council formally declares "Indigenous People's Day" on Oct 12
- 2015 US formally denies Tribal status to Duwamish, agreeing with past conclusions that Duwamish failed to prove existence as a continuing "Indian Identity" with "Tribal political influence or authority." Cecille Hansen contends that the Duwamish have struggled to prove "Indian entity" because of "displacement caused by pioneer settlers."
- 2019 US Interior Secretary declines to review 2015 petition rejection, despite recommendation form the Interior Board of Indian Appeals