

SPUZZUM FIRST NATION



TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

October 2020

****NOTE: This description of Spuzzum First Nation's Traditional Territory is a living document based upon the best available research findings and traditional knowledge input from our Community Members at the time of writing and is subject to revisions from time to time, based on ongoing research and updated input from our Community Members.*

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SPUZZUM FIRST NATION TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Spuzzum First Nation's Traditional Territory is located in the Lower Fraser Canyon region of British Columbia between Boston Bar and Yale, encompassing both sides of the Fraser River, as well as the adjacent Coastal and Cascade Mountain Ranges and associated watersheds. Spuzzum Traditional Territory is centered at Spuzzum BC extending upriver as far as Tsileuh Creek on the right bank of the Fraser River, 2km north of Black Canyon. The downriver boundary is Sawmill Creek, although we have extended cultural heritage resource interests extending as far south as Yale (see comments below). To the west, Spuzzum Traditional Territory extends to Harrison Lake, including the Clear Creek Hot Springs, as well as the watersheds of Spuzzum and Inkawthia Creeks, Inkawthia Lake, Inkawthia Mountain, Urquhart Mountain, and Spuzzum Mountain. In the past, we travelled to Harrison Lake via Inkawthia Creek south of Mt. Urquhart to Coburn Creek, and via Spuzzum Creek north of Mt. Urquhart to Clear Creek Hot Springs and the Silver River. East of the Fraser River, our Traditional Territory extends deep into the Cascade Mountains including hunting and berrying grounds at the Coquihalla Lakes, encompassing (but not limited to) Saddle Peak, Bombtran Mountain, Gemse Peak, Bighorn Peak, Alpaca Peak, and Guanaco Peak. Key geographical features to the south include the watershed of the Coquihalla River to as far as Coquihalla Canyon Provincial Park, the Othello Tunnels, and the Sunshine Valley. Historically, we utilized areas much further south including hunting grounds and resource sites at Chilliwack Lake, as well as quarry site within the Nooksack & Skagit River watersheds south of the Canada/USA border.

SPUZZUM FIRST NATION TRADITIONAL TERRITORY DESIGNATIONS

In addition to the definition above, Spuzzum First Nation's Guiding Principles Document identifies 3 categories of Lands, with respect to development referrals. These include:

(1) 'Core Territorial Interests' (CTI)

- a) This area is of 'Core Jurisdictional Interest' to the Spuzzum First Nation. Centered at Spuzzum, it includes both sub-surface and surface resources, current and former communities, watersheds, creeks, rivers, lakes, hunting and resource gathering areas, family fishing locations and processing sites, burial sites, old villages, traditional camps and settlements, cultural and historic sites, sacred places, spiritual sites, spiritual activity areas, ceremonial sites, historic and contemporary trails, recreational areas and archaeological sites. For lands and resources designated as Core Territorial Interests, Spuzzum First Nation is to be involved in comprehensive consultations for all developments within this region.

(2) Extended Region of Community Cultural Significance (ERCCS)

- a) This is a slightly expanded area to Spuzzum Nation's Core Territorial Interests and includes areas of cultural/spiritual significance to the Spuzzum people which fall 'outside' of Spuzzum First Nation's Core Territorial Jurisdiction. In other words, these areas occur in other First Nations Core Territories. Spuzzum First Nation recognizes the primary jurisdiction of its First Nation neighbours over any delineated ERCCS which infringe upon its neighbours core traditional territories. However, given the significance of resources within SFN delineated ERCCS, Spuzzum First Nation expects to be consulted on any development or resource management proposals which may impact Spuzzum First Nation identified environmental, natural, or cultural heritage resources.

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- b) As an example, there's a place at Yale referred to in our Utā'mqt language as Tsaxalī's, which the Stó:lō call Th'exelis, where the Coast Salish Transformer Xá:ls, known to our people as Huksxwat came and left his mark in the form of a number of 'scratchmarks' on a bedrock prominence near Lady Franklin Rock. (Reference to this is documented in Simon Fraser's Journal of 1808.) Our legends about this place differ significantly from those of the Stó:lō. Stó:lō legends relate to a battle or duel between Xá:ls and the powerful Kwi yaxtel (Mohs, 1976). Stó:lō legends tell the story of how, with each scratchmark made by Xá:ls, Kwi yaxtel was weakened and was eventually defeated and transformed into a rock in the Fraser River at this place. Our legend relates to how the Transformer, Huksxwat, provided the Spuzzum people with the knowledge of fishing and how to fish salmon in the waters of the Fraser Canyon with dipnets. Previously, our ancestors used to suspend children by their ankles to catch fish. Huksxwat taught us how to catch, prepare and preserve salmon. With each scratchmark on the bedrock, a thought came into the heads of the people and they gained knowledge. This legend is documented in detail by James Teit (1912:31; also see Mohs, 1976:89). We acknowledge this place is in the Core Traditional Territory of the Yale First Nation, but we have a strong cultural interest in its protection.

(3) Greater Nlaka'pamux Territory

- a) Nlaka'pamux Territory is well defined and there are numerous maps available online or through the Nlaka'pamux Tribal Council Office in Lytton.
- b) Generally, Spuzzum First Nation will not directly participate in investigative processes associated with development Projects within the greater Nlaka'pamux Territory. Jurisdictional authority rests with respective Nlaka'pamux First Nations in whose Core Territorial Area the development or impact is located.