



The Saltese Flats and Doris Morrison Learning Center are on the land where the schitsu'umsh people traveled, hunted, and lived generations before Europeans came to the Pacific Northwest. They freely followed the seasonal bounties of game, fish, medicinal and edible plants, and berries in an area spanning 5 million acres from their current Coeur d'Alene reservation in Plummer, Idaho, through the Saltese Lake valley all the way to Sile' Lake, now called Cheney. Webs of intersecting trails were worn by their seasonal passages year after year. The schitsu'umsh people are water people. Water is where they gather, sharing resources and culture amongst themselves and others. When settlers arrived and introduced the idea of land ownership, the native people's land was claimed, often unfairly. Many were forced into farming or experienced the systematic efforts to strip them of their tribal heritage. Eventually most were driven away from their ancestral lands altogether. But they remain. Today, some schitsu'umsh live on the Coeur d'Alene Indian reservation where they are working to reclaim the traditional lifeways, the land they once traveled, restoring the precious waters that have always united them and the salmon that was once a cornerstone of their diet and culture. We acknowledge both the proud and troubled history of the schitsu'umsh and this piece of their ancestral land as well as their modern lives and continued contributions to society. With our indigenous friends we seek to learn from the 7 generations behind us and continue to care and protect this place for the next 7 generations of plants, animals and people that will call it home.