

# Tribal Engagement at Fishers Peak State Park

Prepared for CPW Commission by Crystal Dreiling, Park Manager

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# In the beginning...

- ▶ April of 2020: Crazy French Ranch is purchased by Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) and becomes Fishers Peak State Park (FPSP).
- ▶ October of 2020: The first public access at FPSP opens.
- ▶ Fall/Winter of 2020: Outreach and consultation with 40+ Tribes is initiated through the help of the Dept. of Natural Resources, Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, hired consultants and CPW staff.



# Outcomes from the Initial Phase of Tribal Engagement

- ▶ On-going virtual meetings with participating Tribes over 3 years.
- ▶ Engagement with over 16 Tribes, including the Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Indian Tribes.
- ▶ Establishment of FPSP's commitment to sharing cultural findings, ongoing updates and involvement regarding the planning and development of the park.
- ▶ Cultural site visits at the park occur with many tribes, including the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Northern Arapaho, Jicarilla Apache and Mescalero Apache Tribes.



# Site Visits with Tribes (2021-2023)



# Ongoing Tribal Engagement

- Ethnobotany and Perishable Cultural Items –
  - Peeled Trees, Wickiups, Traditional Plants
- On-Site Cultural Surveys with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Cultural Specialists, and Elders
- Sharing in the Visioning and Design of the Visitor's Center, Public Gathering Spaces, Park Programing and Beyond



## BEHIND THE LOGO DESIGN

The design of this culturally inspired logo incorporates elements of importance to Native American people. It incorporates the eagle, a sacred creature to Native Americans that is believed to have great spiritual healing power. In the center, the silhouette of Fishers Peak recalls the peak's known form. In the outer circle are two rattlesnake eyes, representing power and danger, and an arrow represents protection of people and land. It is important to use the circle to symbolize the circle of life and harmony between man and nature. Circles are also symbolic of the drum with its thick heavy beat demonstrating the heartbeat of the people. Small inner circles are used to symbolize many people and when looking down upon these individual circles, many heads of the people are represented. The colors also have symbolism with the brown and tan the skin color of the snake, while the turquoise symbolizes togetherness and is an important regional reference.

Watch the Behind the Logo Design video at: <https://vimeo.com/824124531>

# July and August (2023) On-Site Visioning Workshops



**Next Steps:** Fulfill and honor our collaborative partnership in the development, implementation and the use of the park with Native American Tribes and people.

- Continue to envision and design the visitor's center and other park amenities, interpretation and programming with the Tribes.
- Facilitate Tribal youth visits and other Tribal activities on the park.
- Continue relationship building and increase understanding by visiting the Tribes on their lands.
- Continue annual surveys of perishable cultural items, etc.
- Build FPSP's capacity for ongoing Tribal partnership programs.



**Thank you!**

