

Cathlapotle Archaeological Program

Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge/Washington

Cathlapotle is significant because it is one of the largest Chinookan villages on the Lower Columbia River to remain untouched by dam construction and modern development in the region. The site has been the focus of archaeological research and public education for more than 10 years. These efforts have created a greater understanding of the landscape and culture of the Cathlapotle people, who lived on the river for generations before Lewis and Clark first observed the “Quathlapotle Nation” during their down river journey in 1805.



Figure 1. Volunteers working on the Cathlapotle Plankhouse Project

The project has been showcased in *Discover Cathlapotle* an environmental and heritage education kit. It has received funding from the Service Challenge Cost Share program, National Park service grants, and community organizations. Many individuals (Figure 1) and organizations support Cathlapotle, including Portland State University, the Chinook Tribe, the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Committee of Vancouver/ Clark County, City of Vancouver, the Friends of Ridgefield NWR, Meyer Memorial Trust, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Ferguson Foundation, Clark Public Utilities, and the Clark County Historical Society.