

SWINOMISH TALES

Leaving Bothell, WA, we drove hard and fast 50 or so miles to our TT La Conner campsite for 8 days. We lucked out and found our satellite for TV. Driving in on the Reservation road I mentioned that I saw 4 or more for sale signs and wondered why.

The TT camp is on Indian land and has a 99 year lease only half used up. The reservation extends to the river, across which is the town of La Conner. The Swinomish tribe of 900 people and the US people get along fine and patronize all of the business in La Conner. The city and county have always levied property taxes on non Indian home owners who have leased property and built nice homes along the waterfront on the reservation.

In 2013 someone sued the county for collecting taxes on homes on the reservation. The Federal Government agreed that only they could tax. The State has no jurisdiction on the Indian land. Now all the tax collected must be refunded to the homeowners! Taxes were increased on the US side owners 18% or more to avoid county bankruptcy. Everyone is mad at everyone! Thus the 4 sale signs.



Now there are less salmon runs and no licenses are issued to fish. The Indians can still fish for all they can net. Fishermen are protesting!

Dave & Bonnie

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