

Kings of Gorst Creek Video

Video description shared by Casey Schmidt, Suquamish Tribe's Natural Resources Director
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The Kings of Gorst Creek is a movie about a shift in perspective that happens when someone chooses to learn about the tribal communities around them. It is a reminder to us all to keep an open mind and keep learning. The Kings of Gorst Creek follows the journey of Andrew Wright who recalls going sports fishing since he was a child in Sinclair Inlet, the traditional territory of the Suquamish tribe. As a child he had trouble reconciling what he read on the news about declining Chinook salmon runs and the large tribal gillnets he saw in the inlet. As a young adult he joined a sports fishing organization called the Kitsap Poggie club. Historically sports fishing organizations and tribal fisheries have had conflicts pre and post Boldt decision. But Andrew learns that the Poggie club has had a multi-decade partnership with the Suquamish tribe to operate their Chinook Hatchery within the Sinclair Inlet watershed (Gorst Creek). The Poggie club supplies a large amount of volunteer hours to help the tribe run their hatcheries. Andrew learns that the Chinook salmon he sees in Sinclair Inlet come from the Suquamish tribe's hatchery that produces 1.8 million Chinook salmon smolts per year. The Chinook produced in the hatchery go out in to the ocean and return 3-4 years later providing a harvest along the way for recreational, commercial, and tribal anglers, as well as seals, sea lions, and Orca whales. Throughout the video you learn that this is a carefully managed fishery that allows the tribe and others to harvest a unique Chinook population while not impacting native populations. What Andrew came to understand is that what you see from the shoreline is rarely the full story, and that the people who have managed these waters since time immemorial are still doing that work today.