

# OKANOGAN COUNTY

1888

COUNTY SEAT: OKANOGAN

**Named for the Okanogan Indian people**

**Traditional home or range of American Indian tribes now associated with the  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

Fur traders came to the Okanogan region as early 1811, attracted by Northwest beaver pelts that could be sold for a fortune in China. Monumental cattle drives along the famous Cariboo Trail during the mid-1800s supplied fresh beef to gold rush towns across the Canadian border. Two decades later gold was discovered in the Okanogan as well. Early irrigation schemes transformed the Okanogan Valley into a land of green orchards. Homesteading continued here well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, earning this county its title of "Washington's Last Frontier."

10-28-05

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NAMED FOR THE OKANOGAN INDIAN PEOPLE

TRADITIONAL HOME OR RANGE OF AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES NOW ASSOCIATED WITH THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

FUR TRADERS CAME TO THE OKANOGAN REGION AS EARLY AS 1811, ATTRACTED BY NORTHWEST BEAVER PELTS THAT COULD BE SOLD FOR A FORTUNE IN CHINA. MONUMENTAL CATTLE DRIVES ALONG THE FAMOUS CARIBOO TRAIL DURING THE

MID-1800S SUPPLIED FRESH BEEF TO GOLD RUSH TOWNS ACROSS THE CANADIAN BORDER.

TWO DECADES LATER GOLD WAS DISCOVERED IN THE OKANOGAN AS WELL. EARLY IRRIGATION SCHEMES TRANSFORMED THE OKANOGAN VALLEY INTO A LAND OF GREEN ORCHARDS. HOMESTEADING CONTINUED HERE WELL INTO THE 20TH CENTURY, EARNING THIS COUNTY ITS TITLE OF "WASHINGTON'S LAST FRONTIER."

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