Spring



Nancy Jim (left) and Hannah Sohappy Yallup are cleaning the first salmon caught for the traditional Feast of the First Salmon at Celilo village, April 7, 1940

In traditional culture, spring is a time to celebrate the return of food. Women would gather roots and men would trap and hunt animals for fur (clothing) and food.

Salmon and other fish were available in the spring. Native Americans in Oregon set up villages near the Columbia River to be closer to the fish. Men would fish using traps, nets, and harpoons. On a good day they could catch 100 fish! Women worked hard to clean and prepare the fish to be eaten.

Native people in Oregon hold a feast in April to celebrate the return of food.