

Thunderbird

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In the Hoh tradition presented here, Thunderbird carries whales toward a mountain home. Rocks and prairies hold parts of the story, which should not be reduced to a modern giant-bird sighting.

STATUS	Specific living cultural tradition; not a zoological sighting claim
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Hoh tradition, Olympic Peninsula, Washington, USA
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Hoh oral tradition preserved in tribal cultural-resource documentation

THE ACCOUNT

According to the Hoh cultural account, Thunderbird lives beneath the Blue Glacier and flies down to take whales from the sea. Sometimes a whale struggles free during the return journey, falls and becomes one of the great Whale Rocks of the western Olympic slopes. At other times, Thunderbird rests its burden on the ground; the whale’s thrashing clears trees before the struggle ends. The account places these events in a named homeland, where river features, mountains and open ground remain connected through the telling.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The Hoh Tribe publishes this cultural-resource account by Jay Powell, including references to earlier collected narratives. It documents a specific Hoh tradition, not a single belief shared by every Indigenous nation. Thunderbird figures elsewhere have their own meanings and histories. Modern cryptozoological claims about enormous unidentified birds are a different category and cannot use this story as a disguised wildlife observation or as proof of a surviving prehistoric species.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The scale is inseparable from the landscape. A whale becomes something that can be carried, and a clearing becomes the trace of a struggle. Read in its stated context, the story offers a way of knowing particular places rather than merely placing an oversized animal above them.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Cultural Resources in the Hoh Watershed

Hoh Tribe; account by Jay Powell

<https://hohtribe-nsn.org/culture/cultural-resources/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Thunderbird

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-047>