



## Proposed landfill site adjacent to Klamath Marsh draws sharp rebuke from Klamath Tribes

*A public hearing will be held on April 23 at the Klamath County Government Center building for public comments*

### Educators in Chiloquin and the Klamath County School District share their views on the implementation of Senate Bill 13

*SB13 was enacted in 2017, directing the Oregon Department of Education to create a K-12 Native American Curriculum*

*By Ken Smith  
Klamath Tribes News*

Senate Bill 13 was enacted by the Oregon Legislature in 2017 to create a K-12 Native American Curriculum for inclusion in public schools and provide professional development for educators. The law also allocates funds to each of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to “create individual place-based curriculum,” as the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) states on its website page for American Indian/Alaska Native Education.

The lesson plans were the result of collaborative processes with the nine tribes and the ODE. Now, seven years after SB13 was introduced, schools have fully integrated the curriculum in the classrooms for grades 4, 5, 8, and 10 in Health, English, Language Arts, Math, Social Sciences, and Science classes. The Klamath Tribes News

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Senate Bill 13*



A sign for Lenz Road, which leads to a proposed landfill at Klamath Marsh. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

*By Paul Chamless  
Klamath Tribes News*

Landfills are necessary, though no site is ideally suited to host one. However, some locations make for questionable proposals. A landfill being proposed to occupy 806 acres of land south of Lenz Siding Road between Highway 97 and Klamath Marsh raised the ire of the Klamath Tribal leaders. The marsh is one of the largest in the Intermountain West and the spiritual heart of the Klamath People.

Due to its high water table, the Klamath Marsh is vulnerable to landfill leachate, which is raising alarm bells among the Klamath Tribes and environmentalists.

An application for the landfill was filed by a developer, Don Jensen, from Salem, Ore. The site of the landfill is designated as Exclusive Farm Use (EFU). This EFU falls under Article 54 of the Klamath County Land Development Code and states: “The purpose of the Ex-

clusive Farm Use Zone is to protect and maintain agricultural lands for farm use, consistent with existing and future needs for agricultural products. The EFU zone is also intended to allow other uses that are compatible with agricultural activities, to protect forests, scenic resources, and fish and wildlife habitat, and to maintain and improve the quality of air, water, and land resources of the county.”

The second sentence is incompatible with developing a landfill. When pressed on the counterintuitive nature of this proposal, Klamath County Planning Director Erik Nobel conceded that while a landfill is not necessarily compatible with maintaining and improving the air quality, water, and land resources in its immediate vicinity, there are conditional use permits in Article 54 that would satisfy establishing a landfill.

“But we also have in there that we allow it through a conditional use permit,” said Nobel during an interview with the Klamath Tribes News. “So that’s where we’re saying, ‘Okay, conditionally, we think we can allow this. What kinds of conditions can we get so it’s not affecting the

air; it’s not affecting the wildlife; it’s not affecting the land use around it.”

A public hearing will be held at the Klamath County Government Center building on April 23. After public testimonies are taken from both sides, both for and opposed to the landfill, the proposal will then be presented and heard by the Klamath County Planning Commission for consideration. The decision will be final if no one appeals it.

Should the proposal pass with no appeals, conditions discussed and accepted at the public hearing would be implemented. “We certainly could talk about that at the hearing and say, ‘Here’s a condition we want – no higher than the lodgepole trees out there.’ Okay, so you’re capped at like 50 feet,” said Nobel, citing a hypothetical condition.

As of this writing, there is no clear information indicating where the trash would come from. In a letter to the Klamath County Planning

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**Proposed Landfill**

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# Chairman's Report

By Clayton Dumont  
Klamath Tribes Chairman



## Potential Long Bell Land Acquisition Update

During the November 2023 General Council Meeting, Tribal Council was directed to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore the potential acquisition of nearly 90,000 acres in the heart of our reservation known as the Long Bell Tract. At our Jan. 18, Tribal Council Meeting, six volunteers were appointed. In addition, the committee includes the Directors of the Culture and Heritage, Planning, Natural Resources, and Ambodat (Of the Water/Aquatics) Departments or their designees. Interested Tribal Council members are also invited to be participate. Planning Department Director Jared Hall has been informally appointed by members to lead the committee.

This most recent exploration of a possible acquisition dates back well over a year. The current owner, Green Diamond Resource Company, approached the Klamath Tribes in the months after the Bootleg fire to assess our interest. They made it clear at that initial meeting that their much smaller and completely burned Camp Six property would need to be sold before they would seriously consider selling the Long Bell Tract.

Not long afterward, the non-profit conservation organization Trust For Public Land (TPL) began speaking to the Klamath Tribes about potentially purchasing the Camp Six property to clear the way for the potential Long Bell sale. Having worked successfully with us on the Chiloquin School Yard Project, TPL made it clear that they wanted the Klamath Tribes to drive restoration efforts on the charred Camp Six lands. They

also made sure we understood that, if a way could be found, they wanted the Klamath Tribes to ultimately regain ownership of both these pieces of our reservation.

About the same time, the Catena Foundation (headed by Sam Walton) expressed interest in helping the Klamath Tribes acquire the Long Bell Tract. Specifically, Catena offered (if an "economic and restoration plan" could be agreed to) to match any funds put up by the Klamath Tribes for the purchase. As Chairman, I have pushed Mr. Walton for specifics about what Catena would want to see in such a plan. Although I haven't heard anything objectionable in his responses, nothing is in writing and details remain sparse.

In the months before the ad hoc committee was formed, Green Diamond sent draft "Option Agreements" to TPL and the Klamath Tribes. Basically, a right of first refusal for purchase, each of them contained language calling for an appraisal of value. In addition, the drafts contained "strike prices," meaning the minimum value that the properties would need to appraise at before Green Diamond would stay in the agreements.

Tribal Council took one look at the strike price for Long Bell and set the document aside. We knew that there was no way the property was worth what the company was requiring as a minimum sales price and saw no reason to spend more time considering the draft agreement. TPL went ahead with an appraisal

of the Camp Six property. Given that these lands are near each other, and even though Camp Six was devastated by the Bootleg Fire, we recognized that the appraisal of the smaller burned piece would tell us a lot about how Long Bell might appraise. As we suspected, the Camp Six appraisal came in way below what Green Diamond is asking. At this point, both option agreements were off the table.

On March 8, Green Diamond Vice President Mike Walters met with our ad hoc committee and local TPL leadership. VP Walters announced that Green Diamond planned to put the Camp Six property up for auction. He said that if the company is unable to obtain the price they want, they may get in touch with TPL to talk further. He also said it is possible that Green Diamond will simply hold onto the Long Bell Tract indefinitely.

I was left feeling that the company had never been serious about arriving at a fair price and was simply trying to see how much it could extract from the Klamath Tribes—given their understanding of our deep desire to have our reservation lands back under our protection. Although I tried to be respectful, I let the Vice President know that I felt the Klamath Tribes had put in a lot of time and effort because we had believed, apparently wrongly, that Green Diamond was acting in good faith.

The ad hoc committee met again the following week. We agreed that we still have a few cards to play and that we won't give up until we are certain there is no path forward. I expect there will be an update from the committee at a General Council Meeting later this year. Regardless of how this particular effort unfolds, I have zero doubt that the whole of the Klamath Indian Reservation will one day be back under our control and protection.

## Klamath Tribes Chief

## Medical Officer Leaves Employment

Tribal Council is deeply frustrated by the quality of medical care available to our members at our Tribal Clinic in Chiloquin and at our new Healing Place satellite facility in Klamath Falls. While we have, and have had, quality providers, we seem unable to keep them. Continuous turnover at high-level professional positions is impeding the establishment of first-rate health care for our people.

The February loss of our Chief Medical Officer (CMO) after little more than a year at the helm of our medical facilities was devas-

tating news for Tribal Council to absorb. That critically important post took years to fill. The need for measurable progress attracting, and retaining, high-quality medical professionals is at the top of Tribal Council's list of priorities.

## Continuing Struggles to stave off extinction of our c'waam and koptu

In a previous column I reported that Magistrate Judge Mark Clark had found over-

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## Chairman's Report

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# KLAMATH TRIBES NEWS

KLAMATH - MODOC - YAHOOSSKIN

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## Chairman's Report

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whelmingly in favor of the Klamath Tribes in our 2022 lawsuit charging the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) with violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by allocating water to Reclamation Project farmers despite not having sufficient water to meet minimum spawning levels for our endangered fish. I also reported that his decision was being appealed to a U.S. District Judge.

That appeal was decided on Feb. 7 and resulted in a complete victory by the Klamath Tribes. Judge Michael McShane affirmed that, "the bottom line is that Reclamation's ESA obligations required it to take all steps necessary to avoid jeopardizing the suckers, even if that meant allocating no water

to Project irrigators" (2024:10).

Obviously, this ruling is important for many reasons. It is particularly critical to current debates between parties from the headwaters to the ocean over the coming contents of BOR's new Operations Plan for Ews (Upper Klamath Lake). Ultimately, BOR's new Operations Plan will be assessed by both U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with regard to c'waam and koptu and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) with regard to Coho Salmon. Both Services will produce a Biological Opinion (BiOp) determining what impact the Operations Plan will have on endangered suckers and threatened salmon.

Both Judge Clark and Judge McShane could find in our favor because the previous USFWS BiOp explicitly set a minimum April 1 elevation in Ews for

spawning c'waam and koptu. At this point it remains unclear whether the Klamath Tribes will succeed in getting that same biologically-necessary minimum-spawning-elevation entered into the new USFWS BiOp. As I write, this battle is ongoing.

## Restoration Dollars

News outlets across the Northwest made much recently of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Department of Interior, the Karuk Tribe, the Yurok Tribe, the Klamath Water Users Association and the Klamath Tribes. Basically, as an agreement to try to agree, the MOU paved the way for federal restoration dollars to begin pouring into our Klamath Basin ecosystem.

The Klamath Tribes have pushed tirelessly for a Basin-wide recognition that the only path

forward for us, down river tribes, farming families, and all living things in our shared homeland is a restoration of some semblance of health to our ecosystem. There is simply no other alternative that does not end in some form of ecological, cultural, and economic collapse.

Toward that end, the Klamath Tribes have received \$2.7 million dollars toward restoration of ewksi (Klamath Marsh). Our Ambodat (Of the Water/Aquatics) crew(s) will oversee and implement reconnection of floodplains, removal of detrimental irrigation infrastructure, ditches, drains, and levees that impede fish passage and the natural function of ewksi. I expect we will see more funds for this effort come our way.

We also received nearly a million dollars for continued work in the Bootleg Fire scar. These funds

reflect the incredible success (in only one year!) of our restoration crew returning health to a section of Dry Creek and surrounding riparian areas. Before and after photos of dry, denuded stream banks erupting into lush grasses and watery stream banks lasting increasingly later into the summer are proof that our people know how to take care of our home. I have no doubt that this empirically obvious success will continue and grow ever more quickly as we add tribal members to our restoration efforts.

**Read  
the online  
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## Senate Bill 13

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spoke to Klamath County School District educators and teachers at Chiloquin High School about the program.

The Klamath County School District began fully implementing the curriculum in the 2020-21 school year. Torina Case, who is a Klamath Tribal Member, is the Title VI Coordinator for Native American Education in the Klamath County School District. Jeff Bullock is the Director of School Improvement, Secondary Programs, and Tribal Liaison. They spoke with the Klamath Tribes News at the District Office.

Bullock said many of his responsibilities are specific to secondary schools in grades seven through 12, and there's an elementary curriculum director who oversees kindergarten through sixth grade.

Both Case and Bullock expressed satisfaction with the SB13 curriculum and the progress made in applying it in classroom lesson plans in the last two years. "I think it's going good," said Case. "The teachers like it. They like the videos, and they like the curriculum."

"I think when we first started, we talked to our Title VI parent committee and let them know that this was happening," Bullock added. "And if they had feedback. I heard in that first year, 'Yes, we saw the lesson; we heard the lesson; we liked it. But every year, when I talk to teachers and admin-



Chiloquin Junior/Senior High School Science teacher Alex Gonyaw conducts a Native American lesson on c'waam, koptu, and salmon as part of the SB13 curriculum. *(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)*

istrators about it, it's a positive experience across the board."

Bullock said he also works with new teachers and conducts a short training about the Klamath Tribes and the Tribes' history and highlights. "I've gotten materials directly from the Tribes for that," he said. "I also show the video that's on the SB13 website on boarding schools. And so, I share with all of our new teachers every year, that experience and that history through the video. And then we have a brief discussion about how recent in time that is and how that might impact generational trauma for our students as they try to interact with the public school system. In the families and the tribes, there's fairly recent history of boarding schools and interactions with quote-unquote educators that, for the most part, was highly negative. So, letting them be aware of that in our community, I use that lesson in that way."

As for the school district's involvement in drafting an outline for the SB13 curriculum, Bullock said it wasn't that involved. He said they relied more on lessons submitted by the nine tribes to the ODE and then took those lessons from the individual tribes and had them reviewed by the nine tribes collectively. "Lessons that passed muster that were approved by that consortium of the nine tribes are then added to the SB13 website," he said. "Districts are asked to look at that website and choose lessons that have been approved through that process to meet the minimum requirements."

Bullock said the lessons cover five areas: English, math, science, social studies, and a health and nutrition lesson at the required grade levels. The school district got clearance from ODE for a waiver to teach the curriculum in high school in the classes that teachers felt were best suited for the specific material. He ex-

plained that the curriculum, as administered in all grades, is decided on by a team of district-wide teachers for each class study.

"The team comes together, the grade level team, and they decide what lesson they're going to teach for the year, and then what week they're going to do it, and they report that to me," he explained. "And then, for our secondary schools, our teams come together as a district-wide team in the English Department and say, 'Okay, what lesson are we going to teach to the eighth grade? What lesson are we going to teach in high school and the math department; the same in the science department and the social studies and the Health Department. Principals have to sign off that they're aware that these lessons were taught in alignment with what PLC or the Department agreed to.'"

Klamath County has one of the largest populations of Native American students in the state. In the Klamath County School District, 458 students are identified as Native American, determined by self-identification. The number could be slightly higher – about 600 out of a total student enrollment of 7,000 students. Because of the large percentage of Native Americans in the County, Case said the SB13 curriculum is all the more important to be included in the classroom, and any changes to the curriculum must come from tribal members. "I mean, the tribe put it together," she said. "If they want to change it, they can change it. We don't

change it. The tribe had a committee of Parent Council Members, Education Committee, and Education Director Julie Bettles (of the Klamath Tribes), and they developed it.

The intent of the SB13 curriculum is not based solely on teaching Native American history and culture, but on teaching content through cultural means, Bullock said. For example, in a math class, problems and situations will be applied using a cultural perspective or culturally relevant perspective to Native American students. "I've seen one where they're talking about planning for a budget," he said. "And they're taking a trip around the state, and they're visiting different tribes, maybe different pow-wows, different museums. And they plan their budget and time and mileage – how much gas you are going to use as you go and visit the centers of the nine federal tribes – things like that. So, you're doing math, but you're doing it in connection with tribal information, Native American information."

At Chiloquin Junior/Senior High School, science teacher Alex Gonyaw, formerly a fisheries biologist at the Klamath Tribes Ambodat Department, was in the process of teaching his first Native American lesson plan. This reporter sat in on an eighth-grade class in which a one-hour lesson was

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being conducted utilizing a video on the history and current status of the endangered c'waam and koptu suckers, fish that were once a staple of the Klamath Tribes' first foods but now endangered and facing extinction.

"The curriculum is a very nice mixture of aspects of cultural diversity, historical information, and some Western science, but it mostly focuses on traditional ecological knowledge," Gonyaw said during a class break. "The lesson is presented in two separate classes, and the second half of the lesson will focus on the first salmon ceremony and some additional activities."

Gonyaw teaches the SB13 lesson once a year in his class but would like to see more Native American lessons included in the curriculum. "Given that half of our student population is indigenous, there should be more indigenous components here, I believe," he said. "They should have much more emphasis on their voice."

Noramah Neu teaches Social Studies to seventh, eighth, and twelfth graders at Chiloquin High School, and Valli Lonner is the Vice Principal at the school. They sat down for an interview in Neu's classroom during her free time to offer their perspective on SB13. Like Gonyaw, Neu is in her first year as a teacher in Chiloquin; she taught Native American lessons for three weeks every day for the eighth-grade class and a Native American legal lesson for her tenth-grade class. "That one took me two to three weeks to work through the

material," she said. "It was much more based on the legal aspects of how the tribes have interacted with the U.S. federal government. And so, it had, I can't remember how many, like 10 or 12 different legal cases from the mid-1800s to the present day. And so, it had these legal cases, and they had to study a case, see what it was about, and understand how that impacted the tribes. It was very much a legal base kind of lesson."

When asked how the Native American students in her classes responded to SB13 lesson plans, Neu confessed that it was a mixed reception, depending on the lesson plan and grade level. "I think they're fine to study their history," she said. "And it's not everybody's history because in the room, there's 60 percent (Native American). The sophomores, I think they groaned under the weight of the legalese. But learning about it, they took it in stride, and we're fine. The eighth graders had just finished about four weeks of Lewis and Clark, and in that Lewis and Clark lesson, I had each student select a tribe that Lewis and Clark had interacted with along their journey. And so, they had just done four weeks of studying tribes. And then we spent the next three weeks studying just Oregon tribes. And so maybe next time I reverse that, and they get the Oregon tribes first and then we look at all of the Lewis and Clark stuff."

Every Friday, Neu invites a guest speaker to her twelfth-grade class, offering personal narratives about their lives from high school to the present. "I have pulled people from the tribes to come in and share their story and talk about their path from high school to adulthood and where they're at," she said. "And some guest speakers have been tribal, some not. Some

have been from Chiloquin, a local from Chiloquin – kids who grew up here and graduated from Chiloquin High."

Neu obtains all of the curriculum material for her SB13 lessons from the SB13 website. "I pull up the piece of the website lesson that is mine," she said. "So, eighth grade, or tenth grade, and history have been listed there. And I click on it, and then it has materials that I then print out. So, all of those legal cases, I printed them out from this website."

Lonner cited some of the specific lessons and topics provided for eighth graders. "There's the tribal sovereignty side, and then there's cultural assimilation, boarding schools, and the importance of treaties," she said. "Within that, you've got multiple lessons that could be chosen."

Although Neu was somewhat concerned about the complexities of topics presented in her Native American lessons, she said that, for the most part, the students comprehended the subject matter well, save for the legal lesson plan. "It wasn't that they had to read through the actual document of the legalese," she said. "It was a summary of the legal action, and so it was a summarized version. But watching them struggle through it, I still think it was a little intense."

Given the wide scope and diversity of lessons administered through SB13, Lonner feels that the nine tribes' curriculum has been well-thought-out. "I know that the tribes worked so hard to make sure that it was appropriate for the grade level that they had created it for," she said. And Neu added, "I think that's really important as a teacher. Because we are following what the tribes have created and approved. And I think it's really important to stay within that."

## In Memoriam

**Soheyagaaks Mooway Harrington**

**March 29, 1982 – February 9, 2024**



On Friday, February 9, 2024, Soheyagaaks Mooway Harrington, "Modoc Point Mouse," peacefully passed away at Sky Lakes Medical Center in Klamath Falls, Ore. She was surrounded by her loving family during her final moments when she lost her courageous battle against cancer and liver disease.

Mooway was born on March 29, 1982, to Marjorie Jackson. She took immense pride in her Modoc and Klamath heritage. During her own struggle with health, she experienced the heartbreaking passing of her beloved partner, Troy Allen, on February 7, 2024.

Mooway was predeceased by her father, Gene D. Harrington, grandparents, Jerald and Charlene Jackson, and great-grandmother, Arlene Riddle Hutchinson. Her aunt Anita Harrington, cousins Jalisa Moon Eagle and Boyd Jackson, and numerous blood relatives also preceded her in death.

In her youth, Mooway attended Klamath Falls Head Start, Shasta Elementary School, and Altamont Elementary, where her besties and family attended. From there, she went on to attend Brixner Junior High School. After graduating from Mazama High School, Mooway continued her education at Klamath Community College. Aside from her academic pursuits, she had a strong passion for spending time with her family. She particularly enjoyed traveling to powwows with the Screaming Eagle family drum group, where she competed and won as a fancy shawl dancer. Mooway demonstrated exceptional skills and interests outside of her cultural activities. During her high school years, she excelled in

roller skating, ice skating, and choir. She impressed others with her remarkable 3-point shooting skills in basketball.

Mooway appreciated horror movies and enjoyed watching them at drive-in theaters. She also cherished good recipes, notably her mom's famous fried chicken. Going on trips, particularly to casinos and playing continental rummy, were other activities that brought her joy.

As a mother, she wholeheartedly supported her twin sons, Jaymus and Silas, in their sports endeavors, which included soccer, pee-wee baseball, and football. She took great pride in watching them excel in football, basketball, and baseball at Klamath Union High School.

Family camping trips at the Lava Beds, swimming at Medicine Lake and Lake of the Woods, and especially Topsy, were shared memories she held dear to her heart. Above all, Mooway treasured the Return of the annual Stronghold Gathering, where she could be with her family. She enjoyed attending church at Cavalry Temple Church, where she watched her daughter Serenity participate in the Christmas program.

Mooway is survived by her mother, Marjorie, and husband, Mark Hoffman; in-laws Margaret and Mike Neuen-schwander; her children Jaymus Hi-luis, Silas Moosiwaks, and Serenity Grace Dutra and grandson Amarii Maize Dutra, all of Klamath Falls. She is also survived by her siblings, Tony L. Jackson and their wife Rose, Gene Harrington Jr., Jenson, Romy, and Rainy. Numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins will cherish her memory.

A traditional visitation was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Davenport's Funeral Home, 2680 Memorial Drive, Klamath Falls, Ore. Funeral services were held on February 23, 2024, at Cavalry Temple, 2161 Garden Avenue, Klamath Falls. Following services, a potluck took place in the dining hall of Calvary Temple. Donations for the family are being accepted.

Following the meal, a burial procession was held at Chief Schonchin Cemetery in Sprague River, Ore.

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# Klamath Tribes woodworking craftsman Turtle DeLorme makes caskets for tribal members

*He does the work with care and respect, offering low-cost burial option*

By Paul Chamless  
Klamath Tribes News

Suffering the loss of a loved one is a pain too familiar to bereaving families. The price of burial can be another setback to a family already coping with its loss. With the average price of a casket exceeding \$2,000, Klamath Tribes member Turtle DeLorme looks to alleviate the financial stress mourning families face when a loved one passes.

DeLorme, 69, is a retired carpenter – a profession he occupied since the age of 17 – and he now builds caskets for families and individuals seeking financially-friendly alternatives to exorbitant prices offered by the market today.

The price of a casket deters many families from pursuing a traditional burial, opting for cremation instead. However, before settlers encroached on the Northwest, it was common practice for Indigenous peoples of the region to bury the deceased.

According to DeLorme, some tribes of the north left the deceased out to be consumed by nature before burying the bones. Similar practices, known as sky burials, are more common today than most people realize and are still deeply ingrained in Tibetan culture.

DeLorme does not advocate for a return to such a ritual, though he does believe “Native people would prefer to go back to Mother Earth.”

“This is the third,” said DeLorme, displaying a recently finished casket ready to be shipped the following day. “I call them boxes. I don’t consider them caskets until somebody’s buried in them.

But my family, all my Elders, were buried, and traditionally, the Klamath buried their loved ones in the family. And we’ve gotten away from it. It’s not traditional anymore.”

DeLorme makes his boxes, as he prefers to call them, out of Oregon alder wood from the coast. He can obtain the wood at a reasonable price and, therefore, afford to make the boxes very inexpensive.

“I don’t even like the word ‘sell,’” DeLorme said. “I’m trying to get the boxes at my cost, the cost of labor, the cost of the shop. This is not my shop, so basically, I’m renting the tools in the shop; that’s all figured in the price.” The shop DeLorme works out of belongs to his close friend, Jeff Bush.

DeLorme also plans to make some of his boxes in kit form, which will be easily shipped and ready for the customer to assemble on delivery.

Before retiring, DeLorme’s specialty was custom doors, and two examples of his work are prominently displayed upon entering Mazatlan Mexican restaurant on Washburn Way and Lake of the Woods. But for the past 20 years, he knew he wanted to make “boxes,” fulfilling a desire to see his people reclaim a way back to a more traditional type of ceremony.

When DeLorme’s mentor, R. Scott Jarvie, fell ill and was diagnosed with cancer, DeLorme assured him he would make him a casket. “It’s really fancy, made out of burled Oregon myrtle, which is kind of a really exotic wood.”

It is not uncommon to continue working post-retirement, and DeLorme does so with an intrinsic sense of duty. “I’m not interested in being overwhelmed making boxes,” he said. “I’m not doing this for profit.”


In the past, he trained individuals from all walks of life how to make custom doors. “I’ve successfully taught six, seven people, a couple of women how to make doors,” said DeLorme, showing a catalogue of some of his previous work. “And they helped me make these doors.”

Now, part of his long-term goal is to bring on apprentices and train them in building and providing caskets to families of the recently deceased.

“At my age, it keeps me busy, keeps me moving,” DeLorme said, reflecting on his motivation for building caskets. “It’s something that I can do for others, something I can teach – I have always been a good teacher. If I can pass this down to just a few, it would be a legacy enough for me.”



Klamath Tribes member Turtle DeLorme makes well-crafted caskets for tribal members allowing burial costs to be more affordable. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)



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Check Out the Temporary Labor Pool

So, what is the Temporary Labor Pool?

This is a database program with electronic records of applicants who want to be considered for temporary positions. It is managed by the Klamath Tribes’ Education and Employment Department (E/E Department). Tribal Administration and Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services (KTHFS) utilize the data base by requesting the current labor pool applicant list when they are filling temporary job positions. Anyone seeking work is eligible to complete the Labor Pool Form. This document is used to gather work-related information to be entered into the Labor Pool Data Base. *Hint:* temporary work can provide good experience and sometimes leads to a full-time regular position.

Am I Eligible and How do I get a Labor Pool Form?

Anyone seeking work is eligible to complete the Labor Pool Form. The forms can be mailed, emailed, faxed, or picked up in the foyer of the Tribal Administration Building at 501 Chiloquin Blvd, Chiloquin, OR or in the Education and Employment Department. After the form (front and back) is complete, signed, and dated, the applicant should return it to the E/E Department. A brief interview will be held to make sure all the information is complete and also to better understand the needs and expectations of the applicant.

Important Things to Remember –

- Applicants should write legibly, fill out the form completely and make sure their work history is detailed to adequately show the duties performed. Volunteer work can be noted.
- The information provided is reviewed by the Human Resource Department to determine whether or not to contact a Labor Pool applicant for possible hire when temporary positions come open.
- Be sure to keep information current, particularly the contact information. Referrals cannot be made if you cannot be contacted quickly.
- Update often.
- Staff is a phone call or email away if you have questions!

Contact Information

Kathleen Hatcher Mitchell, Employment Services Manager  
Klamath Tribes Education and Employment Department  
Email: [kathleen.mitchell@klamathtribes.com](mailto:kathleen.mitchell@klamathtribes.com)  
(541) 783-2219, ext. 128

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# Klamath Tribes member and Eagle Ridge School instructor inspires next generation of construction workers

By Paul Chamless  
Klamath Tribes News

Klamath Tribal member Dominic Herrera has been running construction crews off and on for about 15 years. This past September, he inherited the position of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Construction Instructor at Eagle Ridge High School in Klamath Falls, where he has been instructing and inspiring students to pursue their interests. In the process, Herrera feels confident that he has found his calling, forfeiting more lucrative jobs in favor of inspiring the next generation of America's construction workforce.

The program Herrera runs provides students with the opportunity to acquire credit hours to put towards Klamath Community College's apprenticeship, among other institutions. "We're a pre-apprenticeship program for KCC's apprenticeship program," Herrera said, "but part of their credit hours is on-site work."

For a majority of their senior years, the students are to be on job sites working in order to get their foot in the door to companies and future opportunities. Herrera coordinates with several construction companies, three of which are Modoc Contracting, Bogatay Construction, and Diversified.

Contractors will provide options regarding open positions depending on a student's interests, abilities, and preferences. The work varies from general labor to more advanced tasks, such as framing concrete drywall tile and just about any other aspect of the job a student can imagine.

One particular student is working with Diversified Contractors, Inc. on the new building

currently being constructed on the west side of Eagle Ridge High School's main campus. The new building will house Herrera's classroom and workshop.

Students' prospects of working for a contractor and getting paid – certainly an added perk for a high school teenager – are dependent on whether students are on course to attain all their necessary credits to graduate high school. "If they're good on their credit hours, they can work all day," Herrera said, citing the importance of students completing their core studies. "If not, then they're encouraged to work at least a couple of hours. They've got to graduate. My class is an elective, bottom line. So, as long as they're graduating, they're doing all right. They can work as much as they want."

Herrera's students receive accreditation through the National Center for Construction Education & Research (NCCER), which is recognized worldwide and by the construction industry as "the training, assessment, and certification and career development standard for the construction and maintenance craft professional." Herrera's funding for the CTE program comes through the Southern Oregon Education Service District (SOESD).

Upon completion of the program, students receive upwards of \$2,000 worth of battery-operated hand tools and the option to continue with KCC's apprenticeship program—the latter is covered by grant funding, so there is no charge to the student.

Herrera dishes his students a lot of tough love. He was formerly employed as a drug and alcohol counselor. With a master's in forensic psychology and a degree in human services and chemical dependency, Herrera has a nat-



Eagle Ridge School Career and Technical Construction Instructor Dominic Herrera instructs his students in the use of a Grizzly bandsaw. (Paul Chamless/Klamath Tribes News)

ural inclination for observing and understanding people.

"I gave them assignments, but their assignments were projects," Herrera said, explaining his approach to engaging his students.

"Everybody's got to do one. If you don't want to do one, I can understand, but you're still going to have to do something by the end of the two weeks, or else you're going to fail your two weeks. I told them, 'You're going to fail, or you're going to pass, which means you either want to be here or you don't.'

"So, show me that you want to be here or you don't have to be here definitely don't have to be in this program. I guarantee there are other students that do want to come over here and learn some stuff. So, by the end of it, everyone of them had some cool projects that they did, and they all fell in love with the tools."

Herrera gives his students options for projects while also encouraging them to find their own. He cited one young man's enthusiasm for con-

structing a weight bench with an attached weight rack made out of two-by-fours as especially impressive.

Students are not limited to individual projects. While students are given the opportunity to develop their individual skills, whether it be building a weight bench or rough-cut lumber furniture, they can also engage in cooperative projects.

One such project was a two-story A-frame clubhouse, gifted to a staff member's grandchild after its completion. The project also proved to be a good opportunity for Herrera to teach the students wiring: "And we put lights in there," he said. "I showed them the basics of wiring and how to wire a switch."

In an ever-changing world, where necessary skills in seemingly any industry ebb and flow, Herrera is intent on making sure his students understand potential fluctuations in the construction

industry. In regards to 3D-printed homes, Herrera said his students were initially dismissive of the idea gaining traction in Klamath Falls. "I told them, 'Well, maybe it will. Maybe it won't.' Regardless, the world doesn't revolve around the Klamath Basin."

Tiny homes, in particular, have long been of interest to Herrera's. With a glaring housing shortage throughout Klamath County, Herrera is doing his part to correct course by encouraging his students to initiate change.

"We just put it in for a grant for some tiny homes," he explained. "So, we've got approval from SOESD and Oregon Housing Authority to build as many as many tiny homes as we can commit to. They're going to be 12-foot by 16-foot cottages, and we're going to be building sheds for those cottages. We'll be producing them here in the classroom."

And the importance of Herrera's job is not lost on him: "Oh, it means the world to me," he said, smiling.

## Chiloquin gymnasium update

By Marcia Schlottmann  
Klamath County  
School District

This is an update from the Klamath County School District to the Chiloquin community on plans to build a new regulation-sized, ADA-accessible 11,580-square-foot gymnasium for Chiloquin students.

Ground breaking for the project has been delayed.

The district, in coordination with the Klamath Tribes, has

conducted an archeological assessment of the site that determined a need for additional survey work on the property. This assessment was performed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires government organizations to consider historic preservation issues when making final project decisions. The district is moving forward with another assessment as weather conditions permit, and the project timeline will be

adjusted based on those findings.

The new building will provide an up-to-date, regulation gym for students, replacing a non-regulation gym at the high school and a separate gymnasium that is woefully outdated and non-ADA compliant. Renovating the current gymnasium was cost-prohibitive and a decision was made to construct a new facility adjacent to the high school.

The district is committed to the project and will continue to work with the Klamath Tribes to move it forward.

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# Fremont-Winema National Forest Service News



By Benjamin Wilson

A portion of the Fremont-Winema National Forest became a part of the Oregon Outback International Dark Sky Sanctuary on March 11 at 6 a.m., and was announced in a ceremony held by Gov. Tina Kotek. The steering committee responsible for creating the Dark Sky Sanctuary was given the Governor’s Award for Tourism at the same time. The portion of the Forest designated as Dark Sky Sanctuary includes the area locally known as the North Warners, east of Lakeview, Oregon. The Sanctuary is the largest in the world at over 2 million acres, and includes Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Transportation, and Lake County lands. Fifteen percent of the Sanctuary consists of private lands.

All public agencies within the boundaries of the Sanctuary have signed a Lighting Management Plan, committing to certain restrictions on lighting in that area – however, private landowners are encouraged but not required to adhere to the same restrictions. The purpose of the sanctuary is to preserve the night skies in the Oregon Outback. The Fremont-Winema hosted sky quality meters, which determined that those areas of the forest included in the Sanctuary experience Bortle Class 1 skies. Class 1 on the Bortle scale of light pollution are the darkest skies possible on Earth – making the Oregon Outback International Dark Sky Sanctuary not only the largest in the world, but it also experiences the darkest skies in the world.

The Forest is anticipating an astronomy lab event on the weekend of June 6. Details will be forthcoming. It is expected to be held jointly with the Bureau of Land Management.

The Fremont-Winema National Forest expects to hold meetings to determine programs of work for 2025, which will affect the scope and direction of work performed on the Forest beginning Oct. 1. Meeting invitations will go out once those are officially scheduled.

Evan Wright, West Zone Fire Management Officer, is working with an intergovernmental and interagency group to treat and apply prescribed fire to a significant volume of land this Spring, which will put some smoke in the air, but also significantly reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires for people living in and around the communities of Chiloquin and Sprague River. The majority of the residents of those areas live in what is known as the Wildland-Urban Interface, a zone where housing and forest intermingle. While beautiful, those areas are more at risk to wildfires, which is what Evan Wright’s plan intends to address. When complete, the risk of catastrophic wildfires in those areas will be significantly reduced.

U.S. Forest Service fire management officials still encourage homeowners to maintain defensible space around their homes, and bear in mind fire-resistant materials when performing any home repairs or renovations.

*Benjamin Wilson is the Public Affairs Officer for the U.S. Forest Service.*

**Klamath Tribes Child Support Enforcement**

Located inside the Klamath Tribes Fitness Center  
at 320 S Chiloquin Blvd, Chiloquin, OR 97624  
Open to the public 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday. (Closed for Lunch)

KTCSE, is excited to offer the following services to Klamath Tribal members:

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Please contact one of our Child Support Case Managers at your convenience –  
Blanche, Danielle, Leah, or Margaret all can be reached  
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# Parts of Klamath County irrigation system require major overhaul; Upper Klamath Lake and endangered suckerfish stand to benefit

By Paul Chamless  
Klamath Tribes News

The irrigation canals snaking through downtown Klamath Falls, from Upper Klamath Lake to the city of Merrill and beyond, rely heavily on the technology utilized by the ancient Egyptians. Upgrading and modernizing the system falls under the purview of Klamath Irrigation District's Executive Director Gene Souza.

He provided Klamath Tribes News with a tour and an opportunity to understand the challenges the District faces, as well as his vision for the future of the system. With Souza's proposals, Upper Klamath Lake and its endangered c'waam and koptu suckerfish also stand to benefit.

For millennia, a circuitous water route existed, beginning in Clear Lake – residing at a higher elevation in California – and making

a 175-mile journey northwest via Lost River before heading south again and depositing into Tule Lake, in which there has been no outlet for over 7,000 years. This water essentially became stuck in the basin, naturally creating some of the world's most fertile soils.

Before the Reclamation Act of 1902, so-called "reclamation" projects would help irrigators "reclaim" arid lands for the production of food and fiber for hu-

man use; much of the area was marshland. During wet periods, Tule Lake grows from all the drainage. In the late 1800s, to prevent excess water from leaving the Klamath River, the people at the time built a dike across the Lost River Slough at the Klamath River to prevent the waters of the Klamath River from spilling into the Tule Lake Watershed. In the 1880s, private landowners and investors had already

started laying the groundwork for a vast system of canals to augment what nature had already developed, Souza said.

In 1905, after the Reclamation Act was passed, the people of Klamath County voted to bring in the federal government to help them expand agricultural production in the area. Private entities, hoping to gain or improve arable land in the process, sold their interests to the federal government. Most of Ankeny Canal, built by private landowners, was expanded by the federal government in 1906 and was based upon plans initially developed by local investors.

Klamath Irrigation District, or K.I.D., expanded its role to take over operations and maintenance of the system in 1956 as a government entity under the state of Oregon. Souza currently oversees 58,000 acres in Klamath and Modoc counties. Today, K.I.D. acts as an intermediary between the federal government and water users – collecting taxes, or assessments, from irrigators while ensuring the irrigation system is regularly maintained through the assessed funds gathered from the District lands and upgraded by acquiring funding from a variety of sources.

Souza's biggest challenges lie within A-Canal, which runs from Upper Klamath Lake through the town of Klamath Falls, and D-System, formerly known as the Adams Canal, which runs west to east above the town of Merrill.

For decades before 2001, excess water flowing into different destinations in the Klamath Basin was recognized as problematic but manageable. As conflict over water amounts increased, upgrading the irrigation system became necessary.

"Since 2001, the demand has been K.I.D. needs to be more efficient with your water," Souza said. "You need to be taking less out of Upper Klamath Lake; you need to reuse what you have. And, so what we've done is maximize the use of a series of recirculation pumping plants."

Pumping stations like Stukel and Adams allow Souza to

See next page,

Irrigation System Overhaul

## ?ewksiknii coy moddokish ?am hemkanks

sqoWa -is becoming Spring



**ciililig** [tcheel eel eeg] baby birds



**leew** [lää w] flower

**sqoW** [skō hW] spring (season)

**sqoWook** [sko hW ook] because of being spring

**sqemqanwis** [skäm kahn wees] baby bird fresh from the egg

**q'dooca** [k' doo ootcha] rain

**beyba huntchna** [baybah hootchnah] flying paper – kite

**sqoWook oolgi** - Easter (because it's spring we gather together)

**sqo kay** –[skoh kai] Easter Bunny

**sqo napal** – [skoh nahpahl] Easter Egg (spring egg)

**maksa** [mahksa] basket



1. **laap ciililig noo ?a sleat** [lah ahp tcheel eel eg] noo ?ah slay aht

a. I can see two baby birds

2. **doomaa leleew noo ?a sleat** [doomahah lälääw noo ?ah slayaht]

a. I can see many flowers

3. **sqoWook qdooca** [sko hWook kdootchah]

a. Because it's spring, it rains

4. **domaa sqo nanapal noo ?a sleat.** [doomahah nahnahpahl noo ?ah slayaht]

a. I can see many Easter eggs

5. **sqo kay noo ?a sleat** [skoh kai noo ?ah slayaht]

a. I can see the Easter Bunny



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Chiloquin, OR 97624  
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www.klamathtribes.org/language



## Irrigation System Overhaul

*From previous page*

recirculate water that might have ended up unwanted in Tule Lake to evaporate or be pumped to Lower Klamath Lake at a significant cost. “So instead of just taking the water from Upper Klamath Lake, allowing that water to do its natural thing and end up in Tule Lake,” Souza explained, “I’m now able to use these pumps to take that water and recirculate it, and put it back in the system and have less water I’m taking out of Upper Klamath Lake.”

However, these pumps were devised as early as the 1940s and installed shortly thereafter. They lack variable-speed drives and are not efficient power-wise.

“So, what I’m looking at for both these pumping plants, as well as the ability to control flows, is turning them on and off,” Souza said, explaining the importance of automation and variable speeds. “Right now, if I turn them on, it’s going full rate until I send someone physically to the site; I don’t have the ability to back it off to, say, half or 25 percent.”

These inadequacies severely inhibit K.I.D.’s ability to quickly and effectively manage flow rates between Upper Klamath Lake and Tule Lake, as water can take anywhere from 72-160 hours to make the 47-mile trip. Manually tending to the pumps is unrealistic, cost-prohibitive, and a safety issue.

Part of the D-System improvement plan is to upgrade these pumping stations to ensure better efficiency. Upgrading Stukel and Adams stations to Souza’s standards would require \$1.2 million and \$1.7 million respectively, Souza said. Updated sensors are being purchased for installation, and updated control modules are being designed. The updated sensors will be installed at 18 different locations, amounting to a \$1 million project.

Adam’s Canal, built in 1884 and located just north of Lost River High School, forms a large curve in the D-System at Adam’s Point and is currently experiencing uncontrolled seepage. Souza, with input from engineers, recommends lining one mile of the canal to remedy the situation.

“The reason why I’m not piping that section is because currently the technology for

pipe to get around that curve, trying to bend pipe or cut pipe,” Souza said. “It’s a little tough for the technology today. And I’m hoping that technology in time will give me a different option, one in which we can pipe it in the future. But I’ve got an immediate problem; I don’t want to wait too long.”

Earthen canals, like those maintained by K.I.D., are especially vulnerable to degradation, from animal burrowing to evaporation to saturation of soils. Souza suspects the seepage issue in D-System lies with clay materials, originally compacted against the rocks, being dried out and stripped away from the rocks.

Water can flow through Adam’s Point at 300 cubic feet per second. A robust system controls and data acquisition program replete with sensors will help Souza quickly recognize when a problem arises. “If I’m running 300 cubic feet per second, and something happens at two o’clock in the morning, how soon is someone going to notify me that I’ve got a problem,” he said, acknowledging the current state of the system.

Laterals extending south from D-System were originally built to spill water into Tule Lake. Souza wants to pipe 11 laterals through sandy soils in an effort to improve water flow. Water passing through the laterals as currently constructed faces resistance from vegetation. Piping the laterals will ultimately eliminate evaporation, seepage, and most spill. “I put water in the pipe, farmer needs water, he opens up his valve, and water comes out.”

Souza estimates \$35 million will be required to address the select problem areas in D-System: updating the pumping plants, lining Adam’s Point, and piping 11 laterals extending south from D-System’s canal. He is seeking multiple funding sources for these projects – from federal sources like Public Law 566, which established the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, to the state of Oregon. A cost-benefit analysis proved that it would be wisest to fix the D-System at present, according to Souza. “I’m going to have a water savings that’s measurable,” he said.

According to Mark Buettner, Director of the Klamath Tribes Ambodat Department, Souza’s proposals for upgrading D-System would also benefit endangered c’waam and koptu suckers, as agricultural water deliveries from Upper Klamath

Lake can impact water levels that are needed to protect different life stages of the fishes.

“K.I.D.’s proposal for infrastructure improvements and canal lining in the D-canal system will lead to better water operations and less water diverted out of Upper Klamath Lake,” stated Buettner. “With less water available in the Upper Klamath Basin over the last two decades as a result of climate change and competing uses of the limited volume of water available in UKL to support c’waam and koptu, Klamath Irrigation Project farmers, Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Lake National Wildlife Refuges, and anadromous fishes in the Klamath River, projects like this are very beneficial to achieve sustainability and minimize future conflicts over water.”

The issues are abundant for A-Canal. In 2019, upon assuming his role as Director, Souza intended to address problems in the system from top to bottom, north to south. A-Canal was his first priority, with D-System being secondary.

However, renovating A-Canal to Souza’s vision is a \$1 billion project. There are numerous stakeholders who receive benefits from the A-Canal, and many are not subject to the annual assess-

ments levied by the District. “On the cheap, a \$50 million project may mitigate some risk of canal failure,” Souza explained. “Unfortunately, \$50 million will not resolve the larger issues of water seepage, evaporation losses, reducing the costs of maintaining bridges and utility crossings for the state, county, and city, nor increase public safety, nor address noted issues with the state, county, and city drainage. Getting investors to address the A-Canal has been challenging when various funding programs simply look at a cost-benefit analysis.”

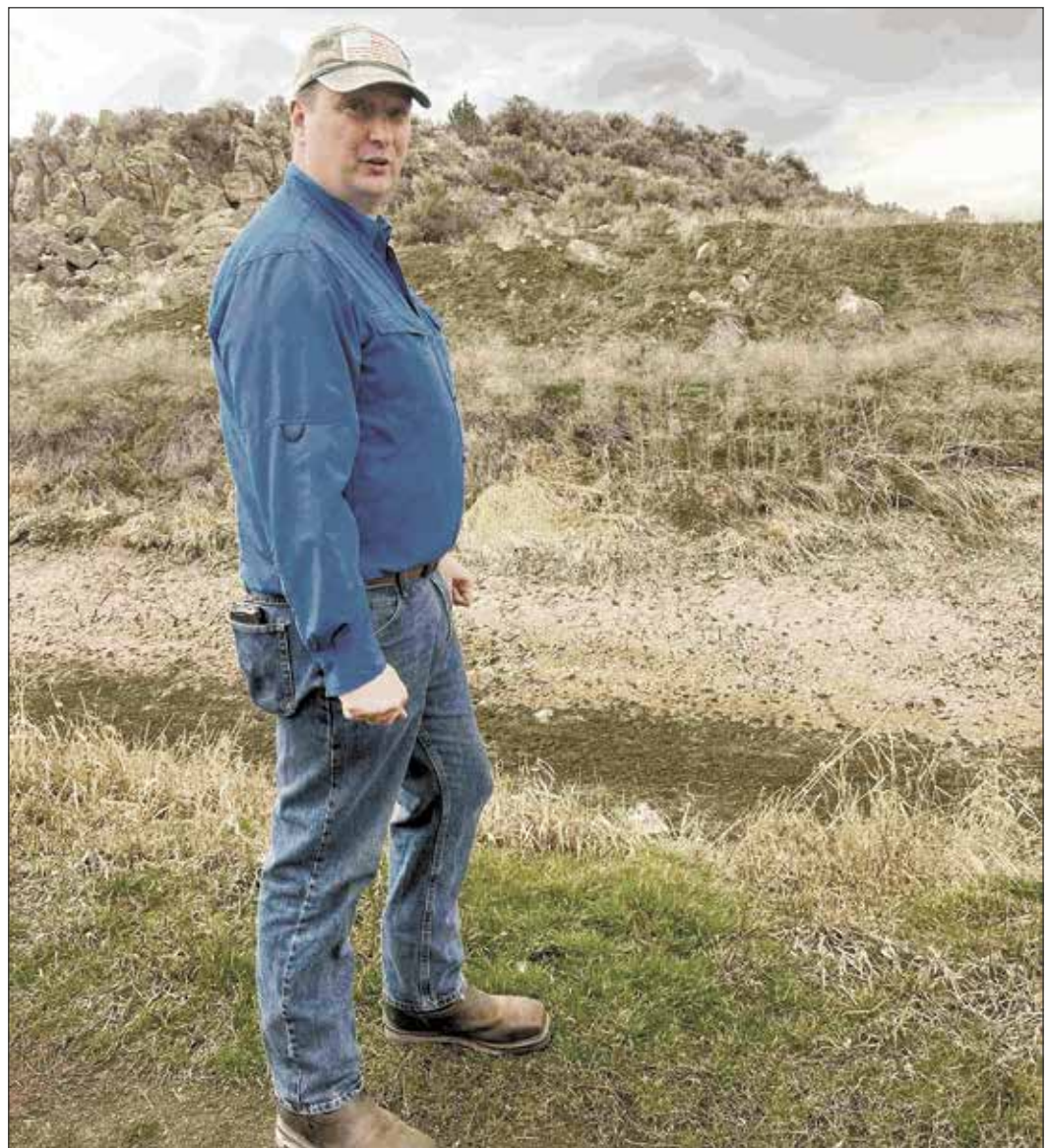
The A Canal is an earthen canal that goes through an urban area, Souza said, elaborating on the technical difficulties of comprehensively addressing A-Canal’s problems. “The urban area wasn’t there when the canal was developed,” he added. “This was all farmland when it was developed. So, all the risk analysis: the cultural, the NEPA, the under crossings, the utilities, the bridges, working with the state; because Oregon State’s water runs off into the canal, the county’s water runs into the canal, the city’s water runs into it; the city’s bike path also has an element to it; another irrigation

district, Enterprise Irrigation District above the A-Canal, has all their drainage coming through under it, so, it is complete chaos that’s up here.”

Fault lines traverse many of the canals, allowing hot springs and groundwater to seep into and out of the canal. Animal and even human burrowing is also a significant problem, weakening the canal bank structure. Earthen canals have seepage, and the location of the A-Canal on top of the natural hardpan allows the water that seeps out of the canal to move to unwanted locations instead of straight down to recharge the deeper aquifers.

Souza said the best option would be to pipe the entirety of A-Canal while putting solar panels and parkscapes on top. There are financial hurdles to clear before Souza can realize his vision.

“I’m lobbying,” Souza said, regarding finding the funds for A-Canal. “I’ve been working with Senator Jeff Merkley, staff, and others to try to find funding. I’ve been applying for all types of grant funding just for engineering. I’m working on trying to find multiple funding solutions.”



Klamath Irrigation District Executive Director Gene Souza standing at Adam’s Point, just north of Lost River High School (Paul Chamless/Klamath Tribes News)



# Klamath Tribes acquire Williamson River Methodist Church and a 2-acre lot on Modoc Point Road

*While no longer functioning as a church, its memories are still remembered fondly*



Williamson River Indian Mission United Methodist Church, as it was named upon its dedication in 1876, is located on Modoc Point Road. It was recently donated to the Klamath Tribes. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

By Paul Chamless  
Klamath Tribes News

Williamson River Indian Mission United Methodist Church, as it was named upon its dedication in 1876, is located on Modoc Point Road. The church's original mission was to proselytize the indigenous inhabitants of the Klamath Basin, the Klamath, and Modoc. Fast-forward nearly 150 years, and the Klamath Tribes can officially declare this historical building as their own.

"From the records we saw, it appeared that the Methodist Church donated this property to the Klamath Tribes," said Klamath Tribes Planning Director Jared Hall. This sheds light on the long path the Tribes took before resolutely acquiring this historical building and the parcel of land on which it sits.

While an error in accounting for the deed slowed the process of the transfer, Klamath Tribes members nevertheless expressed excitement. They reminisced about their fond memories of the church

and its community functions.

However, a simple numerical error in the legal description prevented the deed from being promptly conveyed to the Klamath Tribes.

"So originally, the county just thought it was an error when we tried to correct the deed," said Hall. "And when they saw that it wasn't on the old deed that was conveyed twice – well, you can't do that – unless you go back and unwind the old deeds."

To unwind the old deeds, it was necessary to find the original Methodist Church author who signed the deeds over. In 2019, the Klamath Tribes Planning Department reached out to the Methodist Church. In turn, the Church put the Tribes in contact with some individuals in Idaho who were able to identify the signatory in the deed. Regardless, the signatory could not be tracked down, stymieing plans to acquire the church and its lot.

More dead ends followed before the Planning Department once again contacted the County, inquiring who or what entity possessed title to the land and church. The answer was simple: The Forest Service. "They just rolled it into

the same lot as the Forest Service's lot that surrounded the property," said Hall, explaining the County's decision to grant the Forest Service rights on the allotment.

The Forest Service then had no reservations about ceding the land to the Tribes. "They basically told the County that the parcel that the Tribes is claiming is not theirs and that it needed to be transferred back into the Tribes name," said Hall.

Georgene Nelson, Director of the Klamath Tribes Language Department, was elated at hearing about the Tribes' recent acquisition and shared with the Klamath Tribes News some of her fond memories of the church. "That church used to be filled," said Nelson, "and it's tiny to begin with, but it was filled to capacity with people even standing outside for funerals, or oftentimes for Easter celebrations, Christmas celebrations, and of course, the weekly Sunday services."

The church site played a major role in Nelson's childhood, functioning as a major point of community get-togethers. "We used to go out there, and there would be big dinners," she said. "People would bring potluck

foods like fried chicken and fry bread, casseroles, and pies, cookies – you name it, it was there."

Nelson got married at the Williamson River Church, though she admits she was a regular attendee of all the local Methodist churches. "I was the kind of kid that went to any church that served food," said Nelson with a hearty laugh.

Nelson said her grandmother played a significant role in her faith. "My grandmother actually is the one who taught me to rotate churches," she said, "God is everywhere." So, it didn't matter what building we went into.

"My brother, Harold, asked, 'What are they going to do with that church?' And he goes, 'They should turn it into an art sanctuary. And I go, 'They should turn it back into a church,'" Nelson reminisced.

What becomes of the newly acquired property still needs to be hashed out.

The county has a tax exemption for nonprofit organizations, which include church organizations. "Since that property got conveyed to us, and it wasn't owned and operated as a church or nonprofit anymore because we're a tribal sovereign gov-

ernment, they went ahead and enrolled it back in the tax system," explained Hall. The County reappraised the former church's value in excess of half a million dollars, dramatically increasing the taxes on the building and land. How the County arrived at this figure is befuddling to some, as Hall acknowledged that parts of the property are beyond repair, though he does believe the main chapel is salvageable.

"Part of it will probably at least need to be reconstructed because you can just see the structural integrity of the building's failing," said Hall. "Certain parts may not be, but there are certain parts that are – you can see rooflines and hip joints have started to sink and sag."

"We have a lot of tribal members who live out there towards the lake," said Hall. "To them, they have a family history, whether as a kid, they participated in some events or whatever. I think there's some interest. Maybe one day, we can sit down and discuss what the need and what the motivation is to get that property enhanced."



# Healing Place approaches one-year anniversary of grand opening; staffing medical clinic remains a challenge



Healing Place at Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services is located at 6000 New Way in Klamath Falls. (Ken Smith/ Klamath Tribes News)

By Paul Chamless  
Klamath Tribes News

Healing Place, located at 6000 New Way in Klamath Falls, is owned and operated by the Klamath Tribes under the Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services (KTH&FS) division. It is used as a satellite clinic for medical, pharmacy, and dental care and as a primary clinic for behavioral health services.

At a May 8, 2021, General Council meeting, the Council voted to approve the 6000 New Way remodel, plan, and \$11.9 million budget. Services at satellite locations will expand to ensure sustainability and accessibility for tribal members. New Way first opened to tribal members on May 19, 2023.

The COVID pandemic shone a light on the shortage of health-care professionals throughout the nation, and Chiloquin was no exception. In a 2023 October national address, American Medical Association President Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, M.D., MPH, stated, "The physician shortage that we long feared – and warned was on the horizon – is already here. It's an urgent crisis... hitting every corner of this country – urban and rural – with the most direct impact hitting families with high needs and limited means.

"Imagine walking into an emergency room in your moment of crisis – in desperate need of a physician's care – and finding no one there to take care of you."

"We are struggling to recruit and keep both clinics staffed for all services," said Chanda Yates, Health General Manager for the Klamath Tribal Health and Family Services. "We are in a health care staff shortage crisis. And what we have decided to do in-house is that the Chiloquin Wellness Center in Chiloquin, Oregon, will always be our primary care medical home, and it will be staffed first."

Currently, the medical clinic, pharmacy, and dental services in Chiloquin are completely open and functioning all business hours. The dental clinic at New Way in Klamath Falls initially opened only two or three days a week for dental emergencies. It opened up full-scope, five days a week, in October 2023. The dental team worked to set up the new clinic and ensure the workflows were identical to the Chiloquin Wellness Center.

See next page,  
Healing Place

## Spring Bazaar

Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Location: Klamath Tribes Fitness Center  
Chiloquin, OR

Time: 10:00 am—5:00 pm

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**All vendors are welcome.**  
**Arts/crafts, baked goods, gifts and more!**

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Interested vendors contact: **Kathy Rich at 541-891-2420.**

Vendor Fee: **\$20.00**

Vendor Setup Time: **9:00 am –10:00 am**

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Vendor Fee proceeds support The Klamath Tribes Restoration Pow Wow.

The Klamath Tribes Language Department would like to honor the following Tribal Members who have received their Tribal Name.

<u>Tribal Member</u>	<u>Tribal Name</u>
Luwanna Comstock	kecca qcool
Ashton McNair	y'awqal

There are more tribal members who are being scheduled to received their name from our Language Instructors.

Thank you to those who have reached out and showed interest in naming. Please respect this process as the traditional way is not always available to each of us.

sepk'eec'a

If you would like a tribal name, please email the Language Department at [ktlanguages@klamathtribes.com](mailto:ktlanguages@klamathtribes.com) or call

The Klamath Tribes 541.783.2219 ext. 293





### Healing Place

From previous page

The medical clinic in Klamath Falls originally followed a similar approach to its dental clinic. It was open two days a week until temporarily ceasing operations in February 2023 due to the lack of providers to staff that location.

Two-thirds of KTH&FS's service demands come from Klamath Falls, while the remaining one-third comes from Chiloquin. "So, we've staffed according to those demands," Yates said.

"We are short-staffed, we're getting up to staff, but every one is new. And there's a pretty steep learning curve with providers," Yates explained, describing part of the process of hiring primary care providers. "And they need to be working out of the Chiloquin clinic to get that full experience and then full orientation before they can work independently at a satellite clinic location. So, in the meantime, when we cannot meet minimum staffing measures, we have to close it. And that's just not a business model that I'm interested in operating; con-

sistently being open is critical. So, we're really going to have to pull back and reassess to meet minimum staffing levels."

As of this writing, KTH&FS has one direct-hire medical doctor, Dr. Susan Sparling. She sees patients full-time.

Part of the reassessment relies on hiring locum tenens physicians, who are essentially traveling doctors. KTH&FS partners with various locum companies, screens, and interviews locums, and if they think the candidate is a good fit, he or she is brought on for temporary hire.

"It's really important that we're serving the community with medical doctors," stated Yates, while acknowledging that relying heavily on locum companies is not an ideal model—a model employed widely throughout the inadequately staffed healthcare industry. Patients across the nation are losing trust in the health system, and the same is true here. We have a lot of work ahead of us to bring as much stability to our health system as possible."

There are some inherent barriers to recruiting primary care physicians to the Tribes.

"One major factor is that a lot of the medical doctors and phy-

sicians, primary care providers, have their choice of wherever they want to be in the United States. And it is very difficult to recruit to a rural location," Yates said.

She also cited a less-competitive salary the Tribes could offer – being an Indian Health Service-funded 638 contracted tribally-owned community health program – and the small pool of medical doctors across the nation as impediments to recruiting talent.

A small percentage of Native American people go into the healthcare field. Yates pointed out that Oregon Health and Science University's Northwest Native American Center of Excellence program is working to address this problem, as well as the healthcare needs of all people, by increasing the number of American Indian/Alaska Native individuals in the U.S. health professions workforce.

The pharmacy at New Way is not yet open for services, and Yates does not anticipate it opening until at least one more clinical pharmacist is hired. "So, when they are open, the pharmacy will provide the needful scope of services," she said.

"The Klamath Tribes will al-

ways have a primary care medical home, meaning all of those programs and services in Chiloquin will always be there, and they will always be fully staffed," continued Yates. "It's going to be difficult for us to staff the satellite clinic here in Klamath Falls. We will not even be able to open the medical clinic until we increase our staffing. We first ensure successful training happens, and then we will be able to open that location fully."

New hires come with all of their training and licensure. KTH&FS has its own training and shadowing program in the clinics for new hires so that they are trained on all clinic workflows. New healthcare providers have to learn about KTH&FS' environment, workflow, and electronic health records.

"They're trained on how to use the electronic health record," said Yates. "They're trained on all of the referral agencies that we work with, such as all the specialty referral services that we refer to, whether it's Sky Lakes for an MRI, or the local orthopedic clinic, or to a cardiologist. We have to make referrals out to specialists."

Part of the training program also includes two videos, produced by Klamath Community College and the previous KTH&FS Behavioral Health Manager, on cultural orientation, history, and trauma of the Klamath Tribes.

The 43,300-square-foot facility at New Way was designed based on the Klamath Tribes' culture. The quail, highly regarded by the Klamath Tribes for its familial bonds, features prominently throughout the lobby.

"And our patients and staff really love that representation," said Yates, referring to the quail and aesthetics of the building's interior. "So, we have that in the building in our lobby. And we wanted to make sure that we brought into the lobby a lot of nature because that's really important. The environment is important to this tribe. Everything we did is designed with Earth, forest, land, water, and flora in mind."

Each area was designed following certain color schemes the architect and staff devised. The behavioral department has an earth motif inspired by the surrounding area and elicits feelings of strength and security. The pharmacy reception area's yellow-accented walls represent the wocus, a staple food and flower of the Klamath Tribes. Dental department finishes are blue, representative of water, and a Crater Lake mural is situated in the waiting room. Medical department finishes are all green for plants, landscapes, and trees.

It is worth noting that the Quail Trail bus provides free service to Klamath Falls and Chiloquin. There are five routes a day, Monday through Friday. Two routes stop daily at El Dorado Avenue's northern terminus, the closest stop to Healing Place. While the Quail Trail does not run directly to Healing Place, KTHFS does offer medical transport to the facility. Additional staff have been added to transport patients to 6000 New Way.

As of March 18, the KTH&FS Medical Clinic is open five days per week at the Healing Place.

**7th Annual 3-on-3 Chi Town Showdown 2024**

- \***DATE:** Saturday June 1st, 2024
- \***Time:** Games start 9:00am
- \***Place:** Klamath Tribes Community Fitness Center (Ne'tu Shpo'tu Shiwina)
- \***Grades:** 3rd-4th, 5th-6th, 7th-8th, 9th-12th

**Rules:**

- \* 3 on a TEAM, NO subst
- \* \$ 25 a team, pay when entering a team.
- \* girls play girls, boys play boys!

To enter a team, contact:  
Tiffany Rich-Jackson  
Phone- 541-891-4716 (txt or call)  
Last day to enter team will be **May 23**

Klamath Tribal Health & Family Services Prevention Teams will provide an age appropriate awareness presentation during lunch for all participants.

**DIC'II YAWOS**

This event is drug, alcohol, and commercial tobacco-free.

**The Klamath Tribes News website has launched!**

Read current news, listen to podcasts, and much more.

Go to [klamathtribesnews.org](http://klamathtribesnews.org)

We welcome your feedback

Email us : [news@klamathtribes.com](mailto:news@klamathtribes.com)



# 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Klamath Tribes All Indian Basketball Tournament



**Men's Championship winner:**  
Hostile, NV pay out cash \$ 8,000.

Isaiah Crawl, Scotty Riddle, Xavier Rodriguez, JD Sam, Tyler Fry, Trevor Lemos, Tyler Crawl, Lil Scotty Riddle, Tuffy Kirk,



**Women's Championship winner:**  
Coastal Natives, WA pay out cash \$ 4,000.

Erin Ramsey, Jessica Cheney, Cayla Jones, Jaelyn Two-Hearts, Ciahua Oatman, Amberlle Jones, Katie Brown, Justina Brown



**Men's MVP Xavier Rodriguez**



**Queen winner Alivia Miller**  
Runner-up Mia Hutchinson



**Women's MVP Cayla Jones**



**Pendleton jackets for men and women champions.**

*Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> place*  
DA Boyz, WA

*Men's 3<sup>rd</sup> place*  
Fast Break, CA

*Men's 4<sup>th</sup> place*  
Sweat Rocks, OR

*Women's 2<sup>nd</sup> place*  
Rocky Gains, NV

*Women's 3<sup>rd</sup> place*  
Warms Springs, OR

*Women's 4<sup>th</sup> place*  
Ewksiknii, OR

*Mascot winner Men's*  
Travis Jackson

*Mascot winner Women's*  
Arianny Ochoa-  
Westwick

*Mr. Hustler In loving  
memory of lil Shane is :*  
Tyasin Burns

*Event Committee:*  
Albert Chief Wilder  
Kaneeta Kirk  
Hannah Schroeder  
Gwenn Black  
Loren Schonchin  
Tuffy Kirk

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Travel Center



# Department of Interior announces landmark agreement to fund Upper Klamath Basin restoration

By Ken Smith  
Klamath Tribes News

The U.S. Department of the Interior announced an historic agreement on Feb. 14 with the Klamath Tribes, Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, and Klamath Water Users Association to advance collaborative efforts to restore the Klamath Basin ecosystem and improve water supply reliability for Klamath project agriculture, ecosystem restoration, and agricultural infrastructure modernization. The Department also announced more than \$72 million in new investments – including funding from President Biden's Investing in America agenda – for ecosystem restoration and agricultural infrastructure modernization.

With resources provided by President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the Bureau of Reclamation is also establishing a robust drought resilience program for basins experiencing long-term drought and the impacts of climate change – including throughout the

Klamath Basin. In the coming months, Reclamation will announce significant additional funding throughout the region to facilitate multi-year planning and alignment of water supply and demand as well as to address critical infrastructure needs. Additionally, Reclamation is funding \$2.9 million to the Klamath Tribes, Yurok Tribe, Hoopa Valley Tribe, Karuk Tribe, and Modoc Nation for projects that restore watersheds and revitalize water infrastructure.

Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont, Secretary Roberta Frost, and Ambodat Director Mark Buettner were actively involved with the department to address concerns and funds needed to begin the extensive projects necessary to restore the Klamath Basin ecosystem. "We've been talking to the Department of Interior about the need for ecosystem restoration for decades," said Dumont. "It just so happens that funding is available this year."

Buettner said the funding package would support Klamath

Falls National Fish Hatchery, which is a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-operated facility focused on preventing the extinction of the c'waam and koptu in Upper Klamath Lake. "The Tribes are also receiving funding to support a sucker-rearing program to avoid the extinction of these species," he said. "This is a stop-gap measure as we continue to restore water quality and habitat in Upper Klamath Lake and move towards a healthier ecosystem that will support sucker survival and recruitment, eventually leading to harvestable numbers of c'waam and koptu."

Buettner added that the investment will fully fund the completion of the Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery by 2027, and \$64 million has been allocated for regional ecosystem repair. He said \$1 million would be allocated annually over a five-year period to support the Ambodat c'waam and koptu rearing program.

Dumont highlighted where some of the funding will be distributed to the Tribes, stating that \$2 million will be used for

the Upper Williamson River restoration, which will be focused on the Klamath Marsh. On March 18th, The Federal Bureau of Reclamation announced an additional \$700,000 for this work, bringing the total to \$2.7 million. There's \$922,459 for the Klamath Tribes to do restoration work in the Bootleg Fire scar.

"We aren't directly receiving the \$4 million for the Barnes Agency wetland restoration, but that's something that we have fought really, really hard to have put back in place," Dumont said. "There's also \$1.8 million for habitat improvement down on what used to be Lower Klamath Lake, reconnecting the Klamath River to the Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, and we're partners with the Klamath Drainage District for the feasibility study to happen down there; that's something that we'd like to see happen."

Buettner said the \$922,459 funding will also allow the Ambodat Department to support eight tribal members who are part of the department's stream restoration team. "The intent is that

there will be annual funding to support that crew, which has, over the last two years, done some major restoration work in the tributaries above Upper Klamath Lake. So that's been very exciting, and good progress is being made," he said.

Although the \$72 million allocated by the Department of the Interior is a significant infusion of funding for ecosystem restoration, Frost said much more is needed to completely restore the Upper Klamath Basin to what it once was during tribal times prior to agricultural development. "It's not going to make a dent," she said. "It's more than we've gotten at one time in the past, but there's lots of restoration to do. After 100 years of degradation, there's a lot to do, and we're going to continue working on it."

"I think it's restoration funding that we've been looking for, for decades," she added, "and this is just a continuation of what the Tribes is about, re-

See next page,

Landmark Agreement

## SAVE THE DATE

### 8th Annual Klamath Tribes Youth Summit

August 6th, 7th & 8th 2024



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Hannah Schroeder or Ramon Jackson

541-783-2219 ext.111

Hannah.schroeder@klamathtribes.com & Ramon.jackson@klamathtribes.com

Open to all tribal youth ages 12-18





## Landmark Agreement

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storing the homelands to what it was before in historic times.”

Buettner reiterated the need for the Tribes to be a major player in the ongoing restoration work of the Upper Klamath Basin. “That’s the Tribes’ homeland, and there’s interest and passion by the tribal community to support this restoration effort and want to be a major player in accomplishing that both on federal Forest Service lands and some of the private lands that are in their former homeland.”

Dumont said more federal funding for restoration work is expected in the coming years. In addition to the Ambodat work, he said the Tribes Natural Resources Department Director will oversee upland forest-related projects to address water quality and quantity issues.

Frost said she doesn’t want to downplay the federal funding received by the Department of the Interior and what the Tribes have accomplished with the investment of federal funds to restore the Upper Klamath Basin. “You know, we’ve hit brick walls with other administrations, so we’re happy about them looking at the Klamath Basin and providing this much funding,” she said.

Dumont said this federal funding came after a lengthy process of many meetings over the years with the federal government, and both Buettner and Frost were involved in these meetings. “A lot of these meetings were very intense, and just people unloading anger,” he said. “Deputy Assistant Secretary Matthew Strickler has done a really, really good job of managing all of that and getting us to the point where we’re sitting down and talking about where the most bang for the buck in terms of restoration dollars is and where those resources should be spent. So, I agree with the Secretary. I don’t want to downplay that part of the accomplishment. I just don’t want our members to think that the agreement is more than it is.”

**The following is a list of projects and funding amounts of the Dept. of the Interior’s \$72 million investment:**

### **Klamath Basin “Co-Development” Process \$25 million- New Project(s)**

Funds will be made available for the development of restoration projects in the Klamath Basin that will help resolve ongoing water-related conflicts. Projects that are developed will be Project proposals that are developed in this process and will also be reviewed by the Service and Department of the Interior officials who help oversee Klamath Basin Restoration initiatives. The following are projects planned and the funding allocated:

#### **Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery Expansion \$20 million**

The Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery investment will increase rearing capacity and help prevent the extinction of two federally listed species found only in the Klamath Basin, the Lost River and shortnose suckers (c’waam and koptu).

#### **Sprague River Collaborative Restoration \$6 million New Project**

*Partners – Upper Klamath Basin Agriculture Collaborative, The Klamath Tribes, Sustainable Northwest, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Trout Unlimited, Soil and Water Conservation District, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Oregon Agricultural Trust, and Resource Environmental Solutions (RES)*

This project will provide in-stream and floodplain restoration along 26 miles of headwater streams in the Sprague River Watershed, develop cost-level design plans and baseline monitoring for in-stream and floodplain restoration of the mainstem Sprague River, and develop a landowner incentive program to encourage landowner participation in restoration programs and retain economic viability for family farms and ranches. The Sprague River Collaborative Restoration Project emphasizes a commitment to voluntary, incentive-based approaches and identifies the critical role of Tribal and working lands to ecosystem restoration. This project also stresses the importance of supporting Indigenous knowledge and sovereignty and landowners’ interests and rights with the support of federal, state, and local conservation programs.

### **Ecological Restoration of the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary Project \$3 million New Project**

*Partner - Yurok Tribe*

This project will focus on stream enhancement roadway and stream crossing improvement and decommission. It will also focus on brush reduction and the development of the Blue Creek Sanctuary Riparian Stewardship Plan. These restoration activities within the Blue Creek Sanctuary and adjacent conservation areas promote recovery and sustainability of native fish and wildlife populations, increase ecosystem health and resiliency in support of native species, and support Yurok cultural lifeways.

#### **Upper Williamson River Restoration \$2 million New Project**

*Partner – Klamath Tribes*

Funding will be used for restoring the historical hydrology within the Klamath Marsh through the removal of TPC, Middle, and House bridges and the restoration of roughened channels. Additionally, the Cholo Diversion will be demolished and replaced with a horizontal flat plate screen and headgate structure. These restorative efforts will improve the habitat for resident fish, wildlife, and migratory species and remove barriers to fish passage.

#### **Climate Change Resiliency Stream Restoration \$922,459**

*Partner – Klamath Tribes*

Funding will be used for stream habitat restoration within the Bootleg Fire Area. An assessment of stream conditions and identification of necessary restoration throughout the Klamath Tribes Treaty Boundary area will commence with an emphasis on the ability to address entire watersheds and focus on the most impaired based on deviations from the Tribes’ determined claims. Approximately 300 in-stream structures and five miles of riparian fencing will be installed.

#### **Klamath Basin Fisheries Collaborative: Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) Tag Monitoring and Database Project \$1,146,218**

*Partners – Pacific States Ma-*

*rine Fisheries, Karuk Tribe, Klamath Tribes, and the Yurok Tribe*

The PIT Tag coalition is a collaborative effort to develop a basin-wide fish tracking infrastructure to monitor the success of restoration efforts in the Klamath Basin. A comprehensive PIT infrastructure and integrated upper and lower basin database have been identified as a basin-wide priority. This project integrates scientifically rigorous localized research to create a data network capable of addressing questions at multiple spatial and temporal scales. Data collection will focus on spring and fall Chinook salmon and endangered suckers but may include nearly all migratory fishes in the Klamath Basin. This data will be critical for analysis used to inform potential future downlisting or delisting of ESA-listed species. Data will provide the ability to track the relationship between juveniles and returning spawners.

#### **Supply Creek Levy Setback and Floodplain Restoration \$1.5 million New project**

*Partner – Hoopa Valley Tribe*

After the 1964 flood, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed high, artificial levees on both banks of Supply Creek. These berms disconnected Supply Creek from its former floodplain, impacting salmonid habitat. This implementation-ready project will reestablish a more complex and naturally functioning stream corridor with a restored riparian overstory by restoring the floodplain and removing the constructed levees to reconnect Supply Creek with its formerly occupied floodplain. This project will result in immediate short-term habitat creation and support long-term natural physical and biological stream processes by the construction of an off-channel pond, wetlands, benches, and side channel areas. The proposed project addresses recommended state and federal recovery actions by removing channelization and levees to reconnect the channel to a restored floodplain, increasing short- and long-term large wood loading, implementing riparian revegetation, and creating off-channel side channels and ponds for coho refugia. Additionally, this project will also remove a dilapidated septic system and leach field installed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs adjacent to Supply Creek in the aftermath of the 1964 flood.

### **Mid-Klamath Coho Salmon Spawner Survey Project \$368,280 New project**

*Partner – Karuk Tribe*

Funding will focus on maintaining and expanding the understanding of Coho Salmon population distribution and habitat utilization and examining restoration effectiveness to support well-informed management decisions and restoration actions. These monitoring efforts are needed to make sound management decisions regarding Coho within the Klamath Basin, especially in consideration of dam removals and their potential downriver effects.

#### **Spring-run Chinook Salmon Life Cycle Monitoring Program \$951,720 New Project**

*Partner – Karuk Tribe*

Funding will support a collaborative five-year program to improve our understanding of spring Chinook distribution, habitat use, and population trends by life stage and examine restoration effectiveness. This will support well-informed management decisions and restoration actions and engage the local community in conservation activities.

#### **Upper Horse Creek Valley Channel Restoration Project \$899,572.44 New Project**

*Partner – Mid Klamath Watershed Council*

Funding will be used for the restoration of the Upper Horse Creek Valley Channel. The project will create 1,500 feet of a new channel with increased sinuosity, side channels, off-channel ponds, and 37 Beaver Dam Analogues to 0.75 miles of Horse Creek and 6.5 acres of adjacent riparian area. These efforts will benefit Chinook and Coho salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and other aquatic species by increasing spawning and rearing habitat, which remain a limiting factor to the survival and growth of these species.

#### **QVIR Scott River Basin Data Collection Project \$999,948 New Project**

*See next page,*

**Landmark Agreement**



**Landmark Agreement**

*From previous page*

**Partner – Quartz Valley Indian Reservation**

Funds for this project will establish a comprehensive network of up to 30 discharge (instream flow) stations, both telemetered and continuous. Each tributary has different qualities for fisheries needs, and the data from the discharge stations can capture flows at every level. The Scott River tributary’s water inputs, especially above diversions, will increase the accuracy when estimating the water budget for regulation purposes. This data will inform water and fisheries management along with several watershed projects currently underway.

**Waukell and Junior Creeks Culvert Replacements Project \$1 million**

**Partner – Resighni Rancheria**

Funds for this project will replace two undersized culverts, elevate roadways, remove invasive species, and plant native vegetation. The

proposed culvert design sought to maintain the positive existing tail-water condition for fish passage while increasing the ability to pass high flows. Additionally, a portion of the existing culvert area on Junior Creek will be converted to an open channel and revegetated with native riparian vegetation. This culvert replacement project will facilitate the expansion of available habitat and increase connectivity while providing multiple ecosystem benefits in the Junior Creek watershed. Also, once completed, this project will improve the Tribal community’s resilience to flooding and climate change impacts.

**Infrastructure projects from other FWS funding sources**

**Barnes Agency Wetland Restoration \$4 million New project**

**Partners – Barnes and Agency Units of Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge**

Funds will be used to initiate wetland restoration activities within the Barnes and Agency Units of Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. Interior levees

will be removed, and fish refugia areas and migratory bird habitats will be constructed in preparation for levee breaching in late 2024. The Barnes and Agency project is one of the largest wetland restoration projects in the U.S. and will result in the restoration of valuable lake fringe wetlands on Upper Klamath Lake, benefiting a multitude of fish and wildlife species, increasing water storage, and providing enhanced public use opportunities.

**Development of a Water and Habitat Improvement Plan for Lower Klamath Lake \$1.8 million New project**

**Partners – Klamath Drainage District (KDD), Yurok Tribe, Klamath Tribes, and other interested parties**

This funding will be used by the Klamath Drainage District (KDD), the Yurok Tribe, the Klamath Tribes, and other project partners to assess feasibility and develop a conceptual plan to reconnect and restore wetlands in the KDD/Lower Klamath NWR area to create multiple, interconnected benefits for wildlife and

farms. The plan aims to increase habitat quantity and quality for aquatic species, migratory waterfowl, water birds, and birds of prey. Components of the plan will also describe strategies for improving hydrologic connectivity between ground and surface waters and offer ideas on how best to modernize irrigation delivery systems to promote wetland conservation and resilient agriculture communities in the face of drought and climate change. This plan will also seek to describe conservation incentives for participating landowners.

**Conservation and Restoration Project Database and Interactive Map \$250,000 New project**

**Partners (TBD)**

Funds for developing a conservation and restoration project database and interactive map. The Service will engage Klamath Basin conservation partners in the coming year to develop this tool, which will help track conservation work in the Klamath Basin for the public and help to coordinate restoration efforts

across the Basin. This tool may also provide access to important data sets that can help drive long-term restoration success and support science and research efforts.

**Spring Related Word List ? Hmmm, Lets see now**

1. Warm day – yui tabino
2. Melting snow - sainebabi
3. Eagles gathering – kwi?na?a se?men?na
4. Rain - paoma
5. Easter / Rabbit and Egg Day – kamme oo?no noho tabino
6. Buzzards - wiho
7. Robins - sugu
8. Flowers - tonija
9. Kites / Flying paper – yotsiu pipo
10. Mud – passagwa
11. Singing Birds – hutsiba tenikwee
12. Bugs – pusia

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# Q&A with Glendon Smith, the new Oregon State Police liaison to the 9 Tribes of Oregon

By Ken Smith  
Klamath Tribes News



Glendon Smith

Glendon Smith was hired in June 2023 as the first Oregon State Police liaison to the nine tribes of Oregon. In March, he visited the Klamath Tribes to introduce himself to the Tribal Council and the Public Safety Department and sat down with the Klamath Tribes News to discuss his role in his new position.

## So, you're the new liaison for the Oregon State Police. What was the hiring process for your position?

I was selected for an interview. I only did one round of interviews, and I was selected on the day that I did the interview, so it was a surprise. The former captain, Tim Fox, hired me into the position, and he retired last November. I have a new supervisor named Captain Kevin Marquis. So,

his boss is Major Turner. Major answers to Deputy Superintendent Josh Brooks. Joshua answers to the superintendent, Casey Coddling, with OSP.

## Are you a former State Police officer?

No. I served as an associate judge for my tribe, Warm Springs, where I enrolled. So, I was there for 10 years. Two years ago, my term ended. I was on the 28th Tribal Council for Warm Springs. And I served as the Secretary-Treasurer two

separate times for the tribe, which is equivalent to General Manager for the Klamath Tribes, George Lopez's position.

## What inspired you to become a liaison for the troopers, and not only a liaison but the first one?

I wanted a new perspective. So, I started applying for some jobs. And I got hired by Paid Leave Oregon last year and worked there for two months. Paid Leave Oregon is a new program that rolled out last year that offers protective leave for victims and mothers with newborns. So, it offers more chances or opportunities for employees to take leave. I don't know a whole lot about it, but it's a new program that the State Legislature passed. And I was kind of the tribal guy for that program. And then I wanted to stay involved with tribes somehow. And, so, I saw this job opening, I applied for it, and ended up getting it.

## Is it through the State Police Office?

Yes. Oregon State Police hired me. They just opened this position last year. It's brand new.

## How did that come about? And why, all these years, was there no liaison?

I can't really answer that. I know in 1996, Governor Kitzhaber passed Executive Order 9630, I think it mandates the state to collaborate and coordinate with tribes as a matter of law. So, OSP has always had a staff assigned to do tribal relations, but they've never hired anybody. In 2023, they finally said, "Well, we need to go ahead and open this position and hire someone to focus on this work."

## Is it related to the MMIP (Missing or Murdered Indigenous People) initiative?

Yes. That's part of my job focus is to coordinate with the tribes.

You know, MMIP Coordinators. I recently met the Klamath Tribes' MMIP coordinator, Elyesse Lewis. Also, OSP has a trooper that's assigned to the MMIP Initiative, Cord Wood. He is the Captain for OSP and is the point of contact.

## What is your goal as the Liaison?

My goal is to bridge the gap between tribes, all tribes, and OSP to bring a better understanding of tribes to OSP and vice versa to try to, you know, create a stronger understanding and working relationship between the sovereign nations of Oregon and OSP. However, there needs to be more communication and education between the two. So, I'm hoping that we can at least clear up the uncertainty and work together better.

## What do you feel are the greatest

*See next page,*  
**Glendon Smith**

### CLEANING UP OREGON CRIMINAL RECORDS IS NOW EASIER

Effective January 1, 2022, the legislature made it much easier and cheaper to expunge/seal criminal records. You may be able to get criminal dismissals, acquittals, arrests, or older convictions expunged/removed from your record.

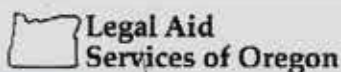
- Class B felonies, which don't involve a person or firearm, are now eligible for expungement 7 years from the date of conviction, or release from imprisonment, whichever is later.
- Class C felonies are now eligible for expungement 5 years from the date of conviction, or release from imprisonment, whichever is later.
- Class A misdemeanors are now eligible 3 years from the date of conviction, or release from imprisonment, whichever is later.
- Class B and C misdemeanors, non-traffic violations, and findings of contempt are eligible 1 year after conviction, or release from imprisonment, whichever is later.
- If you had a probation revocation in a case you can't apply for an expungement until 3 years after the probation revocation, or when you would otherwise qualify for expungement of the conviction, whichever is later.
- Arrests, citations, and charges are eligible for expungement after 1 year if no charges are filed or 60 days from the date the prosecuting attorney says they are not going to go forward with the charges, whichever is earlier.
- Dismissals or findings of not guilty are eligible for expungement as soon as the court order is filed showing the case is dismissed or that you were not guilty.
- You can't get an expungement if you have a warrant or an active criminal case open or pending anywhere in the world, even if the cases is in municipal court.

Some convictions still cannot be expunged, such as:

- Some crimes that involve the mistreatment of the elderly and/or children;
- Some assaults and criminally negligent homicide;
- Most sex crimes (some sex crimes may be eligible under special conditions);
- Municipal or state traffic offenses; or
- DUI convictions, even if it was dismissed because of a diversion program.

Once a record is expunged you can say that you have not been convicted of that crime\*, even on employment and housing applications. You will also have to notify the Foundation for Continuing Justice at [www.continuingjustice.org](http://www.continuingjustice.org).

\*It may show up in very special circumstances, but those are rare.



Accurate as of 12/31/21 based on ORS 137.225 and HB397

#### IMPORTANT

This information is general and is not legal advice. Everyone's own personal history must be checked. You should talk to a lawyer to see if you qualify.

\*Most old marijuana convictions can now be sealed/expunged.

\*There is no court filing fee to apply for expungement.

\*More cases are eligible than before.

\*The 10-year wait and blocking rules have been dropped.

\*Only one \$33 background check fee (for convictions only) and fingerprint card are required, even if you file requests in more than one county.

\*Free statewide forms available on the judicial department website.

\*Prosecutors now only have 120 days to object.

\*It is now harder for a court to deny an expungement.

### Easier Criminal Record Expungement in Oregon

In case you haven't heard – expungement of criminal records is now easier and cheaper in Oregon. The Legal Aid Services of Oregon and Oregon Law Center have distributed a fact sheet regarding expungement of old criminal records and convictions. Many of the old rules no longer apply and it is harder for a court to deny expungements.

This information may be helpful in deciding if you would benefit from checking with an attorney or law firm. Please note that the information supplied on the sheet is not legal advice and everyone's own personal history determines if they qualify.

Contact the Klamath Tribes' Education & Employment Department for more information.

**The Klamath Tribes  
Education & Employment Department  
Attn: Employment Services Manager  
PO Box 436  
Chiloquin, OR 97624  
(541) 783-2219 ext. 128**



**Glendon Smith**  
*From previous page*

**uncertainties? And what problem with communication have you personally experienced as a Warm Springs tribal member?**

One thing at the top of the list is that when you talk to a tribal member, any tribal member in Oregon, that doesn't mean you speak for all the tribes; you know, you might be speaking for your own tribe. You know, that doesn't give the total perspective for all the tribes, so I think people need to understand that. All tribes are different; every tribe has its own culture, language, songs, history, and foods that are important to it. And that's a big learning curve for anybody, even for other tribes. I think before I came on, there were a lot of cross-jurisdictional issues that happened between OSP and the tribes. And those issues need to be sorted out so it doesn't become a tug of war between two different law enforcement agencies and

more of a mutual understanding of authority and perspective.

**Has anything surprised you on the job, something you didn't expect, or something you've learned that you didn't see coming into the job?**

I'm not surprised, really. I've been educated, especially with some of the tribes. I've been assigned to do the tribal government and the government report for OSP. And what I've learned is that each tribe has its own issues. Like for Klamath Tribes, there is looting and cultural trespassing on archaeological sites. Warm Springs deals with a lot of vehicular crash data between the reservation and Madras. There needs to be better developments on the highway, so that way there's more safety. The Umatilla, they deal with narcotics trafficking, drug use, and drug sales. On the coast, it's a lot of looting of artifacts on the ocean – ocean sites. They got tribal land on the ocean. Grand Ronde, they deal with a lot of hunting

violations, people hunting on tribal land are out of season. So there needs to be more communication there. I'm learning that there's different issues for each tribe based on their geographic location, and what's important to them, land statuses for example. Some tribes have more trust land, some tribes have more free land, and then there are tribes that have less land, and then it becomes complicated for enforcement purposes.

**As you've learned all this and been around all the nine tribes, how has it helped the Oregon State Police? What have you brought to the table that they didn't have before?**

When I came on, we sent notices to all the tribes. I'm having these meetings with the tribal councils. My former boss and I traveled to the tribes and had face-to-face meetings. I didn't get to meet with Klamath last year because I was out of southern training. But before I came on, none of the tribes would respond to the emails or phone calls, but

now, since they have learned that there's a tribal liaison who was a tribal member of a tribe, the responses have picked up, and OSP is happy about that; they see the importance of that; they see the difference of having a tribal liaison who's an enrolled member versus a nonmember communicating for them. I bring a better understanding to OSP, of how tribes operate, and how to navigate tribal government. You know, I have that inside knowledge because I was on the council. I was a judge. I worked as a general manager, so I understand how to navigate processes better and what major documents need to be considered when you're talking to tribes. OSP needs to educate themselves better on tribal history, how Native people exist, you know, stuff like that.

**So, trust, you built some trust between the tribes and Oregon State Police. Has that been an issue in the past?**

Yes, that has been an issue. There's been a lack of trust between tribes and OSP. I see that, and that's a big step in earning

that trust back between the two. And then maybe, after that, we can start working better together on, you know, SB 412, cross-deputization, simultaneous authority in certain areas – the highways, the hunting areas, shared authority. If we can establish the trust back, those working relationships will get easier, and maybe people will put their guard down.

**Do you have anything you want to add?**

I want to thank the Klamath Tribes for having me here. It's good to be back. I've met a lot of good people here. Everyone's been welcoming, and it's nice to meet you. Thank you for doing the interview. I look forward to working with the Klamath Tribes and everyone that I can help assist.

**Read the online edition at**  
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# Crater Lake and its Origins

By Dani Brandt  
Special to the Klamath Tribes News

5700 B.C. Mount Mazama was 12,000 feet tall at its peak. A dormant volcano erupted, creating the well-known Crater Lake. Mount Mazama's elevation is now about 6,000 feet up and is roughly 180,000 acres. The eruption of Mount Mazama catapulted enough ash and pumice to collapse the summit. Rain and snow melt accumulated in the caldera (a large depression formed after a volcano erupts), creating 21 square miles of clear blue water, more than 1,900 feet deep. Crater Lake is the deepest freshwater lake in America. There is a mini volcano within this crater called Wizard Island. It stands about 767 feet above the water and at 6490 feet of elevation. Wildflowers, hemlock, fir, pine, black bears, bobcats, marmots, deer, eagles, hawks, and now the North American gray wolf are most popularly known in the area. (National Geographic - A Guide To Crater Lake)

The Klamath Tribes have occupied the Klamath basin for 13,000 years. Native Americans witnessed the formation of Crater Lake 7,700 years ago. Archeologists have found sandals buried under layers of ash and pumice, proving people were on the mountain. There is little evidence that people lived there, but it was used as a temporary camping ground. Klamath Indians are descendants of the Makalak people, who lived southeast of Mount Mazama. The Makalak people considered Crater Lake to be the most holy and sacred place. Even today, some Native Americans refuse to view Crater Lake because of the ancient belief that looking at it would lead to death. It plays a significant role in tribal history and legend.

There are many Klamath legends about how Crater Lake was formed. The most popular being between the spirit of the mountain, called Chief of the Below World (Llao), and the spirit of the sky, called Chief of the Above World (Skell). According to the National Park Service, this legend goes as follows:

and stood on top of Mount Mazama, one of the highest mountains in the region. During one of these visits, he saw the Makalak chief's beautiful daughter and fell in love with her. He promised her eternal life if she would return with him to his lodge below the mountain. When she refused, he became angry and declared that he would destroy her people with fire. In his rage, he rushed up through the opening of his mountain and stood on top of it, and began to hurl fire down upon them. The mighty Skell took pity on the people and stood atop Mount Shasta to defend them. From their mountaintops, the two chiefs waged a furious battle. They hurled red-hot rocks as large as hills. They made the earth tremble and caused great landslides of fire. The people fled in terror to the waters of Klamath Lake. Two holy men offered to sacrifice themselves by jumping into the pit of fire on top of Llao's mountain. Skell was moved by their bravery and drove Llao back into Mount Mazama. When the sun rose next, the great mountain was gone. It had fallen in on Llao. All that remained was a large hole. Rain fell in torrents, filling the hole with water." (National Park Service, History - Crater Lake, 1)

Early settlers didn't hear about Crater Lake due to its sacredness. In the spring of 1853, 11 miners from Yreka, California, stopped in Jacksonville, Oregon (approximately 90 miles southwest of Crater Lake), bragging about knowing where to find a legendary gold mine. Isaac Skeeter heard this and gathered 10 Oregonians to look for gold using what the miners had said. On June 12, three miners stumbled upon a lake, calling it the 'deep blue lake' due to how crystal blue the water was. They found no gold; there was no interest in discovering it, so it was forgotten. (National Park Service, History - Crater Lake, 2)

In the 1850s, hostilities between Native Americans and settlers developed. In response, the U.S. Army established Fort Klamath, seven miles southeast of Crater Lake. This led to the construction of a wagon road from Prospect in the Rouge River Valley to the newly established Fort Klamath. Crater Lake is one of the most pristine lakes in the world



Crater Lake is a year-round destination and Oregon's only National Park. (Photo by Dani Brandt)

because its lake levels depend solely on precipitation, evaporation, and seepage. It was discovered that it is the 7th deepest lake in the world and has some of the clearest freshwater found anywhere. Due to this, on May 22nd, 1902, President Theodore Roosevelt established Crater Lake as the sixth National Park in the United States. Later on, in 1988 and 1989, scientists used a submarine to try and understand Crater Lake, and evidence was found that natural hydrothermal venting exists on the lake's bottom. (Travel Crater Lake, Discover - Park History & National Geographic - A Guide To Crater Lake) Work within Crater Lake continues today with Phil

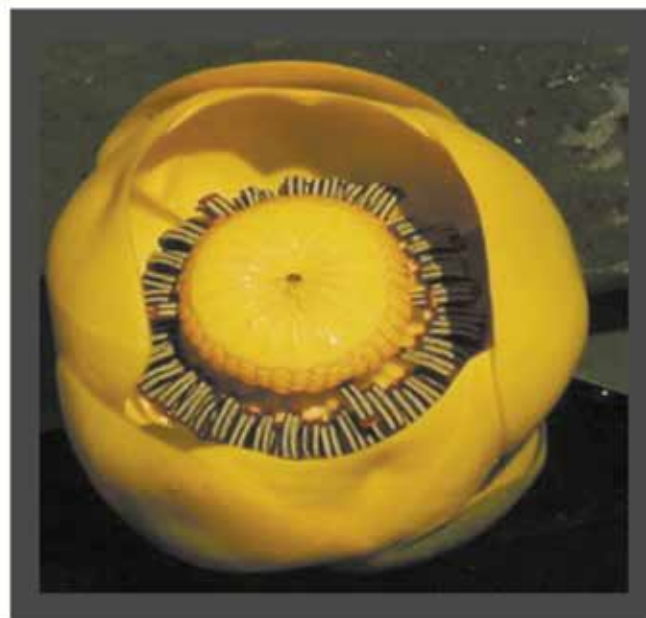
Heitzke, the Fire Management Officer of Crater Lake National Park. In an interview, he mentioned that Crater Lake has gone through multiple types of management, but he has always enjoyed its preservation aspect. He started preliminary work with fire crews in the Tribes to bring back Tribal burning. Heitzke is also working to get patches of huckleberries restored on the West side of Crater Lake. Crater Lake has continued to be one of the most beautiful parts of our community for thousands of years. Within the Klamath Tribes, both the history and legends are still talked about today.

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Dani Brandt is a Senior at Chiloquin High School. She wrote this article for her Senior Project.



**MARCH  
APRIL  
MAY 2024**

### Klamath Tribes Language Department

The Klamath Tribes Language Department is working to gather information from Klamath Tribal Members, regarding Language Services, through a survey. moo sep'keec'a pisa ee



Your information is valuable!

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Surveys will be available at the Language Department and Tribal Administration.

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# The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is constructing a multi-million-dollar sucker hatchery

*Existing facility is being expanded with state-of-the-art equipment and geothermal water*

By Ken Smith  
Klamath Tribes News

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is building a Sucker Assisted Rearing Program, which has steadily grown from when it was first initiated in 2013. The USFWS has been releasing captive-reared wild juvenile Lost River (c'waam) and shortnose (koptu) suckers into Upper Klamath Lake since 2018.

Construction on the expansion of the Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery began in 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in 2026. The complex will include additional parking spaces, a wet laboratory with a fume hood, tank rooms, additional space for offices, and locker rooms for staff gear. In addition, there will be maintenance and rootstock bays for suckers, as well as a fleet bay for boat storage and vehicles.

"When completed, the hatchery will have a sucker release capacity of up to 60,000 fish per year, which will enhance our ability to stabilize these highly endangered populations," said USFWS Public Affairs Officer Susan Sawyer.

Water that is approximately 190 degrees will be pumped from underground geothermal wells into a head pond, where it will be allowed to cool down and be able to flow into any of the retaining ponds where the suckers are reared. Both species of federally listed sucker, c'waam and koptu, will be raised to be stocked to Upper Klamath Lake and the Williamson River where they can mature and spawn.

"When completed, there will be 33 production ponds totaling over eight-and-a-half surface acres of water on the hatchery grounds. Ten ponds will be at the top of the facility, in tier 1, and will hold 80,000 to 100,000 age zero sucker fry," said Mark Yost, Supervisory Fish Biologist and Hatchery Manager, "The next level is tier two with fourteen ponds located below tier one. These will have capacity to hold from



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is building a Sucker Assisted Rearing Program to include 33 production ponds over an 8.5 acre surface. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

65,000 to 75,000 age-one fish."

"What this design allows us to do is to take drain water and actually divert it, if we need to, to the tier two ponds," explained Yost. "This is known as serial reuse of water. Basically, it's just a water conservation strategy. If there were sick fish in tier 1 ponds above, that could transmit to fish in tier 2 ponds below. But with this system, we will have the baby fish at the top of the facility with the best water quality possible, and the older fish that are generally less susceptible to disease in the ponds below."

The USFWS has a team of experienced and dedicated biological technicians, fish biologists, and fish and wildlife biologists who perform daily tasks at the hatchery. These tasks include feeding, cleaning, moving, or processing fish, stocking, inventory, adult fish spawning, general fish/aquaculture production work, field research, surveys, and monitoring.

"The knowledge, skills, and combined decades of experience of Service biologists and technicians have served the sucker captive rearing program well," said Sawyer. "The Service continues to expand upon rearing techniques in practice in other facilities on similar species to inform our strategies for captive rearing of c'waam and koptu in our commitment to protect Endangered Species Act listed suckers in the Klamath Basin."

As of March 1, there were approximately 9,500 suckers

from the late fall 2023 inventory at the hatchery that currently are in outdoor ponds. The fish at the hatchery range from eight months to seven years old. These fish represent age classes reared at the hatchery each successive year since 2017. The hatchery releases at least 8,000 -10,000 juvenile fish around 8 inches in total length each year to various habitats within Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries, and the fish will volitionally move to other areas in the lake throughout the year and during their life cycle. To date, the Service has stocked 71,000 juveniles two to three years old, 20,000 fingerlings about one-year-old, and 35,000 fry less than one-years of age throughout the Upper Klamath Basin.

Acquiring wild suckers from May to June is also integral to the process of rearing future stocks. "We use large fine mesh nets suspended in the river to collect wild larval suckers as they drift downstream from where they hatched in the Williamson River into Upper Klamath Lake," said Sawyer, "and then they are transported to the hatchery and placed in rearing ponds until early fall."

In November or early December, the captive-reared fish are harvested from the rearing ponds to be PIT tagged (passive-integrated transponder) and then placed in winter-holding ponds. Once they reach the target size in about a year, they will be stocked. All fish being returned to the wild receive a PIT tag prior to release

to track their movements in Upper Klamath Lake; a portion of the fish to be released may also receive an implanted telemetry tag for more detailed tracking.

Yost said the most fish stocked to date has been about 20,000 fish in a calendar year, whereas in the future, the facility will produce approximately 60,000 fish annually. When the first phase of pond construction is completed this year, 40,000 to 50,000 sucker fry could be stocked by May or June. The Service is hoping to have tier-two ponds completed by the fall of this year to accommodate these increased fish stocks.

"Additionally, this past year, we assisted with transporting and releasing adult suckers collected offsite to Upper Klamath Lake," said Sawyer. "We moved about 30 adult fish from Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge and over 300 adult fish from reservoirs behind the upper three Klamath River dams prior to their removal."

To date, the Service has invested \$30 million through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to support the Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery expansion. This investment will increase rearing capacity for the suckers that are found only in the Klamath Basin and central to the culture of the Klamath Tribes. The hatchery received three \$10 million installments between 2022 and 2024.

The location of the sucker rearing program was selected because of the abundant natural geothermal water that provides

a constant flow at a specific water temperature needed to raise the suckers. There was an existing aquaculture facility on the property, and the landowner, Ron Barnes, was an active part of the early years of sucker rearing. He also leased the property for the new hatchery. Barnes raises tilapia, which he sells to the general public. He got involved in c'waam and koptu work in 2007 when approached by USFWS personnel.

"I was raising tropical fish on the geothermal farm," he said at his tilapia indoor farm facility adjacent to the hatchery. "We were operating on a large, commercial scale, and I was raising a lot of different kinds of fish, with lots of different techniques for breeding and growing fish. And the Service knew that I was doing that; they asked me if I could help them figure out how to raise the suckerfish larvae."

The first collaboration between USFWS and Barnes ended in 2009, and after proving the rearing of suckers could be done successfully, they approached him again in 2014. "Five years later, they came back and said, 'Okay, we're ready to do this for real. Will you work with us to do it?' And I've been actually working on the sucker fish ever since," said Barnes.

Barnes leased 25 acres to the USFWS for the current facility,

See next page,  
**Fish Hatchery**



### Fish Hatchery

From previous page

and the lease agreement is for 30 years. Barnes believes that because the suckers are protected as endangered fish, it's necessary to work to protect and enhance their populations in order to for agricultural farming to continue in the Basin.

"The best way to get back to where people can farm and survive is to restore the sucker fish," he said. "And that took a lot of years of working with the farming community, the Tribes, and others to put that in place."

The USFWS and Tribal sucker-rearing facilities offer the best hope for the survival of the c'waam and koptu, said Sawyer. Both species are critically endangered and found only in the Upper Klamath Basin watershed. Suckers are long-lived, slow maturing, have had no effective recruitment into the adult spawning population for over 25 years, and are now reaching the end of their life expectancy.

When asked about the urgency of recovering a healthy sucker population in the Upper Klamath Basin, in the lake and its tributaries and rivers, Yost was firm that the time is now. "I would say the urgency is 10 years ago," Yost said. "But this is what we're working with right now. We want to get these fish into the adult population every year; every single fish counts."

"I would just say we don't want to think about extinction as an option," he continued. "I mean, this is a valuable resource to the landscape, both ecologically and culturally. We have to do what we can to try to prevent extinction...but there have to be changes made in the Upper Klamath Lake ecosystem to support these populations. We could put out beautiful fish every year, but if there are water quality problems or other conditions that caused the fish to die, you could see decades of effort disappear. "The hatchery is just one aspect of a bigger recovery goal. And all of our partners in the Basin have a part to play. This facility is just one piece of it. I can't say that the hatchery is the grand solution. We're in a state of triage at the moment. But if there weren't hatcheries doing what they were doing, many species of fish may have already gone extinct."



Mark Yost, Supervisory Fish Biologist, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Hatchery Manager stands at a water outflow for a sucker pond being built. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)



Michelle Jackson, Biological Science Technician, collects data on PIT tags of suckers to quantify fish in the ponds. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

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Klamath Marsh has been home to the Klamath Indians for generations. The first 16,400 acres of the Refuge were purchased from the Tribes in 1958 with Federal Duck Stamp funds. (Photo courtesy of Special Collections, Northwestern University)

## Proposed Landfill

*Continued from front page*

Department, Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont expressed dismay and skepticism regarding the proposal. “No one in their right mind could seriously contemplate welcoming thousands of tons of trash from (based on our understanding of the word ‘regional’ as it is routinely used by this industry) multiple states into a place so deeply loved by so many,” Dumont stated in the letter.

Dumont cited extensive research documenting Klamath Marsh’s decline by the Klamath Tribes in partnership with the United States Geological Survey in the letter. A landfill in close proximity to Klamath Marsh would have detrimental effects on the marsh’s unique ecology, further accelerating damage to its integrity.

Klamath Tribes’ Environmental Coordinator, Alta Harris, facilitates communications and cooperation between the Tribes’ Natural Resources, Culture and Heritage, and Ambodat Departments and their interactions with outside agencies.

“When it comes to groundwater, you’re losing water from the stream into the groundwater,” said Harris, describing the functions of a

healthy marsh. “So, you’re collecting all of that water coming in from the system – the forest, the neighboring mountains – all of those things are collecting in the marsh. It’s recharging the groundwater, it’s being filtered, sediment is being deposited, and then it’s carrying on out.”

Ideally, large marshes should be collecting sediment from the Klamath Basin system. The water runoff, coming out of the forests and mountains, picks up sediment in the forms of organic material and soil. The runoff deposits and traps sediment in the marsh, filtering the water through the wetland systems before, in this case, joining the Williamson River in the Klamath Marsh.

“When you don’t have those marshes functioning the way they are with the amount of water that they historically had,” explained Harris, “not only are you no longer collecting that sediment, you’re actually contributing sediment to the system – into Upper Klamath Lake and beyond. So, because that soil is no longer wet and trapped, it can also be moved out. When you divert the water and make it run through more quickly than it has historically, then you’re actually picking up years of trapped sediment and adding it to the system. So those factors could be contributing to water quality problems.”

Research suggests this is the scenario as man-made irrigation

ditches have diverted water from its historical path north of Upper Klamath Lake. Potential leaching from a landfill, especially at the proposed location, would exacerbate this situation, further contaminating the groundwater and river water that feeds into Upper Klamath Lake. If the bottom of the landfill is below the water table, then contamination in the form of leachate – heavy

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*“The marsh at one point was covered in wocus and a place our peoples could go any time of year to harvest foods.” – Ambodat Environmental Scientist Trainee Shahnée Rich*

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metals, pesticides, and carcinogens seeping through the earth and into natural water reservoirs – becomes highly probabilistic.

Recognizing a potential cascade of problems downstream, Dumont wrote in his letter to the

County Planning Department: “Imagine adding an array of poisons to the already tenuous aquatic lifelines of countless plants, animals, and human beings! I urge you to take a close look at the enclosed map depicting the flow of groundwater from north to south below the proposed landfill site moving directly toward major rivers and ultimately Ews (Upper Klamath Lake) and the Klamath River.”

Ambodat Department Director Mark Buettner pointed out the important role the Williamson River, flowing through the marsh, plays with regard to the unique wildlife of the region; unique species include redband trout, Klamath largescale sucker, Miller Lake lamprey, tui chubs, and sculpins. The riparian and marsh habitats support the threatened Oregon Spotted frog, rare Yellow Rail, and a large number of water bird species.

“Many of these species would be harmed by landfill leachate, which will contaminate the subsurface groundwater that is hydrologically connected with the Williamson River and Klamath Marsh,” said Buettner. “Approval of this project would be a major blow to the Tribes’ efforts to restore the Upper Williamson River and Klamath Marsh ecosystems.”

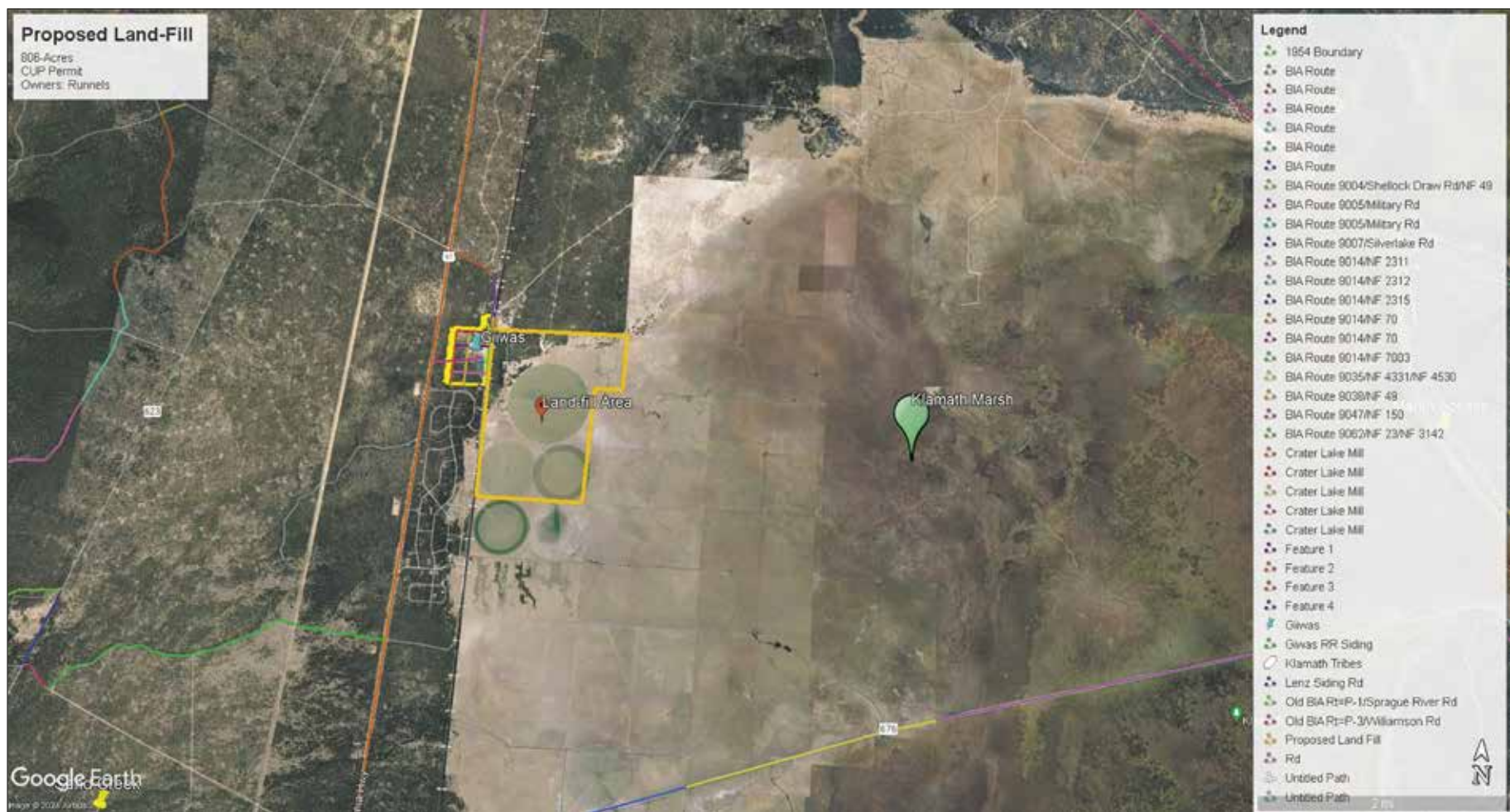
The Klamath Tribes recently secured \$2 million to begin restoring the entire marsh system and expect to secure another \$3 million by spring 2025. According to Dumont, if Conditional Use Permit 01-24 is approved, decades of effort already expended and decades of work planned for the future are at risk of unraveling.

“These marshes are very important for charging the entire system,” said Harris, emphasizing the important ecological role Klamath Marsh serves Upper Klamath Lake and Klamath River. “So, you have the possibility to get effects outside of the project area.”

Ecological concerns are not limited to water and fish. Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge is host to an array of birds, serving as a major stopover for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway. The danger for birds – yellow rail, sandhill crane, waterfowl, raptors, and shorebirds, to name a few – lies not only in a disruption of migratory patterns but also in digesting garbage from a landfill in close proximity to the marsh. The neighboring pine forests also include Rocky Mountain elk and the great gray owl as permanent residents.

*See next page ,*  
**Proposed Landfill**





An aerial view of a proposed landfill adjacent to Klamath Marsh.

**Proposed Landfill**

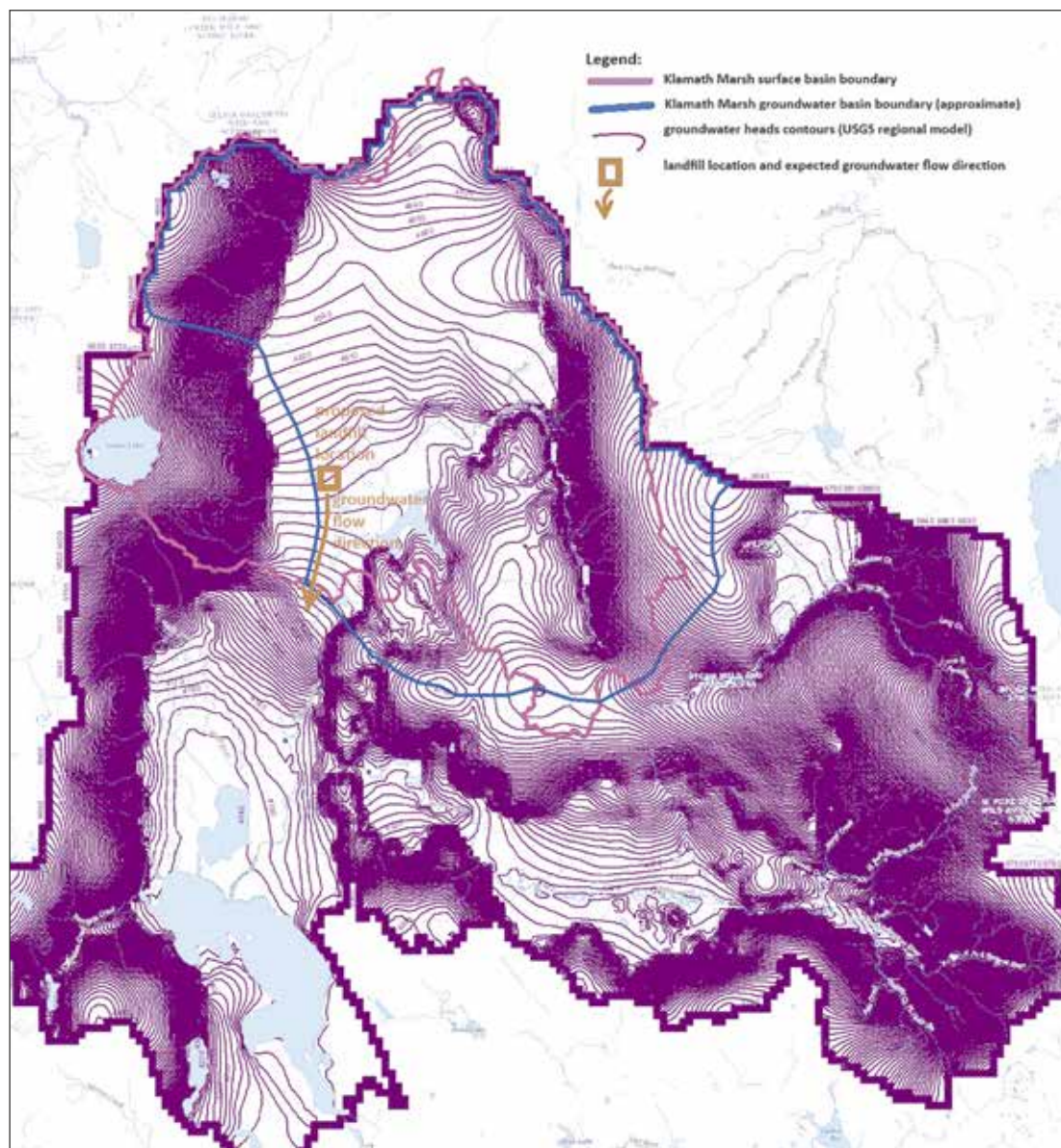
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Tule and Lower Klamath Lakes – two other nearby refuges for birds and comprising parts of the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex, like Klamath Marsh – have experienced water shortages so severe that officials have either limited or completely closed waterfowl hunting the past three seasons. If the proposed landfill adjacent to Klamath Marsh is built, migratory birds would likely be further deprived of viable feeding and nesting grounds in the Klamath Basin.

Klamath Tribes’ first foods have also been on the decline. “The marsh at one point was covered in wocus and a place our peoples could go any time of year to harvest foods,” said Ambodat Environmental Scientist Trainee Shannie Rich. “Today, the wocus on the marsh is minimal and not always good quality dependent on conditions any given year.”

The applicant and developer, Jensen, previously planned to buy thousands of acres in Christmas Valley, Lake County, to establish a landfill. That formerly proposed location is approximately 80 miles east of Jensen’s current bid next to Klamath Marsh.

As of this writing, Jensen



Map depicting the flow of groundwater from north to south below the proposed landfill site. (Map courtesy of Oleksandr Chebanov)

said he was unavailable for comment but would speak with Klamath Tribes News at a later date.

Prior to his Lake County application, Jensen had little experience in the landfill business, save for a stint with Simco Road

Regional Landfill in Elmore County, Idaho. The privately owned landfill he was once affiliated with, which he served on the board, is facing a lawsuit from the county. Elmore County alleges Idaho Regional

Waste Services, owner of Simco Road Regional Landfill, was noncompliant after it continued operations despite the revocation of its conditional use permit for environmental violations.

According to BoiseDev report-

ing, IRWS first filed suit against the county, arguing that “the county illegally revoked the landfill’s conditional use permit to operate after a ‘long-running, targeted and illegal campaign’ against the IRWS and its operations of the landfill.”

According to an Oregon Public Broadcasting article, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality fined the landfill \$20,000 for multiple violations in 2019. These violations included the landfill itself catching fire multiple times and burying tires at the site – an act banned in landfills in Oregon – in years prior. One report from 2018 noted: “It appeared free liquids were being poured into a dump truck bed, which then released the liquids to the landfill.”

Klamath County Planning Director Erik Nobel said he was not familiar with the violations in Idaho and had not conducted research on Mr. Jensen at the time of this writing.

If the proposal passes at the April 23 public hearing, the Klamath Tribes plan to appeal. “The Klamath Tribes have a deep and well-documented connection to ?ewksi, the Klamath Marsh area,” stated Dumont. “As the site of our largest precontact village, it sustained us from time immemorial until its relatively recent, human-caused ill-health. It is a sacred place.”





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