



KLAMATH TRIBES NEWS

KLAMATH - MODOC - YAHOOOSKIN

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A wetland is being restored next to Agency Lake. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

Freshwater wetland restoration project gets green light on Agency Lake-Barnes Units

Ranchers also donate property to reconnect Upper Klamath Lake with Agency Lake Barnes Units

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has completed a final Environmental Assessment after evaluating a proposal to reconnect the Agency Lake and Barnes Units to Upper Klamath Lake. A Finding of No Significant Impact, or FONSI, was

issued with the assessment. This paves the way for one of the largest freshwater wetland restoration projects in the Western United States.

With the EA/FONSI in hand, the Service can begin restoring the Agency Lake and Barnes Units of the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge. This will also involve cooperation from neighboring ranchers, one of whom donated a 2,000-acre tract of land identified as the Eisenberg Unit. The project will create multiple improvements in water quality, habitat for fish and wildlife, and water storage capacity in Upper Klamath Lake.

The Upper Klamath Basin was once dominated by approximately 185,000 acres of shallow lakes and freshwater marshes. These expansive wetlands supported some of North America's greatest concentrations of migrating waterfowl during the autumn and spring months. However, many of these wetlands were converted to agricultural lands in the early 20th century. Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1928 to protect some of the remaining wetlands as a refuge and breeding

See page 23,
Agency Lake-Barnes Units

Klamath Tribes' New MMIP Coordinator works to build bridges with outside agencies

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Missing or Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) is an epidemic disproportionately affecting tribal communities throughout the country.

The U.S. Department of Justice has attempted to address MMIP, and on Nov. 15, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14053, which has several stated orders. Two of these are Improving Data Collection, Analysis, and Information Sharing, and Supporting Tribal and Other Non-Federal Law Enforcement Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Native Americans.

Elyesse Lewis is serving as the first MMIP Coordinator for the Klamath Tribes. The Tribes started working diligently with the federal government last year to obtain funding for a grant to establish the MMIP position.

Lewis is tasked with coordinating between various entities in regard to missing



Elyesse Lewis

or murdered people. She cited data gaps and lack of awareness as major contributors to this epidemic. To close the data gaps, Lewis will be facilitating more collaboration between tribal, county, and state officials. She also prioritizes the prevention of human trafficking and getting the message out to tribal youth.

Cedar Wilkie-Gillette, MMIP Coordinator for the District of Oregon, and Tim Simmons, Assistant U.S. Attorney and Tribal Liaison

See page 24,
MMIP Coordinator

Crater Rock Museum's new display "Voices of the Rogue" includes work by Klamath tribal member Josh Hood



On display at the Crater Rock Museum are bows, arrows, and beadwork by Klamath tribal member Josh Hood. (Photo courtesy of Jillian Mather Kattley)

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

The Crater Rock Museum in Central Point, Ore., has put together a new display that includes the work of Klamath tribal member Josh Marvin Hood, who is becoming well-known for his traditional bow-making craftsmanship and as a teacher of archery.

Hood held two archery lessons in Chiloquin and

the summer cultural camp using Klamath and Modoc-designed bows and arrows.

Jillian Mather Kattley, assistant curator of the museum, reached out to the Klamath Tribes for the museum display that showcases how the Tribes' cultural industries are being used in the present. It is one of four displays at the museum featuring regional tribes.

A new display of Josh Hood's bow and arrows is on display at the Crater Rock Museum in Central Point, Ore. It's part of a wider display, "Voices of the Rogue," honoring regional Native American arts and craftwork. The theme of the exhibit is "Voices of the Rogue," and opens to the public

See page 7,
Crater Rock Museum

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Chairman's Report

By Clayton Dumont
Klamath Tribes Chairman



Agency Barnes Wetlands Restoration Update

I am happy to report that the necessary documents were recently signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Thus, the Agency Barnes Wetlands Restoration project that I outlined for you in the last issue of *Klamath Tribes News* is now full-steam ahead. The Klamath Tribes are particularly grateful to Senators Wyden and Merkley and their staff for helping us push these 14,000 acres of ecosystem repair across the finish line.

Recall that the project will reconnect two cold, clean streams to their historic stream channels, refilling a natural water-cleansing and storage site previously drained for agriculture. It will regenerate native plant growth and add birds, fish, and life of many kinds back into our environment. Although a long way from the hundreds of thousands of acres of open water, wetlands, and marshlands that once anchored our homeland ecosystem, this project has the potential to finally move the ecological needle in the right direction. Because the Klamath Tribes evidence-based analyses show that a large percentage of the phosphorous-loading killing Ews (Upper Klamath Lake) is coming out of the Wood River Valley, and the biggest part of that from agriculture's West Side Canal, this project is ecologically strategic. It will, when completed, act as a natural water-quality treatment facility.

A Huge District Court Victory

On Sept. 11, 2023, United States Magistrate Judge Mark Clarke issued his Findings and Recommendation in response to the Klamath Tribes 2022 lawsuit charging the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) with violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA). In Judge Clarke's words, "The central question in this case is whether Reclamation violated the

ESA by allocating water for irrigation purposes when Reclamation knew it could not comply with its ESA obligations to suckers in UKL. The answer to this question is yes."

The Klamath Tribes have long since been outraged by BOR's opinion that upon determining there is insufficient water to meet ESA-mandated thresholds for spawning, they no longer have an obligation to minimize damage by keeping as much water as possible available at shoreline hatching sites.

Instead, their attitude has been, "Oh well, since we can't meet that requirement, let's go ahead and allocate more water to irrigators." Judge Clarke clarified in his findings that "the irrigators' rights are subservient to the Tribes' rights and Reclamation's ESA responsibilities." He went on to say that "...opposition from Project irrigators is of no consequence." And finally, "The Tribes need not literally bring a dead fish before this Court to show that Reclamation's operation of the Klamath Project under the 2022 TOP [Temporary Operations Plan] has harmed the suckers."

It remains to be seen if this decision will hold. Any objections from BOR and Project Irrigators are due in late November.

If forthcoming, they will be reviewed by a District Court Judge and could be sent to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Having watched these legal battles closely for the last five years, I would not trade our legal team for any that I have seen opposing us.

Building a Positive Relationship with the U.S. Forest Service

Very early in our term, engaged Tribal Council members learned that Fremont-Winema National Forest Supervisor Barry Imler was leaving his post. At that time, I telephoned the Regional Forester (who oversees the Fremont Winema Supervisor) and explained that the Klamath Tribes unique Memorandum of Agreement with the USFS, rooted in our Reservation Lands treaty rights, should provide us with a seat at the hiring table. Although far from perfect, we received some access to the decision-making (which we have never had before), and I was able to help choose Mr. Erik Fey as the new Forest Supervisor.

So far, our relationship with Supervisor Fey is a vast improvement over our previous experiences. However, the outcome of an October 27th series of site visits by Supervisor Fey and his team, myself, and Klamath Tribes' Natural Resources Director Steve Rondeau and his team is yet to be determined.

Among the several topics we discussed at multiple sites were miles of "mastication" projects that the Klamath Tribes understand are ineffective, ugly, and counter-productive. Mastication is a process of grinding small trees and plants into beds of chips, leaving fields of larger woody debris along roadsides, and removing merchantable trees. We were told that this is being done to create safe spaces for controlled burns that will follow behind the roadside clearings.

Our Natural Resources team was firm and clear in their response. These roadside clearings will be futile should a large fire start; big fires jump from the tops of trees across spaces much larger than these. Furthermore, the woody material left lying at the roadside actually increases the fire danger. And the wood-chip mulch created by mastication can catch fire and smolder for weeks, ultimately killing the roots of healthy trees and plants.

Mastication, at least as currently practiced by the Fremont Winema, is a colossal waste of money.

Instead, the Klamath Tribes understand that we should clear invasive species (largely Lodgepole Pine) that have unnaturally encroached on what were wet meadows before decades of unnatural fire suppression was institutionalized in Forest Service policy created at the behest of timber merchants. Prescribed fire needs to be brought back to these sites.

Fire that once touched every square mile of our Reservation forests on average every 13 years is a natural and essential part of our homeland ecosystem. These regular, small, relatively cool fires kept fast-growing, water-sponging Lodgepole Pine and Junipers out of meadows and old-growth Ponderosa Pine stands. With water-gulping invasive species controlled by natural fire, springs and seeps flowed; meadows full of first foods thrived; Aspen stands and beavers flourished, and these wet islands sprinkled across our indigenous landscape prevented the unnatural infernos that now plague forests across North America.

As I said, this and several other objections to current "forest management" as practiced by the Fremont Winema staff were compellingly presented and carefully explained to Supervisor Fey by the Klamath Tribes' Natural Resources team. We were assured that the "mastication" debacle is done and that our team will be central to planning and monitoring future forest treatments. We shall see.

It is important to recognize that the Klamath Tribes are more engaged and have greater capacity and expertise at our disposal than at any time since before termination. I expect that our Natural Resources Department's influence over our homeland forests will continue to increase rapidly under Director Rondeau's leadership.

Swan Lake Rim Hydro Project General Council Decision

At a Sept. 14, 2023, Special General Council (GC) Meeting called to discuss an offer for mitigation of damages incurred from the Swan Lake

*See next page,
Chairman's Report*



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Chairman's Report

Continued from previous page

Rim Hydro Project “before being mailed out to General Council members in a referendum vote,” assembled General Council members approved the following motion by a vote of 77 to 8 with 8 abstentions. “We vote down this agreement and that additionally, we stipulate that there will be not (sic) future votes on agreements or any other changes; this will be our final vote; and we want a formal statement from the Tribe in opposition of this project to be made available, and this letter will be produced in 30 days.”

Although I have zero problem with the merits of the decision itself, I continue to believe that the Tribal Council (TC) majority who moved to place a choice of this magnitude before the full membership for a secret ballot Referendum vote were correct in our thinking. Although I do not know any tribal members who are in favor of the project, and I am

proud of how hard multiple Tribal Councils fought against it, the facility will be built starting next spring.

A damages package worth nearly 40.4 million dollars (including more than 23 million for land, 10 million for a museum, 5 million for a sober living facility, and over 2 million for education) should have been presented to all 4,618 eligible tribal voters.

General Council Sentiment for Creating a Full-Time Tribal Council

On September 30, 2023, assembled General Council (GC) members asked me to create an ad hoc committee that will work with TC and the Advisory Constitution Committee to bring forward options for a full-time Tribal Council (TC) beginning with the 2025-28 term. I will appoint the ad hoc committee from GC volunteers who wish to be included. If this is you, please send a notification of your interest to Secretary Roberta Frost

at roberta.frost@klamathtribes.com I am delighted that GC expressed interest in supporting not merely a full-time TC of seven (which is the option TC presented because it could be accomplished for approximately the same cost as the current part-time TC) but a full-time TC of 10 members.

At present, our work sessions on a good day bring five TC members to Council Chambers. Often, there are fewer present. This leads to inefficient decision-making since formal votes have to be taken at formal TC Meetings, and those who miss work sessions lack necessary information. Similarly, poor attendance at Supervision Meetings with our General Managers (GMs) creates extra work because the GMs are forced to repeat information and wade through complex issues multiple times leading up to formal TC votes.

Full-time members at Large will be TC members who do not require outside employment. Thus, it will mean

an expectation that they put in 40-hour work weeks at their TC jobs, the same as is required of TC Officers. It will also mean they will no longer be placed in the untenable position of being tribal employees who both supervise and are supervised by the GMs.

The charge for the ad hoc committee: “AdHocCommitteeMembers will work with the Constitution Committee, the Tribal Council Treasurer, and other interested Tribal Council Members to explore options for creating a Full-Time Tribal Council. Options to be explored should include: number of full-time Members at Large, funding sources, staggered terms (so that entirely new Councils are not seated all at once), division of labor and areas of work focus, and any required changes to the Tribal Constitution. A report back to the General Council should happen by May of 2024.”

Tribal culture book by Edison and Leatha Chiloquin reprinted by Klamath County Museum

A book published several decades ago about the culture of the Klamath Indians has been reprinted by the Klamath County Museum.

The book was originally self-published by Edison Chiloquin, a member of the Klamath Tribes. He is widely remembered for his refusal to accept a cash payment from the federal government for his share of the tribes’ reservation that was abolished in the termination process initiated in 1954.

Chiloquin died in 2003. His book, a 48-page softcover volume, includes stories, language translations, and a list of treaty signers. Chiloquin drew the artwork in the book. His wife, Leatha, is also listed as an author.

The book was reprinted with permission from descendants of Mr. Chiloquin.

A donation from Avis Kielsmeier of Klamath Falls supported the new printing.

The book is available in the museum’s gift shop for \$10 each. The Museum also donated 500 copies of the reprinted book to the Chiloquin Family to use at their discretion, sell, gift, etc. The family will use any proceeds to assist with the cost of maintaining the Pla’ikni Village on the Chiloquin Special Trust Land.

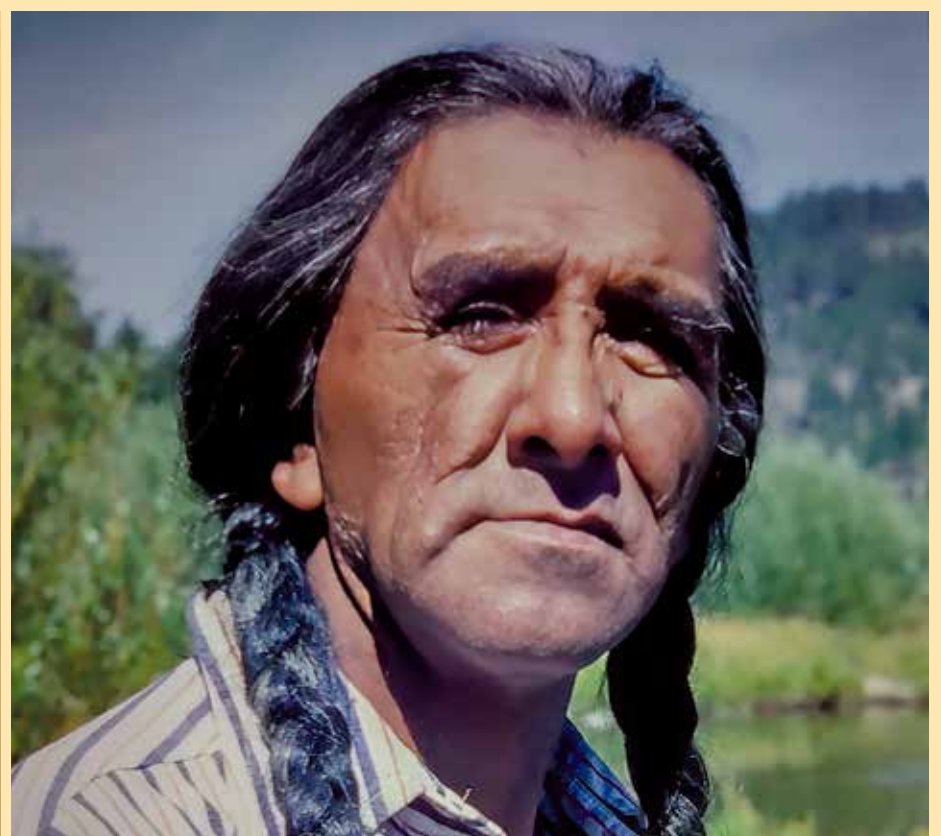
In the book’s introduction, Edison and Leatha Chiloquin stated their work resulted from years of research and traditions handed down by ancestors. “We have tried to give as briefly as possible the basic information regarding our cultural heritage, along with various little-known historical facts, so that the young people who are interested

in learning of their culture and language will have a base from which to start,” the introduction reads.

“Museum patron Avis Kielsmeier approached us last spring with an offer to fund reprinting of the book,” said Director of Klamath County Museum Todd Kepple in an email to the Klamath Tribes News. “Her idea was for us to sell the books and consider the sales revenue as a further donation. She wanted half the proceeds to go to the Tribes, and that’s when we reached out to Laurel (Robinson) to make an arrangement for that. It took some time to get the original scanned and more time to discuss with Laurel the wording for the inside front cover. And finally, it took a long time for the print shop to get it done. We just got the books about two weeks ago.”



Cover of the Klamath County Museum reprinting of the “Return of the Raven” by Edison and Leatha Chiloquin. Mr. Chiloquin did the cover artwork.



Edison Chiloquin. (Photo courtesy of the Chiloquin family)

1 dam down 3 to go in largest demolition of dams in U.S. history



Copco Number 2 before removal activities.



Copco Number 2 after. (Photos courtesy of Shane Anderson Swiftwater Films)

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

The 33-foot Copco Number 2 Dam foundation was removed completely at the end of September, the first of four dams to be demolished on the Klamath River. Last week, the final grading over the intake structure was completed as the largest dam removal project in the world continues moving forward. The more than \$450 million project, funded by the state of California and PacifiCorp, is slated to be completed by the end of November 2024. Three dams remain to be removed: the J.C. Boyle in Oregon and Copco Number 1 and Iron Gate dams in California's Siskiyou County.

"Deconstruction of the remaining three dams will begin as soon as the reservoirs are drained, including draining any refill we get from spring runoff following the initial drawdown in January-February," said Mark Bransom, Chief Executive Officer of the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC), the nonprofit leading the demolition of the hydroelectric dams. "Removal could begin as early as May or as late as June, depending on the type of winter and spring runoff conditions."

Removal of the J.C. Boyle, Copco 1, and Iron Gate dams takes place simultaneously, and the final removal of the dams and free-flowing river conditions is expected by the end of November. In conjunction with the removal of the dams is the restoration of river channels. The demolition of the remaining dams is expected to begin in May. The Klamath River reconnection will begin by breaching the historic cofferdam, allowing the river to flow permanently in a riverine condition. The river channel grading is expected to be completed by October.

Once the dams are removed, the Klamath River will return to a free-flowing river. Reintroduced Chinook salmon, along with populations of steelhead and other fish, will all benefit from a restored river

ecosystem, which is the next stage of the project. The massive task of deconstructing the dams and the supporting infrastructure is being conducted by the Kiewit Corporation, a national construction company. Kiewit is the lead contractor for deconstructing the dams and associated infrastructure. Upwards of 300 workers are expected to be hired over the course of the project, and subcontractors will be brought in once the major work begins next spring.

Along with the dams, supporting facilities such as hydropower generation equipment and powerhouse structures will simultaneously be removed. As the dams are demolished and the surrounding earth is dug up, there is a concern for indigenous cultural resources that are inadvertently unearthed. To combat looting and vandalism, the KRRC is offering a \$1,000 reward to informants whose tips lead to the identification, citation, or arrest of a looter or vandal. The KRRC will also actively pursue criminal trespassing, theft, and vandalism charges against individuals attempting to loot or vandalize cultural resources on property owned by the KRRC. To report suspicious activity, call 541-647-1575. The KRRC has also established avoidance areas of cultural resources prior to construction activities.

"The power equipment including the turbines, all the electrical generating, all the control equipment will be removed from Copco Number 2 powerhouse," Bransom said during an Aug. 24 Town Hall meeting at the Klamath Tribes Administration auditorium. "And it's my understanding that the state of California, who will receive all of the project lands in California, as will the state of Oregon, for lands in Oregon that now make up the hydroelectric project, are in discussions with various entities about the future use of some of these facilities in that particular case. I understand that there could be an interpretive center, or some sort of an educational center in that facility. Those are conversations that are

going on in the state of California and other entities in Oregon."

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is the entity that will receive the lands currently part of the hydroelectric project, and they will be working with partners to make decisions about the use of those lands.

"The settlement agreement that governs dam removal and the restoration activity does stipulate that all of the project lands will return to either California or Oregon for one of the state's so-called third-party designees," said Bransom, "which means that both states are developing processes by which then we'll invite folks or entities in to talk about potential transfer of some of those parcels of land. The further stipulation in the settlement agreement is that those lands will always be retained for public interest, which means open space for fish and wildlife, habitat, recreation, those kinds of things, and precludes any sort of development activity that otherwise might be considered."

The KRRC assumed the license of the Lower Klamath Hydroelectric Project from PacifiCorp, the utility that owned and operated the dams. The dams were built between 1911 and 1962 as part of the Klamath Hydroelectric project, including the Keno, Fall Creek, and Iron Gate dams. KRRC was brought in to oversee the removal of the dams and is in charge of hiring the contractors and managing the project in compliance with state and federal permits. The power plants will continue to be operated by PacifiCorp when needed until they are all finally decommissioned. Next up is the drawdown of water, and then the removal of the remaining three dams will begin. The only dam to be removed in Oregon is the J.C. Boyle. "This year has been all about some transportation and infrastructure improvements to allow us to move large construction equipment into the locations where we need to do work and to get access to various locations where we will be doing work,"

Bransom said. "We've got a water line for the city of Yreka that's being replaced and relocated. We've got a fish hatchery that's being constructed at the old Fall Creek hatchery site. When the operations at the current hatchery at Iron Gate are terminated once we've lowered the reservoir, we no longer have a water supply. We've already moved the hatchery operations to Fall Creek. So, there are a variety of projects to get us ready for 2024 training in the reservoirs. Right now, what we're focused on is some dam modifications work to make sure that we're ready to go with that work."

Dave Coffman of the Ecosystem Restoration Company also attended the two-hour Town Hall meeting to provide an update on the project's activities. He discussed the restoration work, the time for recovery, and the natural springs in the ecosystem.

"The J.C. Boyle has relatively little sediment, and it's the coarsest sediment of what is behind the three main reservoirs," Coffman said. "And so, we're not expecting any real impacts to those springs; the water will be able to push up through the sediment that may get deposited in that reach also because of the confined nature of the reach of the river downstream of J.C. Boyle, natural flows will move it on out within a fairly short period of time when I say fairly short matter of years, maybe not the year or the year after, but shortly after. We'll see that sediment move through."

The Klamath River stretches 250 miles from Southern Oregon to the Pacific Ocean. Revegetating and reseeding the banks of the reservoirs and the river banks will be the task of Resource Environmental Solutions. The reseeding will require the propagation of millions of seed development and seed stocks specific to the Klamath Basin. To assist in the process, the Yurok Tribe has begun the process of collecting seeds and removing invasive plants along reservoir shores.

See next page,
Dam Removal

Dam Removal

Continued from previous page

“We’ve partnered primarily with the Yurok Tribe and other downriver tribal members to collect seed from the Klamath watershed, upstream of Irongate reservoir, for the past four years,” Coffman said. “The seed is collected, it goes to more of a conventional farm, it gets grown, those seeds get harvested, they get replanted. This kind of seed yield increase program where we’ve, over time, grown handfuls of seeds collected in the field to tons and tons of seeds that will eventually be planted. The last I heard was somewhere close to 100 billion individual seeds that will go in the ground over the next few years.”

And then there is the problem of invasive, exotic vegetation, a serious problem. “We have a really bad problem with invasive vegetation in Northern California and Southern Oregon to some points where it’s the only thing growing on the ground,” Coffman said. “We’ve been working with the Yurok Tribe, and we’ve tried a number of different methods to manage those invasive species currently around the reservoir footprints that will eventually be used to control or limit establishment within the reservoir footprints.”

Water quality and testing and monitoring of the river’s analytics is another point of focus, and the Klamath Tribes have been contributing to the process at the Ambodat water quality lab. “The Klamath Tribes, under that water quality lab, is processing every water quality sample,” Coffman said. “And they’re managing the distribution of a couple of different analytics to other labs and then receiving back the results and helping us make heads or tails of what we’re seeing, which has been phenomenal. The staff there has been incredibly helpful on just local logistics, helping coordinate things with field staff. We’ve been working with the Karuk Tribe pretty extensively to collect the data, collect the samples, and then they get transferred over to the lab where they get processed.”

The Klamath River was once a thriving habitat for diverse fish, including Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, and redband trout, eulachon and longfin smelt and other smelts, and Klamath largescale sucker, and the endangered Lost River and shortnose suckers. An in-depth inventory of native fish of the Klamath River was documented in a July 2008 report, “Fish and Fishery Resources of the Klamath River Basin,” by co-author Katharine Carter of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board and Steve Kirk at the Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality. They documented in the report that the Klamath

River basin contains 83 species of fish, 45 of which are native to the Klamath drainage and 38 that have been introduced and are non-native. Fourteen of the native fish species in the basin have been granted special federal and/or state status. Also noted in the report was that the Klamath River basin above Iron Gate Dam hosts 18 native and 19 non-native fish species. Non-native fish introduced include various sunfish, catfish, and perch species.

Coffman addressed the sucker population that ended up being trapped in reservoirs of the J.C. Boyle, Iron Gate, and Copco dams. “Something needed to be done to help the suckers that have moved from their endemic habitat in the Upper Basin and ended up disconnected from endemic habitat in J.C. Boyle, Copco, and Iron Gate reservoirs where they were never quite able or there’s no evidence that they were able to complete lifecycles in those water bodies, but they also weren’t able to get back up to the place where they came from,” Coffman explained. “All evidence pointed to the sucker being washed out of Upper Klamath Lake and out of Lower Klamath Lake, and the Keno reach and down into these reservoirs.” He added that there is no documented breeding or recruitment of the suckers in the river reaches upstream of the reservoirs, and the fish couldn’t return to where they came from because of the lack of adequate fish passage at the reservoirs.

Population sampling efforts in the reservoirs for c’waam and koptu suckers began in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Using net sets to catch the fish over the three-year period, 39 were caught in Iron Gate, 99 suckers were caught at Copco and 95 at J.C. Boyle. Based on those numbers and the size of the reservoirs, calculations could be made as to the fish population in each reservoir. That information was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is involved because the suckers are protected as an endangered fish, and one more population survey was conducted in four boats setting nets over a 14-day period. In that survey, a total of 518 c’waam and koptu suckers were caught, and 391 of both c’waam and koptu were relocated. Each fish was pit tagged the next day, and genetics fin clips were taken to a Fish and Wildlife lab for genetic analysis. The report will be used for future restoration and preservation activities.

As for the suckers that were relocated, Coffman said some came back into the Upper Klamath Basin, some were released, and others are still being held down in California at a Fish and Wildlife Service facility until those genetic samples are analyzed to determine if they are genetically pure fish to make sure there are no hybrids

that could affect the recovery efforts of the suckers in the Upper Basin.

When the dams were built, the Klamath Basin fish species that migrated up the Klamath River to headwaters in the Klamath Basin suffered severe declines. With the construction of the dams began a period of dramatic declines in spring Chinook runs, heavily impacting other native fish. It is estimated that there has been a decline of nearly 98 per

cent of the historical run of Chinook, as well as the decline of other native fish. The goal is to eventually see a revival of all of the native fish species of the Klamath River as its ecosystem is restored to its former natural glory, and once again may migrate back to the historical headwaters where their life cycle began.



The Klamath Tribes
RED Vocational Rehabilitation
Program

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For more information:

The Klamath Tribes
RED Vocational Rehabilitation Program
Education and Employment Department
P.O. Box 436
Chiloquin, OR 97624
Phone: 541-783-2219, ext. 209
Fax: 541-783-2195



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✓ Looking for Work? 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 become available.
- 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
(541) 783-2219, ext. 128

Klamath Tribes Elders discuss fond memories of Huckleberry Mountain ahead of mediation meeting

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Huckleberry Mountain remains a space of spiritual and cultural significance to the Klamath Tribes. For centuries the Klamath and other tribes, such as the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe, have descended on this area to collect huckleberries. A meeting between the Klamath Tribes, Cow Creek Band, and the U.S. National Forest Service will be held to address concerns, such as illicit picking of huckleberries from nontribal commercial entities. Klamath Tribes News attended an Elders Meeting to hear their concerns and memories regarding this culturally significant place.

“To me, it’s always been home,” said Klamath Tribes Elder Sandra Mosttler. “I don’t remember the first time I was there. The earliest

memory I have of going there that I can recall, from when I was little, I was probably five. We went every year the last week in August. Our family took a caravan up there, and we camped for a week and it was home.”

It was always a big family affair, and Mosttler’s extended family joined the festivities. “And then I was at home. We were camped around each other. It was one big family. So, we were there for each other,” Mosttler said.

“Huckleberry has always been a staple to the Tribes,” said Klamath Tribes Elder Harley “Duke” Kimbol. “I remember even as a kid, we would all load up in the pickup, go up to Huckleberry Mountain, and we’d spend days just picking berries. And sometimes we’d go to Warm Springs and Mount Hood. Tribal people have always depended on huckleberry.”

“My fondest memories are of just

being there with family, my great grandparents and grandparents. This past year, I was able to take my granddaughters, my cousin, and my great grandkids up there,” Kimbol continued, expressing his desire for this ritual to remain through the generations.

The Elders agreed that historically no such confrontation existed between the Cow Creek and Klamath peoples at Huckleberry Mountain. Both tribes still want access to the land, and the goal now is to work out a good faith agreement in which both tribes maintain their access, while excluding outside entities from encroaching. The Elders said that ideally U.S. National Forest Service will be tasked with policing the area and preventing trespassing from nontribal entities.

“I think most of it is to protect the site from these commercial entities harvesting the berries,” said Klamath



Duke Kimbol’s cousin Sherry Dee Harrington (left), his granddaughter Selena Ulestad, and his great granddaughter Jade at Huckleberry Mountain. (Photo courtesy of Duke Kimbol)

Tribes Elder David Ochoa, speaking on his hopes for the meeting. “And we need to get it back to a ceremonial place where tribal members can go up there and have their own ceremonies wherever they want.” Ochoa also expressed his concerns regarding free-range cattle, arguing that their presence creates a blight on the landscape. “Historically, we’ve all been tied to that area. Our families have all gone up there and picked berries,” mused Kimbol. “Now the concern is, what good faith agreement can we work out with the Cow Creeks, where we can all share.”

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Crater Rock Museum

Continued from front page
on Dec. 12. The displays use objects, artifacts, and media to tell the stories of Klamath, Cow Creek Umpqua, Confederated Tribes of Siletz and Grande Ronde, whose ancestors shaped and stewarded the land on which the museum now stands. In addition, the displays provide a pivotal message of stewardship and repatriation in acknowledging and repairing the past damages done by illegal collecting and disturbance of indigenous sites.

“Along with our partner, the Northwest American Indian Coalition, we humbly seek to preserve our shared history and honor the contributions of the too-long marginalized Indigenous voices of our region,” Kettley said. The museum seeks to focus on either the direct neighbors or the people who had history within the Rogue Valley itself. The displays are prominently placed in front of the main entrance to the galleries.

“Anybody wanting to see anything else we have on display walks through this space,” Kettley said. “It was the museum’s artifact room for a long time, and it was taken down when our Operation Director took over. We want to make sure that not only are we in legal compliance but that the displays are done in a sensitive manner. Many of these objects haven’t been seen for quite a few years.”

Kettley said they went through the Native Americans Graves Protection & Repatriation Act process several years ago and partnered with tribal communities, mostly with the Native American Studies Department at Southern Oregon University and the museum’s long-time community partner, David West, the emeritus director of the Native American Studies Department at Southern Oregon University. West advised the museum to select Grande Ronde, Klamath, and Cow Creek Umpqua as the people who claim heritage to the Rogue Valley or were direct neighbors.

The exhibit of Hood’s work includes three bows and arrows, a fan made of bald eagle feathers, and three seed-bead bracelets. Hood collected all of the animal parts or traded for them from other Native Indians from as far away as Montana, but he also did his own gathering and crafted all of the display items. Hood, who lives in Portland, Ore., said an email was sent to him from GeorGene Nelson, the Klamath Tribes Language Director, informing him of the museum’s interest in obtaining arts and crafts from tribal artists. Hood said it’s a way for craftsmen like himself to show that there are still tribal members crafting and practicing their traditions. Hood described in detail the traditional methods and

natural materials he used in making the bows. One bow is made of Pacific yew, with a traditional bow width of one-and-a-half to two inches. He said some of his bows have been modified to fit a more modern length to accommodate his size. For one of his bows, he sinew-backed it using elk leg tendons, another traditional practice and used hide glue to laminate the sinew onto the wood and then painted it with acrylic. “I didn’t use clay or any natural pigments for that one,” he said.

Hood said the bow is a version of the Klamath style of bow, around 47 or 56 inches long, with a pyramid paddle bow shape to it. The second bow on display was made out of ash wood, which is a local wood that is found around Portland, and white wood. He applied tribal patterns on it, like the quail trail and crow’s knee, using acrylic paint, and it too is a paddle-bow shape.

The third bow on display is made of Black locust. “Black locust actually grows down in Klamath now,” he said. “It’s a hardwood that was used by tribes in the Midwest to the East Coast and sometimes in the South. But it kind of made its way here, from what I understand, when the settlers were moving their farms and cattle West, and they brought that tree because it’s fast-growing, it’s hard, and it has thorns, and it burns long and hot. So that was before the invention of barbed wire; it was my understanding that they planted it to keep their cattle contained.”

After making the three bows, Hood made three arrows, none specific to the Tribes. “I didn’t look through books for our actual bows. These are more like a modern rendition,” he said.

The arrows are made of Oceanspray, a large, fast-growing, and carefree shrub, and have ponderosa pine pitch glue and basically consists of pine pitch, charcoal, and termite dust. He cooked the material over a fire, made glue out of it, and then used it to mount the arrowhead.

“One of the arrowheads on it is like a polka dot agate, and that’s near the Warm Spring area, and that’s where that’s collected,” he said. “It’s a very specific stone, and it’s got white, red, yellow, and purple colors. Pretty cool. And that’s what the arrowhead is made out of. And then I fletched it with red-tailed hawk feathers, and I laced it on there using elk sinew.”

A couple of other arrows he loaned to the museum were made from a snowberry shaft with a jasper tip, and he used the feathers of a turkey vulture’s wing to fletch it. The third arrowhead was made of Montana Moss Agate, a clear blue, hue-like point. “That one has snowy owl because I was hunting at dusk,



Josh Hood’s bows on display at Crater Rock Museum.

(Photo courtesy of Jillian Mather Kattley)

and I wanted to be able to retrieve my arrows when hunting white-tailed deer in Montana,” he said.

Hood said all the arrows were hafted or attached using the same glue made from ponderosa pine pitch, charcoal, and termite dust cooked into the glue and sinew used to lash the arrowheads. “Chewing the sinew up, wrapping it really tightly, and then using some hide glue to paint over it to keep it in place is my thing for that,” he said.

In addition to the bows and arrows, Hood gave the museum three bracelets that were beaded on buckskin from a deer that had been smoked and brain tanned. He also gave them an eagle fan made from a bald eagle wing, where he beaded the handle. “It’s not made in any particular way,” he said. “I just used the wing base from where the shoulder bone is for the handle, and I put some buckskin around that and beaded it.”

For the animal parts, Hood utilized birds he found on the side of the road and elk parts he sourced from hunters. “I have a lot of folks that do rifle-hunting, and they’ll just chuck the sinew and the legs, and I’ll get the legs and extract the sinew, or if they are cutting the backstrap off and there’s a big layer of sinew,” he said. “I’ll ask them to keep it. I actually have a huge bundle of sinew that I actually just got the other day from a person who is a professional hide tanner. And they save all that stuff because they know that natives like to use it.”

In addition to the current items in the “Rogue of Voices” display, the museum is seeking to acquire more loaned works of art and traditional works of craftsmanship from tribal members.

“Josh was the first one who kind of came out of the woodwork,” said Kettley. “The colors he uses are so vibrant. And it really brings a life and breathes a life into the exhibition. “So, I’m very grateful that he was willing to take a shot on us and really hoping that he kind of starts that ball rolling.”

Hood’s display is the first one

that visitors will see entering the museum, and it makes for a stunning entrance, Kettley said. “As soon as you walk in, it’s directly on your left-hand side, so you basically can’t miss it. As you turn to see the gallery, it’s there. And it’s just visually striking: the colors he uses and his craftsmanship.”

“We’re so grateful that he’s been willing to loan us this,” she added. “We’re hoping that it spurs people coming out of the woodwork and saying, ‘You know, hey, if it’s art, if it’s language, if it’s media, people want to allow these things to be displayed.’ I’m doing the very best I can, reaching out to people and saying, ‘Hey, this story isn’t mine. And I would rather it come from you.’”

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Natural Resources Department concerned about Forest Service Site Preparation Activities

By Tim Sexton
Klamath Tribes Fire
Program Manager

The Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department has consulted with the U.S. Forest Service on recovery efforts following the 242 and Bootleg fires, where many activities have been implemented despite our efforts to limit them.

During a meeting earlier in the year with the U.S. Forest Service, the Tribes had requested detailed specifications and pre-notification of any recovery efforts in the 242 burn area. Unfortunately, in mid-October, several tribal members raised inquiries regarding dozer activities in the area, sparking a visit by the Natural Resources staff where unanticipated dozer activities were observed in the vicinity of Forest Road 6210, situated near the old Agency. This area has seen extensive ripping with large rippers attached to a dozer, raising concerns among the Natural Resources staff.

Observations revealed that while much of the dozer work was contoured to the slope, some ripping was done parallel to the slope, a method that could potentially exacerbate soil

erosion. This also raised worries about potential increases in exotic invasive plant species, damage to live trees due to root disruption, and other environmental and aesthetic concerns.

Historically, ripping activities on the Chiloquin Ranger District had been carried out when decommissioning old roads to loosen compacted soils from decades of vehicle travel, aiding plant growth. However, the current area, described as having loose “pummy” soils, does not justify such actions for soil compaction.

The Natural Resources staff has engaged with the Chiloquin District Ranger and Forest Supervisor to understand better the reasons behind these unanticipated actions and the lack of prior information shared with the Tribes. We were told the ripping has been stopped, and they are taking steps to improve information sharing and overall consultation.

The Klamath Tribes are committed to advocating for ecologically sound and culturally sensitive land management practices, ensuring the conservation and preservation of our tribal lands and resources.



(Left) Ripping along Forest Service Road 6210 east of Highway 62. (Right) Ripping along Forest Service Road 6210-040 spur above Agency Creek. (Photos courtesy of Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department)

Department of Public Safety recognized by State of Oregon as a Law Enforcement Unit

The Klamath Tribes Department of Public Safety achieved a milestone and historic step for the Klamath Tribes leadership, tribal members, and their families. Tribal Public Safety Chief of Police Vernon Alvarez, on behalf of the Klamath Tribes, has been working on getting the Klamath Tribes DPS recognized by the State of Oregon and registered as a “Tribal Law Enforcement Unit.” On Nov. 2, 2023, the Klamath Tribes received this confirmation from Erica Riddell, Criminal Justice Officer Specialist of the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training, recognizing the Klamath Tribes Department of Public Safety as a Tribal Law Enforcement Unit in the State of Oregon.

Chief Alvarez will work with the DPSST for its final certification review. Establishing and implementing our Tribal Public Safety Department is an exemplary expression of our inherent sovereignty. The story of law enforcement in Indian Country transcends written history. It

extends back to the dawn of time when this continent’s indigenous people sought order and balance in their lives. Chief Alvarez has been fortunate to work with tribal leadership, General Manager George Lopez, and our Human Resource Department, who processed and hired staff, tribal directors and their staff, who have been very supportive and forward-thinking regarding the establishment of the Klamath Tribes Department of Public Safety Department.

“It was a total team effort,” said Chief Alvarez. “We still have a long way to go, but will get there.”

The Klamath Tribes Department of Public Safety now consists of the Police Chief, one Police officer, two Fish and Game officers, an Administration Assistant/Dispatcher, and an Emergency Manager. The Klamath Tribes were also awarded a 2023 COPS Hiring grant for one more officer. A Public Safety Building will be built and operational in 2024 or early 2025.



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Tanikwah Lang holds up a Klamath Tribes flag at the United Indigenous Forum in Rome. (Photo courtesy of Tanikwah Lang)

Oregon Tech student and Klamath tribal member Tanikwah Lang attends United Nations Indigenous Youth Forum in Rome

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Oregon Institute of Technology senior Tanikwah Lang attended the United Nations Biennial Global Indigenous Youth Forum October in Rome, hosted by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, focusing on Indigenous societies and food security. Lang is currently completing a bachelor’s program in environmental sciences and is looking to continue her education pursuing a master’s degree in Indigenous food sovereignty and food sustainability.

There were close to 500 applicants from the seven sociocultural regions of the world, and she was one of the 186 chosen for forum in Rome, and ninety-eight Indigenous peoples’ groups were represented.

“I was ecstatic,” Lang said, recalling her emotions upon finding out she had been accepted. “I went and told my family immediately, and I told my mentor from the Wildlife Society.”

Lang said many of the participants shared personal experiences and discussed the work that they are doing. “We have projects that we’ve been involved with, and that’s kind of how we got in touch with this forum,” she said. “We were able to speak on the restoration efforts we are pursuing; as well as other youth and issues that are occurring on their homelands, to bring it to global attention at the United Nations.”

The ultimate goal is to push for

policy change at the international level with the United Nations said Lang. She lamented that there were some issues early in the forum — like non-Indigenous professionals speaking first, and then promptly leaving. Lang said the Indigenous youth coming together from around the world to share their knowledge was inspirational.

“The forum would have different cultural nights, different cultural opening ceremonies, and prayers from each delegation which kind of made it more of a spiritual space, which was really nice,” said Lang.

Lang spoke on a panel titled “Indigenous Youth Strategy for Implementation of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework.” On the panel Lang addressed the importance of biodiversity and species preservation for Indigenous peoples’ physical and spiritual wellbeing. “I also spoke about the c’waam and koptu suckers and how significant they are to the Klamath Tribes beyond just subsistence, for example, their importance culturally and spiritually,” she said.

Lang said that she learned a lot at the forum and was pleased that her Indigenous counterparts were able to express their concerns. One issue of contention brought up at the forum that grabbed Lang’s attention was data sovereignty. In one particular tribe, if an outside entity conducts research on the tribe’s culture, or within the tribe’s sovereign land, then the data will automatically belong to the tribe.

“Because a lot of times you have

people come in and do, for example, ethnographies,” said Lang. “But then it doesn’t belong to that tribe. It’s not their data, they can’t preserve and keep it for themselves to help promote and sustain these cultural practices, or this indigenous knowledge. And I feel like that was something that really resonated with me.”

Lang hopes the Klamath Tribes can one day attain such sovereignty over their data, but for now myriad problems of tribal concerns abound in the Klamath Basin and Lang stressed the importance of recognizing that they are all interconnected. “I’d say one thing is listen to what Indigenous people have to say because we hold a lot of knowledge,” she said. “And our elders hold a lot of traditional ecological knowledge of how things should be done.

“I think a lot of us youth get really

discouraged with issues like losing sacred species, and culturally significant species, as well as habitat loss,” Lang continued, reflecting on the forum, her contemporaries, and subsequent generations. “The change in the environment and losing touch to our culture because we’re not allowed to continuously practice things is a hopeless feeling. But feel it and understand that other people are also going through it and strive to figure out solutions.”

Lang stressed that there’s always something that can be done, whether that be policy change or practicing individual rights. “Feel what you’re feeling and let it encourage you to be ambitious,” she said. “I felt super hopeless for a long time. There’s still a lot to be done, and there’s so much more that we could be doing. But I feel like any effort is better than none.”



Tanikwah Lang (right) at United Nations Indigenous Forum in Rome. (Photo courtesy of Tanikwah Lang)

Indigenous wildfire prevention techniques of the past are now used to control present-day fires



(Left) Fire in a transition zone that is killing lodgepole and underburning Ponderosa pine. The intent of the prescribed fire program is to burn under the condition that it kills lodgepole but dots the large older Ponderosa pine. (Right) Lodgepole encroaching on a meadow. The prescribed fire intends to kill the invading lodgepole competing for water with larger Ponderosa.

(Photos courtesy of Tim Sexton/Klamath Tribes)

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Tim Sexton is the Klamath Tribes' Wildland Fire Program Manager. He is tasked with building the program and implementing traditional, indigenous methods for controlling wildfires, which in turn requires the restoration of ecosystems on the former reservation and currently owned lands of the Klamath Tribes.

For centuries, the tribes of southern Oregon have intuited how to maintain the forests. Generally speaking, nature has a way of pruning itself – getting rid of excess branches, stems, pine needles, and small shrubs – and this was generally accomplished through natural wildfires. The Indigenous peoples of the region recognized this process, and they, in turn, put fire to the land in a safe and effective manner.

Using primarily prescribed fires, Sexton and his program intend to use the fire “the way the tribes used to use it.” He cited how the Tribes harvested huckleberry patches on the crest of the Cascades as a prime example.

According to historical accounts and interviews with elders, “They gathered huckleberries, but then, before they left the mountain, they would fire those patches to generate new growth next year,” said Sexton, “and to kill some of the trees that would grow into the patches so that there would be sufficient space for the patches to grow again.”

But because of the excess growth and fuels that have built up over the centuries, employing such a method nowadays in the middle of September might inadvertently burn thousands of acres.

And many large meadows that once existed, said Sexton, have been dramatically reduced in size “due to

conifer tree encroachment and shrub encroachment.” It is imperative to restore the meadows to their original size while restoring their species composition and stand structure – the horizontal and vertical distribution of forest elements. This will require both mechanical and fire treatments.

This also applies to the riparian areas - lands along the edges of bodies of water - feeding into and out of the meadows. “Many of those riparian areas are full of lodgepole pine, and even Ponderosa and juniper where historically they were dominated by willows and other riparian species,” explained Sexton. “The invading, or encroaching conifers and shrubs, have displaced some of those riparian species that did a better job of stabilizing the unique environments that riparian areas represent.”

The U.S. Forest Service has managed the forests for decades, diverging from how Indigenous peoples managed the land; the Forest Service put out all fires and continues the practice of putting out almost all fires. “Because they put out all the fires, that allowed those woody species to start invading areas that had historically burned every five to 15 years and kept the woody species out,” said Sexton.

Not allowing nature to take its course, woody species have proliferated, and dead, highly flammable fuels in the form of fallen pine needles building up on bitterbrush and other shrubs have created potentially volatile situations throughout forests.

Putting out all fires “was not helping maintain that system that had been here for thousands of years that both nature and the Klamath Tribes themselves managed effectively,” said Sexton.

The most immediate and pressing concern is to get the fire back

on the landscape at an appropriate scale. Sexton has received a grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to carry out prescribed burns on Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Upper Klamath Marsh lands.

“I’ve got a million dollars a year for the next four years to actually do implementation work,” he said. “And we intend to burn the edges of the marsh and the marsh itself to restore both habitat and fuel conditions to historic conditions.”

Sexton said that an aggressive approach between the Tribes and the Forest Service would probably take at least 10 years to get the Fremont-Winema National Forest back to resilient and sustainable conditions. But he stressed this would require a concerted and resolute effort.

Currently, entities administering the Fremont-Winema National Forest have a target of 50,000 acres a year of hazard field treatment on a two million-acre forest. Sexton described this as unsustainable: “It’s not getting at solving the problem. It’s just kind of deferring it a little bit.”

If the preventative measures Sexton plans on implementing are more widely adopted, and if people

exercise a healthy degree of caution, then fires burning up thousands of acres are more avoidable.

One of the last major fires to ignite near Chiloquin was the 242 Fire. Sexton said this was most likely due to campers burning fires during a particularly dry cold front that blew through during Labor Day weekend in 2020.

Another fire ignited in the marsh north of Chiloquin in late September when apparently the hot muffler of a vehicle ignited dry grass. And with windy conditions, Sexton pointed out, a fire can burn rapidly.

For homeowners, replacing conifer and cedar shrubs with deciduous trees like aspen could potentially spare one’s property. Sexton looks forward to engaging the community on awareness.

“There are a lot of things people can do around their house to protect it from fires,” he said, “and we’ll be engaging tribal members and the local community on some of those methods that may work for them. We may even be able to use our fire crews to help local tribal members get their property fire-safe. And more to come on that as we get our staffing up.”

In Memoriam

Shannon Roger Copeland

March 17th 1944—November 6th 2023

On Nov. 6, 2023, surrounded by loved ones, Shannon Roger Copeland took his final bow in life and slipped off his mortal costume to be with his wife, older brothers, and younger sister, as well as all those ancestors from both Irish and Native American heritages. One theater curtain closes, another opens.

On St. Patrick’s Day 1944, Shannon Roger Copeland came into this world on a naval base hospital in San Diego, Cal., born to John Henry Copeland and Catherine “Casey” Gordon. John, a member of the Klamath Tribes, first raised the family in Chiloquin, Ore., on the Klamath-Modoc Reservation, where Shannon spent his early years with his older brothers Charles and Gordon, older sister Catherine and younger sister Sharon.

Eventually, the family moved to Silverton, Ore., where Shannon would graduate from Silverton High School in 1963. After high school, he joined the Navy, serving in the Atlantic Fleet on the USS Tattal. After an honorable discharge, he attended Mt. Angel College, where he pursued a degree in theater, performing in many plays before meeting, falling in love, and marrying Gayle McKenzie of Silverton, with whom he had his daughter Annette and son Adam. In 1975, Shannon co-founded The

Silverton Community Players, a theater troupe going strong to this day, which still frequently performs



“The Saga of Sylvie Creek,” a melodrama co-written and published by Shannon. As a recognized member of the Klamath Tribes, he kept close ties to the Reservation, making summer pilgrimages there with his children. Shannon’s last working years were spent with the Oregon State Lottery. After retirement, he stayed active with his family, the theater, and his shuffle-board league.

A beloved member of the community, it was not uncommon for him to be greeted to shouts of “Shannon!” upon entering his favorite pubs. In 2021, after the death of Gayle, his body began the long goodbye, culminating in a stay in Salem Hospital. Shannon is survived by his sister Catherine Manion of Eureka, Calif.; his daughter Annette Dettwyler of Silverton; his son Adam Copeland, of Vancouver, Wash.; his grandchildren Sarah Dettwyler, Casey Rauda, May Schwabauer, Jacob Dettwyler, Talitha Dettwyler, Marie Dettwyler, and Josef Dettwyler; his great-grandchildren Raymond, Rodney, Maxine, and Vivien Clare; and a tribe of nieces, nephews, in-laws, and countless friends.

You will be missed, Shannon.

Klamath Tribes Fish and Game officers sworn in at Tribal Council Meeting



Klamath Tribes Fish and Game officers Juan Pulido (left) and Zane Powless (right) get sworn in by Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont on Nov. 8. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

By Ken Smith

Klamath Tribes News

The Klamath Tribes' new Fish and Game officers were sworn in Wednesday, Nov. 8, during the Klamath Tribes Council meeting. Juan Pulido and Zane Powless are now officially officers for Fish and Game enforcement on tribal trust lands that cover an area from Klamath Falls to Beatty. The two men recently graduated from a 14-week Bureau of Indian Affairs Police Academy in New Mexico.

Both men are tribal members and have military backgrounds. Officer Powless grew up in the Klamath Basin. He was on the wrestling team of Klamath Union High School, where he graduated in 2012. He enlisted in the Army, serving in South Korea with the 29th Infantry of the Second Infantry Division and Fort Irwin, Cal., with the second squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Following his active duty contract, he transferred to the Oregon Army National Guard as part of the First Battalion 186th Infantry and was deployed to the Horn of Africa in 2019 and 2020 as part of Task Force Guardian, serving in Kenya and Dubai. Following his military service, he attended Central Oregon Community College in Bend and worked in timber sales at the U.S. Forest Service. He also worked in commercial roofing, as well as security at the Indian Head casino in Warm Springs. Most recently, he worked as a forestry technician for the Klamath Tribes Natural Resources

Department. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, reading books, traveling, and shooting. "We're honored to have Zane as part of the public safety team and so proud of his accomplishments since graduating from the police academy," said Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont during the introduction prior to the swearing-in.

Officer Pulido joined the Fish and Game Enforcement Department on Oct. 22, 2022. He graduated from Clackamas High School and later served in the Army as a sniper team leader with a deployment to Afghanistan. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family hunting, shooting, and fishing. He graduated from the police academy as a class guide, a leadership position in which he stands in front of the unit alongside the commander or the commander's representatives and is the rallying point for troops to fall into formation when the order is given in drills and ceremonies. The guide and commander are always in front of the formation. This is an honor position for those finishing top in their fitness and leadership capabilities and are picked by the commander and classmates. He also had top scores in his grade and shooting. Following their introduction, the two men were sworn in as law enforcement officers for the Klamath Tribes Department of Public Safety Natural Resources Fish and Game. Following the swearing-in, they were given Pendleton blankets and seed-bead medallions made by Klamath

Mexico was a challenging course. "You know, you had room inspections," he said. "You had to march; you had physical fitness most of the week on top of heavy academics. So, academics are a huge factor. Then, here's a lot of stuff that you had to be able to get right. Powless admits there are challenges for tribal enforcement of fish and game. "We have to balance our traditional hunting practices with today's system," he said. "One hundred years ago, there was no need to have hunting tags. But nowadays, we need some to show our numbers and track how many animals. We also have to work with our state counterparts." The area the two officers will patrol encompasses 1.1 million acres as part of the 1954 Reservation Treaty from when the Tribes were terminated. "There's state land, there's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land, like at the Refuge, and then a lot of private land as well," said Powless. "The private land you can hunt on if you have permission. So, it's a lot of job for two guys." Along with Powless and Pulido, the Tribe has one patrol officer, James Moore, and looking to add one more in January. Powless said the academy in New

Mexico was a challenging course. "You know, you had room inspections," he said. "You had to march; you had physical fitness most of the week on top of heavy academics. So, academics are a huge factor. Then, here's a lot of stuff that you had to be able to get right. Powless admits there are challenges for tribal enforcement of fish and game. "We have to balance our traditional hunting practices with today's system," he said. "One hundred years ago, there was no need to have hunting tags. But nowadays, we need some to show our numbers and track how many animals. We also have to work with our state counterparts." The area the two officers will patrol encompasses 1.1 million acres as part of the 1954 Reservation Treaty from when the Tribes were terminated. "There's state land, there's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land, like at the Refuge, and then a lot of private land as well," said Powless. "The private land you can hunt on if you have permission. So, it's a lot of job for two guys." Along with Powless and Pulido, the Tribe has one patrol officer, James Moore, and looking to add one more in January.

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Fremont-Winema National Forest Service News



Oregon Fire Management Partnership began prescribed fire operations of two distinct varieties: underburning and pile burning.

Underburning is where fire managers are targeting low, highly flammable vegetation in an effort to reduce the available amount of fuel a fire can consume. This was demonstrated to be effective during the Bootleg fire in 2021, where areas that had been both thinned and treated with fire are still standing and green in 2023, but areas that hadn't been treated experienced high, sometimes complete, tree mortality.

Pile burning is similar, except dead and downed vegetation and trees are cleared out of an area to allow for replanting and reforestation. Pile burning may be hand-piled, in which case firefighters and workers cut and pile dead vegetation by hand or assisted by machines like buncher-fellers and dozers.

Both underburning and pile burning contribute to the amount of smoke in the air; however, the smoke impacts from a single prescribed fire typically last less than a week. Ultimately, pile burning allows the Forest Service and their partners to reforest burned areas, whereas underburning keeps

the forest alive – while also improving habitat for wildlife, protecting human communities, minimizing the spread of insects and disease, removing invasive species, and assisting late-opening lodgepole pine cones with reseeding the ground.

The Forest Service has begun the process of standing up a road crew, which should allow for faster maintenance and repair of roads within the boundaries of the Forest when roads are unsafe or impassible. The exact scope of work that the road crew will contribute to has yet to be defined; however, as the Fremont-Winema has one of the most extensive forest road networks in the United States, this should have a very positive impact.

During the Regional Management Review, Liz Berger, the Acting Regional Forester for Region 6, Northwest Region, discussed how the Fremont-Winema achieved 150% of timber targets for Fiscal Year 2023. While this is excellent from a yearly perspective, conservation and timber industry partners expressed a desire to see targets lowered in order to maintain the long-term health and viability of the forest. Those same partners expressed a continued desire to work with the Fremont-Winema to achieve funding necessary to grow the team and put it on the path to self-sufficiency.

Yates updated the Senator on the Klamath Tribal Health Clinic in Klamath Falls. She shared the services offered at the location – behavioral health, dental, medical two days per week, and pharmacy to support the medical clinic. Yates discussed

a state of sustainability, in one case expressing, “There’s no other place like this. We have to work together to keep the forest alive for the future.”

In the interest of protecting and maintaining the Forest for future generations, the Northwest Region of the Forest Service is currently revising the Northwest Forest Plan. While the exact content of the updated Northwest Forest Plan is still pre-decisional, the stated goals of the plan are to focus on improving fire resilience, adapting to climate change, include the Tribes within decision-making processes, create sustainable communities, and protect old-growth forest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has completed a final Environmental Assessment (EA) that evaluated a proposal to reconnect the Agency Lake-Barnes Units of the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (Upper Klamath NWR) in Oregon. The EA was finalized with a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), paving the way for one of the largest freshwater wetland restoration projects in the western U.S. The Senator also briefed the Senator on the outstanding work of our Ambodat Restoration Team (complete with before and after pictures) and asked the Senator to support the the significant need for homeless services and talked about the Klamath Tribal Health Transitional Emergency Shelter opening in December. She also updated the Senator on the healthcare staffing crisis in rural Oregon and the importance of training Klamath Tribal members who will stay in the area to serve their tribe.

By Benjamin Wilson
Forest Service Public Affairs Officer

The Fremont-Winema National Forest hosted the Regional Forester Team from Region 6, the Pacific Northwest Region, last week for a management review. Topics involved sustainability, relations with our partner organizations, employee work-life balance, and the impact of our Ranger Districts on the communities that host them.

The Regional Forester Team plan to look into ways they can assist with seed and tree viability for replanting in burned areas like the 242 and Bootleg fires, as well as ways to reduce vandalism and damage in remote recreation areas that charge a fee.

Fire Season for the Southcentral Oregon area was declared over on Oct.16, and immediately afterward, agencies in the Southcentral

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Do your investments match your goals?

As you go through life, you'll have various financial goals — and to achieve them, you'll need to invest. But, just recognizing the need to invest is not as useful as matching specific types of accounts or investments with specific goals. How can you make these connections? Let's look at some common goals and how they could possibly be met with appropriate accounts and investments:

Saving for a down payment on a house – When you're saving for a down payment, you want a certain amount of money available at a certain time — so, for this goal, you won't want to take too much risk. Consequently, you might consider investing in certificates of deposit (CDs), which will pay you regular interest payments and return your principal when the CDs mature. CDs are issued in a range of maturities, from one month to 10 years. Other vehicles you might consider are money market accounts or other cash equivalents.

Saving for a child's education – If you have children and you'd like to help them pay for some form of higher education, you may want to consider a 529 education savings plan. Any earnings growth in a 529 plan is federally tax-free, provided the withdrawals are used for qualified education expenses, and you may also receive state tax benefits. A 529 plan can be used for college, approved trade school programs, student loan repayments, and some K-12 costs. And if the child you've named as a beneficiary chooses not to continue their education and doesn't need the money in a 529 plan, you can generally switch beneficiaries to another immediate family member.

Saving for retirement – This is the one goal that will remain consistent throughout your working years — after all, you could spend two or even three decades in retirement, so you'll need to accumulate as many financial resources as you can to pay for those years. Fortunately, you likely have access to several good retirement-savings vehicles. If you work for a business, you might have a 401(k) plan, which offers you the chance to put away money on a tax-deferred basis. If you have a Roth option in your 401(k), your withdrawals can be tax-free, although, unlike a traditional 401(k), your contributions won't lower your taxable income. If you work for a public school or a nonprofit organization, you may be able to participate in a 403(b) plan, which is quite similar to a 401(k), and the same is true if you work for a state or local government, where you might have a 457(b) plan. And even if you invest in any of these plans, you can probably also contribute to an IRA, which gives you another chance to invest on a tax-deferred basis (or tax-free basis, if you're eligible for a Roth IRA). Try to take full advantage of whatever retirement plans are available to you.

Here's one final point to keep in mind: While some investments and accounts are appropriate for certain goals, they may not necessarily be suitable for your individual situation — so keep all your options in mind and take the steps that are right for you.

This article was written by Edward Jones. Edward Jones, Member SIPC, and submitted by Jessie Hecocta, Financial Advisor.

Empowering Klamath Tribes: Klamath Community College SBDC Services

By Estella Woodley

At the Klamath Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC), we support new and experienced small business owners in Klamath and Lake counties. We enjoy the beauty and lifestyle of our area, and our goal is to help make small businesses thrive in our local economy.

The SBDC serves innovators, entrepreneurs, and small to medium for-profit businesses within the tribal community with two primary services: confidential, no-cost business advising and training.

The SBDC, in partnership with the Klamath Tribes Planning Department, plays a pivotal role in fostering entrepreneurship and economic development in the region. Whether you have a business idea you're passionate about, are seeking to expand an existing enterprise, or simply want to explore new opportunities, the SBDC is here to guide you every step of the way.

What is the KCC SBDC, and how does it serve the Klamath Tribes and its members? Here are some of the key services offered by the KCC SBDC:

Business Counseling: The SBDC provides personalized, one-on-one, confidential business advising to help tribal members refine their business ideas, develop business plans, and navigate the challenges of entrepreneurship. From market research to financial projections, their expert advisors are here to assist you.

Workshops and Training: The SBDC regularly hosts workshops and training sessions covering a wide range of topics, including their Smart Start-Up class, where you will gain the information needed before you begin business, marketing, financial literacy, and more. These events are designed to equip tribal members with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the business world.

Access to Capital: Securing financing is often a significant hurdle for entrepreneurs. The SBDC helps tribal members explore various funding options, from traditional loans to crowdfunding and other financial resources.

Market Research and Analysis: Understanding your target market is essential. The

SBDC assists tribal members in conducting market research and analysis to identify opportunities and threats, ensuring that business strategies are grounded in real data.

Regulatory Guidance: Navigating the complex web of regulations can be challenging. The SBDC helps tribal businesses stay compliant with federal, state, and local regulations, ensuring that they operate smoothly and avoid costly legal pitfalls.

Technology and Innovation Support: In today's fast-paced business world, technology and innovation are often key drivers of success. The SBDC offers guidance on utilizing technology effectively and fostering a culture of innovation within your business.

The KCC SBDC is not just an organization; it's a partner in your journey to success. Their mission is to create economic opportunities, foster resilience, and empower tribal members to achieve their entrepreneurial dreams.

If you're a member of the Klamath Tribes or reside in the Klamath Basin and dream of starting or growing your own business, don't hesitate to reach out to the KCC SBDC. Their dedicated team is ready to provide you with the knowledge, resources, and support you need to turn your business ideas into reality.

Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant community, one business at a time. The Klamath Community College Small Business Development Center is here to ensure that no one is left behind on the path to success. Embrace the opportunity, and let your dreams take flight with the guidance of this incredible resource.

Please call our office and make an appointment to speak to one of our business advisers. You can also go to our website at www.oregonSBDC.org/Klamath and request advice and where you can also find the various trainings we have to offer.

Estella Woodley is the Interim Small Business Development Center Director. Email: woodley@klamathcc.edu.

Edward Jones® Member SIPC



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Klamath Tribes Language History



life, he spoke no English. He continued to use Yahooskin with his grandparents and other relatives, as well as friends for much of his life; so, he maintained an excellent command of his language of heritage.

The name Yahooskin is itself a name derived from a story of early contact with Europeans. It is derived from the word yuhu—grease/tallow and the English word skin. A common practice was to cook the bones of a deer in order to melt down the inner marrow. This substance was then applied to the arms and neck in order to repel insects; so, when an early settler felt the substance and asked what it was, they received the simple reply yuhu. Hence the name Yahooskin.

Above excerpts from Yahooskin Ethnohistorical Report, Prepared for The Klamath Tribes, by Tim Thornes February 3, 1995


Mr. Weiser was 85 years at the time of this project.

Mr. Weiser was a soft-spoken man and revered within the Community. He was well known for playing his banjo and singing in churches & at camp meetings. He had a wealth of knowledge and shared with those who listened.


Mr. Irwin Weiser
August 16, 1909 - July 12, 1996

Mr. Irwin Weiser, is himself, an important representative of the Yahooskin People. He is a direct descendant of Dr. Samuel Wata and has imparted valuable cultural and historical information that no one else could know as Dr. Wata's grandchild. His status as perhaps one of the last fluent speakers of a little recorded dialect of Northern Paiute authenticates him as an essential cultural resource. Language imparts values in a unique way. A great deal of cultural information is lost when it is necessary to work only through an English translation. Place names and traditional stories are authenticated by the language in which they have been transmitted. Mr. Weiser, as a speaker of Yahooskin, has kept more than the words of his language. He has also kept much of the traditions and values they impart intact.

For the first 8 or 9 years of his



?ewksiknii coy moattakknii hemkanks
Klamath and Modoc language
Klamath Tribes Language Department



KLAMATH AND MODOC NUMBERS

Naas	[hnahhsh]	1
laap	[lahahp]	2
ndan	[ndahn]	3
woniip	[wooneeep]	4
tonip	[tooneep]	5
Nacksept	[hnahtchkshapt]	6
lapksept	[lahpkshapt]	7
ndanksept	[ndahnkshapt]	8
Nacq'eeks	[hnahtchk'aaks]	9
tewn'ip	[town'eep]	10

Klamath Words/Phrases:

a.	wac'aak	dog
b.	wac	horse
c.	mountain	Y'ay'na
d.	river	goge
e.	see	sleat
f.	noo	I
g.	?a	present
h.	laapeni	two
i.	ndani	three
j.	wonipni	four
k.	tonipni	five

- noo ?a sleat
I see
noo ?a sleat Naas wac'aak
I see one horse
- noo ?a sleat goge
I see the river.
- noo ?a sleat ndani y'ay'na
I see three mountains

Vowels of the Klamath Tribes Language


a	sounds "ah" in father	aa	hold for 2 beats
e	sounds "a" in bat	ee	hold for 2 beats
o	sounds "oo" in food	oo	hold for 2 beats
i	sounds "ee" in seed	ii	hold for 2 beats

Alphabet of the Klamath and Modoc Languages

? a e i o b j d g h p p' c c' q q' t t' k k' l l' P L m m' M n n' s s' w w' W y y' Y

Greeting Phrases in Klamath and Modoc

- waq lis ?i** waq means how; lis means are, ?i means you
- moo dic** moo means very, dic means good



Field Trip Handout
Klamath Tribes Language Department
1 | Page



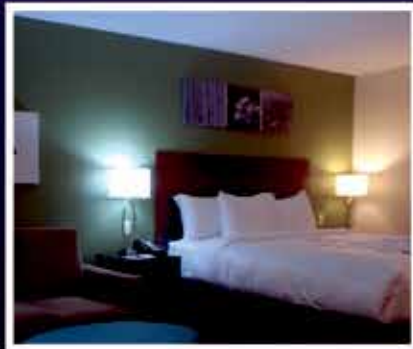
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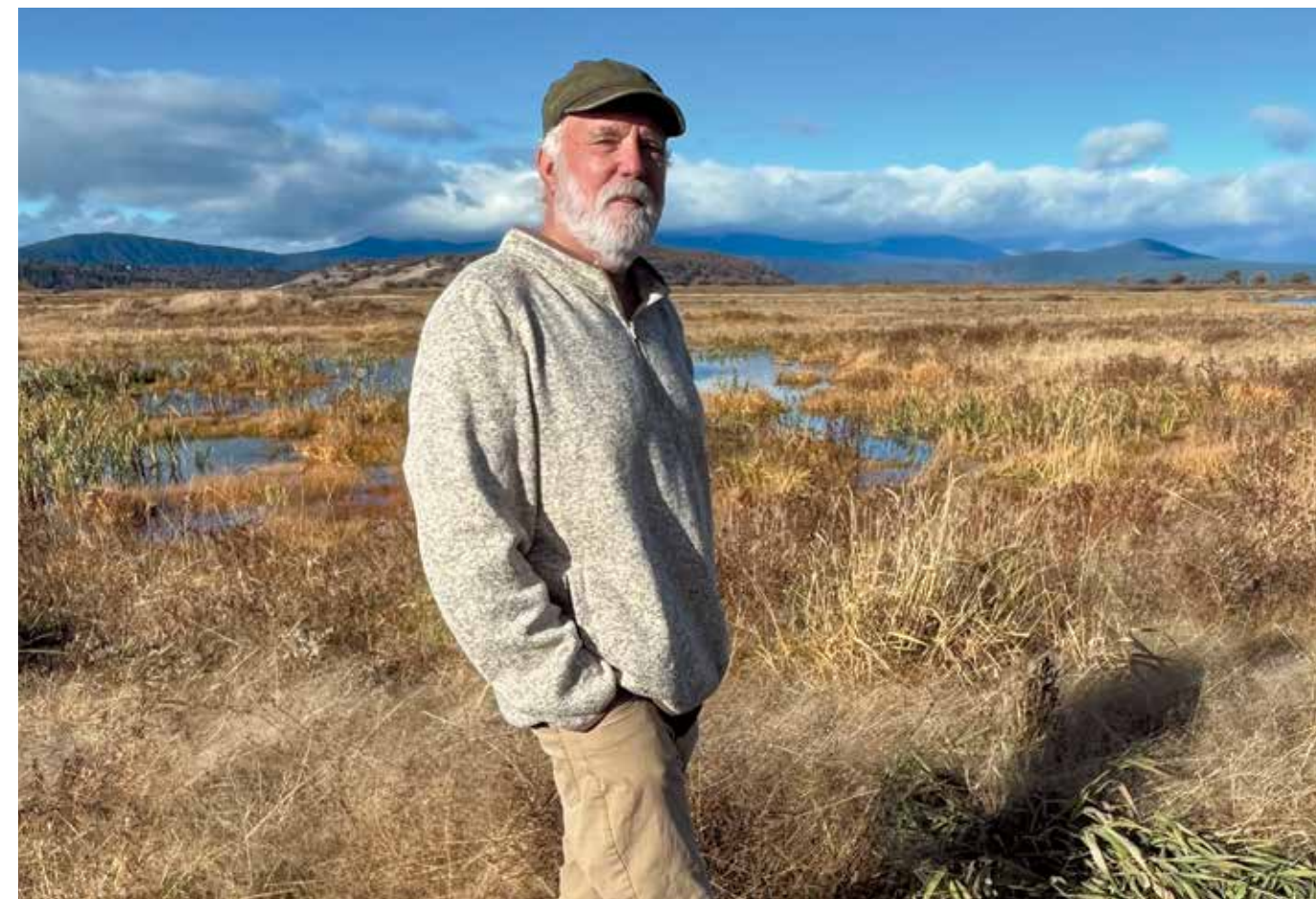
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Farmers strive to restore Upper Klamath Lake wetlands while keeping farmlands productive



Karl Wenner, one of the owners and the managing partner of Lakeside Farms, stands in a restored wetland.
(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

A concerted effort amongst several agencies and the Klamath Tribes is taking place to help restore some of Upper Klamath Lake's historical wetlands. Likewise, several environmentally-conscious ranchers and farmers have gotten on board and provided tracts of land to be converted back to their indigenous roots.

Karl Wenner, a retired orthopedic surgeon, is one such farmer. He owns Lakeside Farms with partners: Jeff Brant, John Holing, Ross Roesner, and Mike Tyrholm. Wenner exuded optimism when discussing short-term and long-term goals.

With 4,929 suckerfish already introduced to his ponds and indigenous plants naturally reintroduced on the 70-acre allotment, collaboration between Wenner, the Klamath Tribes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Natural Resources Conservation Service provides a blueprint for how Upper Klamath Lake's historical wetlands can be partially restored while still being an economically viable reality for ranchers and farmers.

In the winter, Wenner's farm naturally floods, and that water soaks up nutrients from the peat, absorbing inordinate quantities of phosphorus. Due to excessively high phosphorous levels – five times what was allowed – Wenner and other farmers were told they could no longer pump

water into Upper Klamath Lake.

“And that totally messed up our farming operation because we had to drain it to farm it,” explained Wenner during a recent field trip to the wetland. “So, we tried to come up with ways to fix that. One of the ways that made the most sense was to create a wetland, pump the water into the wetland, and let the wetland clean that up. And then we could pump it into the lake.”

The project has been very successful in reducing phosphorus levels. Wenner said that no one expected the water to go from five times allowable phosphorus quantities to allowable as quickly as it did.

“We thought it would take four or five years for the wetland to develop enough to really treat the phosphorus, but it did it in a year and a half. And it did it fast,” he said. Wetlands are resilient and naturally adept at removing phosphorous through a combination of physical, chemical, and biological processes.

The Fish and Wildlife Service also did work to deepen one of Wenner's ponds on the allotment to provide an ideal habitat for c'waam and koptu suckerfish. “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fish that they have in their hatchery were released a year and a half ago. They were released in April 2022,” said Wenner. “And by September of that year, they'd gone from three inches to nine inches. And they did really well.”

Wenner and Klamath Tribes' Ambodat Director Mark Buettner

share a vision of one day having suckers everywhere in the wetland. Wenner pointed to what had previously been a drainage ditch and said that it could potentially serve as a good habitat for suckers.

Ambodat had originally scheduled a suckerfish release in a wetland canal for early November, but water quality conditions were not favorable. Buettner said that they would continue to monitor water quality and evaluate options. The hope is to use Lakeside Farm's wetland as a grow-out location for suckers before releasing them into Upper Klamath Lake.

“Off-channel rearing, or raising suckers in a more quasi-natural environment, is an option we are exploring to ready hatchery-raised fish to be integrated into the wild,” said Carlie Sharpes, Ambodat Aquaculturist. “This would be an avenue to pursue in the event we reach or exceed our carrying capacity on the hatchery to grow out the fish a little more before entering the lake for increased survivability.”

Most of the original wetland habitat in the area has been degraded and fragmented, and Sharpes noted that Wenner is doing important work to reverse that and, in fact, restore the landscape.

In previous decades, this nascent wetland had formerly been a barley field. In a brief period of time, this 70-acre allotment has been transformed from a barley field to a wetland capable of purifying itself, ridding itself of damaging elements, and providing habitat for fish and waterfowl.

“What a great thing to have happened,” said Wenner. “You just put water on this. We didn't plant anything. It was there, all the seeds were there, and boom, it just turned into a marsh. All that vegetation you see out there wasn't there; it was barley.”

Seeing the transformation firsthand is impressive. Compared to Wenner's adjacent farmland, comprising an additional 330 acres, the wetland's wild, seemingly unkempt look really stands out. This new terrain, with artificial islands and tall grass, has quickly become a veritable oasis for water birds.

Wenner described the new vegetation once again taking root on his land: wild millet; beggarticks, a great food really high in protein for ducks; and panicgrass, a source of sustenance that ducks go crazy for. “And so, the whole wetland was [historically] full of this. And again, we didn't plant it,” said Wenner. “What planted it was the ducks. The ducks have been coming to this barley field for 90 years. They're carrying seeds in their gut, some of it they don't digest, and they poop it out in the field. And the seeds have just been sitting there waiting for the right conditions. We gave them the right conditions, and it all came in.”

Such restoration programs are not new, and Wenner is humble in stating that what transpires on his land is not particularly innovative, but he does convey a strong sense of pride and urgency in restoring Upper Klamath Lake and its historic wetlands.

“And this has to happen all around the basin and not just on federal refuge,” Wenner said. “It has to happen on private ground. It has to be a system in which the landowners aren't penalized for doing this. They have to be rewarded for doing this. And they'll do it. I think there are a lot of farmers that love this. They like seeing this. They also want to see a healthy grain field.”

The Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP), under the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), in conjunction with the Intermountain West Joint Venture – a pilot program to pay private landowners to convert some of their farms to wetlands – help make this an economically viable decision for private landowners.

Wenner was also effusive in praising the Klamath Tribes. “This is happening because the Tribes have identified the problems and said, ‘Phosphorus is driving this,’” he explained. “And they pushed the Oregon Department of Agriculture to

See page 16,
Lakeside Farms



Wetlands have been restored at Lakeside Farms bringing back waterfowl. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

Lakeside Farms

Continued from page 15

enforce the rules they already had. And that’s what made us act. So, the Tribes are responsible for all of this in the sense that they were the ones who really recognized the issue and pushed the issue.”

Wenner emphasized his desire to have a healthy mix of land, and he would like to grow a great product, primarily barley, that is not detrimental to the environment.

“The farm by itself is not going to solve the problem,” Wenner said. “But if you do this in multiple places, then you start to solve the

problem. The owners of the farm, and I have to emphasize this, all of them are totally into this idea and want this to be successful, to be able to say, ‘Look, we can do it, you can do it.’ This is maybe the way of the future for the Klamath Basin.”



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Q&A with Ambodat Director Mark Buettner



By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Mark Buettner took over as the Director of the Ambodat Department on July 31. The department has a fish hatchery for the endangered c'waam and koptu suckers and also operates the Sprague River Water Quality Lab, which has been operating since 2006. They also monitor the water quality of Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries and operate an aquatic habitat restoration program in the Upper Klamath Basin as well. With a staff of 27 and growing, Ambodat is a busy department with a slew of long and short-term projects slated over the coming years.

Buettner worked for 30 years as a fishery biologist for the federal government before coming to Ambodat to work as an environmental scientist. This year, the department received \$6.5 million from two funding sources – the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation Fund and the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement Fund. Ambodat was established 30 years ago as part of the Natural Resources Department before breaking off on its own three years ago as the Aquatic Resources Department; and just last year, it was renamed Ambodat, which in Klamath-Modoc means “of the water.” Buettner sat down with Klamath Tribes News at the Ambodat conference room to discuss the multitude of projects the department is involved in this year and what is planned for the coming years.

When you first started, was your focus on the fish?

No, the Amabodat Department has a broader goal. We're focused on all aquatic resources, fisheries, water quality health of the system, and things of this nature.

The infrastructure being built, is that part of what these funds are going toward?

About \$3.5 million was intended to be more for so-called

infrastructure-type projects. And then the other \$3 million to support our staff in order to keep things operating.

What are some of the key infrastructures you are targeting?

The expansion of our sucker-rearing facilities is one of the main infrastructure targets. We're also receiving the money to establish a salmon-rearing facility, which we haven't begun yet; we're in the planning stage. The other things we're doing are not directly involved with infrastructure but rather on-the-ground type activities, so those funds were used to support our stream restoration crew and their work. Some habitat work, like a project to enhance sucker spawning habitat in the lake and restoration of Barkley Springs, are some of the other projects under the so-called Infrastructure portion of the funding.

The Klamath Falls hatchery you have mentioned, are you aligning yourself with them?

We work closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They operate the Klamath Falls National Fish Hatchery, and so we collaborate with them on sucker rearing. As far as salmon, we are in some conversations with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has the Klamath Fish Hatchery near Fort Klamath. They raise trout and salmon there. Because we really don't have the facilities here, we are exploring various options, including putting a recirculating salmon-rearing system in our facility here or finding another site, but we're in the early planning stages.

Do they have to expand that hatchery in Fort Klamath?

I don't think so. Because it's intended to be a salmon conservation hatchery, it's not supposed to be a full-size production hatchery; it's just supposed to produce enough fish to allow us to get the wild stocks established. And hopefully, once they get established, Mother Nature will take over, and they'll just be able to reproduce naturally. The hatchery will be used to rear Spring Chinook because there aren't enough of them in the wild for them to be able to re-colonize on their own. They occur in the lower Klamath River system in the Salmon River and are very low in number. So, we'll need to bring fish in from a more abundant population of Spring Chinook to get that program started. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been taking eggs as they spawn the Spring Chinook over on the Trinity River and bring

ing them up here to the Fort Klamath hatchery for rearing. And then they've been releasing some for experimental purposes in order to understand how they'll move through the system.

I was talking to the hatchery director, and he said the 10,000 salmon being released is a test run, but 10 million is what you'll need to see some significant returns.

Well, that seems to be what the track record is with salmon facilities in the Pacific Northwest. They generally have had a very low survival rate; especially once they go to the ocean, and when they come back, you usually see about one percent or less of the ones that you released. So, they just have a lot of challenges in going to the ocean and then surviving. There are all these different pressures on them, such as predation, ocean conditions, and fishing, that affect their survival.

So, regarding the salmon hatchery program, as the dams come down, when do you think we can get to a point where we're seeing returns that are relevant?

Probably within eight to 12 years. This is kind of what the salmon experts are anticipating based on other dam removal and salmon reintroduction projects in the Pacific Northwest. For example, the Elwha in Washington which is the most recent dam removal and salmon reintroduction program. But yeah, it's going to take a while. They have to migrate a long way up the river from where they are now, and then there are a lot of challenges for them to move up through Upper Klamath Lake and into the tributaries. So, it'll take a while for them to colonize and move up. They're expecting the steelhead to probably be the first anadromous fish to come back because they tend to migrate more readily upstream.

Are the steelhead a pretty healthy stock?

No, they're actually not very abundant in the Klamath River.

Will there be a reintroduction program for them as well?

No, they'll probably do better on their own. We currently have a relatively healthy population of red-band trout in the Upper Klamath Basin, and they're related to steelhead. So, we think that steelhead will do well once they find this area.

The suckers are overstocked right now in the

ponds. You need to find more room for them. What's your timeline for additional ponds?

We have started construction of three additional ponds on our facility and hope to have those functional by the next growing season when we collect the next batch of larval suckers from the Williamson River. We're also planning to utilize ponds and wetlands on private properties for rearing. Lakeside Farms has offered canals and ponds to put some of our smaller, overstocked fish and grow them up to a larger size before we release them back into Upper Klamath Lake. And we're talking with other landowners around the lake who have shown interest in taking fish to grow them larger before being released into Upper Klamath Lake.

Are we talking ranches for the most part? Farmers?

The latest is Running Y Farms. It's over near the Running Y Ranch Resort. They have a big wetland pond and have shown interest in receiving suckers.

Do you see this developing into a productive relationship with many farmers?

Yeah, there's a lot of interest. We've been talking to some others. There's another property next to Lakeside Farms called Shady Pine Farm, with a conservation owner there. There's also a new owner of the Rock Creek Ranch, which is when you go over Doak Mountain and descend as you're heading toward Medford; there's a big ranch at the bottom of the hill that has been purchased by a conservation buyer who wants to restore wetlands and help the fish. So, yeah, there seem to be a lot of opportunities.

There is major support for conservation from a Foundation. Who are they?

The Catena Foundation has been supporting the Tribes for the last few years on a number of initiatives like first foods, aquatic habitat restoration, and restoring the suckers.

You're really busy.

Yeah, it's exciting to be part of a lot of neat things going on here in the Upper Klamath Basin.

This is a historic time. These are major transitions taking place.

Absolutely. I've worked here since the late 80s, and there's never been a period of time where there was so

See page 18,
Mark Buettner

Mark Buettner

Continued from page 17

much interest, investment, and support for ecological and species restoration.

Is it all because of the dam removals and that massive project?

That certainly was a major stimulation. It just opened the door to say, 'If we're going to spend \$450-500 million removing dams and welcoming salmon back, we need to make sure that the habitat where they're going is healthy.' And, of course, the Tribes have been working to protect and

restore the treaty resources within the Upper Klamath Basin, not only to bring salmon back but also the healthy forests, the c'waam and koptu, wetlands, and Upper Klamath Lake. All those things need a lot of restoration help.

You took over as director. Did you set some goals? Do you have some idea of where you want the department to be in five to 10 years?

Obviously, we're interested in expanding our aquatic habitat restoration team. We have one 8-person crew that's out doing work in the woods

and streams, and the goal would be to increase that to two crews because there's so much restoration work that needs to be done. So, there's an opportunity and a need for additional staff, and we want to provide more opportunities for tribal members to work in their own land. Our department is about two-thirds tribal members and one-third non-tribal. The more we can make it tribally dominated with people from the Klamath Tribes, bringing in new talent and a younger generation of tribal people to take over the program, the better. With our fisheries program, a goal is to be more successful in rearing suckers and to be able to see some

of the fish that we released come back into the spawning populations. That is obviously a major goal because, currently, we're not seeing any new adult fish coming back. The current sucker populations in Upper Klamath Lake are all old fish. Success would be to show that our rearing is supporting the wild population and keeping them from going extinct. Our long-term goal is to get the c'waam and koptu populations to a level where they are harvestable so that tribal members could catch them again. They have been an important part of their culture since time immemorial.

Klamath Tribes first archaeologist pursues work with passion and respect

*By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News*

Kaitlin Hakanson is the Klamath Tribes' first resident archaeologist. Hakanson shared with the Klamath Tribes News her inspirations for pursuing a career in archaeology and joining the Klamath Tribes' Culture and Heritage Department.

Having grown up in Los Angeles, Hakanson said that she took part in science camps during the summers there, and her parents had trouble keeping up with her insatiable curiosity.

"I was always asking lots of questions, wanting to just play in the dirt and just learn about different plants and animals," Hakanson said. "And eventually, that turned into digging around the dirt, you find not just cool rocks, but artifacts. And not necessarily stuff that's really old. But it started with finding little pieces of glass or broken plates and things just from people living their life. And as I got older, and then took social science classes, history classes, especially in high school, I realized that I wanted to be an archaeologist."

Hakanson's fascination with interpreting the past and how people lived, coupled with her proclivity for the outdoors, led her to her first archaeological field school through California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Her first subject was an 18th-century Spanish mission in Central California.

As just a senior in high school, amongst all college students, Hakanson was already learning how to excavate sites properly. While excavating an area of the mission called the neophyte dwellings – housing for Indigenous peoples converted to Catholicism – Hakanson's group unexpectedly found artifacts that were pre-contact.

Hakanson credited Professor Robert Hoover's encouragement and mentorship from the time



Kaitlin Hakanson, an archeologist with the Klamath Tribes, displays a possible stone tool, perhaps Klamath or Modoc, estimated to be from the pre-1800s. (Photo courtesy of Charlie Bates)

as a big factor in laying out her undergraduate trajectory. Hoover wrote her a letter of recommendation to attend California State University, Los Angeles. Hakanson was accepted, and she enrolled after attending community college first.

Pre-contact Nicoleño settlements on San Nicolas Island, off the coast of Southern California, served as part of Hakanson's studies at Cal State LA. This experience set the tone for her studies and future career. Hakanson's curiosity was piqued when she learned just how far back people first began arriving on similar islands off the coast of California. The Channel Islands were settled by Natives at least 13,000 years ago.

"And that's when I realized, 'Oh, now I get why this stuff is important.' And so, then, I knew for grad school, I wanted to go to a college that specialized in pre-contact societies and archaeology. And that's what led me to Oregon State," said Hakanson.

At Oregon State, she developed friendships that guided

her to Chiloquin. An archaeologist with the Bureau of Land Management deserves the credit for guiding Hakanson to Chiloquin.

"We were at Oregon State at the same time," said Hakanson. "She was already working for the BLM as an archaeologist. So, when I talked to her, I'm thinking, 'Oh, that just seems like a really cool place to work.' And in Lake County, over in [the city of] Paisley, there's some of the earliest evidence of humans in North America. And that's Paiute."

Hakanson learned more about the Klamath Tribes in grad school. After graduation, she worked as a contractor archaeologist for the Goosenest District of the Klamath Forest in Northern California – comprising mostly Modoc ancestral lands for a year.

The Bootleg Fire survey provided Hakanson her first opportunity to work with the Klamath Tribes last year. Hakanson described how these massive fires can actually help uncover artifacts lost to the natural evolution of the forests.

"It's a double-edged sword," said Hakanson, "because all that fuel is gone. All the dead stuff is gone. Even stuff that was living is burned up. And so, you can see the bare ground surface. And normally, if there's a bunch of pine needles, you don't know what's just sitting on the surface of the ground because it's buried under that. But once the fire goes through, it removes all that fuel, and then you just see artifacts."

Hakanson beamed with enthusiasm when describing the artifacts uncovered at the Bootleg Fire survey: arrowheads and atlatl darts used for hunting, obsidian tools used to process animals and plants, and "groundstone" artifacts including "boulders and large chunks of vesicular basalt that were ground down to create a bowl or flattened area for grinding plants and other materials."

Maintaining the integrity of a

newly rediscovered site takes painstaking precision, reminiscent of a forensic expert at a crime scene. When referring to these artifacts, Hakanson said, "They're irreplaceable resources. Even if you move an artifact sitting on the surface just a little bit, you've essentially damaged the site. Because all the information that is useful for archaeologists, at least, is context: where you find stuff and the relationship between individual artifacts with what we call features. So that would be like a hearth or another spot where if you moved any part of it, that would affect the entire site."

Hakanson debated between a career in forensics and archaeology while pursuing her undergraduate studies. And her decision to choose archaeology over forensics is a noble one. "I like to just be out in the community, nonprofits and stuff," she said. "I knew that I'd rather work for a tribe than work for an agency or federal entity just because of my own personal values about it. And maybe going all the way back to that first field school where I was told, 'Oh, recently converted people working in the fields, isn't that wonderful?' And then realizing later, that's not what was going on; they were basically slaves."

For Hakanson, her journey is about understanding and then teaching others about different perspectives. After all, the differing perspectives imbue an artifact – or an abstract social system, for that matter – with meaning. An artifact as simple as a basket, Hakanson said, is not just an art object. It might be widely viewed that way today, but there is a deeper meaning.

The deeper meaning clearly extends beyond a single artifact. The entire tableau, from physical remnants to complex social structures, is waiting to be re-discovered. From a "forensic view," Hakanson needs to weave a pattern together that

*See next page,
First Archaeologist*

NEWLY ELECTED KLAMATH TRIBAL YOUTH COUNCIL



The newly elected Klamath Tribes Youth Council was sworn in Oct. 19. (Left to Right first row) ManuLani Wright, Ceinna Roberson, Mia Hutchinson, Azlea Weiser, Arianny Ochoa, Elaine Gilcrist, Taylon Kalama. (Left to right second row) Travis Jackson, Dade Mitchell, Lance Stone, Leilonnie Wilson, Maggie Hicks, Natasha Roberson, Shakyla Jackson, Scarlett Schroeder, Shayla Ochoa. (Photo courtesy of Hannah V.H. Schroeder)



Klamath Tribal Health & Family Service General Manager Chanda Yates (left) and Chairman Clay Dumont (right) met with Senator Ron Wyden on Saturday, Oct. 7, before his Town Hall Meeting in Klamath Falls. (Photo courtesy of Sen. Wyden's staff)

Klamath Tribes Chairman Clayton Dumont and General Manager George Lopez had an informal breakfast discussion with Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek and the First Lady on Friday, Oct. 6, at Nibbley's Cafe. (Photo courtesy of the Governor's staff)

First Archaeologist
Continued from previous page

corroborates her subjects' stories. "With pre-contact stuff," she said. "You don't have that kind of resolution on it; you're having to look at the landscape level, find the patterns, and then you look at a very specific site and then use the patterns you've detected to try to make the best interpretation about what people were doing."

Hakanson is acutely aware that the culture she studies is not where she grew up. And there are certainly tribal members who would instantly recognize an unearthed artifact's purpose and significance. She also emphasized the importance of repatriation of artifacts.

"There are thousands of objects that are sitting on shelves in museums that belong back in the communities that created them," Hakanson said. "Descendent communities can interpret their real meaning and purpose so they can be understood as sacred items. It's offensive for sacred objects to be treated as collectible art pieces that anyone can touch or view."

Coming Soon

Klamath Tribes News Multi-Media Website

SAVE THE DATE
 FOR THE KLAMATH TRIBES

Elder's Christmas Party

December 18, 2023

Ne'tu Sho'tu Shiwina
 Klamath Tribes Community Fitness Center
 in Chiloquin, OR

We can't wait to see you!
 More information will be sent out soon!!!



The Klamath Tribes Language Department



Paiute Vowel Sounds

- a** - sounds like the a in father – **nana**, (nah'nah)
 - e** - sounds like uh or when you say the word just – **neme**, (nuh'muh) or people
 - i** - sounds like e in – **mubi**, (moo'bee) - nose
 - o** - sounds like oh – **pokoade**, (poh'koh'ah'duh) - hill
 - u** - sounds like oo in food, just a little longer – **kuma**, (koo'mah) – husband
 - ʔ** – called a glottal stop – the hesitant like saying uh'oh
- ? a b e g h i k m n o p s t u w y z**

Numbers

- 1** – *seme?yu* - (suh'muh?you)
- 2** – *waha?yu* – (wah'ha?you)
- 3** – *pahi?yu* – (pah'he?you)
- 4** – *watsekwe?yu* – (wah'suh'kwee?you)
- 5** – *manigi?yu* – (mah'ne'ge?you)
- 6** – *naapahi?yu* – (naa'pah'he?you)
- 7** – *natakwasikwe?yu* – (nah'ta'kwa'sek'we?you)
- 8** – *waho quado?ope* – (waho qwa'do?ope)
- 9** – *seme quado?ope* – (suh'muh qwa'do?ope)
- 10** – *seme mano?yu* – (suh'muh mah'noh?you)



Greetings

How are you ? - *ha?u eh* (ha?oo uh)

Your Name *mi?i ne na'ni?a* (me?e nuh nah'nee?ah)
(my name is, **Your Name**)

Hayu ee nani?a – (ha'you uuh nah'nee'ah)
What is your name?

My father is – *uh me naa* (nah) or *inaa usu* (e'nah oo'soo)

My mother is – *uh me pia* (pe'ah) or *ibadi usu* (e'ba'de oo'so)

Who is that _____ *haga usu* – (ha'gah oo'soo)
That's my _____ *usu i* – (oo'soo ee)

Relatives

Grandfather (maternal) - *togo?o* - (toh'goh?oh)

Grandfather (paternal) - *keno?o* – (kuh'noh?oh)

Grandmother (maternal) - *mo?a* – (moh'ah)

Grandmother (Paternal) – *hutsi?i* – (hoo'see?ee)

Aunt – *pidu* – (pee'doo)

Uncle - *?aatsi* – (?ah'see)

Brother – *saamu* – (sah'moo)

Sister – *penni?i* (puh'nee?e)

Baby – *oha?a* – (oh'ha?a)

Boy – *naatsi* – (naa'see)

Girl – *tsea?a* -(se'ah?a)

Man – *nana* – (nah'nah)

Woman – *mogo?ni* – (moh'goh?nee)



Colors

Blue – *puhi* – (poo'hee)

Brown – *ikwitsi* – (eek'we'see)

Black – *tuhu* – (too'hoo)

White – *toha* – (toh'ha)

Red – *atsa* – (ah'sah)

Yellow – *oha* – (oh'ha)

Orange – *o'ah* – (o'ah)

That's – *usu* – (oo'soo)

Its – *kwikya* (kwee'kya)



Have news you want covered?

Email us at news@klamathtribes.com

Klamath Tribes' has concerns with the Forest Service Fuels Project



Forest Service Road 7820 East of Wocus Bay. (Photo courtesy of Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department)

By Tim Sexton
Klamath Tribes
Fire Program Manager

The Fremont-Winema National Forest (FWNF) recently introduced a new strategy aimed at mitigating the risk of large-scale wildfires. A central element of this strategy involves the establishment of roadside fuel breaks, utilizing tracked logging equipment equipped with a masticating head.

The intention was to create a 100-foot-wide corridor (50 feet on each side of the road) by grinding shrubs and trees and dispersing debris to reduce the potential intensity of fires and offer firefighters an area of lower fire intensity to control wildfires.

However, Tribal concerns arose

regarding the unintended consequences of this method. Instead of reducing fire intensity, the mastication process has increased potential fire intensity by creating a heavy fuel load that might burn more intensely, posing risks of casting embers well beyond the fuel break area. Discussions between Klamath Tribes Natural Resources staff and Forest Service personnel expressed objection to this approach.

Repeated objections were voiced in meetings held in April and May with Forest Service District Ranger Lehman. Despite the acknowledgments of the Forest Service about the undesired outcomes and assurances of project modifications, the mastication continued through September, now covering at least 20 miles of

roadway. Since natural resources staff requests were not honored, the issue was raised to the Tribal Council, and a field meeting was conducted between the Tribal Council (Chairman Dumont and Council Member Les Anderson) and USFS Forest Supervisor (Eric Fey), including USFS and NRD staff where masticated sites around Bluejay Springs, Buckhorn Springs, and 7280 Road East of Wocus Bay were visited.

The Forest Service stated that only minor amounts of mastication would occur on future projects and only be used to shred brush, not conifers.

In contrast, the Klamath Tribes have utilized mastication techniques for prescribed fire engine access, notably different from the Forest Service approach.

The Klamath Tribes' mastication on our lands adjacent to the casino focused on smaller vegetation, resulting in a compacted fuel bed suitable for prescribed burns unlikely to sustain fire spread and boundaries for engines to patrol

The Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department remains firm in its opposition to such mastication projects and intends to escalate discussions to higher levels should similar projects be planned in the future by the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

The Tribes are dedicated to exploring safer and more effective land management approaches that align with cultural preservation and environmental conservation.



Forest Service Road 7646 along east side of Blue Jay Springs RNA. (Photo courtesy of Klamath Tribes Natural Resources Department)

Klamath tribal member and Portland filmmaker Mac Savage receives \$2,500 Confluence grant



Mac Savage operates a hand-held camera as he shoots a segment for a short film. (Photo courtesy of Mac Savage)

By Paul Chamless
Klamath Tribes News

Klamath tribal member Marcos Alatorre, a.k.a. Mac Savage, is a filmmaker from Portland, Ore., who has been producing film work for five years and was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from Confluence, a community-supported nonprofit whose mission is to “connect people to the history, living cultures, and ecology of the Columbia River system through Indigenous voices.”

Savage’s mother, Barbara Alatorre, relocated to Portland, Ore., after the termination of the Klamath Tribes in the 1950s. Savage, born in 1986, relishes the significance of his birth year because it’s the year the Klamath Tribes regained its federal recognition.

In his youth, Savage made frequent visits and camping trips to the Klamath Basin. The trips, he said, were instrumental in fostering his appreciation of Oregon’s natural beauty – a huge inspiration in his filmmaking.

Savage, 37, said that when he was starting out as a filmmaker, he would frequent botanical gardens to practice his craft. “You know, they’re just holding their poses,” he explained, “and it was a good way to hone my

camera skills, just filming flowers.”

After developing his filmmaking skills on still subjects, Savage transitioned to making music videos and has already collaborated with other artists on numerous projects.

“I made music videos,” he said. “I started out doing music videos with local artists and friends. I worked with NAMMYs (Native American Music Awards) award-winning artists like Blue Flamez and James Greeley of the Warm Springs Tribe, and we made a lot of music videos together.”

It was his collaborative work with Native American musician James Greeley that led to Savage being awarded the Confluence Filmmaker Fellow. The video he produced from this collaboration led to his grant-winning highlight reel, “The Real Reel,” which transitions between a celebration of life and societal strife – documenting various public demonstrations in Portland for Black Lives Matter and Women’s March PDX with Greeley’s song “Hey Ladies” providing a pervasive, haunting flute solo and steady, hip-hop inspired bassline.

Savage’s filmmaking career was influenced in part by his mother. “She’s a historian of our tribe,” he said. “She worked her whole life on

the history and writing stories, and our whole kitchen is filled with history of the Klamath Tribes and stories that she wrote. So, I just think that’s what inspires me is just to work with her, and it’s kind of like what I was here for.”

As for filmmakers who had an impact on his work, Savage said Martin Scorsese is one of his favorite directors. Scorsese’s latest film, “Killers of the Flower Moon,” is about the Osage Tribe in Oklahoma and the series of murders that occurred in the 1920s motivated by greed for the oil rights the tribal members owned, sparking an FBI investigation.

Warm Springs tribal member LaRonn Katchia, whose personal mission is to “change the indigenous stereotypes of film,” is also a person Savage holds in high esteem.

“Martin Scorsese for more commercial stuff, but also LaRonn Katchia,” he said. “He’s a filmmaker in the area here. I was lucky to meet up with him early in my career. I’ve only been making videos for about five years, but I connected with those guys early on. LaRonn has been a mentor.”

With the Confluence grant money, Savage intends to complete a short film about Oregon’s wildflowers. It is called “Blooming Stories,” and it features

four segments about Native American legends of Oregon’s wildflowers.

One of the stories Savage is currently working on focuses on a flower unique to America’s West – he would prefer to keep the flower’s identity secret for the time being. The story takes place on ancestral Klamath lands, with a tribal elder providing the voice-over. It is currently in pre-production, and he is working with traditional regalia-makers to achieve a more cinematic look.

“I believe I chose this project to work on because it was intended to be shown in classrooms for children,” Savage said, “and I was thinking about what I would like to see if I was a kid in the classroom watching.”

Savage is hoping to submit the film to the Bend Film Festival for next year’s iteration, but he also values the significance of smaller film festivals that are held throughout Oregon. He seeks to convey to his audience the natural beauty of Oregon and said he is inspired by the scenery and the legends that have taken root, particularly Bigfoot, amidst the idyllic, coniferous backdrop.

Savage said his path in filmmaking was rife with challenges as he worked against the grain. “In my five years of filmmaking, I’ve learned the ropes through my own productions, navigating the challenges of low to no budgets,” he said. “I’d like to think it’s been just as beneficial as spending four years at film school.”

The film path Savage has navigated is not uncommon, and he would like to remind young filmmakers pursuing this work, whether as a career or hobby, that one must persevere.

“I would just like for aspiring filmmakers, or people just starting out, to just go out and make something,” he said, “no matter if it’s good or bad, just as long as you make something and practice and experience.”



New Chiloquin High School welcome sign has 3 Klamath Tribes languages

A new welcome sign at Chiloquin High School last month was placed on the front door of the school entrance, and a side window with Klamath Tribes’ Paiute, Modoc, and Klamath words for “Welcome” appeared along with Spanish and English. The signs were installed last Friday, inspired by similar signage at Mazama High School. GeorGene Nelson, the Klamath Tribes Language Department Director, coordinated with Mazama High School Vice Principal Sergio Cisneros and the school district to create them. “Welcome” in Paiute is “Kimma”; in Modoc, it is “Skatis,” and in Klamath, “Gelidanka.”

Agency Lake-Barnes Units

Continued from front page

ground for wetland-dependent wildlife, particularly migratory birds. Today, less than 25 percent of these original wetlands remain.

The restoration work has been on hold for several years. A National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA, document was developed several years ago, but getting all the different stakeholders to support it has been challenging.

“Because of the drought and the challenge of meeting everybody’s water needs, there was hesitation by a number of stakeholders,” said Ambodat Director Mark Buettner. “For example, the Yurok Tribe was concerned that it might influence the amount of water available for Klamath River salmon flows because it means the lake is bigger and it’s harder to fill. And then, the Klamath Project water users were worried that it would affect their water allocation for farming. They already don’t get a full allocation because of the dry years. So, this might even lower the amount of water that they get for farming.”

Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service owns and administers most of the Agency-Barnes properties. Just recently, the Regional Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pacific Southwest Region signed off on the final Environmental Assessment, authorizing the restoration work to begin.

The intent is to reconnect the Agency Lake and Barnes Units with Upper Klamath Lake and restore a full gradient of wetlands, explained Buettner. He said the Ambodat Department is dedicated to restoring aquatic ecosystems within the Klamath Tribes’ Treaties Boundaries, including Upper Klamath Lake and its tributaries.

Reconnecting the properties with Upper Klamath Lake would “provide habitat for the federally endangered c’waam and koptu [suckers], threatened Oregon spotted frog, waterfowl and other water birds, and water quality improvement,” said Buettner. “And there’s a couple of major streams that go into that property that salmon and other fish species will use, so there’s a number of different objectives.”

The hope is the properties will be reconnected with Upper Klamath Lake by the fall of 2024. Buettner also alluded to the current dam removal projects on the Klamath River as potentially beneficial in minimizing possible impacts to water allocations for farming, and Klamath River flows. “There’s a volume of water that’s stored in the reservoirs that can be used to offset the negative impacts of reconnecting this property to water

needs of salmon and farmers,” he said.

Greg Austin is the Refuge Manager for the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex. He said that because of the size of the 14,000-acre project, the wetland restoration work will be conducted in three phases. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is collaborating with Ducks Unlimited to develop restoration plans for the first phase. Austin pointed out that the Klamath Tribes and private landowners are also major partners.

The project is led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with assistance and technical support from Ducks Unlimited, whose mission is to carefully examine and select projects based on whether the science shows they’ll benefit waterfowl or, in this case, waterfowl and fish.

Ducks Unlimited Klamath Region Biologist Amelia Raquel stated the organization is “primarily responsible for developing engineering designs, securing necessary environmental compliance documents, and ultimately hiring a subcontractor to complete construction work on the restoration project.”

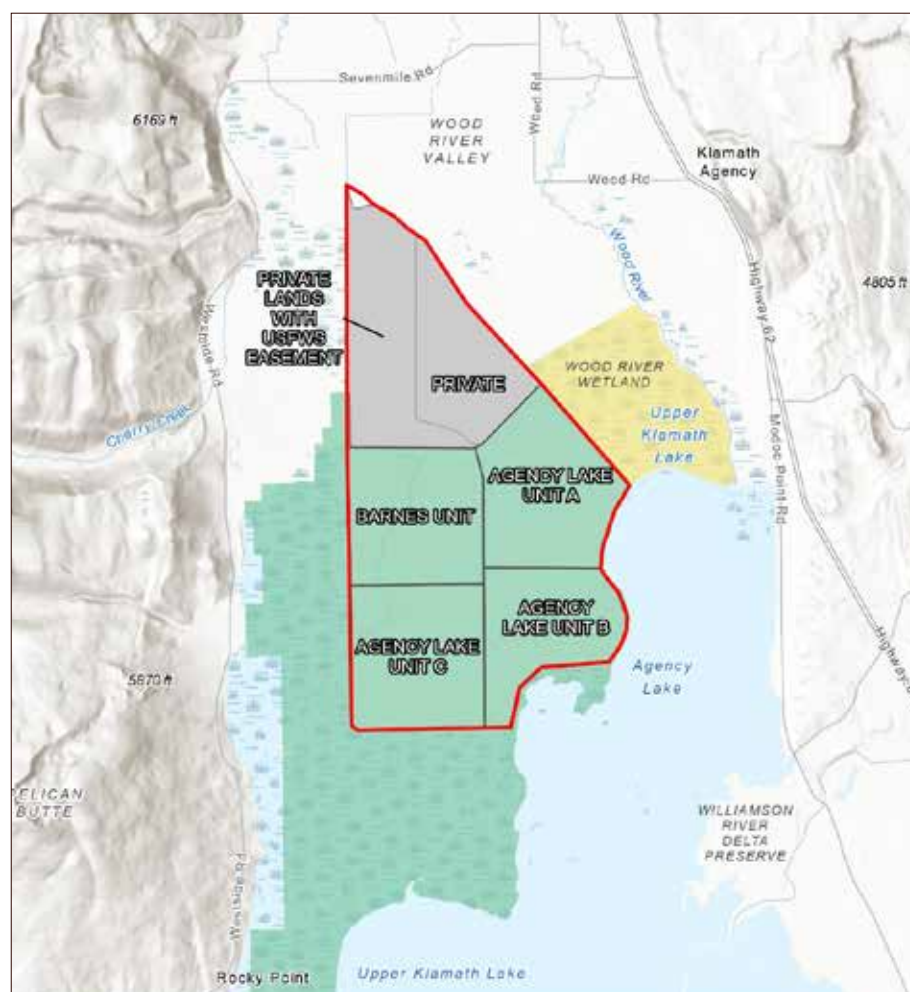
Joining the two bodies of water requires coordination from multiple local, state, and federal agencies. “We’ve had numerous calls and meetings putting ideas on paper and having the engineers telling us what could work,” Austin said. “And the fish biologists added, ‘This is when the fish spawn, and this is what we want for fish passage.’”

Austin expressed optimism about collaborating with so many entities. “It’s an exciting project for everybody,” he said. “We used a case study of when the Nature Conservancy did the Williamson River Delta restoration (from years ago). With that project they removed several levees and opened up a section of the lake, right where the Williamson River comes into Upper Klamath Lake. This resulted in more open water and less wetland development than was desired.”

Historically, Upper Klamath Lake was surrounded by lake fringe wetlands. Breaching some of the levee, which extends southwest from the Wood River wetland, will reunite the Agency Lake and Barnes Units with Upper Klamath Lake. “So, what this project is doing is restoring one of those large lake fringe wetlands,” said Austin.

But Austin acknowledged that reconnecting the properties demands patience. “Because they’ve been separated for so long, we want to make sure we just don’t breach and just say, ‘Hey, good luck.’ That’s why we’re doing this as a phased approach.”

According to the FONSI, “Phase 1 activities would include construction of habitat enhancement



Map of Agency Lake-Barnes Units. (Map provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)

features (i.e., wave attenuation slopes, islands, levee enhancement areas, internal levee breaches and shallow swales and borrow areas) and repair of a portion of the southern levee of the Eisenberg Unit.”

Engineers are still determining the optimal length of the breaches in the levee. The assessment cited up to seven breaches perhaps 100 yards long each. Austin also stressed the need to keep a lot of the levee intact based on what was learned from the Williamson River Delta restoration project.

“As the winds will kick up on this big open lake, the levees will help decrease wave action,” said Austin.

“So, the lake won’t be turning over as much and bringing sediment-bound phosphorus to the surface. And that’s what

we’re doing with the first phase: getting into the middle of the units and creating wave attenuators to help slow down those waves to reduce turbulence and nutrient release into the water.”

Future phases of the project will be done in subsequent years. On the northern properties, Fourmile Creek and Sevenmile Creek were taken out of their historic channels and redirected into canals that ran straight to the lake.

The goal with this project, Austin said, is to put those creeks back into a more natural, sinuous flow pattern; and provide improved fish passage. If everything goes according to plan, Austin expects the three phases of the project to be complete within three years.



An approximately 7-mile man-made levee passes through wetlands adjacent to Agency Lake, with more soon to be added as part of the Agency-Barnes Units wetlands project overseen by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

MMIP Coordinator

Continued from front page

for the District of Oregon, are Lewis' major contact points.

"I work with Cedar Wilkie-Gillette, and then I also work with Tim Simmons," said Lewis. "And then we have a task force that kind of spiraled out into the other areas. So, depending on the location of who's missing, where it happened, that is who we'll be in touch with."

Lewis is working on establishing stronger communication channels with the Klamath County Sheriff's Department and the Oregon State Police. Once a subject has gone missing, entities at various levels should be informed. Lewis cited the lack of communication between different entities as a primary hindrance to finding a missing person.

"When I'm working with collaborators, I want to make sure that they have all the details they need," said Lewis. "That way, we know where they were last known, where they could potentially go, and we want to know is anybody actually searching for them. Is anybody reaching out to the public? Because a lot of our cases are just, it's reported and is left at that."

"Klamath County Sheriff's Department should be sharing that information with the Oregon State

Police. And Oregon State Police should be sharing that information with the government itself. And it doesn't always get that far. So, more collaboration is definitely needed to make sure that our people are getting found."

Biden's Executive Order is intended to ameliorate the situation by promoting "coordination of Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement, including, as appropriate, through the development and support of Tribal Community Response Plans."

Streamlining the process of finding an individual is a herculean task, and different tribes have different tools at their disposal for finding missing individuals.

The Tribal Access Program, or TAP, grants access to FBI and other federal data systems to certain tribes. Not only can tribes obtain information from national criminal information databases, but they can also enter information. Such a tool can go a long way in establishing where an individual resides or moving across county lines, state lines, or various tribal lands. Under Executive Order 14053, expanding the number of Tribes participating in TAP is a priority.

Klamath Tribes Public Safety is establishing its bylaws and law codes as of this writing, so it is not yet recognized by the state of Oregon as a police department, although Klamath

Tribes Police Chief Vernon Alvarez anticipates recognition by the end of the calendar year. Therefore, accessing TAP is currently beyond the scope of the Klamath Tribes.

But myriad resources are available to the Klamath Tribes and concerned family members of missing individuals. One such database is NamUs, National Missing and Unidentified Persons system – a national centralized repository and resource center for missing, unidentified, and unclaimed person cases across the United States.

Lewis reiterated that information regarding missing persons is often not passed along, and she stressed the importance of reporting this information to NamUs. "And that's where us coordinators come into play because we're trying hard to ensure that that information is put into NamUs," said Lewis. "We're trying hard to encourage the family to create these accounts so that they can be a point of contact if they are to be found."

"There are many, many avenues for this," continued Lewis. "But when it comes down to it, a lot of folks don't even realize that as soon as that individual is missing, they can make that report. A lot of times, they're being told, 'Well, they haven't been missing too long. If it's an adult, why are you wanting to make that report?' They're being pushed

back rather than told, 'Okay, let's go ahead and get this report started.'"

Prevention is the best medicine for the MMIP national crisis, and this begins with educating the youth. When collaborating with outside entities, it is important that the youth in any community have certain facts memorized. These departments, whether local, county, or state, seek facts.

"A lot of folks aren't teaching their kids how to memorize their phone numbers, their home address, their family, even their own names," said Lewis. "They grew up with nicknames usually. So, we're teaching the kids that that's important to remember, and then teaching the kids that they are important. They're part of our community. They're part of our Indian country. They're part of everything that we have. They're our future."

Read the newspaper online at [Klamath Tribes.org](http://KlamathTribes.org)



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