



Agency-Barnes Phase 1 restoration completed with native plants seeding; Phase 2 and 3 funding paused, stalling project – for now

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

The Agency-Barnes wetlands restoration project, which has been 20 years in the making, officially completed Phase 1 restoration work with seeding of native plants using a drone in mid-April. Phases 2 and 3 north of the Barnes Unit are slated next, but a pause in federal funding has left that portion of the project on standby. The big question now is how long this pause will last, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which is overseeing the project, is awaiting word on possible federal funding cuts that could impact subsequent work.

The Agency-Barnes restoration project involves collaboration with the Klamath

Tribes, which has been involved in cultural monitoring at the project site, and technical expertise from partners Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited and the USFW. The total restoration area includes the Seven Mile Creek and secondary creek channels, the Agency-Barnes units, and the Wood River Refuge. Phase 2 land was recently donated to the refuge, and Phase 3 involves property with conservation flood easements purchased from the USFWS.

Project leaders participated in a gathering at the Phase 1 project site on April 17 to take an airboat tour of the newly created wetland. Klamath Tribes Chairman William Ray, Jr.

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Agency-Barnes



Klamath Tribes Chairman William Ray Jr., in yellow cap, took an airboat tour April 17 around the newly created Agency Lake wetland. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

New monitoring program by Ambodat seeks answers on movement of migrating fish in the Klamath Basin



Jordan Ortega, Ambodat Anadromous Fish Specialist, inspects a screw trap he put in above the Keno Dam. (Photo courtesy of Ambodat Department)

By Christopher German
Klamath Tribes News

Stories abound today about how work is being stymied by the Trump Administration's cuts. Restoration work on the Wood River Marsh has all but stopped, and Federal workers are quickly becoming as endangered as the c'waam and koptu. However, at the Klamath Tribes' Ambodat Department, work is being conducted in earnest to better understand the watershed of the Klamath Basin and the migration of fish that navigate its waterways, which they have done so for thousands of years.

Jordan Ortega, Anadromous Fish Specialist for the Klamath Tribes' Ambodat Department, stopped by the

Klamath Tribes News to explain all the ways Ambodat is working to shed light on the migration of fish in the Klamath Basin. And it all starts with what they call a screw trap.

Ortega explained that a screw trap is able to catch juvenile fish as they migrate downstream to more productive habitats. He says the fish they catch are tagged with passive integrated transponders, also known as PIT tags, to see where they go in the 400 miles of tributaries of the Klamath Basin to better understand how fish handle traversing the two remaining dams and make their way to the Ocean.

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Migrating Fish

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Klamath Tribes 2025 Tribal Council Election results

By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

The Klamath Tribes' 2025 election results were certified on April 17. Acting Chairman William Ray Jr. retained his seat with 325 votes. Chairman Ray Jr. was sworn in on May 22, 2024, following the resignation of Chairman Clayton Dumont on May 12, 2024. Three new council members will be sworn in on May 14, including Brandon Tupper (334

votes), Willa Lee Powless (303 votes), and Shawn Lee Jackson (270 votes). Leslie Anderson (271 votes), Natalie Ball (254 votes), and Ellsworth Lang Jr. (252 votes) retained their seats on the council. Tribal Council Chief Judge Patricia L. Davis also remains in her position, garnering 538 votes. A total of 868 valid ballots were counted. There were four candidates for the Chairman's seat, with Gail Hatcher coming in second with 240 votes, Rodney Roadrunner Clarke

receiving 141 votes, and Derek Kimbol getting 122 votes. Vice Chairman Marvin Garcia was elected with 616 votes. Joseph Allen Jr. was elected Secretary with 635 votes. Brandi Hatcher continued as Treasurer, tallying 313 votes, with Jana DeGarmo in second place with 228 votes, followed by JaLisa R. Rich with 143 votes. The new Council members will be sworn in on May 14 during the regular Tribal Council meeting for three-year terms.

Attention Tribal Members: Important Notice of Data Breach

This notice is to inform our membership about a data breach involving minor trust accounts. If you receive a notice in the mail from Northwest Retirement Plan Consultants (NWRPC), please do not discard it. **This breach affects:** Minor tribal members with existing trust accounts Tribal members who are 18 and older who have not liquidated their minor trust accounts.

Background Information: On September 2, 2024, NWRPC experienced a network disruption that impacted their ability to access certain systems. In response, they initiated an investigation, engaging third-party forensic specialists to assess the situation. It was discovered that certain information within their systems was accessed by an unauthorized individual on or around August 21, 2024.


Impact of the Breach: On January 15, 2025, the investigation confirmed that personal information had been compromised. By March 14, 2025, it was determined that approximately 941 individuals associated with the Klamath Tribes Minor Trust accounts were affected. The types of information potentially compromised may include:

- First and last names
- Dates of birth
- Social security numbers
- Response and Security Measures:

NWRPC is committed to addressing this incident and protecting the personal information that has been entrusted to them. Following the discovery of the breach, they have implemented measures to secure their systems and enhance network security to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Next Steps for Affected Individuals: Detailed information on how to protect the affected individuals' information will be included in the letter you will receive from NWRPC. Please ensure that your address and that of your minor children are current in the Klamath Tribes Member Benefits Department.

NOTE: The Member Benefits Department will not be able to assist with the protection options provided by NWRPC, only address updates. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.



The Klamath Tribes

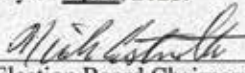
2025
KLAMATH TRIBES
TRIBAL COUNCIL
ELECTION RESULTS


The results of the Klamath Tribes Election held on April 16, 2025, are as follows:


CHAIRMAN:	William E. Ray, Jr.	with	325	votes
VICE-CHAIRMAN:	Marvin Garcia	with	616	votes
SECRETARY:	Joseph Allen, Jr.	with	635	votes
TREASURER:	Brandi Hatcher	with	313	votes
TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:				
	Brandon Tupper	with	334	votes
	Willa Lee Powless	with	303	votes
	Leslie Anderson	with	271	votes
	Shawn Lee Jackson	with	270	votes
	Natalie Ball	with	254	votes
	Ellsworth Lang, Jr.	with	252	votes
CHIEF JUDGE POSITION:	Patricia L. Davis	with	538	votes

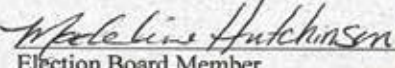
CERTIFICATION

We, the undersigned, of the Election Board, do hereby certify the above-recorded totals to be the final results of the **2025 Klamath Tribes Tribal Council Election**, this **17th** day of **April, 2025**.



Election Board Chairperson


Election Board Secretary


Election Board Member


Election Board Member

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BABY
"OHA?A"-(OH'HA?AH)



Quail - "TUUKUTA"-(TOO'KOO'TA)



BUTTERFLY
"TSO?APA"
(SOH?AH'PAH)

DEER
"TEHEKYA"
(TUH'HUK'YAH)



BEAR - "SONA?A"-(SOH'NA?AH)

My May Happy Dance
(I TONIJA PISA SUNAMI NEGA)
"NE TOH'NEE'YAH PEE'SA SOO'NAH'ME NU'GA"

MAY IS MOTHERS DAY - "TONIJA UH PIA TABINO"

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY
"PISA SUNAMI BIA TABINO"
(PEE'SA SOO'NAH'MEE BEE'AH TAH'BEE'NOH)



JUNE IS FATHER'S DAY - "ONAGA?A MEHA UH NAA TABINO"
(OH'NA'GA?A MU'HA UH NAH TAH'BEE'NOH)

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY - "PISA SUNAMI NAA TABINO"
(PEE'SA SOO'NAH'ME NAH TAH'BEE'NOH)

maqlaqsyals (Indian talk)



datGlamni
May-June
dig gees (ipos)
take big suckers



Figure 1gees (ipos), root dug for eating



stayLa - gathers food

dam ?i
san'aaWawl'i
gees ?alsas

tahm i sahnhw/ahwl/i ga/as uh/al/sahs
'do you want to gather ipos?'

gee s?ab datGlamni gi

gaa suh/ahp daht/glahm/nee gee
'this is May/June month'

sqo

padaa

"summer"
pah/tah/ah

s?ab

'month'
suh/ah/p

Contact
Information:
Klamath Tribes
Language Department

Address: 116 E. Chocktoot St.
(Old KT Court Building) corner
of Chocktoot St and 2nd Ave.
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 436
Chiloquin
OR 97624

email: ktlanguages@klamathtribes.com
website: www.klamathtribes.org/language
language book downloads
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Migrating Fish

From page 1

“The goal of the project is we’re going to try to put passive integrated transponders, also known as PIT tags, in juvenile red band, rainbow, and steelhead trout, with the goal of those fish being detected downstream, going through the Link River and Keno dams,” he said. “It’s a shot in the dark, but potentially getting captured and scanned by rotary screw traps that are operated even further down river, as far down as the mouth of the Trinity, or just upstream of the mouth of the Trinity. If we’re able to get detections both through the link and through Keno, it is not concrete evidence, but it is an indication that those fish may be emigrating to the ocean, thereby being anadromous. But if they get captured in those much farther down screw traps and scanned, then that would be pretty solid evidence that those fish are headed for the ocean.”

The challenge Ortega and the staff at Ambodot face is that much of this is new science. Despite the decades of abuse the Upper Klamath

Lake has endured, much of the biology and chemistry of the lake is unknown to science. It has long been thought that redband trout remained in the river system all year, but new evidence suggests that even the redband might be becoming anadromous or ocean-dwelling for a portion of their lives.

And by extension, if the Keno and Link River dams are impeding the migration of not only the salmon but also the steelhead, red band, and rainbow trout that are native to these waters, then there is a growing body of scientifically based evidence that points to the removal of the dams.

“Geneticists have found genes associated that correlate with populations that are anadromous, and those genes were not found or found at a very low frequency in our red band trial populations,” explained Ortega, “It’s not like 100 percent that they can’t be anadromous. Yes, but when you think of, like, kind of the just natural history of this landscape and the watershed, and a little bit about the paleontology, which is just like prehistoric lake stuff, you know, the Upper Klamath Basin, the red band trout, they came from

interior drainage connections.”

Ortega further explained that much of the West was connected over the last million years, forming what he calls “The Great Basin”. Over time, river systems have become connected to each other and the ocean. Places like the Upper Snake River Valley, Goose Lake Valley, the Sycan Valley, and the Warner Lakes Valley were closed internal basins, meaning the water does not drain to the ocean, much like the Klamath River. But these closed basins, where fish or water never made it to the sea, had fish and were considered to have interior, inland origins.

“So, what happened in the Upper Snake River Valley and in the Klamath watershed is through changes in hydrology that happened a long time ago,” Ortega said. “Rivers cut through mountains, and those systems became connected to the ocean. And, so, when that happened in the Klamath that provided the opportunity for invasion by coastal-derived fish, so fish that are more associated with the coastal river systems. And so that’s your Lamprey, your steelhead trout, your salmon.

“But before it’s likely that those connections were made to the ocean, all that was present up here were interior or inland derived fish like chub, c’waam, koptu and redband trout. I believe that genus is only found in three basins, which are interior basins currently, and that’s in the Lahontan Basin, the Bonneville Basin, which is where the Great Salt Lake is, and the Klamath Basin. And so there is, and also in all those basins, not a coastal fish. And so this is all just to say that there’s similarities in the fish faunal assemblage across these closed basins within the North within the Great Basin. And the Great Basin is really just a giant bowl filled with many smaller bowls that has very limited connections to the ocean, with to each hub being a ubiquitous species across these basins, and some weird, weird stuff going on with the suckers and the trout.”

He stated that when the Klamath cut through the Cascades and the Klamath Mountains and got to the ocean, there was an invasion of steelhead. And those steelhead ended up establishing themselves in tributaries like the North Fork and Trout Creek, and those

still exist. It’s an evaluation of whether redband are going to begin to express an anadromous life history. “It’s also us basically searching for a needle in a haystack to see if we’re getting some of those populations, like in the North Fork, that are trying to get to the ocean,” he said.

“You know, people get really fired up about steelhead,” he continued. “My understanding is that that’s going to influence, or it’s going to be another factor that influences how water is managed in the system. That’s one of the things getting an address fish up here is going to get a lot more public support for running the system to be able to support anadromous fish, because they’re for lack of a better expression or saying, kind of, you know, the favorite fish that they’re favored by many.”

Ortega said they just released a few 1,000 juvenile spring Chinook that were PIT tagged into the Wood and Williamson Rivers in an effort to see if they would make it downriver past the dams. By using radio telemetry, which

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Migrating Fish



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Migrating Fish

From previous page

would make it downriver past the dams. By using radio telemetry, which is a tool that enables them to actively track fish the same way they track wolves, to assess survival through the Keno Dam.

“There’s going to be 100 fish radio tagged next week,” Ortega said. “Fifty of those fish are going to be released above the dam, and 50 fish are going to be released below the dam as a control group. And the idea is that if the 50 that you released below the dam. If they all survive and hang out for a while or move downstream, and you get a much smaller fraction (from the fish released above the dams), you have evidence that, okay, maybe this dam is, in fact, impeding the fish.”

He explained that fish don’t like dams, and that the Keno Dam is a horror story. It fails state and federal standards for fish passage. They built no structural aspects for downstream migration, and the structural things built for upstream migration fail

the standards for large-bodied anadromous fish. He said that the Basin gets hot even in a high-water year, but the kind of salmonids in the Basin, especially the ones that move around in these shoulder periods, like between spring and summer, and summer and fall. They’re living on the edge, and don’t need any more challenges than they already have. They are assessing this to see if they can create more momentum and urgency around addressing the impediments.

“When you look at the distribution of salmon that occurred, they spread out and went all the way up and didn’t seem to get past Keno,” Ortega said. “And, so again, I’ll stand by this until I’m blue in the face. But fish don’t like dams, and it’s kind of no surprise to me that the fish were found in really high numbers right below the dam and not above the dam. But it is. It is. I mean, this needs to be addressed. And why do the largest dam removal and restoration project in history, and fall short of, you know, two dams that provide that limit access or impede access to a much, much better habitat than those, the four dams that



The Keno Dam fish ladder has failed to meet state and federal standards for fish passage. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

were pulled out that releases or that that provided the availability of this much habitat.”

The 100 miles of habitat liberated by the four dams’ removal pales compared to the 400 miles of habitat upstream of Upper Klamath Lake. “I really view the success of dam removal and the recovery of anadromous species in the Basin,” Ortega said. “I view that as being tied to our ability to get fish established in the upper Basin, because there’s so much habitat, and the habitat is of such high quality. We have so much groundwater, and in particular for spring Chinook,

when you look across the watershed, and you just look at it from a life history, all the habitat that’s ideal for spring Chinook, I mean, this is just a number I’m throwing out, but just to emphasize my point, there’s like, like, 90 percent of the spring Chinook habitat that’s ideal for spring Chinook is found upstream of Upper Klamath Lake, and that’s because we have just such high quality cold groundwater resources for them to over summer.”

He further explained that that’s the difference between spring Chinook and a fall Chinook. “A fall Chinook, once water temperatures cool a little bit, they come in, spawn, and die,” he said. “Whereas spring Chinook, they’re coming in when it’s cool in spring, and they overwinter until the subsequent fall to spawn.”

“They need those cold-water spots. In the main stem Klamath, where you have much less you have much less groundwater. And the tributaries that do have groundwater are also smaller. You know, there’s just less areas for them to find these habitats to over summer. And because the main stem gets really warm and is not good for survival.”



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June 29: 240W Power Sander



May only redeem once per day. While supplies last.

Road and infrastructure improvements a high priority for the Klamath Tribes Planning Department

By Christopher German
Klamath Tribes News

The Klamath Tribes are making significant improvements throughout the community, including road enhancements. Jared Hall, the Klamath Tribes Planning Director, outlined an ambitious plan for improving area roads, parking areas, and upgrades, including making the roads and facilities more bike and walk-friendly.

However, between state and local authorities and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the path to making these improvements was anything but easy. “Every five years, we have to do a complete update on the plan,” Hall said. “And, so, this is 2025; this was the five-year mark, so we had to get that approved before March 15 of this year to get it submitted. And it’s currently in review right now at the Bureau of Indian Affairs. So, definitely, we’ve been working on it for about a year. And it comes from, obviously, reviewing our old, long-range transportation plan, lots has changed since the last one was approved, and we’ve acquired a lot of new lands. We have different programs, different departments exploring different project ideas, so our department’s been trying to capture as much as possible.”

Hall explained in a recent interview on the Klamath Tribes Podcast that transportation, although not at the forefront of everyone’s mind, is a significant part of his workload. “It’s probably the largest program we have in our department,” he said. “I think transportation gets underscored quite a bit because it’s just one of those, I guess, projects, or project types, that people don’t really think about too much in the planning phases, or when they see it actually being constructed. I think it’s just something that’s a just a norm that people feel is something that’s there, but it’s an important piece of infrastructure, especially for our tribal lands and the various operations that we have going on certain parcels of our land.”

The plan, Hall said, was outlined in a comprehensive study that was presented at the early



A triplex is being completed on Sprague Highway in Chiloquin for Klamath Tribes families (above). A single level elders’ housing is also on Sprague highway and soon will be occupied (bottom photo). (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

March Tribal Council meeting. In it, the Tribes outlined a strategy for nearly 900 miles of road and 15 separate facilities within tribal lands in a document detailing long-range transportation plans and updates.

The plan, developed over the course of a year, is currently under review by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Federal Highway Administration. Key projects include a 30-unit apartment complex and single-family housing on 60 acres, EV charging stations at the Travel Center and Tribal Administration, and a public safety building.

The tribe is also focusing on infrastructure improvements for elder housing and public safety facilities.

However, given the potential freeze on federal funding, concerns exist about the plan as currently laid out. “What we’re reading is that transportation infrastructure remains a high priority,” Hall said. “It seems like it doesn’t matter which administration it is. Transportation infrastructure is something that’s always super vital to society, communities,

and the economy. We’ve been talking to our Bureau of Indian Affairs representatives. They feel like everything’s going to be okay. So, we’re hoping, hoping for the best. But, I mean, who knows? You know, nobody has that crystal ball, but we’re going to continue to plan as if things are still moving forward.”

Hall described the plans for various projects, including Melita’s temporary housing. “They’re making some big strides out there, getting things up and going,” he said. “They’re finishing out the first phase right now.”

He went on to explain that the major project for the year would be the Kla-Mo-Ya Casino, which he said was not included in the plan. “We’re doing major improvement at the casino parking lot and backbone road that’ll lead to the north end of the casino property into what they call Letitia Kirk parcel,” he said, “which was acquired after the casino was built. “So, we been working on this project for the last three years with both the hotel, the casino and the Travel Center.”

Other projects in the works

include a triplex on the Sprague Highway, which Hall said should be completed by May, and the Ambodat aquatics building on the Bray Mill property, which was acquired three or four years ago and will be ready for occupancy this summer.

“We’re going to wrap up the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) project list there,” Hall said. “We’ve been busy the last two or three years, so staff has definitely been trying. I think we’re all looking forward to closing out those projects. And obviously we’re not going to get much time to take a breath because we’re jumping right into all these transportation projects. And we got a big one coming up this year, so we don’t get any breaks.”

He explained that working closely between departments is paramount in completing tasks, and they are collaborating with the Housing Department and its Director to finalize Melita’s property, as well as with the newly launched TERO program to find workers to help get things done.

“We’re learning about their program and their system,”

Hall said. “We know about it. I’ve been aware of TERO-type stuff for quite some time, but this is the first time the tribes ever started a new program. I think they’re still in the initial stages. But we’ll definitely stay in touch with them.” He added that they are developing crews for roadwork and maintenance.

Hall said he is working to fully engage the younger members of the Tribes in these projects and understands the challenges that younger tribal members face in finding employment. “We have some younger tribal members who have families interested in working for us,” he said. “We just hired one this week, and so we’re pretty proud to bring that young man on. And he’s been great. He’s a fast learner, so we’ve just been training him in-house between myself, my Transportation Manager, and my Planning Specialist have been helping him out with the administrative stuff. We got him up to speed, so he’s going to be a good addition to the team, and we’re probably going to find another one, probably here in the next couple months.”

In Memoriam

Joseph Allen Sr., 67



Joseph Allen Sr., “Lagi Hiswaqs,” joined our ancestors on March 1, 2025, at his home in Chiloquin, Ore. Joe was born to Harry Allen and Christine Riddle on September 3, 1958, in Klamath Falls, Ore. Joe spent the majority of his life on the traditional homelands of his tribal people. His early life entailed times spent with family and life-long friends. During his youth, he discovered his love of the outdoors, sports, and his hard work ethic. For a few years, he lived in Eugene, Ore., where he earned his GED at the University of Oregon; go, DUCKS!

Joe was a hardworking man; he was not one to waste daylight. He contributed his skills in various fields of work, including firefighting, as a Cultural Resource Technician, and spent over 20 years as a millwright. His true passion was working for his tribal people. He was a remarkable influence and leader. Joe served on the Klamath Tribes Executive Committee, now known as the Tribal Council, the NAGPRA Committee, the Klamath Indian

dian Game Commission, and many other tribal committees, where he contributed his vast knowledge of the culture, homelands, and ceremonies that he had gathered from visiting with our elders and through his life experiences.

In his free time, he enjoyed attending and watching NASCAR races, Oregon Duck games, and Car Shows, as well as anything outdoors (hunting, fishing, hiking), practicing tribal traditions, or working on a project. Not only was Joe a Jack of all trades, he was a good man. A person you could depend on, who treated people with respect and would help anyone in need. He will always be greatly missed by many.

Joe is survived by his children: Barbara Allen and Aaron Gentry, Fayedean Kimbol, Christina and Rick Rubidoux, Ryan Hill, Racina Allen, Rachel Allen, Manuel Luevano, and Jake Allen. Grandchildren: Micah Rubidoux, Cain and Sarissa Rubidoux, Dione J. Rubidoux & Anthony Navarro, Alyssandra Hill, Isabelle Hill, David Hill, Jake Kimbol, and Maxx Kimbol. Great Grandchildren: Andreia Rubidoux, Christina Rubidoux, Caleigha Rubidoux, Amaia Navarro, Nikyla Kimbol. Siblings: Debra Riddle, John Decker, Aaron Decker, Evonna Cleven, Ardeen Allen, Audra Allen, and many other smacks. He is preceded in death by his mother, father, siblings, grandson, and many ancestors.

Ilene “Lee” May Stanton-O’Leary, 78



With profound love and deep respect, we celebrate the life of Ilene “Lee” May Stanton-O’Leary, a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She passed away on Jan. 2, 2025, at the age of 78. A proud member of the Klamath, Modoc, and Navajo tribes, Lee was a woman of resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication to her family, community, and heritage.

Lee was born on May 1, 1946, and made her home in Oregon City, Oregon, with her beloved husband, Andrew O’Leary. She spent over 25 years working at Nickel Ads in Portland, Ore., where she built lasting friendships and made an impact in the community. She was one of eight siblings and is survived by her sisters, Chris Stanton and Rosie Duran, and her brother, Byron Stanton. She was a loving and supportive aunt to many nieces and nephews, always offering guidance, encouragement, and love.

She leaves behind a cherished family, including her

three children, Trina, Christi, and Stephen, along with six grandchildren and several great-grandchildren, all of whom will carry forward her strength and wisdom.

A three-time breast cancer survivor, Lee was an advocate and voice of hope for others. As a dedicated member of the Circle of Hope, she worked tirelessly to raise breast cancer awareness among Native American women, speaking at conferences throughout the Northwest and inspiring others with her courage.

Beyond her advocacy, Lee had a deep love for Native American art and was a strong supporter of local artists across the Northwest and Canada. She also had a special place in her heart for powwows, attending them regularly in Oregon and Washington. Her absolute favorite was the Delta Park Powwow, held every June during the Portland Rose Festival. It was a tradition for her to gather her entire family for the event, celebrating culture, unity, and shared traditions.

Lee believed deeply in the importance of bringing people together. In 1990, she started an annual summer picnic for Native families, recognizing that too often, gatherings only happened at funerals. Over the years, this event grew into a beloved tradition, bringing together over 100 people from

Klamath Falls, Warm Springs, Pendleton, Grand Ronde, Montana, Siletz, and Washington.

Lee’s legacy is one of love, strength, and service. Though she is no longer with us, her spirit lives on in the hearts of those she touched. She will be laid to rest at Brown Cemetery in Beatty, Oregon, in May 2025, next to her son Jackson, finally reunited with her little boy, who was taken too soon. Her wisdom, kindness, and traditions will never be forgotten.

Forever missed, always remembered. Rest in peace, dear Lee.

In Memoriam Guide Lines

If you would like an In Memoriam included in the Klamath Tribes News, please email a Word document to news@klamath-tribes.com. Limit the word count to 500 words or less and provide a photo as a PDF or JPEG.

Hope “Dicii Ksiwlaqshish” Wright-Dutra, 35



Born on March 1, 1990, to Crystal & Theodor Wright in Klamath Falls, Ore. She began her journey to the Lord Jesus on February 12, 2025, in San Lorenzo, Cal.

Hope’s ashes will be placed in Chief Schonchin Cemetery with her dad and brothers at a later date.

Hope Leeann Wright is survived by her children

Wakeen, Terasita, Elysia, and Sofia Wright, husband- Ron Wright-Dutra, mom Crystal Wright, brother Harland Wright, sister Flemette Brown, Family, friends, and loved ones. Hope will be missed deeply by all who loved her.

Preceded in death by: dad Theodor “Dudy” Wright, brothers Justin “Bebo” Brown, Levi Wright, Theodor “Muchie” Jr Wright, & Brandon “Dog” Wright

Hope had a beautiful Spirit and liked helping people. Even if she didn’t have much, it was yours. She was funny, liked joking around, loving, caring & loyal. When she loved you, she’d do anything for you and in her eyes could do no wrong unless you broke her heart or messed with her children. When it came to her kids, her love for them was fierce, they were her world, her

everything. She loved them with her whole heart and was so very proud to be their mom.

Hope had a close relationship with her children. She enjoyed hanging out with her boy, talking and laughing. Trading dance moves with her girls. She taught her girls The Washing Machine, they showed her the newest dance moves. She sure did love dancing, it didn’t matter, to oldies or pow wow tunes. Her favorite was dancing at the pow wow. When she was young, she earned her Indian name Dicii Ksiwlaqshish – Good Dancer. She was so proud of her Indian name.

Hope means strength. Hope is the sea, Beautiful to watch, but dangerous to mess with. Hope has a heart of gold, but it won’t end well if you anger

her. She has a strong spirit. Always has ten toes down, holding it down for the ones she loves. She is stronger than you think because she has faced

more than you could imagine. “We love you hope. Never forgotten. Always in our Hearts. Rest in love until we meet again.”

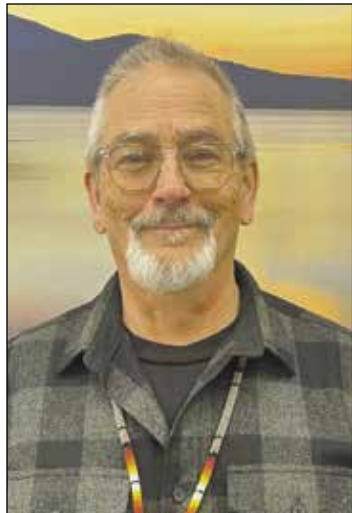
The Klamath Tribes News Website

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

Go to klamathtribesnews.org

We welcome your feedback
Email us: news@klamathtribes.com

Q&A with Tim Sexton, Klamath Tribes Wildfire Program Manager



Tim Sexton
By Ken Smith
Klamath Tribes News

Wildfire management by the Klamath Tribes is vital during the fire season. This has been all the more challenging due to climate change and federal cuts to federal agencies involved with firefighting throughout the nation this year. The Tribes' firefighter staff incorporates traditional prescribed burning methods and is heavily involved with fire safety, training, and fire response. Klamath Tribes Wild-

fire Program Manager, Tim Sexton, is the point man for the Tribes' firefighting units. In this Q&A, he discusses the impact of the wildfires during the peak summer season and offers an outlook for the future and the need for local and national firefighter deployments. This interview has been edited from an interview with Sexton on a Klamath Tribes podcast on March 21.

You had some men from our wildfire program down in Pasadena for the Eaton fire. That's correct, not only the Eaton fire, but other fires that were starting after the Eaton fire. We had folks at a staging area, as well as an engine assigned to the Eaton fire.

And I did an article in the newspaper about them. I read the other day that they pretty much think the fire started with what they call a zombie power line. Did you see that? I saw something to that effect? And sometimes those fires are

easy to determine the cause, and sometimes they have to just do some detective work and rule out a variety of other causes and zone in on the one what actually started it.

Let's get into the federal cuts, because what I've been reading is it's going to impact how we respond to wildfires because we won't have the manpower or money to do so in Oregon. Have you seen that? And is that true?

So, there are cuts to all of the federal agencies that respond to fires. The Administration has said they're not going to cut firefighters. However, there are many people that support the firefighters that don't really carry shovels and Pulaskis and chainsaws, the logistics people, the planning people, some of the folks that manage the caterers on fires, and so if any of those folks are terminated, then that will impact our ability to manage large fires.

What about our budget? Our budget at as far as we know, remains intact. We operate on grants as well as reimbursements when we work on wildfires.

Is that pretty solid? Or can anything happen?

Well, anything could happen, but we believe that we'll be okay with the reimbursements that are starting to come in from our past wildfire assignments. I would think that our government and leaders would realize the importance of retaining full capacity to respond to wildfires in this country, given the magnitude of wildfires we've seen in the past few years, I agree 100 percent, and there are many efforts being undertaken as we speak to ensure the Administration knows the impacts of some of those cuts and terminations on the overall fire efforts, not just the firefighters themselves.

How does our staff stand right now for response at the Klamath Tribes? We currently have a wildland fire module and a type three engine that are available. We have a type six engine, and we can staff it from members

of the wildland fire module. The wildland fire module at full strength is 10 persons. The engines are three-person staffed. We're down two or three people right now, in total, and we intend to advertise for those positions sometime next month or later this spring.

So how many full-time staff do we have on staff right now? We have 11 folks full-time on staff right now.

Are you happy with that? No, we need to fill those vacant positions.

Is this to maintain our own property first and foremost? So, there's a couple of reasons for the wildland fire program. One of them is to be able to respond to fires that are affecting the homeland, most of which is managed currently by the Fremont-Winema National Forest, which is not adequately staffed for fires right now.

You mean their side, the National Forest? Yes. Currently, the Fremont-Winema, actually, over the past several years, has not been able to fully staff their engines that they have on the forest.

Why not? The Chemult Silver Lake and Paisley ranger stations or districts are not as desirable places for folks to apply for jobs, and so they've been unable to fill the Engine Captain positions in those locations. Consequently, they haven't been able to staff engines out of those districts, and their response zones are part of the homeland, so our staffing up a well their fire program is helping to protect the homeland. So, we have some added responsibility to fill in for those voids.

And we need more people to do so. We are short right now. We intend to bring our staffing up to full level by summertime, when the fires are starting.

How did last year's wildfires compare to previous years? What do we anticipate this year? Last year's wildfires in Oregon set a record 1.9 million acres

burned more than any other year in modern history since we've had organized fire suppression, and the reason for that was a severely dry and abnormally windy summer and fall and late fall fire season really didn't stop until November last year. This year, we have received a lot of moisture in January and February, and it's snowing today in March. That said, it won't take much to get us back into the conditions that we were in last summer. Next week is supposed to be sunny, and beyond that. We don't really know what the rest of the spring will bring, but typically, we'll get a little bit of moisture, but things start drying out from this point on.

Is this going to be an ongoing issue for years to come? Wildfires out of control that we must try to fight? Or are we going to get ahead of the game, ahead of the curve? So, one of the things that we intend to do with our fire program to get ahead of the game is to do prescribed burning and then cultural burning to reduce the impacts of wildfire. That burning won't stop a wildfire, but the fire can spread through an area that's been prescribed burned or a cultural burning applied, and the impacts will be much less. Currently, when a fire sweeps through an area of the forest, the homelands many, if not all, of the large, old trees are burned. If we do under burning prior to a wildfire, then the fire can move through there and not torch out all those trees. And it's a lot easier to catch at a roadside when we've done that under burning in advance.

We had a close call fire here in Chiloquin last year. How's the local area right now? How much work do we need to do to barricade the place from future fires getting close to towns and houses? Yeah, you're right. The Copperfield Fire that was a near miss for the Ambodat facility, and we had a fire the same day as Treaty Days last summer, right on the ridge above Chiloquin, that,

See next page,
Q&A Sexton

BY APPOINTMENT

NOTARY

Services

CALL TO CHECK AVAILABILITY AND SCHEDULE NOTARY SERVICES.

SCHEDULING PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO TRIBAL MEMBERS BASED ON STAFF AVAILABILITY

THE KLAMATH TRIBES JUDICIARY

AT 541.783.3020

THANK YOU

Q&A Sexton

From previous page

because of the rapid response, was able to be stopped. That said, the fuels that are immediately adjacent to Chiloquin are in dire need of treatments, and that’s one of the areas that we intend to start doing some prescribed burning.

You have a lot of paperwork in front of you. I’ll let you take the agenda from here. Okay, so we do have firefighters that are assigned to fires in the southern region right now. The southern region is experiencing a fire season much like Oregon experienced last summer on every single day for the last week. I’ve looked at the National Situation Report, and there are hundreds of fires that are starting in that southern region every day.

When you say southern region, where are we talking, exactly? We’re talking from Texas to Florida and as far north as Virginia, Missouri, and that part of the United States. So, Texas, Oklahoma, and all of those states to the East.

Why do you follow those areas? Do we plan on sending personnel there? We have personnel there. And we’ve got personnel at the Seminole Reservation in southern Florida, where we’re helping out some of our brother Seminole tribes. We have folks at Uvalde, Texas, where we’re helping out the Texas Forest Service. And again, I think I mentioned to you in a previous conversation that the reason we do that is because we rely on them to come help us when we’re in need. Like last summer, we had folks from all over the country come to Central Oregon and Southern Oregon to help with the wildfire situation. Now that we are not in a severe fire danger and it’s snowing, we can afford to go help them in their time of need.

How many people do we have there? n Currently we have three personnel at the Seminole Reservation. They’re staffing one of their engines at the Texas Forest Service in southern Texas. We have a type six engine with three of our personnel on that engine that drove to Texas.

And we also have Deputy Fire Program Manager, Tyler Otter-son, in North Carolina.

Are these all tribal lands that we’re in? Not all of them, but any of those fires in Texas or Florida or North Carolina have potential to hit tribal land. Some of the fires in Texas and Oklahoma, particularly, because it’s a grass fuel for the most part, they can burn two or 300,000 acres in a day. And so it can go miles and miles. It may start on private land or national forest land, but it could reach tribal land very easily.

What’s that graph you have there? So, the National Fire Center produces Fire and Fuels advisories when the conditions are severe, and in this case today, they’ve issued an advisory for the southern plains, which is mostly northern Texas and Oklahoma, and it’s showing that the energy release component, which is one of the metrics we use to determine how severe a fire might burn or how intensifier might burn, is currently showing a record for today’s date of dryness and fuel flammability, and the trend that it’s showing is continuing to go up and up, and the conditions there are as severe as they get for this day of the year, and likely will continue that way for the rest of this month.

I mean, there’s no place in this country that’s not under a fire caution or potential wildfire breakout. The last couple of years have been that way. We’re currently in a respite because of the snow, but I expect us to get into severe conditions in a month or two.

This climate is not getting better. It’s getting warmer, and it doesn’t look like we have an Administration that wants to address it. If you talk to any firefighter that’s been around for a decade or two, there’s none of those that are disbelievers of climate change. We all know that it’s happening. When when I started my career, it was unusual to have a fire more than a few 100 acres, a 1,000-acre fire, a 5000-acre fire, was a huge event. These days, those are spot fires, in comparison to the size

of the fires that we’re getting.

We’re losing so much forest. How much of that forest should have been there to begin with. On the homeland that’s currently managed by the Fremont-Winema, the forested land is about the same as what it always was, but the density of the trees is much greater. Historically, there were large trees that were spaced apart because of frequent fire, much of it set by Klamath Tribe members, their ancestors, and that kept the underbrush and the small trees from accumulating and serving as ladder fuels. When a surface fire moves through an area, then there weren’t ladders to carry it up into the crowns of the trees nowadays, in much of the forest, as a fire sweeps through an area, there are small trees and shrubs that have grown and become decadent and surface fire can climb into the crowns of a large, old tree very readily.

When we say old trees, we’re talking old growth, large trees of how many years, 100?

The Ponderosa Pine can live to be 500 years or greater, and those trees will become 30 to 40 or 50 inches in diameter. And of course, every year they drop seedlings, and the seedlings will grow. And if we don’t have frequent fire, those little seedlings will become trees large enough to carry a surface fire into the grounds of the large old trees, and so to be considered an old growth tree, it’s going to be 150 to 200 years old and 20 inches in diameter or greater.

How much of the forest is old growth? Not very much. I don’t have the specific numbers, but it’s a fraction of what used to be. So, this could be a problem that started back in the logging days, 50, 60, 100 years ago. The activities that we started doing back the turn of the 20th century, in the 1900s has led to the conditions that we’re in now, with stand structure and flammability of the forest. So you take the increase in density off the forest. And then you add climate change, and it’s really created conditions that are very difficult to manage

when it comes to a fire start.

We’ve got a real conundrum. We do.

And there’s no solution for it, as I can see, except it’s going to keep burning. We think that some of the restoration activities that we’re planning in the Natural Resource Department, both with fire and with some mechanical treatments, where we focus on the small-diameter material under the large old trees, will help change that condition and make those stands less vulnerable to wildfire.

How many acres are we looking at to get to a point where we’ve quelled it and where we feel safe? There are hundreds of thousands of acres that need treatment.

And do we have the personnel to do it? Not yet, but we’ve got a start, and, so, we’re never going to get there if we don’t start. And that’s what this program is doing. It’s starting those efforts.

THE KLAMATH TRIBES—EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT DEPARTMENT

Summer Youth Employment Program

Open Application Period: May 1st through June 11th, 2025

DEADLINE DATE – Application closes at 4:30 PM June 11th, 2025

You must be **AT LEAST 16 AND NO OLDER THAN 21** prior to orientation on July 7th, 2025 and **currently attending a school.**

Indian Preference Policy will apply:

1. Enrolled Klamath Tribal Member

2. Direct descendant of an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes (CIB reqd.)

3. Enrolled member of another federally recognized Tribe

AND

• Currently attending a high school or public-school alternative,

OR

• Recently graduated from high school, alternative school during the **2024/25 Academic Year.**

• Priority will be given to first time applicants.

JOBS START JULY 7TH AND WILL END AUGUST 29TH

Applicants may need to clear a background check; and some positions may require fingerprinting.

THE KLAMATH TRIBES

KLAMATH · MODOC · YAHOSKIN

Want to learn how tribes operate, build leadership skills, learn about tribal culture and language, develop communication skills, how to look for work, basic interview skills, and what does it take to keep a job?

Apply now for the Klamath Tribes Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

Applications must be **complete** and submitted to the Education & Employment Department to be considered.

Completed applications may be mailed, faxed, or brought into the Klamath Tribes—Education & Employment Department **by 4:30pm June 11, 2025:**
PO BOX 436
501 Chiloquin Blvd.
Chiloquin OR 97624
Fax: 541-783-7802

NOTE* Participants may be photographed and/ or asked to be videotaped while working in the Summer Youth Employment Program

2025

SYEP Applications can be found at the following Agencies:

➤ The Tribes administration Education Dept., Commodities, Tribal Health-K Falls & the Tribal Health-Clinic

➤ Title VI School Counselor

➤ County Schools

➤ City Schools

4:30, June 11, SYEP application period CLOSES!

For more information contact the Education & Employment Department at phone number 541-783-2219

Sheea Scott, ext. 115 or Kathleen Mitchell, ext. 128

Spring into business: How warmer weather brings new life to Klamath County entrepreneurs

By Estella Woodley
SBDC Director

As the snow melts and wildflowers begin to bloom across the Klamath Basin, spring brings more than just sunshine and longer days—it brings renewed energy and fresh opportunities for local businesses.

Across the county, entrepreneurs are preparing for the seasonal shift that often marks the beginning of a busier, more profitable stretch of the year. From roadside vendors and food trucks to retail shops and tourism-based services, business owners know that spring is the time when things start to pick up.

A Season for Fresh Starts

Spring is the perfect time for aspiring entrepreneurs to test out new ideas or launch a business. Outdoor events and farmers markets begin to fill community calendars, offering accessible platforms for new vendors to reach customers without the overhead of a traditional storefront.

Existing businesses also use this time to refresh their approach—whether it’s updating their branding, launch-

ing a spring campaign, or rolling out seasonal offerings.

Opportunities in Bloom

With warmer weather comes a variety of opportunities for seasonal and outdoor-focused businesses. Landscaping, construction, event planning, tourism services, and mobile food vendors often see increased demand. Spring also brings a rise in community events, markets, festivals, and sports tournaments—each creating more chances for local businesses to connect with customers.

Even businesses not directly tied to the outdoors benefit from the seasonal momentum, as shoppers are more active, tourists begin to return, and the overall community energy increases.

Here are a few ideas for businesses to capitalize on the season:

Refresh Your Look: Clean up your storefront or booth, update signage, and add a touch of spring décor to attract customers.

Promote Seasonally: Share spring sales, new arrivals, or special menus on social media. Use hashtags and community event tags to increase visibility.

Collaborate: Partner with other local businesses to host pop-ups, bundle services or products, or run cross-promotions.

Plan Around Events: Use the local event calendar to align your promotions or presence with high-traffic days like Earth Day, Mother’s Day, or spring festivals.

Tap into Local Resources: Organizations like the Klamath SBDC, Klamath IDEA, and the Chamber of Commerce provide free or low-cost support for small business planning, marketing, and funding.

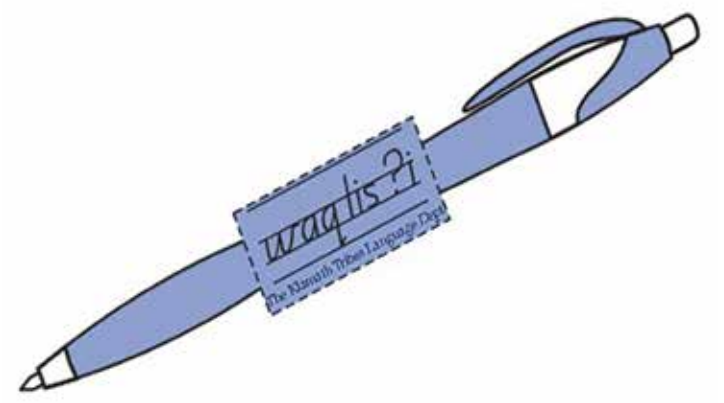
A Time to Grow

Spring in the Klamath Basin isn’t just about what’s happening in nature—it’s a mindset that applies to entrepreneurship, too. It’s a season of fresh starts, creative energy, and community engagement. For anyone thinking about starting or growing a business, now is the perfect time to take that next step.

Looking to grow your business this spring?

Contact your local KCC Small Business Development Center at oregonsbdc.org/klamath for personalized support.

Reclaiming the Lines: How a Pen Design Sparked Reflection on Language, Memory, and Identity



Reclaiming the Lines: How a Pen Design Sparked Reflection on Language, Memory, and Identity
By Adrianna Jasso

A couple of weeks ago, while brainstorming ideas for department “swag,” I started working on a design for some branded pens for the Language Department. I wanted them to showcase our language – something simple, every day, but meaningful.

As I played around with different fonts, I came across one that used a three-line writing style. You know the kind – those lined templates we all used in elementary school to learn how to write in English.

At first, I hesitated. It felt a little too on-the-nose, almost juvenile. But I looked at it again. There was something striking about it – visually clean, familiar, almost nostalgic. So, I decided to give it a try and let the design sit awhile.

But that choice stuck with me. I started thinking about what it really meant to put our language on that kind of writing system. Our ancestors didn’t use a writing system for our language. The written form we have now only came about a little over a century ago, when linguists came to document and study our languages. Before that, our languages lived in our voices, not on paper.

The more I thought about it, the more I questioned my choice. Would I be reinforcing a colonial lens? That three-line paper – that font – could be seen as a symbol of the English we were forced to read and write, the languages we were almost made to forget.

I went home, sat with the thought, then talked it over with my sister. We reflected on

how we never used three-line paper to write our languages, only English. But as we talked more, something shifted. What if, instead of seeing the three lines as a tool of colonization, we saw them as a platform for reclamation?

We realized that using that design might actually carry power. Imagine: a tool once used to erase our identity now becoming a space to revive it. Instead of English filling those lines, it’s our own words. Our language. Our story. In that context, those lines aren’t confining, they’re affirming. A symbol of how far we’ve come and how much we’ve reclaimed.

And to print that design on a pen? That’s symbolic too. It’s an invitation. A reminder. A gentle nudge to write our languages, to speak them, to carry them with us in the everyday.

This pen project became something more than swag. It became a reflection. A way to see our language not as a relic of the past but as a living, growing, written and spoken part of who we are – one that fits even on lined paper, because it belongs anywhere we choose to put it.

As we continue to revitalize our languages, let’s think creatively and intentionally. How can we reclaim everyday tools and spaces like a pen or a font, as part of our cultural resurgence?

I challenge each of us to write one word, one phrase, or even one full sentence in our language this week. Put it on paper, type it in a text, say it out loud. Our language belongs everywhere. Let’s keep putting it there.

The Klamath Tribes Department of Public Safety is proud to announce significant progress in its mission

By James Moore.
Klamath Tribes Police Chief

The construction of the new police headquarters is now officially underway, with Pacific Mobile Structures selected as the building company. The site plan and building plans have been completed, and the department expects the project to be finished by the end of August. This modern facility will serve as the central hub for tribal law enforcement operations, providing space for patrol officers, administration, evidence storage, and community engagement.

In addition to infrastructure developments, the department is growing its team. Two police officers, Officer Waylon Noneo and Officer Bowen Mabou, have been hired and are currently attending the

Basic Police Academy in Salem, Oregon. Upon graduation, they will return to serve the Klamath Tribes with full authority.

The department is now fully equipped with marked patrol units and law enforcement tools, including the issuance of firearms to officers. All officers are fully recognized as state-certified police officers and operate in compliance with Oregon Senate Bill 412 (SB 412), which affirms their authority to enforce state law on tribal lands.

Beyond operations and infrastructure, the department continues to build strong community relationships. Public Safety staff attended the annual Elders Easter Gathering, where they shared in the celebration and brought smiles to many faces. A special appearance by the “Po-



ncester bunny was a highlight of the event, delighting elders.

Chief of Police James Moore expressed his enthusiasm for the department’s growth: “This is a historic step forward for The Klamath Tribes. With our building on the way, full equipment in place, and two dedicated officers in training, we are well on our way to a strong and self-sustaining police department.”

The department remains committed to building a safe and sovereign community while strengthening tribal self-governance and public safety.

Klamath Tribes embrace cultural heritage with renaming of Melita’s property

By Amanda Starkey

In a meaningful step toward honoring cultural heritage and linguistic diversity, The Klamath Tribes are set to rename the property formerly known as Melita’s. Reflecting a deep connection to tradition and community, the new name – “su nobi tu tsitsi” – comes from the Paiute language and translates to “The Lodge of Change.”

When it comes to naming new tribal buildings, streets, or properties, members of The Klamath Tribes prioritize names that carry significance rooted in tribal culture and history. This renaming effort was no exception. Tribal staff collaborated closely with Elders, particularly those residing at the property, to ensure the chosen name reflected both the spirit of the place and the experiences of its people.

After gathering numerous suggestions from Elders, the list was narrowed down to three culturally significant names. Ultimately, “su nobi tu tsitsi” was selected – a name that resonated deeply with the elderly tenants.

Many expressed that “The Lodge of Change” perfectly symbolizes their journey, as the property has provided a life-changing transition from homelessness, or the brink of it, to a safe and warm home.

A distinctive aspect of this renaming is the choice to use the Paiute language. While many tribal properties and streets bear names in Klamath or Modoc, Paiute – spoken by a significant portion of tribal members – is less frequently represented. “Including Paiute in this way is a positive and respectful acknowledgment of the full heritage that makes up The Klamath Tribes today,” said a spokesperson involved in the project. “It’s truly a lodge of change, not just for our tenants but also in how we honor all parts of our tribal identity.”

The process was carried out with great care and collaboration. Tribal staff worked alongside Steve Weiser and GeorGene Nelson from the Language Department to ensure accurate translation. Approval was also secured from

Garin Riddle, Director of Culture and Heritage, who supported the cultural significance and correctness of the name.

With enthusiastic support from Elders, language experts,

and cultural leaders, the renaming of Melita’s to “su nobi tu tsitsi” stands as a testament to resilience, cultural pride, and the transformative power of community.

The Klamath Tribes look forward to officially unveiling the new name, marking not just a change in signage, but a celebration of heritage, language, and the enduring spirit of their people.



Melita’s building for transition housing has a new name “sunobi tu tsitsi, Paiute for “The Lodge of Change. (Photo courtesy of Amanda Starkey)

ELEVATE YOUR SKILLS with Community Education Classes

Forklift Safety Sat 5/3/2025
9:00AM-2:00PM Cost \$125

Get ready to dive into the world of forklift operation with our comprehensive class! You'll explore the OSHA rules for Powered Industrial Trucks and learn how to develop an effective forklift training program. This engaging course features dynamic lectures, informative videos, interactive in-class exercises, and a hands-on practical forklift operation exam. Plus, upon completion, you'll earn your forklift operator certification (cards), setting you up for success in the field. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enhance your skills and boost your career!

Flagger & Work Zone Traffic Control
Sat 5/31/2025 9:00AM-3:00PM
Cost \$145

Join our Flagger and Work Zone Traffic Control course to master traffic control principles and temporary traffic control zones. Learn the regulations for primary traffic control devices and their proper placement, along with correct flagging techniques through hands-on demonstrations. This course meets Oregon Department of Transportation construction specifications, and upon completion, you'll receive a certification card valid for three years. Pre-registration is required.

To register, contact Denise Martinez at 541-880-2243 or email: ce@klamathcc.edu

OSHA 10 - General Industry
Fri & Sat 5/16 & 5/17/2025
3:30-7:30PM Cost \$175

Join our engaging 10-hour OSHA course to master the basics of occupational safety and health! Designed for entry-level general industry workers, this training covers your rights, employer responsibilities, and how to file complaints. You'll learn to identify, abate, avoid, and prevent job-related hazards through practical topics like OSHA standards, fall protection, emergency action plans, lockout/tagout, PPE, and hazard communication. Plus, employers can select additional electives to tailor the training to their needs. Boost worker safety and reduce accident costs with this essential course, offered as needed.



KLAMATH
Community College
Workforce & Community Education



The Klamath Tribes
Education & Employment Department
2025 Summer College Intern Program

Accepting applications:
April 14, 2025 to COB Friday May 23, 2025
The College Intern Program runs 11 weeks and
the Program begins June 16th and ends Aug 29th

Eligibility Requirements :

- High school diploma or GED Certificate
- Current college/university student
- Students graduating from high school or completing GED in Academic School Year 2024/2025 and provide documented intent to attend college in 2025/2026 Academic School Year
- Indian Preference Policy will apply:
 1. Enrolled Klamath Tribal Member
 2. Descendant of an enrolled Klamath Tribal member/Certificate of Indian Blood
 3. Enrolled Member of another Federally Recognized Tribe

For application information contact the Education & Employment Department at (541) 783-2219 ext. 115 or ext. 128

You can also email inquiries to:
sheea.scott@klamathtribes.com or kathleen.mitchell@klamathtribes.com

****Participants may be photographed and / or asked to be videotaped in the performance of their job duties while participating in the summer employment program.**



Klamath Tribes’ Court Chief Judge Patricia Davis stands in the newly re-modeled tribal courtroom, which was completed in January. The judicial power of the Klamath Judiciary extends to all cases in law and equity arising under the Constitution and the laws, ordinances, and customs of the Klamath Tribes. The Klamath Tribes Judiciary consists of the Klamath Tribes Supreme Court, Klamath Tribal Court, Klamath Juvenile Court, and the Klamath Peacemaker Court. (Article V of the Klamath Tribes Constitution). *(Christopher German/Klamath Tribes News)*

SAVE THE DATE

39th ANNUAL KLAMATH TRIBES
RESTORATION CELEBRATION

AUGUST 22-23-24

HOST DRUM
INDIAN HILL
BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA

MORE INFO SOON TO COME!!!

“CELEBRATION OF GENERATIONS”

Springtime is spawning season for the endangered suckers, and the annual process of egg collection and fertilization

By Carlie Sharpes
Ambodat Aquaculturist

Springtime in the Upper Klamath Basin means spawning season for the endangered c’waam and koptu. While the koptu and the river-spawning c’waam migrate up Upper Klamath Lake’s tributaries to find spawning grounds, the spring-spawning c’waam population makes their way to the east shoreline of Upper Klamath Lake to find natural springs that remain the same temperature year-round. As c’waam populations continue to decline, raising them in safe places to increase survival is more important than ever, such as the Klamath Tribes’ Ambodat Station. This means management must connect with these wild broodstock, or spawning adults, to

continue producing new generations of c’waam. Because the spring-spawning c’waam have such predictable spawning habits, the U.S. Geological Survey can monitor wild broodstock and gently handle them for Tribal and Federal hatcheries. The process of egg collection and fertilization begins with fish handling. If the adult c’waam are “ripe” they usually express tubercles, or small, white bumps, along their body and fins. Fisheries professionals will then respectfully handle each adult and gently collect a portion of their eggs or milt from each ripe adult. One female c’waam can produce 44,000 to 231,000 eggs per season. With guidance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Abernathy Genetics Lab, management will decide the most prudent way to cross the male and female parents to produce genetically diverse juveniles. Once the eggs and milt are collected, they will be crossed in separate bowls for about 30 seconds, protected from water and UV light. Water is then introduced to “harden” the eggs and seal them from more than one sperm cell entering the egg. The eggs will swell with water gradually. They begin at about two mm in diameter and increase to about four mm over the next few hours as cells divide. The fertilized eggs are then mixed with diatomaceous clay and water for about 20 minutes to coat their adhesive exterior and prevent them from sticking together and breeding pathogens such as fungus. The eggs will then be transferred to an air-tight bag sealed with oxygen for transport back to the hatchery. Once back at the hatchery, the eggs will be enumerated and transferred to upwelling jars (pictured), where they will incubate for the next 9 to 12 days until hatch. After hatching, they will still develop their cardiovascular, nervous, and digestive systems while subsisting on nutrient storage in their yolk sac. Once their yolk sac is absorbed, they begin to swim up to the surface, and their mouths begin to develop. After they are observed feeding, they will be stocked into a pond to grow out.



About 1,500 sucker eggs fertilizing at Ambodat fish rearing facility. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)



The Klamath Tribes Language Department Presents

Celebrating Those Who Received Their Tribal Names 2025

A Name to Remember

Evan Rae Kirk - Orange Cat - (Klamath) joyjoyl'i (Orange) p'oosis (Cat)

Rodney Hoyt Kirk - Owl - (Klamath) mok'as (Owl)

Juan Cerrillo-Hernandez - Blue Jay Watcher - (Klamath) tsGeetsGeews (Blue jay) walga (watches for)

Tanikwah Lang - Laughing Otter - (Klamath) wetan?apga (feels like laughing) q'olt (otter)

Hazel Cerrillo-Hernandez - Family Helper - (Klamath/Modoc) wewe'ash (family) sat'waaYi (helps somebody)

Ehnabay Cerrillo Hernandez - Friendly Traveler - (Klamath) walIn (to be friends) dadmnowis (traveler)

Tigerlilly Reinhard - Woman who strengthens oneself - (Klamath) shpotu sn'eweets

Asland Newson - Woman Who Honors Creator's Love (Klamath) blaydallmiilam stintanta sn'eweets stinta

Leah Herrera - Racoon- (Klamath) wacgina

Elizabeth Jackson - Marsh Hawk - withkathish (Modoc)

Yvette Torres - Woman who loves and restores homes- (Klamath) sn'eweets stinta coy gaw'albli ciis

Talise M - Woman who loves her family -sn'eweets stinta m'natah weweshaltko

Emiliano Lopez - Orange Horse- (Klamath) joyjoyl'i wac

Izel Lopez loves deer - (Klamath) stinta lilhanks

Florence Marceau - Butterfly Traveler turns out well-weqweq dadamnowis dic Glega

Christian Stockish - Traveler who can learn (Klamath) - dadomnowis s?ayogogat

Kimberly McNair - Woman who loves all Creation (maqlaqsyals)- sn'eweets stinta dadaadwaa

Kimberly McNair - Woman who loves all Creation (neme yadua) mogo?ni haga supicha noo'o

Josalyn McNair - Life Seeker (maqlaqsyals)-hukish (life) kaaiha (seeker)

Josalyn McNair - Life Seeker (neme yadua)-tsakwatitu yeezenga

Star McNair - Star Loves (maqlaqsyals)-q'cool stinta

Star McNair - Star Loves (neme yadua)-supicha paatuzuba

James McNair - Life Player (maqlaqsyals) - hukish lewash

James McNair - Life Player (neme yadua) - tiahoitu yeezenga

Jessica McNair - Protector of the Red Road (maqlaqsyals) - taktakl'i sdo waltampga

Jessica McNair - Protector of the Red Road (neme yadua)-atsa po pababi?i

Tammy Phillips - Bird Watcher- (Klamath) ciikas telshna

Naming Ceremony 2025

Klamath Tribes TERO mission: help tribal members find work and achieve success

By Christopher German
Klamath Tribes News

We all remember our first job. Mine was scooping ice cream at a local eatery where I ate as much as I could without getting into trouble. However, today, many enter the workforce without the necessary tools and skills to not only secure a job but also succeed in it. And that is where the Klamath Tribe is working to help, not only new youth but also seasoned professionals who may not be fully aware of all the skills they need to succeed in the workforce.

The man behind this effort is involved with the new Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO), which opened earlier this year. His name is Joshua DeLorme, a Klamath Tribal member who has taken the lead at TERO to assist both the young and the old in achieving success in the workforce.

“The Tribal Employment Rights Office is geared towards addressing unemployment and underemployment throughout native populations,” DeLorme said. “What we advocate for is not only tribal sovereignty, but we also are advocating for training and development op-

portunities for enrolled, federally recognized tribal members throughout our service area.”

However, the mission DeLorme works on doesn’t stop with the people. He also seeks to ensure that employers are aware of the benefits of working with Tribal workers by implementing tribal preference throughout all reservation properties, which are defined as either fee or trust land held by the Klamath tribes.

TERO provides referrals throughout the contracting process to help tribal members access employment opportunities at local businesses, including the casino, the Sleep Inn Hotel, the Crater Lake Junction Travel Center, the Tribal Administration, and the Tribal Health and Family Services.

“What we do is assist with building their skills so that they are able to jump right into those positions and find success,” DeLorme said. “Because one of the things that we face in specifically our county alone, is about double the state average when it comes to unemployment and under employment within our service area.”

Many tribal members face difficulties finding work due to various challenges, including

transportation issues, family care responsibilities, and skills-based limitations, DeLorme explained. “I think what we’ll begin to see is that, as these individuals acquire these technical skills while on the job sites, they’ll learn that many of these skills are highly transferable, which will increase their employability with external employers as well.”

“We’re looking for our skilled trades,” he continued. “Could be carpenters; it could be laborers, it could be flaggers, you know, individuals that have experience with heavy equipment.

What we do is partner with contractors. They go through a certification process through our department, which creates an awareness of not only how to interact with tribal members and the cultural aspect of being a tribal member, but it also helps them to understand the legality behind it, because they are required to amend their policies to reflect tribal preference, as well as there are minimal fees that are can also be assessed as well, so anybody is able to partner with our organization.”

DeLorme is hesitant to say that Tribal members are subject to racism but also stressed that the process at TERO is designed to help educate employers about the cultural differences in an effort to prevent systemic racism.

“When you go through TERO orientation, part of our ordinance is that they cannot have those discriminatory or harassment practices in place so that everybody’s kind of on an equal playing field,” he said. “It certainly does take place. I think there’s a long history of combative nature between, I guess, if you would like to say European society and tribal society, right? That has a lot to do with political reasons, including water that tends to be a big factor for many in Klamath County; we are predominantly like a farming community. A lot of individuals have cattle ranches and things like that. So anytime their water is impacted, of course, it’s going to cause a little bit of turmoil between those individuals who have an inherent water right, and those who are maybe lower on that totem pole.”

Still in the early days of TERO, having only launched



TERO flagger training took place in March at goos Olgi gowa.
(Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

the program at the beginning of the year, DeLorme is working to engage with new businesses in an effort to employ as many tribal members as possible. He said they partner with KCC for apprenticeship programs and are currently in the process of establishing a memorandum of understanding with the Oregon Department of Transportation, which will implement the tribal preference through their contracting as well.

DeLorme stated that they are also working to expand their services to businesses outside the Klamath Tribes, including those with State of Oregon jobs. “We are also trying to essentially expand from just our local area according to the ordinance our jurisdiction falls with fee or trust land,” he said. “So predominantly, we’re going to be working with the Klamath Tribes for our reservation projects as we establish these MOUs with federal agencies. We will start to see that expand.”

“The next area we’re going to focus on will be ODOT,” he continued. “We’ve already got it an MOU in legal review right now. But something we’re also going to continue to explore is going to be the U.S. Forestry program, so that we, a lot of our tribal members, want to be out in in nature kind of experiencing, you know, the homelands, and so that’s going to be a good opportunity for them to be off site, but still learn a trade or a skill that’s going to benefit them further down the line.”

However, DeLorme said that the TERO office is just the beginning of the process to help young workers find work. Tribal offices, such as the Small Business Office, assist in starting small businesses, resume writing, and skill assessment to help Tribal members better understand how to market

their skills to potential employers. DeLorme emphasized that the Tribes are dedicated to supporting everyone, regardless of their challenges.

“The goal for the TERO department is to get a lot of the youth that has left for better employment opportunities, or just better opportunities in a less rural environment,” he said. “Our goal is to be able to get them back and have them not only employed, but employed in a field where they are compensated at an equitable level, because that is still something that does take place.

“Maybe they’re in a job, but it’s not utilizing their degree. So hopefully, we’ll be able to increase the employability of these individuals, and that’s going to take those conversations of what are the obstacles that you’re facing?”

“How can we break down the barriers and really partnering with all of the departments throughout the Tribe so that we can have a more holistic approach when we’re helping our tribal membership and the TERO department? You don’t necessarily have to be an enrolled Klamath tribal member. What you have to be is an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe.”

He added that even if they aren’t necessarily the right department, their goal is to be able to point people to the right one because there is a lack of awareness about what the Tribes can offer to remove the barriers.

To that aim, TERO hosted a Flagger certification on April 3. “It’s a certification that we pay for through the TERO department so that they have a tangible skill that is something that they can take away with them,” DeLorme said. “And this certification is actually good throughout all of Oregon.”



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 803 Main Street, Suite 200
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Oregon Small Business Development Centers are funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, and by the Oregon Business Development Department. Programs and services are provided to the public on a non-discriminatory basis. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals. Reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance.

Contact Estella Woodley, 803 Main St., Suite 200, Klamath Falls, OR 97601, 541-205-5404.

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attended and went out on a tour.

Prior to the airboat tour, Amelia Raquel, the lead biologist for Ducks Unlimited, discussed the funding pause, which impacts the \$10 million in federal dollars set aside for phases 2 and 3 initially scheduled to be completed in 2026. The project's total funding is \$23 million, which is part of former President Joseph Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Phase 2 involves lowering a levee to improve water quality, while Phase 3 will excavate historic creek channels.

Raquel said they are continuing design work on the subsequent two phases, because they are not under a stop-work order, just a pause. The most significant work, she said, was completed in Phase 1 with levee breaches and dirt removal. "So, Phase 1, all the dirt work was completed, and now we're just coming back and seeding as the final piece of Phase 1," she explained. "And then phases 2 and 3 were already set to go to construction in

2026, so we're still just working through the design and permitting process on those phases."

If the \$10 million in funding for phases 2 and 3 is cut, then the construction work cannot continue, but Raquel is hopeful the funding will be resumed. "We're optimistic," she said. "I mean, I think these are really important restoration projects that are going to be very impactful. So, we are hopeful that the money will come through and we can complete them."

When Phase 1 breaches were completed, water from Upper Klamath Lake flowed back into Agency Lake, creating a new 14,000-acre wetland area. On the tour day, the entire wetland area was inundated with water. "We're about in the season where the lake is going to start going down," Raquel said. "Temperatures are rising, so we should see this kind of reaction from vegetation. So, we should see some additional vegetation establishment as the lake water recedes and when temperatures increase. That will be really interesting to see how the wetland vegetation comes back."



Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and Klamath Tribes Chairman William Ray Jr. pose for a group photo by the restored Agency Lake wetland. (Ken Smith/Klamath Tribes News)

The native plant seeding provides more natural habitat, resembling the wetland vegetation in the past before levees were built by farmers. "We have a wetland seed mix we purchased," Raquel explained, "and they are putting that on the levee tops right now – the areas that aren't inundated – to help re-establish those plants and then also try and prevent

further erosion on those areas, because they're pretty bare soil from all the excavation."

The project was initially conceived by the USFWS to create habitat for the endangered c'waam and koptu suckers, which the Klamath Tribes has been advocating since the sucker population began declining in the 1980s. The once-abundant suckers were a

staple of the Tribes' traditional first foods especially as a winter food source. But presently, the suckers are struggling to survive and facing extinction, and that is the driving force behind restoring the wetland. "That's why the Fish and Wildlife Service was interested in doing this

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project,” Raquel said, “but the reconnection to Seven Mile and upstream may have benefits for trout species and potentially Chinook salmon as well if they make it all the way up here.”

When the overall project is completed, it will be a significant step in restoring a wetland that was once part of a much larger ecosystem that existed in the Upper Basin, and it will not only benefit suckers, but also redband trout and Chinook salmon. “I’ve been told that Seven Mile Creek was a historic spawning stream,” Raquel said. “So, reconnecting that and then having it enter into a wetland could be beneficial for spawning, but just re-establishing fringe wetland habitat should improve, or should provide more habitat for c’waam and koptu, especially juvenile species.”

Ken Griggs has been on the project since its infancy nine years ago. He is the Project Leader for the Klamath Basin Refuge Complex. Seeing the completion of Phase 1 and looking out at the wetland as it is now, he was overly impressed with the transformation. “It’s, it’s gorgeous,” he said, standing at the edge of the wetland as the first group boarded the two airboats for a tour. “I mean, it’s a ton of work and a ton of partnerships, and it’s starting to grow wetland plants, which we hoped, and there’s instant fish habitat and waterfowl habitat and, you know, ecosystem services. All the things that we hoped would come about are actually happening currently, and it’s good to see it, and we’ll continue to watch it develop and only get better over time.”

Brigg’s offered insight into the wetland’s importance ecologically, stating that an area once ranch land now provides fish habitat for both c’waam and koptu, redband trout, and other fish species. “There’s waterfowl, and wetland plants are starting to develop,” he said. “We’ve increased the storage of the lake by upwards of 70,000-acre-feet. So, there’s multiple positive benefits to the ecosystem and the local community. Certainly, to the tribal interests that hold this place extremely important. So, it’s just a win all around. And it just feels really good to see it come to

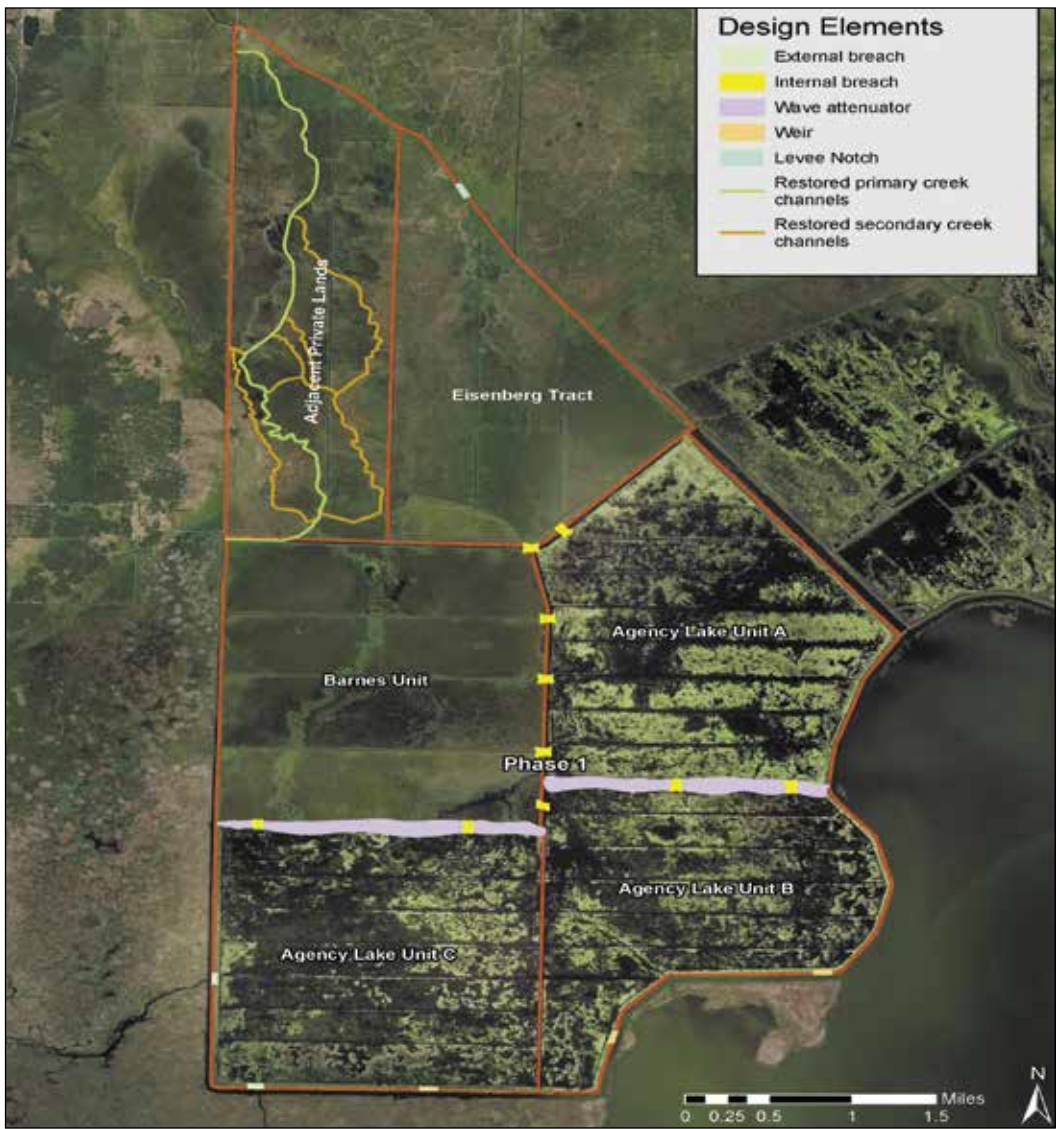
pass. And there’s still work to do on some of the channel work, and upstream and to bring cold water into the site, but it’s a really good start, and we’re feeling really great about it.”

Historically, before the early 1900s, when the dikes were built, Briggs said the ecosystem was essentially an extension of Upper Klamath and Agency Lake, which was diked, drained, and ranched. “For a long time, the Bureau used it for pump storage,” he said. “We’re putting it back into more of its natural footprint, the lake itself, and then those habitats that were lost, you know, during that reclamation, are going to slowly come back. And it’s really a positive project.”

Phases 2 and 3 are essential to the project, providing cold water habitat for fish like redband trout and suckers. “Once we get the tributaries that come off of the Cascades put back into natural channel alignment and flowing through the area, there’ll be more of a response,” he said, referring to fish species returning and spawning. “But it’s going to require some intensive monitoring and research to just get a sense of who’s using the area, or when they’re using it, and which species are there, and then abundances and things like that.”

Adam Johnson, Acting Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Southwest Region, a job he was temporarily filling for a month as of this writing, discussed the project, saying he saw significant progress in the last six years he’s been involved in the project. As for the pause in funding and expectations for it being un-paused, he said that the USFWS is responsive to political changes while maintaining its conservation mission as for the pause of the financing and expectations for it being un-paused.

When questioned about the project’s future funding, Johnson said the USFWS is working closely with the Department of the Interior. “What I can tell you right now is that we are paying close attention, and we’re very aware of the concerns of our partners surrounding money,” he said. “We are working closely with the U.S. Department of the Interior to look into an exception to the funding pause, and we are waiting to hear back, and we should hear something



Map of the Agency-Barnes three-phase restoration project.

hopefully in the coming weeks.”

Johnson addressed the question of best and worst-case scenarios for the project moving forward. “We’ve accomplished Phase 1 of this project,” he said. “So, the reconnection and the restoration, and that was the big lift here. I think initially, it was getting that reconnection done and making that initial investment.

Obviously, there is still significant work to do here, but the project can function in its current form and provide benefit for fish habitat and water storage and water quality benefits in its current form basically indefinitely. We’re still hopeful that the funding will come through, but, you know, if we have to pause for a period of time, this is something we can pick back up when the funding does become available.”

If funding is delayed years down the road for the final restoration work of Phases 2 and 3, Johnson offered a frank response: “Conservation is not a destination. It is a constant need. You never fully achieve conservation. Projects come to an end, but you know, they can always be built upon, and there are always additional needs. And we view this from exactly the same way, we’ve

made a significant positive beneficial impact on the ecosystem, for the species, for the farmers, most significantly, for the Tribes, and we will continue to work towards that regardless of funding availability at the moment. We’ve got other ways to get at this, so we’ll just continue our work.”

Regarding the c’waam and koptu suckers and their dwindling population in Upper Klamath Lake, Johnson provided an estimated population number. “So, USGS does most of the in-the-field monitoring on this, and they would hold the absolute best and most up-to-date numbers,” he said. “The latest numbers that I heard from them – and this is just specifically speaking to the populations in Upper Klamath Lake – is that there is something on the order of 15,000 Lost River suckers or c’waam and something on the order of 5,000 to 7,000 shortnose or koptu.”

It’s not a sustainable number, he admitted, which has led to multiple agencies working together, both the Klamath Tribes and USFWS, to rebuild the population and stave off extinction. “Our absolute aim and goal in recovering these fish is to have a renewable, useful tribal fishery,” Johnson said. “That’s

always been the Fish and Wildlife Service’s goal, and that remains our goal. So, right now, there is not access to a tribal fishery. So, no, these are not numbers, either for the species or for the Tribes that the Fish and Wildlife Service believes are reasonable or sustainable.”

Upon returning from his 30-minute airboat tour of the Agency Lake wetland area, Klamath Tribes William Chairman shared his feelings about the project. “It’s healing quickly,” he said. “And the wetlands are coming back the way we had hoped for. Considering that we just breached it on December 20 of 2024, it looks really nice to have all that water out there. It’s a blessing.”

“For me to see it is liberation of seeing the lake come back to where it once used to be,” he continued. “And here again, the big point is that getting those wetlands back, reestablished, and improving the overall health is going to help. And just seeing the amount of water, the blessing from this past winter, because the lake’s up to where I haven’t seen it for the last probably 25 years, so because of the moisture we’ve had, it’s really nice to have the level of the lake being somewhat close to where it should be.”