

## Mill Casino Seeks Native Artisans for Salmon Celebration

### Third Annual Event Features Canoe Races, Salmon Bake, Cultural Demonstration on Waterfront

NORTH BEND, Ore. – The Mill Casino • Hotel is looking for American Indian artisans and exhibitors to participate in the Third Annual Mill-Luck Salmon Celebration on Sept. 8-10, 2006.

Linked to a traditional observance marking the return of the salmon, the celebration began as a means of sharing the culture and traditions of the Coquille Tribe and other Pacific Northwest tribes with residents and visitors to Oregon's Bay Area.

#### Vendors Marketplace

Now in its third year, the festival is seeking American Indian artisans to participate in the waterfront Vendors Marketplace, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Sept. 9 and again from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 10.

Qualifying exhibitors can select from booths ranging in size from 10'x10' to 20'x20' with fees discounted for registered tribal members.

In addition to the Vendors Marketplace, the Mill-Luck Salmon Celebration also features the fast-paced action of canoe races, educational and entertaining cultural demonstrations, and the very popular Salmon Bake.

#### Canoe Races

Tribal canoe clubs and teams take note, The Mill Casino • Hotel is looking for the fastest pullers and paddlers in the Pacific Northwest to participate.



Based on the success of last year's inaugural races, The Mill again is seeking tribal canoe clubs and teams to race the one-mile Coos Bay course Sept. 9.

The three top teams in each of the three categories – men, women, and youth – will have a total prize pool of \$2,200, while all participants will receive a complimentary commemorative T-shirt.

Entry fees for this year's races are just \$50 per team.

To register a team or for more information, contact Anati Pierce at 541-756-8800, ext. 420.

This year's event also will feature two concerts by the renowned American Indian blues-rock band, Indigenous, at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 8-9 in The Mill Casino's Salmon Room.

For more information on participating in the Vendors Marketplace, contact Paula Springer at 541-756-8800, ext. 426.

Owned by the Coquille Indian Tribe, The Mill Casino • Hotel is located directly on the scenic Coos Bay waterfront in North Bend. It offers 24-hour, non-stop, Nevada-style gaming excitement along with live nightly entertainment, 112 hotel rooms, four restaurants, and a 102-space waterfront RV park, plus meeting and wedding facilities.

For more information or a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit its Web site at [www.themillcasino.com](http://www.themillcasino.com) or call 1-800-953-4800.

## New Web Site Helps Rural Communities

WASHINGTON – Agriculture Under Secretary for Rural Development Thomas C. Dorr recently announced the launch of a new Web site designed to better serve American Indian and Alaska Native customers.

The Web site can be found at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/aian/](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/aian/) and provides information about Rural Development programs available to assist American Indians and Alaska Natives in one convenient location.

"This Web site is designed to provide tribal members, tribal communities and tribal organizations access to helpful information in a user-friendly way," said Dorr. "It should be a one-stop shop to find the information and resources tribal members need to participate fully in, and have a positive experience with, our programs."

The Web site has information about grants and loans that are intended to assist federally recognized Indian tribes buy a home, grow a business, build essential community facilities, and further develop community infrastructure.

It also contains contact information for Rural Development's nationwide network of Native America program coordinators. The site also has success stories of how Rural Development has assisted tribes and individuals in the past and links to publications, guides, reports, and other helpful materials.

Rural Development is committed to meeting the needs of American Indian and Alaska Native communities. Since the beginning of the Bush Administration in 2001, Rural Development has invested more than \$1 billion in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

## Winona LaDuke to Lecture in Portland

PORTLAND, Ore. – Author, environmental advocate, and American Indian leader Winona LaDuke will give a public lecture at 6:30 p.m. on July 20 at the Portland Art Museum.

*An Evening with Winona LaDuke* will be held in the Kridel Grand Ballroom at 1219 SW Park Ave. LaDuke will discuss *Building a Post-Petroleum Economy through Indigenous Knowledge, Multicultural Democracy, and Renewable Energy*.

General admission tickets for *An Evening with Winona LaDuke* are \$10 per person. Tickets can be purchased at the Portland Art Museum community box office or by calling 503-226-0973. Advance ticket purchase is recommended as seating is limited.

"If we are to respect people and place, we must listen to our passionate indigenous leaders, our visionaries and experienced elders – all of the people who live on this land and who speak of their responsibility to care for these waterways and homelands. This millennial code of conduct renews life and helps human beings to prosper," said Spencer B. Beebe, Ecotrust president. "Winona LaDuke is a respected national leader who not only sees how we must live to survive, but she also carries with her a call to action to make that vision happen. We are lucky to have her with us in Portland."

LaDuke is an Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) and an enrolled member of the Mississippi Band of Anishinaabeg who lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in Minnesota. She is the founding director of the White Earth Land Recovery Project and executive director of Honor the Earth.

Through Honor the Earth, LaDuke works on a national level to advocate, raise public support, and create funding for frontline Native environmental groups. The White Earth Land Recovery Project is the only American orga-



USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents.

As a venture capital entity, Rural Development has invested more than \$63 billion since the beginning of the Bush Administration to provide equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. As a result, more than 1.1 million jobs have been created or saved through these investments.

More information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's Web site at [www.rurdev.usda.gov](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov).



Winona LaDuke  
(photo Courtesy of Honor the Earth)

nization to receive the Slow Food International Award (in 2003).

A graduate of Harvard and Antioch universities, LaDuke has written extensively on American Indian and environmental issues. She is the author of *Recovering the Sacred: the Power of Naming and Claiming*, *The Winona LaDuke Reader: A Collection of Essential Writings*, *Last Standing Woman*, and *Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life*.

LaDuke was nominated by *Time* magazine in 1994 as one of America's 50 most promising leaders under age 40. In 1998, *Ms. Magazine* named her Woman of the Year for her work with Honor the Earth.

The Lewis and Clark College Graduate School of Education and Counseling's Indigenous Ways of Knowing Project, the Portland Art Museum's Native American Arts Council, and Ecotrust's Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership Program are co-sponsors of *An Evening with Winona LaDuke*.

While LaDuke also will attend Ecotrust's Buffett Awards and the Indigenous Ways of Knowing Conference while in Portland, her lecture at the Portland Art Museum is the only event open to the general public. Proceeds from *An Evening with Winona LaDuke* will go to Ecotrust's Indigenous Leadership Program.

Ecotrust supports a variety of projects, events, and services through its Native Programs, including the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership. In collaboration with Renewing America's Food Traditions Consortium (RAFT), Ecotrust published *Renewing Salmon Nation's Food Traditions*, edited by Gary Nabhan. Additional Ecotrust Native Programs projects include land repatriation, Native youth leadership, wild salmon marketing, and supporting the Elakha Alliance.

Ecotrust is a non-profit organization committed to strengthening communities and the environment from Alaska to California. For more information about Ecotrust, visit [www.ecotrust.org](http://www.ecotrust.org).