



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
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Tribal leaders meet with president and administration Talks reflect Tribal sovereignty

WASHINGTON – President Obama met directly with 12 Tribal leaders from 12 regions of the United States at the White House on Dec. 15. The meeting came the day before the president hosted leaders from the 565 federally recognized Tribes during the White House Tribal Nations Summit, the second in as many years.

The focus of the meeting was on improving the trust relationship and federal agreements between Indian Tribes and the U.S. government. The National Congress of American Indians hailed it as a substantial step in establishing a nation-to-nation relationship for the 21st century.

“These meetings are summit-level meetings between leaders of Tribal nations and the president of the United States. They are both symbolic and substantive,” said Jefferson Keel, president of NCAI, the oldest, largest and most representative American Indian and Alaska Native organization in the country. “Last year’s summit was historic in size and ambition. We anticipate the results of the meetings with the president today and tomorrow will change the future of Indian Country for generations to come.”

The meeting came on the eve of the second White House Tribal Nations Summit, in which the leaders of all 565 federally recognized Tribes were invited to meet with President Obama and members of his administration throughout the day.

This second summit included three opportunities for Tribes to meet – on a government-to-government basis – with the Obama administration.

Leaders from the 565 federally recognized Tribes held a meeting with Obama and numerous Cabinet secretaries on Dec. 16. Vice chairman Bud Lane attended the summit as the representative of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

They discussed unmet treaty obligations and Tribal sovereignty, as well as the economy, jobs, health care, natural resources, water rights, public safety, climate change, housing and education.

The third part of the summit included Tribal leaders’ sessions with top administration officials about how to carry this work forward. These government-to-government meetings reflect the improvements made in the trust relationship between the federal government and First Americans.

“We need to start talking to one another in a manner that reflects our sov-



Photo by Natasha Kavanaugh

Ivan Brown holds his grandson, Orion, during the Siletz Community Christmas Gathering on Dec. 8 at the Siletz Tribal Community Center, where people gathered for light snacks, entertainment, singing and pictures with Santa, plus they received goodie bags from the elves.

The Siletz Tribe wishes you a prosperous and healthy 2011.
Happy New Year!

Federal grant helps Tribe add bus routes in local area

By Diane Rodriguez

The Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has received a \$164,000 grant from the Federal Transit Administration to increase bus service in Lincoln County.

“These new services will benefit the Tribal membership by complementing existing transit services. Gaps that currently exist are filled and the time required for passengers to get where they need to go in Lincoln County – especially coming and going to Siletz – is significantly reduced,” said Pam Barlow-Lind, Tribal planner and head of the department that applied for the grant.

The Tribe will contract with Lincoln County Transit to add two new daytime express routes and two additional evening trips on existing routes in March:

- Route 1, Siletz to Lincoln City Express: This will be a northbound route that fills a nearly five-hour gap in service during the middle part of the day while significantly shortening the total time required to ride from Siletz, through Toledo and Newport, to Lincoln City. It eliminates the lengthy transfer/layover time existing passengers from Siletz and Toledo must endure in Newport while waiting for the next bus to Lincoln City.
- Route 2, Lincoln City to Siletz Express: This will be a southbound route providing similar benefits to southbound travelers.
- Two additional evening trips: A new eastbound and westbound trip will be added for the early evening hours that will connect Newport with

Toledo and Siletz. Currently, no public transit is available to or from Toledo and Siletz after 4:30 p.m.

This project was selected on a competitive basis through the Tribal Transit Program. This program provides funding directly to federally recognized Tribes for the purpose of supporting Tribal public transportation in rural areas.

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