

Help Elders stock up on firewood

The Tribal Natural Resources Committee and Natural Resources Department will sponsor the final "Cut Wood for the Elders Day" of the year on **Sept. 15**.

The woodcut will be held at the log yard at the Tribe's Toledo Mill property at the end of Sturdevant Road in Toledo, Ore. Enter at the log yard entrance (go straight all the way to the end of Sturdevant Road, through the chain-link fence gate and down the hill to the railroad tracks and the wood-cutting area).

We need lots of volunteers to help cut, split and deliver firewood for Tribal Elders. Bring your chainsaws, hydraulic wood splitters, splitting mauls and axes. Lunch, drinks and snacks will be provided.

We will meet at the Tribal administration building in Siletz at 8 a.m. and caravan to the cutting site. For anyone wishing to come later, directions to the

cutting site will be posted on the front door of the building.

The goal of this event will be to deliver firewood to as many Elders as possible. The Elders Program maintains a list of Elders who burn wood for their winter heat.

People willing to haul firewood to Elders outside of the Siletz area should contact the Elders Program clerk at 800-922-1399, ext. 1261, or 541-444-8261 to be paired up with an Elder in need. We especially need folks who can haul wood to the Eugene, Salem and Portland areas.

Elders in need of firewood also should contact the Elders Program clerk to get their name on the delivery list.

If you have parents or grandparents who burn wood in the winter to stay warm, you need to help replenish those wood piles before winter sets in. This is the **last** woodcut of the year.

September USDA distribution dates

Siletz

Monday	Sept. 3	Holiday
Tuesday	Sept. 4	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Wednesday	Sept. 5	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Thursday	Sept. 6	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Friday	Sept. 7	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Salem

Monday	Sept. 17	1:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday	Sept. 18	9 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday	Sept. 19	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Thursday	Sept. 20	9 – 11 a.m.

You can reach us at our Siletz warehouse at 800-922-1399, ext. 1393 or ext. 1279, or you can call direct at 541-444-8393 or 541-444-8279.

Joyce Retherford
USDA Food Program Director
Lisa Paul
USDA Clerk/Warehouseman

Turkey and Grape Salad

Dressing

½ cup mayonnaise or salad dressing
2 tablespoons lemon juice
½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper

Salad

3 cups diced cooked turkey
1 cup thinly sliced celery
1 cup seedless red grapes, halved
3 tablespoons slivered almonds, toasted

In large bowl, stir dressing ingredients until well mixed. Fold in turkey, celery and grapes. Sprinkle with almonds

You also can use diced chicken in this recipe. Lisa made this in August and it was delicious.

Testimony given by Delores Pigsley during a hearing conducted by the House Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native Affairs on July 24, 2012

Chairman Young, Ranking Member Lujan, Members of the committee, thank you for holding today's hearing on HR 6141 and inviting me to testify. My name is Dee Pigsley and I serve as the chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon.

"Siletz," "Siletz Coast" or "Coast" was the name Congress and administrations have used throughout our history to this reservation – not any particular Tribe. The federal government confederated all of the Tribes and bands of Indians settled on the Siletz Coast Reservation and recognized the Confederated Tribes of Siletz as the governing body representing all those Tribes and bands. Since 1855, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is the legal and political successor in interest to all of the Tribes and bands that settled on the Siletz Coast Reservation.

Need for Legislation

History and the federal government robbed us of our land and even our reservation boundary. Unlike most Tribes in the country, every parcel of land we seek to place in trust is considered "off-reservation" by the Bureau of Indian Affairs – even if it lies within our historic reservation. This adds significant time, cost and resources to place land into trust. It has taken up to eight years for the Siletz to place a parcel into trust.

We have an ongoing critical need to acquire additional lands in trust to meet the needs of the Tribe, including housing for our members. We are not a wealthy Tribe and purchase small parcels one at a time. Every effort to reduce the cost of that process will directly help our membership.

The legislation introduced by Congressman Schrader would accomplish this by processing fee-to-trust applications within the boundary of our former reservation as "on-reservation."

Response to Criticism

Our Tribe is a family with relatives in every other western Oregon Tribe. It is with a sad heart that I hear baseless arguments against this legislation from two of our sister Tribes whom we supported for

restoration of their federal recognition. Nevertheless, I appreciate this public opportunity to dispose of their claims – all of which fail basic tests of historic fact and findings of federal courts.

The historical Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes moved to the Siletz Coast Reservation in the late 1850s and became part of the Confederated Siletz Tribes. We are the legal successors in interest to these three Tribes. Over 1,000 Siletz Tribal members are descended from these three Tribes. To this day, we regularly enroll members of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw descent who meet our eligibility requirements.

The modern-day Coos Tribe is comprised of individual Indians who either never moved to the Siletz Coast Reservation or who abandoned the reservation later on and severed their Tribal affiliation with Siletz. The Coos Restoration Act expressly excludes from membership in the Coos Tribe any Indian who had any connection to the Siletz Coast Reservation or to the Siletz Tribe.

The Coos' fictitious claim to the reservation they once shunned is flatly rejected by federal Indian law. Coos Chairman Garcia's testimony to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs is full of blatant fabrications. He cited an "Empire Treaty" that never existed as a separate treaty.

The so-called "Empire Treaty" is the unratified Coast Treaty that resulted in the confederation of all Oregon Coast Tribes upon the Siletz Coast Reservation. He misinterprets court decisions that actually substantiate the Siletz's claims to the Siletz Coast Reservation and successorship to the historic Coos Tribes. He also decries an expanded Siletz Coast Reservation when no such reservation is created by this legislation.

Now let's address the arguments posed by the Grand Ronde Tribe. Grand Ronde's membership consists of Indians from many of the same Tribes and bands that confederated at Siletz. Federal courts have consistently rejected **all** claims of interest and any standing by the Grand Ronde Tribe involving title to or interest in the Siletz Coast Reservation. The Grand Ronde bill on this docket, HR 726,

identifies their original reservation just as HR 6141 identifies our original reservation.

Grand Ronde's absurd and offensive claims do not end with this legislation. I am deeply saddened by the way their Tribe treats other Tribes and perverts history to further their own short-term interests. In particular, we are concerned that the Grand Ronde repeatedly cites the controversial Carciari decision in their lawsuit to stop another Tribe from pursuing land into trust.

Mr. Chairman, the simple fact is that

the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians has consistently been recognized as the Tribe representing the original Siletz Coast Reservation since its creation. Through termination and restoration, no other Tribe can make or substantiate this claim.

Conclusion

This legislation is critical for the Siletz Tribe to rebuild a small portion of our historic reservation so that we can house, feed and care for our membership. Thank you.



Courtesy photo by Matt Hill, Lone Rock Strategies

Robert Kentta, Delores Pigsley and Alfred "Bud" Lane III meet with Oregon's congressional delegation in Washington, D.C., in July.